



The future of academia lies in doctoral programmes –Egron-Polak



L-R: IAU Secretary General, Ms. Egron-Polak, VC, Prof. Oloyede, a delegate and Dr. van't Land

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The Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU), Eva Egron-Polak, has given the rationale behind the seminar her Association organised in conjunction with the University of Ilorin last week (November 7 – 11, 2010) saying that the seminar was crucial because the future of humanity lies in the high-level human capital training provided by the academia.

Ms. Egron-Polak made this submission in her address at the opening ceremony of the seminar, themed “The Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa” last Monday at the University of Ilorin Auditorium. *(Contd. on page 2)*

How varsities can help to achieve MDGs – dons

As the 2015 target date for the attainment of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) draws near with each passing day, two distinguished dons of the University of Ilorin have noted that universities have critical roles to play in order to achieve the time-bound goals.

The Dean of Education, Prof. Adekunle S. Olorundare, and the University of Ilorin Researcher of the Year 2010, Dr. Olugbenga Mokuolu, made this submission in their presentations last Friday (November 12, 2010) at the occasion of the African University Day, themed “The Contribution of Universities to the Achievement of Millenium Development Goals” at the University of Ilorin

According to Prof. Olorundare, “although universities were not mentioned in any of the goals, it is recognized that the goals cannot be achieved without the research policy analysis, teaching and outreach programmes that the Universities provide. Over the years higher education has assumed importance and relevance both as driver and vehicle for development towards a better life. In developing Countries, this has been in the form of providing quality teaching and reserach that directly address the needs of society, community service and extension work. Through this, various countries were able to address their development needs.” *(Contd. on page 4)*



DONS: Prof. Ayorinde, Prof. Olorundare, Dr. Mokuolu and Prof. Oladosu

Unilorin has produced 736 PhDs so far - VC

(Contd. from front page)

According to her, "...on the successful and sustainable development of doctoral programs rests the future of academe" and "the future of much socio-economic development in societies that are or wish to move towards a knowledge-based economy and a society that enjoys a good health-care system, high quality primary, secondary, technical and higher education, a society that understands and appreciates cultural differences and is based on the rule of law and democracy". She said the relevance of doctoral programmes and research cannot be questioned in the attainment of such areas of development.

While tracing the background of the seminar to a meeting that took place in Canada three years ago, the IAU Secretary-General said the programme would offer a unique opportunity for six member universities of the body from Anglophone and Francophone African countries to work with her Association to examine "what developments, reforms, challenges and opportunities" there are in the administration and delivery of doctoral programmes.

She added that the expectation of the IAU was that the seminar would allow the six participating universities in the Project (i.e. University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Kenyatta University, Kenya; National University of Rwanda; Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Sénégal; Université des Sciences et Technologies du Bénin; and Université de Douala, Cameroun) to learn from one another and thereby enrich their various doctoral programmes and then chart ways of moving forward.

Earlier speaking in an address tagged "Knowledge Is Power" at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin and Chairman of the IAU Task Force on the project, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, lauded IAU on the initiative saying that it is a great contribution to the course of knowledge. "One of the noblest ventures one can ever pursue is knowledge. Knowledge with skills brings about development and the state of human civilisation today is a direct result of knowledge", he said.

Prof. Oloyede, who is also the President of the Association of African Universities, expressed his satisfaction that the pilot study that the IAU embarked upon through the seminar would also satisfy Plato. "I am certain that our activities in Ilorin these few days will not but satisfy Plato, who in his *The Republic* submits that 'The true lover of knowledge naturally strives for truth and is not content with common opinion but soars with undimmed and unwearied passion till he grasps the essential nature of things'. This is exactly the passion that has made the IAU to bring us all together here and we are grateful: to 'grasp the essential nature of things' as far as doctoral programmes are concerned."

The Vice-Chancellor also used the forum to provide information about the reason behind the establishment of the University of Ilorin tracing it to the Third National Development Plan and revealed that the University has produced 736 PhDs since the first two doctoral students of the University graduated in 1983.

In their joint presentation at the occasion, the IAU Director of Membership and Programme Development, Dr. Hillge van't Land, and the IAU Consultant on the Project, Dr. Ddembe Williams, noted that "Doctoral Programmes and R&D Development are key to local, national, (sub-)regional and international development and to contribution to innovation while "Sub-Saharan Africa is developing quickly but needs to invest more specifically in doctoral studies to ensure socio-economic development of the countries and the continent".

They said the project was intended to develop a better understanding of the nature of reforms taking place in Higher Education in sub-Saharan Africa, map out institutional doctoral study programmes, analyse similarities and differences and identify what can be learnt and make recommendations.

Based on the study, the researchers submitted that there is a need for increased networking opportunities and exchange of expertise in doctoral programme. They also suggested that institutions should develop strategies to lead from access to success in doctoral students enrolment while structural review which calls for best practices and comparative analysis is expedient for African universities at this point of their development.

