



FUTO News

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OWERRI, NIGERIA

VOL. 29 NO. 1, JANUARY - MARCH 2009, ISSN 0189-1760



FUTO Stands Out among Universities

- Engr. Vita Abba, OON
Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council



Inauguration of the 9th Governing Council of FUTO

- FUTO Holds 27th Matriculation Ceremony
- Prof. Onwuliri Bags Prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Science
- Registrar on NIPSS Course 31

- Governor Ohakim, NCC Boss, NLNG MD/CEO, NOTAP and SPDC Donate to FUTO
- Madam Mgbogo Okiro Building Commissioned
- FUTO Hosts International Conference
- FISO Secures Approval

Editor's Comment

You are welcome to another New year of grace.

This edition of our newsletter comes with news on the inauguration of the 9th Governing Council of our University.

FUTONews crew was present that evening of Wednesday, February 25, 2009 when Engr. Vita Abba, OON, the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council arrived the University for the inauguration of the 9th Governing Council. The Council began work immediately as seen in our story on page 6.

The University played host from March 29-April 2, 2009 to a strategic *International Conference on Renewable and Alternative Energy* which gave birth to the Renewable and Alternative Energy Society of Nigeria (please see pages 11-13).

On page 20, we carried a report on the election of Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, to the prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Science.

Happy Reading.

- Adaeze Okany



VISITOR AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

VISITOR

His Excellency
ALHAJI MUSA YAR'ADUA, GCFR
*President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

CHANCELLOR

His Royal Majesty
DR. SHEKARAU ANGYU MASA - IBI, CON, LLD (FUTO)
Kuvyo II, The Aku Uka of Wukari

PRO-CHANCELLOR & CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

ENGR. VITA ABBA, FNSE, OON, KSJ

VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROF. C. O. E. ONWULIRI, FAS, KSJ, JP
*B.Sc., Ph.D. (Nigeria), C. Biol., M.I. Biol. (London),
FBSN, FNSP, FCIDA, ALOHA*

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

PROF. E. T. ESHETT
B.Sc. (Nigeria), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ibadan)

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION)

PROF. M. I. NWUFO, KSM
B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ibadan)

REGISTRAR

MR. C. O. OMEIRE
B.A. (Ed.) (Cal.), M.Sc., Pol. Sc. (Ibadan) FCAI, MNIM

BURSAR

MR. R. U. AKUJOBI
HND (Enugu), MBA (FUTO), FCA

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

MR. J. E. NWOGU
Dip. Lib (Ibadan), MLS, (Loughborough), FNLA, MNIM

Contents

5 FUTO Stands Out Among Universities

Council News **6**



27th Matriculation **7**



Registrar on NIPSS Course 31 **8**



Prof. Okoro Delivers Public Lecture **9**

10 University News

RAERG 2009



11

14 Donations

Brief News **17**

News from FUTOWA

18



Sports Corner **19**

20 External Engagements

Staff News **21**

Students' Corner **22**



is published by the

Information, Public Relations and Publications Unit

Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Federal University of Technology, Owerri

Editor

Adaeze Okany

Staff Writers

Chris Ogu

Tessy Iwuji

Ademola Adelakun

Eucharika Onuoha

Ndidi Ezolisa

Secretarial Assistants

Ifeoma Ekwebelem

Peace Onwuchekwa

Photographers

Friday Ufomadu

George Amuneke

Salomey Mbata

Peter Agu

Circulation

Reginald Osuji

Roland Nwabuzor

Transport

Athanasius Njoku

Designed and Printed by

Skillmark
MEDIA LIMITED

18 KAGHA STREET, OWERRI, IMO STATE NIGERIA
TEL: 083231511, 08036690084, 08051090040

All correspondence and enquiries to the Editor, FUTONews

Information, Public Relations and Publications Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor,
Federal University of Technology,
P.M.B. 1526, Owerri, Nigeria
0803 706 2998

adaezeokany@yahoo.com

<http://www.futongr.com>



We remain most crucial factor in



Courier

Custom Clearing

Haulage

Air Freight

Sea Freight

Warehousing



Head Office: 2, Joy Avenue Off Osolo Way, Ajao Estate, Isolo, Lagos.
Tel: 01-4526933, 4526837, 7621219, Fax: 4526283

