

We must regenerate ourselves – VC

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has tasked academics to regenerate themselves in order to move the nation forward. Prof. Oloyede gave this charge in his opening remarks last Tuesday (September 1, 2009) at the Orientation Programme organised by the University of Ilorin Centre for Research, Development and In-House Training (CREDIT) for the Coordinators, Heads of Departments, Directors and Deans of the University.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, who was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), Prof. Albert B. Olayemi, universities across the world have a transformational mission in terms of training, research and development and no university can afford to be tired of revising the strategies of repositioning itself for greater achievements in the triple areas of research, development and training which are crucial to any university system.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the establishment of CREDIT was predicated on the need to revive aspects of the University traditions and cultures which have been left comatose for some time. He said by putting research, development and training on its top agenda, the University hopes that the system would be regenerated, the traditions resuscitated and the culture rejuvenated for the staff, students and the University at large. He added that while much of the decay has often been attributed to the paucity of funds, the real problem lies in lecturers facing their duties so that the real academic culture, alien to many now, would be brought back into the Nigerian university system.



VC, Prof. Oloyede

In his welcome address, the Director of CREDIT, who is also the newly-elected Dean of Postgraduate School of the University, Prof. Isaac O. Abimbola, congratulated the newly-appointed participants and listed functions of his Centre via-a-vis: grant and monitor research funds from the Senate Research Grant; attract grants from public and private sectors, locally, nationally and internationally for research and training activities; encourage and oversee research fairs and exhibitions; coordinate research discoveries, inventions, patenting and commercialization of research products; implement existing agreements between University of Ilorin and other institutions of higher education or other bodies relating to research, development and training programmes; cooperate with other national and inter-national Centres with similar interests; organize seminars and workshops for staff; organize seminars and workshops for students; and carry out other related duties assigned by the Vice-Chancellor, from time to time.

According to Prof. Abimbola, “Research and Development are major aspects of the functions historic associated with Universities worldwide. Also, work force education is becoming an in-thing among nation the world. Any nation, therefore, that intends to be ranked among the first twenty economies in the world the year 2020 cannot afford not to pay due attention to research and development and continuous training retraining of its workforce.”

Also speaking at the programme attended by the most senior Professors in the University, the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Edungbola, observed that the hallmarks of the academics are respect, credibility, creativity and integrity. He canvassed the regeneration of the academia through a strict avoidance of the vices engendered by money, harassment and examination misconduct. He noted that the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, is a believer in best practices and that with the commitment of all, the University of Ilorin, which is a great University already, will continue to be great.

In her vote of thanks at the occasion, Dr. (Mrs) A. A. Jekayinfa expressed the appreciation of CREDIT and the University to the resource persons, who include busy principal officers, and the participants. She expressed satisfaction that the programme, which lasted the whole day, would make a difference in the administrative duties of the participants.