The duo further called for infrastructural development in funding and procurement strategies, faculty improvement opportunities in relation to doctoral supervision, career development vis- a-vis data collection and alumni strategies as well as increased funding of doctoral programmes.

Taking PhD programmes to greater heights

Though initiated by the International Association of Universities (IAU), the pilot project on the “Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa”, the Seminar of which was held at the University of Ilorin last week, has left indelible footprints on the psyche of the leaders of the Nigerian university system.

The leaders, who are Vice-Chancellors and/or their representatives, expressed this much after listening to the outcome of the seminar as presented to them by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, who is also the Chairman of the IAU Task Force on the project. In a well received presentation, Prof. Oloyede articulated the outcome of the seminar to the delight of the participants. He reported that the study revealed that apart from the absence of institutional research strategy in many sub-saharan African universities, the seminar found that the national research agendas in many countries are poorly coordinated. Besides, there is a pervasive atomization of research which is driven more by source of funding than a coherent agenda based on well-defined priorities. This makes doctoral research not be shaped by a clear policy with potential for collaborations, synergies and dedicated support.

The Vice-Chancellor reported further that the seminar recommended, among others, the need for a mapping exercise at both institutional and national levels to gain an accurate understanding of the status quo; development of networks of research collaborations at various levels (including centres of research excellence), incorporation of a mechanism for regular review of research priorities and strategies as well as interrogation of the relative place of various disciplines and interdisciplinarity.

On doctoral supervision, it was recommended and the stakeholders ultimately agreed that there should be a form of negotiated, structured and documented contact period between the supervisor and the student. “This should be monitored by a central body such as the graduate school”. There is the need for supervisors to orient students towards at least one publication in an internationally recognized journal as well as the need to ensure series of presentations in the course of the research by the student.

The Seminar also recognised and advocated the need for some incentives for supervisors to help minimize the tendency to search for other jobs as well as the need to establish a code of ethics for the supervision and management of doctoral student output. Also, there is the need for at least one external examiner to be from outside the country of the student while the need for continuous and continual building of capacity of the staff for supervision was stressed.

The IAU leadership itself expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the seminar. In her comments at the end of the seminar, the Secretary-General of the IAU, Eva Egron-Polak, told the leaders of the Nigerian universities, “I can certainly confirm, that my personal expectations – that we all learn, that we provide a forum for you to learn from each other, that together we assess the methodological approach we at IAU have adopted for this pilot study and finally that we find strategies to move forward – all those expectations which I mentioned at the beginning of our Seminar, have all been accomplished or at least we initiated a process towards their accomplishment..”

Apart from the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Julius Okojie, who was represented by Engr. Adamu Hassan Yakubu and the Secretary-General of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU), Prof. J. D. Amin, as well as the representatives of the Universities of Ghana and Ottawa, Canada, the forum was attended by the Vice-Chancellors (or their representatives) of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; National Open University, Lagos; Kaduna State University, Kaduna; the University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti; Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin; Kwara State University, Molete; University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; University of Jos; University of Port-Harcourt, Port-Harcourt; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki; and the University of Ibadan among others.

**UNILORIN CAMPUS HAS ITS OWN BEAUTY
APPRECIATE IT, CARE FOR IT!
KEEP THE CAMPUS GREEN, CLEAN
AND BEAUTIFUL FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

—A message from the Environmental Protection Committee

Fast Facts File

Did you know?

- Muhammed Ali is the first fighter to win the boxing heavyweight championship on three separate occasions. He successfully defended his heavyweight title 19 times.

(Contd. from front page)

The Professor of Science Education averred that institutions of higher education in Nigeria must insist that the government goes beyond the rhetoric of policy formulation into implementation. He added further that definite, concrete, visible and measurable achievement strategies are needed to achieve the objectives of Basic Education because education forms the bedrock of national development and the attainment of MDGs.

Prof. Olorundare also called for a strategic appraisal of MDGs not only as a global agenda but also as goals that should be pursued by everyone regardless of location. He said MDGs are issues that can be seen as referrals for forging local development needs and thus tasked universities to provide hands-on technical support to governments to scale up initiatives for development. "One way of doing this in Nigeria is to make the MDGs an election issue in the forthcoming elections in 2011", he added.

In his own presentation, a top-rated researcher and Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, Dr. Olugbenga Mokuolu, discussed how Nigerian universities can contribute to the achievement of the MDGs through three major areas: advocacy and partnership, community services and capacity development. According to the Researcher of the Year 2010, universities should serve the cause of advocacy for development, be the voice of the voiceless, partner microfinance schemes, develop innovative communication tools and engage in public private partnerships. On community services, the lecturer suggested the establishment of millennium village projects, Community-Based Experience and Service (COBES) (in health, agriculture, ICT, engineering, law and applied sciences) environmental sustainability and infrastructural development including strategic community services in combating hunger, promoting education, women empowerment and control of diseases while capacity development involves technical assistance for programme implementation and quality control through evaluation and accreditation systems.