Offices Nationwide

...the world in our hands



FUTO STANDS OUT AMONG UNIVERSITIES

- Pro-Chancellor



Engr. Vita Abba, FNSE, OON, KSJ, FUTO Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the 9th Governing Council has commended the Vice-Chancellor and Management of the University for the enviable record and reputation of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

He made this assertion at the formal inauguration of the 9th Governing Council of the University held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at the Council/Senate Chamber, FUTO.



Engr. Abba described his appointment as Pro-Chancellor/ Chairman of FUTO Governing Council as his biggest challenge and pledged his full commitment and dedication to the national assignment. The distinguished Electronic Engineer noted that the University dossier including the act, calendar, regulations and the University Strategic Plan (2006 - 2011), testified to the solid foundation of the University.

He invited all segments of the University community to play their individual and collective roles in moving the University forward.

Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C. O. E. Onwuliri on behalf of the entire University community welcomed the Pro-Chancellor/Chairman of Council and all members of the newly constituted 9th Governing Council of the University. Prof. Onwuliri noted with pleasure that FUTO had maintained a record of stability in academic calendar in the country and described it as "a hot cake" for candidates looking for admission.

He expressed the hope and confidence that the current Governing Council will spearhead

the transformation of FUTO into a University, infrastructurally tailored to engender superlative scholarship in technology.

Other members of the 9th Governing Council are Prof. E. T. Eshett, DVC Academic; Prof. M. I. Nwufor, DVC Administration; Chief (Mrs.)

Josephine Nnoham, Muhammad Alhaji Yakubu, Dame Beatrice Ekwueme, OON, Dr. Ojong Okongor Eno, Mrs. Chioma Nwosu, representing Federal Ministry of Education. While Prof. F. C. Eze, Prof. (Mrs.) Rose Nwabueze, Prof. E.E. Anyanwu and Prof. Chidi Akujor, represent Senate, Mr. Chike Ezenwa and Dr. C. B. C. Ohanuzue, represent Congregation in Council. The Ag. Registrar, H.O. Mezieobi, Esq is also a member and Secretary of Council.

Other Principal Officers, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, Co-ordinators, Chairmen and Secretaries of staff unions, FUTO Students' Union Government and other members of University community were in attendance.

- Tessy Iwuji

Profile of

Engr. Vita Abba

- **Engr. Victor Okafor Abba**
- Married to Engr. (Mrs.) Obiageli MaryRose Abba, a consultant Electrical Engineer and are blessed with children.
- Born in the early sixties.
- Enrolled into Government Technical School, Enugu in 1976.
- Graduated with Distinction, City & Guilds, London.
- 1987 B.Eng. Electrical & Electronic Engineering graduate of then Anambra State University of Technology, Enugu.
- Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of VEE-TEK Nig. Ltd., one of the foremost indigenous electrical manufacturing companies that specialises in the production of low-voltage switch gears, power

construction and engineering services etc.

• Professional Qualifications

- Member, Institute of Electrical/ Electronic Engineers (IEE)
- Member, Nigerian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)

• National Service

- Chairman, PDP Enugu State

• Honours

- Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Commendation from then World Bank President, Mr. J.O. Wolfen John during the exhibition of made-in-Nigeria products at Aba
- Commendation letter from the Federal Government of Nigeria on excellent performance in executing Nigeria 99 projects.



COUNCIL COMMENCES WORK

-Ratifies Re-appointment of DVCs, Bursar, UL, Elevates 8 to Professors and Promotes Several Others

The Abba-led Council went to work immediately with the ratification of the re-appointment of the two Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Prof. Ebong T. Eshett and Prof. Martin I. Nwugo; Bursar, Mr. Robinson U. Akujobi; and University Librarian, Chief John E. Nwogu.

