

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, AKANU IBIAM FEDERAL
POLYTECHNIC UNWANA AT THE END OF ITS 1ST INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION HELD AT OLD LECTURE THEATRE FROM
WEDNESDAY 9TH TO FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2019.**

The School of Science, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana held its 1st International Conference and Exhibition between 9th and 11th October, 2019 at the Old Lecture Theatre, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana (AIFPU), Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

The theme of the conference was **‘Innovations in Science and Technology: A tool for Economic Diversification’**. The conference had in attendance eminent researchers and scientists from the academia and industry from far and near who shared their wealth of knowledge and views with respect to the theme of the conference.

The conference was declared open by the Rector, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic Unwana, Ven. Dr. Ogonnia Ibe-Enwo ably represented by Dr. Ezichi Kalu, the Deputy Rector, Academic.

The Dean, School of Science, Dr. A. O. Dike in his address, welcomed everyone to the 1st International Conference and Exhibition of School of Science. He said that the conference was organized to forge collaboration and make connections to give participants a voice, and, junior researchers mingle with senior ones to integrate new technologies for efficient and scientific progress. He promised the entire participants conducive environment to show case novel ideas that could change the face of the country and the world at large.

Other dignitaries present at the opening ceremony include: Prof. B. C. Mbam (Professor of Computer Science and Provost, Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo who presented the keynote address; Prof. A. C. Akpanta, Department of Statistics, Abia State University, Uturu; Dr. T. I. Mbata, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Federal Polytechnic, Owerri; Dr. S. S. Ogundapo, Biochemistry unit, Department of Science Laboratory Technology, AIFPU; Dr

(Mrs). S. N. Ezem, Head, Department of Science Laboratory Technology, AIFPU; Mr. Oko Nlia, Head, Department of Maths/Statistics, AIFPU; Mr. E. U. Ezeorah, Head, Department of Computer Science, AIFPU; Prof. M. C. Okafor, Dean, College of Medicine, Imo State University Owerri among others.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr. Ezichi Kalu (Deputy Rector, Academic, AIFPU). The opening ceremony commenced with an opening prayer said by Dr (Mrs). S. N. Ezem.

In his keynote address, Prof. B. C. Mbam (Provost, Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo) warmly welcomed all the participants to the conference. He acknowledged the place of Innovations in Science and Technology to address issues with the conference theme. He defined Innovation in several ways, one of which says that Innovation is a new idea, creative thoughts, and new imaginations in form of methods, applications or devices. According to him, Innovations in Science and Technology is essential for economic development and social progress of a nation. As such, creates new businesses and is the fundamental source of growth in science and technology and in economy in general. He said that innovations in science and technology brings about platform for exchange of experiences and opportunities on the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools for exchange of experiences and lessons learned in economic diversification; including ways to develop institutional capacity, and improve understanding on how economic diversification can be integrated into sustainable development plans that promote sustainable economic growth and the eradication of poverty. Economic diversification was defined as the process of shifting an economy away from a single income source towards multiple sources from a growing range of sectors and markets.

Two quest lecturers presented papers in line with the conference theme and was aptly discussed. They are '**Accelerating Economic Development by Science and Technology Education**' by Dr. T. I. Mbata, Head, Department of

Pharmaceutical Technology, Federal Polytechnic, Owerri; **Innovations in Science and Technology: A tool for Economic Diversification (1)**' by Prof. A. C. Akpanta, Department of Statistics, Abia State University, Uturu. One research paper titled, **'The war Against Antimalaria Drug: What is and is to come'** was presented by Dr. S. S. Ogundapo, Biochemistry unit, Department of Science Laboratory Technology, AIFPU.

About One hundred papers were presented by the participants during the conference. From the presentations at the conference, the following observations were made:

1. The Nigerian educational system has been malfunctioning for a long time which has created problems of scientific and technological manpower production.
2. Technology is changing at an unprecedented rate; Nigeria stands the risk of being left behind.
3. There are security issues in Nigeria which is impacting negatively on Science and Technological advancement.
4. There is lack of adequate research studies, infrastructure of database, skilled manpower, inadequate budgetary allocation and political instability and sustainability issues.
5. An endogenous element of academic research will exists if:
 - i. Profit-seeking companies support academic research, and this support is growing,
 - ii. The problems that academic scientists address often come from ideas developed through consulting relationships with industry.

RECCOMENDATIONS

1. Nigeria needs to refocus on and increase efforts on research and education in science and technology which are the sources of innovations for economic growth and reduction on foreign technologies for survival.

2. Science and technology education should be made a top priority in the broad national development strategy of the government.
3. Science and technology education as course should be offered at all levels of our education system, especially at primary and secondary school levels, where majority of the people go to school and terminate their education.
4. Broad based curricula comprising relevant scientific knowledge and vocational skills for schools and colleges should be promoted by the government.
5. Institution of science and technology related industries must make innovations in science and technology a priority if our country hopes to flex its economic muscles.
6. Adequate support should be provided by the continuous training and retraining of academic staff in tertiary and research institutions.
7. The federal government may consider launching national education reforms that focus on innovations, science and technology that will produce the next generation of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and innovation leaders.
8. The use of safe, clean, efficient and sustainable energy technologies should be promoted.

Signed Communiqué Committee