Earlier in his address, captioned "The Bone Of Contention", the Vice-Chancellor of the University, who is also the President of the Association of African Universities (AAU), Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, said "the Association of African Universities has the Mission of raising the quality of higher education in Africa and strengthening its contribution to African development by fostering collaboration among its member institutions; providing support to their core function of teaching, learning, research and community engagement; and facilitating critical reflection on, and consensus-building around issues affecting higher education and the development of solutions to these problems by helping to stimulate debates and providing a framework through programmes of this nature. The vision of the AAU is 'to maintain the AAU as the representative voice of the African higher education community both within and outside Africa.' The Association has a current membership of 253 universities, higher education and research institutions from 46 African countries."

The AAU President, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Kolade Ayorinde, traced the beginning of the African University Day to 2000 and gave the themes of the Day since then till now. He said "If universities exist to accelerate development, *the bone of contention* is: what have our universities contributed to the achievement of the lofty millennium goals? This is an issue that requires deep reflection and strategic action now that the 2015 target is less than five years away" just as he mentioned some of the contributions of the University of Ilorin towards development as inspired by the MDGs.

In his welcome address, the Director of Academic Planning, Prof. A.G.A.S. Oladosu, like other speakers after him, identified the MDGs as those that concern the need to i) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, ii) achieve universal primary education, iii) promote gender equality and empower women, iv) reduce child mortality, v) improve maternal health, vi) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, vii) ensure environmental sustainability and viii) develop a global partnership for development. He also lauded the University administration saying that "in the last couple of weeks, this University has successfully hosted a week-long Workshop and Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Directors of Academic Planning of Nigerian Universities. It has also organized a week-long workshop on Open and Distance Learning for all Lecturers..."

At the occasion were the Principal Officers of the University of Ilorin, Vice-Chancellor of Al-Hikmah University, Prof. Sulaiman Abdulkareem; Vice-Chancellor of Kwara State University, Prof. AbdulRasheed Na'Allah; Provost, College of Education, Oro, Dr. A.T. Oyatoye; Provost, Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies (CAILS), Dr. Abdusemi'i Arikeuyo; Executive Director of National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM), Engr. Ike Azogu, represented by Dr. (Mrs) M. L. Ogunniyi; Director, Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), represented by Dr. (Mrs) C. I. Jolayemi and Director, Michael Imodu National Institute of Industrial Labour Studies (MINILS) Dr. (Mrs) C. Famro.

Enough of chalk-talk in legal education – Tahir

The Director General of the Nigerian Law School, Dr. Mamman Tahir has called for the re-orientation of institutions which are responsible for the training of lawyers away from the traditional methods of cultivating knowledge in law students to modern methods of training and education as practised in the developed world.

Dr. Tahir propagated this line of thought while delivering the third Muhammad Mustapha Akanbi Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin, Annual Lecture entitled “A Review of Framework of Legal Education in Nigerian Universities.”

Dr. Tahir noted that many Nigerian universities still adopt teacher-centred methods of teaching in which lecturers appear in class, engage in one-way communication for many hours and leave the class when the trend in the modern society is a form of teaching which elicits and encourages students’ active participation in classroom activities. This type of training, Dr. Tahir emphasised, is necessary given the nature of the law profession which demands excellent communication skills in writing and in speech delivery.

According to Dr. Tahir, the Information and Communication Technologies which are now available such as advanced assisted learning forums, e-mail communication, electronic discussion forums and video conferencing should be explored in order to enhance teaching and learning in legal education.

While speaking on the use of e-mail for training lawyers, the lecturer said: “Through it, resources and questions may be posted to students and obviate the necessity for them to physically to go for such resources and their responses returned in like manner and on electronic discussion forums”. He further observed that “the forum such of *Facebook* enables participants pose questions and articulate views and as such are very much suitable for large class academic activity and even beyond the teachers and students”. He also noted that video conferencing “holds a lot of promise in teaching and research, especially for the injection of international and comparative flavour in the curricula as it will enable guest speakers from long distances to share resources.”

In his remarks at the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, extolled the virtues of Justice Mustapha Akanbi, whose presence at the Court of Appeal in 1992, he said, prevented the military junta from violating the 1993 elections in Nigeria through the courts which made the military to resort to annulment in order to achieve their wish. He promised to continuously upgrade the facilities at the Faculty of Law so that the quota of law graduates from the University of Ilorin into the Nigerian Law School will be upwardly reviewed.

While delivering his welcome address earlier, the acting Dean of Law, Dr. Wahab Egbewole, disclosed that the University of Ilorin is abreast of challenges facing legal education. According to him “The Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin is not unaware of these challenges and is poised to face them. In our bid to build 21st century lawyers imbued with integrity, professionalism, entrepreneurial skills and high moral standards, the Faculty introduced Law and Social Change as a compulsory course of study for final year students. The course touches on fundamental issues in the society like corruption, election rigging, rule of law to mention a few...”

The event was attended by the Principal Officers, Deans and Directors of the University of Ilorin, the Vice-Chancellor of Al-Hikmah University, Prof. S.A. Abdulkareem, who charged law students in the University to be role models to their counterparts in other faculties; as well as his predecessors as Vice-Chancellors of Al-Hikmah University, Professors R. D. Abubakre and M. A. Akanji. Also present at the occasion were legal luminaries from across the nation, former Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. S. A. Jimoh, and hundreds of law students.

In his response to the honour, the former Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Justice M.M.A. Akanbi, urged the young generation to live a life of honesty. Focusing on the young minds in the hall, he told his audience that he was once a clerk who earned a pittance and he never knew he would achieve as much as he did eventually. Quoting the Qu’ran, the Bible, Shakespeare and Latin maxims, Justice Akanbi urged his audience not to sell their votes or give them up cowardly. He noted that Nigeria is worth dying for and submitted that as William Shakespeare said, it is cowards that die many times before their death and valiant die only once in their lifetime.

Unilorin and Kaduna varsity sign MoU

In order to promote excellence and deepen partnership, the authorities of the University of Ilorin and Kaduna State University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a number of areas including staff and student exchanges.

The two universities, represented by their Vice-Chancellors, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede and Prof. E. M. Abdurahman, indicated strong commitments to the terms of the memorandum and affirmed the role of networking in the pursuit of their mandates.

The “marriage” was witnessed by the representative of the NUC Executive Secretary, the Secretary General of the AVCNU, a former Minister of State for Education and Governing Council member of the University of Ilorin, Alh Saka Sa’adu, and Vice-Chancellors of several Nigerians universities and IAU officials.



Professors Oloyede and Abdurahman exchanging the signed MoU

Unilorin organises Greater Scientists Workshop

The University of Ilorin will be organising its first workshop on Greater Scientists project aimed at improving the knowledge of science right from the basic level.

According to a statement signed by the Chairman, Greater Scientists Committee, the inaugural workshop will hold on December 7, 2010 for Basic Three pupils at the University of Ilorin Auditorium.

The programme will attract officials of the Ministry of Education, principals of the participating secondary schools and members of the University of Ilorin community.

ISTRO announces symposium, calls for papers

The International Soil Tillage Research Organisation (ISRO) is organising a symposium on the theme of “Tillage for Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Sustainability”. The symposium comes up at the University of Ilorin between February 21 and 23, 2011 at the University Auditorium.

The sub-themes of the symposium are “Effects of Climate Change on Crop Production”, “Soil Management for Sustainable Crop Production”, “Soil Compaction and Agricultural Production”, “Bio-energy and Environmental Sustainability”, “Conservation Tillage for Sustainable Agricultural Productivity” and “Soil Dynamics for Soil Conservation.”

Lead papers are to be presented at the symposium by resource persons and professors from the University of Ilorin, Ilorin; Federal University of Technology, Akure; Raw Materials and Research and Development Council, Abuja; Federal University of Technology, Owerri; and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

According to a statement by Chairman, Technical Committee, ISTRO-Nigeria Symposium, Prof. A. O. Ogunlela, participation is open to individuals, public and private sector organisations.

Following the initial call for abstracts, the submission of papers is expected to be made electronically to olaoyejo@yahoo.com on or before December 3, 2010.

RE: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2008/2009

Dr. (Mrs) Temitope Elizabeth Odetoye of the Department of Chemical Engineering has written that she did not accept the staff development award she was offered by the University of Ilorin as published in the October 18, 2010 edition of *Unilorin Bulletin* (page 6). This is hereby noted accordingly. - Editor.

LAUGH LINES

A man fell into a well and was screaming for help. His wife shortly came with a rope to help. Looking at the rope, the man asked how much the wife bought the rope to which she replied N1,000.00. Still inside the well, he shouted, “What!!!? Ngozi! Return it now now. Go to Papa Emeka at the fourth street, he sells the same rope for N300.00. Hurry up please before I die here o.”

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIFTY YEARS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

GUIDELINES FOR RAISING NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES TO WORLD CLASS STATUS

INTRODUCTION

1. Conceived by the University of Ilorin and jointly convened by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) as part of the contributions of the university system to events marking the nation's 50th anniversary celebrations, the Conference was intended to
 - i. Examine critically the concept of 'World Class Universities'
 - ii. Analyse efforts by universities in all parts of the world to fit into the world class paradigm
 - iii. X-ray the peculiar challenges facing Nigerian universities
 - iv. Outline viable options and appropriate strategies for positioning Nigerian universities on the path to World Class Status
2. The Conference brought together some 166 participants, representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders – governing councils of universities, university Vice-Chancellors, academics, students, ministries of Education, The World Bank and other international development partners, the media and civil society, as well as a participant each from Ghana and Sierra Leone.
3. The 3-day Conference was declared open by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Chief Kenneth Gbagi, who also formally presented a book titled *Fifty Years of University Education in Nigeria: Evolution, Achievements and Future Directions*. The 583-page book is a compendium of papers highlighting the major trends in the development of university education in Nigeria, the progress made (in the face of daunting challenges), and pointers to future directions for re-positioning university education for national development and bringing it in line with emerging global trends.
4. The proceedings of the Conference featured
 - i. Two plenary lead presentations
 - ii. Three round table sessions, and
 - iii. In-depth group deliberations on *fundamental challenge areas of university education and the way forward*
5. The Conference clarified the World Class Universities concept to mean an unwavering focus on the factors, structures, processes and services and minimum quality standards that characterise a University worthy of that exalted name. It was also agreed that the real efforts to ensure that Nigerian universities become and remain universities should be centred on addressing the root causes of persistent challenges, from a holistic perspective that considers national, systemic and institution-level issues.
6. On INTERNATIONALISATION, a much publicised aspect of 'World Class Universities', the Conference emphasized that this should go beyond achieving an international composition of staff and students to ensuring that curricula, quality of teaching, research and responsive social engagement, physical facilities, laboratories, libraries, ICT facilities Internet connectivity, etc meet minimum globally accepted quality standards
7. These key considerations informed the focus of the in-depth reflections in group working sessions on the following six fundamental issues
 - i. Ensuring the abundance of talents,
 - ii. Attracting, generating, and managing resources in a sustainable manner,
 - iii. Entrenching democratic governance and transformative management of universities,
 - iv. Improving research quality and enhancing its relevance,
 - v. Enriching university teaching for meaningful learning, and
 - vi. Developing an institutional accreditation framework.
8. The conclusions of the group working sessions (as modified and adopted by the final plenary session) are hereby presented as the stand of the Conference on *viable options and appropriate strategies for ensuring a sustainable turn-around of University Education in Nigeria*.

ENSURING THE ABUNDANCE OF TALENTS

9. Quality intake into universities is dependent to a large extent on the quality of secondary school graduates. For this reason, every effort must be made to infuse Quality into education at the pre-university

level, with Universities partnering with the authorities in this task, as an essential part of their responsive social commitment function.

10. Competitive admission requirements are considered a sure way of ensuring quality student intake. This must be complemented by insistence on continuous high academic and ethical standards of conduct by staff and students. Universities must not compromise on these basic tenets.
11. Quality staff (teaching, research, management, technical) requires quality working conditions, as well as competitive incentive and reward systems. These include tangible working tools like ICT/Web access, laboratory, and library and office space facilities, and most importantly opportunities for continuous self-improvement. These should be further reinforced by 'essential intangibles' – an academically conducive environment in which academic freedom, free flow of ideas and free inter-mingling of cultures and perspectives are the norm.

ATTRACTING, GENERATING AND MANAGING RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER

12. Resources should be considered in a comprehensive sense as comprising human, material and material potentials. All of these are to be harnessed and utilised for the purpose of assisting universities to deliver on their triple mandate of knowledge generation (Research), knowledge transmission (Teaching) and knowledge transfer (Responsive Social Engagement) – at a level that meets internationally acceptable quality standards.
13. The challenge has to be addressed at both the system and at the institutional levels. Government's key role here lies in policies aimed at a systematically planned development of university education. The establishment of a Ministry of Higher Education at the federal level, that will develop appropriate policy guidelines and exercise oversight functions on tertiary education, would be a right step in this direction.
14. Government policy must shift from mere numerical expansion to consolidation of existing structures and facilities for university education. Funding from government will have to follow some scientifically-determined principle and should target aspects of university activities with the greatest multiplier effect potentials, such as research, student welfare, teaching-learning facilities and infrastructure. Above all, universities should be assured of sustainable (as opposed to fluctuating) funding, to reduce the yawning gaps between funds budgeted and funds released and to ensure sustainability of ongoing programmes in universities.
15. At the institutional level, the search for innovative methodologies to broaden and deepen the base for Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR) will have to be intensified. It should be noted, in this regard, that what is needed is the emergence of entrepreneurial universities, centres of academic excellence where the processes and the fruits of research and innovation are shared with investors and development agents. This is not the same as a commercialised university in which education is simply 'commodified'.

ENTRENCHING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND TRANSFORMATIVE MANAGEMENT

16. The task here is to entrench in the university management system, mechanisms and procedures that ensure the sharing by stakeholders of the vision, mission and core values of their institutions through their full involvement in policy development, in major decisions, and sharing of responsibilities. Undertaking this task has been hindered by challenges relating to Ignorance, neglect and abuse of laws and policies, disregard for accountability, undue political interference, system rigidity, and crises in the management of labour and industrial relations.
17. Facing the challenge frontally would entail concerted actions along the following lines
 - a. Unbridled academic autonomy for universities
 - b. Competitive and merit-based selection of Vice-Chancellors (with due emphasis on academic accomplishments, demonstrable leadership and management skills) of aspirants to the position.
 - c. Promotion of transformational (as opposed to transactional) leadership at the institutional level
 - d. Elimination of primordial loyalty and the entrenchment of meritocracy in the selection of institutional leaders at all levels
 - e. Strict adherence to transparency in all transactions
 - f. Free flow of information at all levels of institutional governance
 - g. Institutionalisation of systematic leadership and management training for staff and students

- h. Functional mechanisms for the participation of all – students, all categories of staff, alumni, civil society, etc in various decision-making bodies
18. It is heartening that strategic planning as the way of running university education business is gradually being adopted by Nigerian universities. The process must now be strengthened through more participatory methodologies that make it easier for all constituent units of a university do buy into the overall institutional plan.

IMPROVING RESEARCH QUALITY AND ENHANCING ITS RELEVANCE

19. The pursuit of research is what distinguishes universities from other types of tertiary institutions. Research is aimed at advancing the frontiers of knowledge, seeking solutions to major social and technical challenges, and providing materials for evidence-based decision-making. Quality research is that which conforms to rigorous, acceptable standards of scientific investigation appropriate to a discipline. Relevance refers to the extent to which the focus and results of research are responsive to societal developmental needs.
20. One sure way of improving the quality and relevance of Research is to create an enabling academic environment on university campuses, an environment that can attract and retain a constellation of research scholars. This should go along with the provision of the technical and financial wherewithal for the conduct of quality research- targeted research funding in a sustainable manner, scientific and ICT equipment, library facilities, etc. Facilities for research production should also go along facilities for research dissemination and the sharing of results – travel and conference attendance facilities, journal and electronic publication outlets, etc
21. Efforts to generalise the practice of collaborative research in different forms will have to be intensified. This includes collaboration within and across disciplines and areas of study, in the course of which mentoring and capacity building for young researchers is enforced. It also includes a lot more, extending to university-government agencies, university-industry, university-development agency, university-big business, university-small scale business, university-civil society collaboration. The field to be explored in this regard is quite vast and universities must rise up to the challenge.
22. Above everything else, it would be necessary to give directions to university research. One way of doing this is the development of *institutional research agendas* that can percolate to all academic constituent units of a university. The development of such agendas is best done as a collaborative participatory exercise that brings research producers in mutually benefitting contacts with the potential end-users of research results.

ENRICHING UNIVERSITY TEACHING FOR MEANINGFUL LEARNING

23. Massification of higher education poses the peculiar challenge of turning mass schooling to mass education by ensuring that the mass of students passing through universities really learn (i.e. become positively transformed by university experience). An appropriate response to the challenge is to enrich conventional university lectures with teaching-for-mastery methodologies. This requires re-tooling and re-skilling university teachers in a number of ways, including systematic pedagogical training, as well training in student counselling and mentoring.
24. Systematic exposure of university teachers to pedagogy would require the establishment of *teaching-learning support units in every institution*. These will engage in research on identifying teaching and learning challenges (including the exploration of the root causes of such challenges) as a step towards developing appropriate training programmes for responding to them. These units will also develop pedagogic induction programmes for new lecturers and regular ‘new ideas and principles’ programmes for all categories of academic staff. It will, in addition, build up teaching-learning resources for application by lecturers on a systematic and regular basis.
25. Student and peer evaluation of teaching must also become normal practice (an ‘in-thing’) in Nigerian universities. The development of instruments and procedures for this should follow a fully participatory process. Lecturers will receive feedbacks on the way their teaching is perceived by students. They will also be encouraged to engage in self-evaluation (i.e. collecting data on student reception of their teaching outside the official evaluation mechanism) for evidence-based decisions on needed improvements to their work.
26. Universities must recognise Teaching as a prime academic function. Appropriate technical, ICT and logistic facilities for teaching-for-learning must be readily accessible to students and lecturers. Most

importantly, Exceptional Teaching Performance should therefore be better operationally defined and taken into due consideration in lecturer advancement at all levels.

DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

27. The ongoing move towards institutional accreditation by the National Universities Commission (NUC) is a welcome development, as it places greater emphasis on total quality management of the nation's universities. The checklist to be used for this purpose should be as comprehensive as practicable and should include the following:
 - a. Institutional strategic visioning and strategic planning/implementation
 - b. Environmental quality
 - c. Durable, adequate, appropriate and functional infrastructure
 - d. Institutional management
 - e. Student and staff support and welfare services
 - f. Financial management
 - g. Curricula, teaching and knowledge management
 - h. Research output and quality
 - i. Engagement with wider society
 - j. ICT penetration and web presence
 - k. Global outreach and networking
 - l. Creativity and innovation in meeting the challenge of sustainable funding
28. World-class-type total quality institutional assessment as an accreditation tool requires limiting the functions of the National Universities Commission (NUC) to those of a strictly regulatory agency – avoiding a situation in which the Commission is both witness and judge in its own case. Thus, a distinct accreditation agency should be established, with the responsibility of ensuring that universities adhere strictly to those minimum quality standards that characterise World Class Universities.

AFFIRMATION

29. We, the participants at the NUC-AVCNU conference having critically reviewed the concept of World Class Universities, having analysed the peculiar challenges facing Nigerian universities, and having examined viable options and strategies for ensuring that the nation's universities develop along the world class lines by adopting globally accepted minimum quality standards as yardstick for benchmarking our universities, are determined to ensure that this does not go into history as just another conference. We hereby affirm our commitment to move *the Nigerian University at 50* process forward by
 - i. Vigorously pursuing in-house institutional strengthening along the lines outlined in paragraphs 9 – 28 above
 - ii. Forcefully advocating (in the direction of governments, proprietors of universities, the private sector, alumni and civil society) for the creation of the conducive environment and the provision of the 'resource cushion' needed for the successful pursuit of our envisaged in-house institutional strengthening.
30. Future deliberations on the subject of concern to the Conference, Nigerian Universities and the Quest for World Class Status, will take the form of annual soul searching events reviewing progress made in building minimum globally accepted quality standards as outlined in paragraphs 9 – 28 into university education. The events will also include reports and demonstrations of innovations and experiments initiated by institutions in their quest for world class status.

ADOPTED IN ABUJA, THIS 29th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2010

Unilorin joins OECD

The internationalisation of the University of Ilorin received a further boost this month with its admission as member into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

As a result, the University has now become a member of the Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE).

According to a letter signed by Ms Emily Groves, IMHE Membership Relations, "we have the pleasure of confirming that the University of Ilorin has been accepted as an official member of IMHE.... We are proud to welcome the University of Ilorin as part of our unique international network."

Faculty organises lecture for final year students

The Faculty of Law is organising a Capacity-Building Lecture to prepare the final year students of the University for the outside world.

According to a statement signed by the acting Dean of Law, Dr. Wahab Egbewole, the lecture, tagged “Unleash the Dragon – Survival Kit for the 21st Century Workplace” is to be delivered by “the Managing Director, Accenture Consulting, an international organisation with presence in more than 50 countries”.

The lecture comes up on Wednesday, November 24, 2010 at the University Auditorium beginning from 10:00 a.m. All final years students are expected to attend the lecture.

Happy Birthdays To You!

S/N	Name	Department/ Office	Birthday
1.	Dada, Moses S.	Mathematics	November 15 th
2.	Lawal, Wahab A.	Accounting and Finance	November 15 th
3.	Olanrewaju, Rhoda M.	Geography	November 16 th
4.	Yusuf, Rafiu O.	Chemical Engineering	November 18 th
5.	Babatunde, Raphael O.	Agric. Economics	November 19 th
6.	Oyetunji, Joel O.	Physics	November 19 th
7.	Adedeji, Abdullahi A.	Civil Engineering	November 20 th
8.	Alaro, Abdulrazaq A.	Islamic Law	November 20 th
9.	Raheem, Muhammed T.	Electrical Engineering	November 20 th

Unilorin in the News

(Contd. from the back page)

- While speaking on “A Review of the Framework of Legal Education in Nigerian Universities” at the third Mustapha Akanbi Annual Lecture at the University of Ilorin recently, the Director-General of the Nigerian Law School, Dr. Mamman Tahir, has disclosed that Nigeria does not have enough lawyers. (‘Nigeria in shortage of lawyers – Law School DG’, *Nigerian Tribune*, Thursday, November 11, 2010,p.41)
- The STEP-B researchers of the University of Ilorin, Prof. T. S. Ibiyemi and Prof. J. A. Obaleye, are now in the last phase of their multi-million naira research projects. (‘STEP-B projects near completion’, “UNILORIN File”, *The Nation*, Thursday, November 11, 2010,p.23)
- The University of Ilorin is organising a workshop on “The Contribution of African Universities to the to the Achievement of the MDGs” to mark the African University Day. (‘Varsity Day holds’, “UNILORIN File” same as above. Also see same for other Unilorin reports like ‘Southeast governors urged to end strike’ and ‘Varsity to benefit from PTDF’)
- While speaking at the third Mustapha Akanbi Annual Lecture at the University of Ilorin, the Director General of the Nigerian Law School, Dr. Mamman Tahir, has noted that only 50% of the Faculties of Law in Nigerian universities are qualified to run the programme. (‘50% of law faculties qualified, says DG, Law School’, *National Pilot*, Thursday November 11 – Sunday November 14, 2010,p.3)
- At a seminar organised by the International Association of Universities at the University of Ilorin, the participants have indentified the need to improve the quality of doctoral programmes in sub-saharan Africa. (NTA network news @ 9:00p.m Abuja. Thursday, November 11, 2010)
- The Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Engr. Muttaqqa Rabe Darma, has disclosed that the University of Ilorin and four other Nigerian universities will benefit from the Technology Knowledge Sharing Programme of the PTDF. (NTA Network news @ 9:00p.m. Thursday, November 11, 2010)
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Kolade L. Ayorinde, has assured Nigerians that the admission list of the University of Ilorin would be released in a matter of days saying that the problem the University had with its website caused the delay. (RayPower FM Network News @ 4:00p.m. Lagos. Friday, October 12, 2010)
- At the African Day Forum organised by the University of Ilorin, Prof. Solomon Olorundare and Dr. Olugbenga Mokuolu have highlighted how Nigerian universities can contribute more to the attainment of the MDGs through collaboration. (RayPower FM news @ 6:00p.m. Lagos. Friday, October 12, 2010)

Unilorin in the News

- During the Special Oil and Gas Industry Lecture at the University of Ilorin, the Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Trust Development Fund (PTDF), Engr. Muttaqqa Rabe Darma, has disclosed that the University of Ilorin is one of the four Nigerian universities to benefit from the Technology Knowledge Sharing Programme (PTSK) of the PTDF.
(‘Unilorin benefits from PTDF Technology Knowledge Sharing Programme’, *The Herald*, Monday, October 11, 2010,p.24)
- The photograph of some Ph.D graduands of the University of Ilorin during the recent 26th convocation ceremonies has been published.
(*The Herald*, same as above)
- To mark the 2010 African University Day, the University of Ilorin is organising a one-day workshop themed “The Contribution of African Universities to the Achievement of the MDGs” on November 12, 2010 at the University Auditorium.
(‘Unilorin marks African University Day’, *The Herald*, same as above)
- A member of the Governing Council of the Republic of Benin, Mrs. Grace Lawani, has given a pass mark to the Nigerian educational system while receiving a delegation of the University of Ilorin French students led by an Assistant Director of the Centre for International Education, Dr. Ismail A. Amali, in her country recently.
(‘Education in Nigeria is good – Beninese’, *The Herald*, same as above)
- The International Association of Universities (IAU) has begun a 4-day seminar on the “Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa” at the University of Ilorin during which the IAU officials and six African universities would chart a way forward for the PhD programmes in African universities.
(‘NTA Ilorin’ news @ 7:00 p.m, Monday, November 8, 2010)
- In a communiqué issued at the end of its 2010 Workshop and Annual General Meeting at the University of Ilorin, the Committee of Directors of Academic Planning of Nigerian Universities (CODAPNU) has urged the governments of South East states to end the strike in their universities.
(‘ASUU strike: Universities directors urge South-East governors to intervene’,*People’s Daily*, Tuesday, November 9, 2010,p.10)
- While paying a courtesy visit to the Emir of Ilorin, Alh. Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, the IAU delegates have expressed their happiness to be at the University of Ilorin and thanked the Emir for his support to the University.
(NTA Ilorin news at 7:00p.m Tuesday November 9, 2010)
- The University of Ilorin is to benefit from the Technology Knowledge Sharing Programme of the PTDF, according to the Executive Secretary of the Fund, Engr. Muttaqqa Rabe Darma.
(‘Unilorin to benefit from PTDF technology programme’, *Nigerian Compass*, Wednesday, November 10, 2010,p.15)
- The photograph of some graduands of the University of Ilorin during the last 26th convocation ceremonies has been published.
(*Nigerian Compass*, same as above, p.16)
- The University of Ilorin has been mentioned as one of the second-generation Nigerian universities in a lecture delivered by Chief Afe Babalola.
(‘Afe Babalola’s role in redefining the standard of education in Nigeria’, *Nigerian Compass*, same as above, p.39)

Quotes of the Week

I have learnt that all in the world can be done and something will still go wrong...The key is how you deal with it!

- Terran Potor

The education of a man is never completed until he dies.

- Robert E. Lee

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm. -Bruce Barton

(Contd. on page 11)

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