Council also constituted three ad-hoc committees on *Encroachment in the University*; *Review of the Performance of the Contractor Handling the PTDF Building*, and *Review of Staff Welfare Package*, last reviewed in 1998.

It undertook a facility tour of the campus and noted infrastructural development in the University and directed that he be commended, especially for the progress attracted by him from eminent Nigerians.

At its 124th meeting held on Friday, February 27, 2009 Council elevated 8 to professors. They are: Dr. C. S. Nwadiaro,



9TH GOVERNING COUNCIL OF FUTO - 1st Row: Engr. Vita Abba, oon (5th left), Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council; Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, FAS, (4th left), FUTO Vice-Chancellor; Prof. E.T. Eshett (2nd right), DVC Academic; Prof. M.I. Nwugo (2nd left) DVC Admin. Chief Mrs. Josephine Nnham (1st right), and Mrs. Chioma Nwosu (3rd left), rep. Fed. Ministry of Education and Dr. C.B.C. Chanuzue (1st left). **2nd Row:** L-R - Dame Beatrice Ekwueme, oon, Mr. R.U. Akujobi, Bursar; Prof. C. Akujor, Muhammad Alhaji Yakubu, Barr. H. O. Meziobi, Ag. Registrar and Chike Ezenwa. **3rd Row:** L-R - Prof. E.E. Anyanwu, Prof. F.C. Eze, Dr. Ojong Okongor Eno and Prof. (Mrs.) Rose N. Nwabueze.

effective Oct. 1, 2006; Dr. S. O. E. Ogbogu, Dr. (Mrs.) H. C. Nwigwe, Dr. A. U. Uzoma, Dr. V. I. Ibekwe and Dr. J. N. Ogbulie effective Oct. 1, 2007; Dr. O. C. Abanobi, Dr. E. N. Ejike effective Oct. 1, 2008. 13 teaching staff were promoted to Readership status. Senior non-teaching staff were also promoted.

Other highlights were the meetings of Committees of Council viz *Finance and General Purpose Committee* that approved the Financial Report of the University for the period 1st July 2008 to 31st December, 2008 and the *University Tenders Board* that reviewed the status report of capital projects.

Let's Move **FUTO** to the **NEXT LEVEL** - Engr. Abba

Speaking at the dinner organised in honour of the Chairman and Members of the 9th Governing Council, Engr. Vita Abba, Chairman of Council expressed delight at the warm reception accorded him by the entire University Community and urged Management and staff to join hands with the Council to move the University to the next level, irrespective of individual differences.

The Pro-Chancellor stated that he was proud of the pedigree of the Vice-Chancellor and wife, Prof. & Prof. (Mrs.) C.O.E. Onwuliri and what

they represent and thanked them for the sumptuous dinner hosted in honour of Council at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge.

According to him "we must look at ourselves as brothers and with peace and unity, the rest will flow. My belief in people and my style of giving equal opportunity to everyone would be brought to bear on the policy thrust of the University, recognising that our names, faces and origin are accidents and not by choice".

Earlier in his brief welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to God for making the

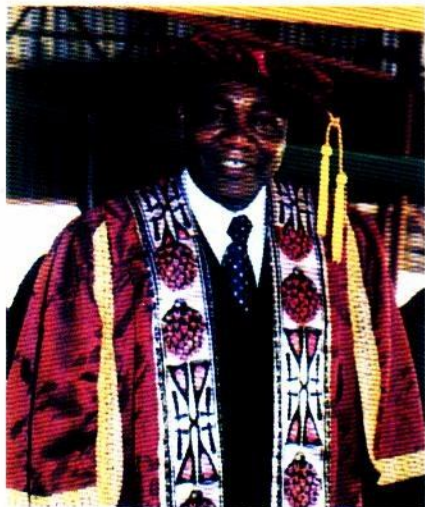
constitution of the 9th Governing Council a reality. He described the Council as a unique blend divinely selected in answer to his prayers.

Meanwhile the Council paid courtesy calls on His Royal Majesty, Eze Dr. E.E. Njemanze, Ozuruigbo V of Owerri and was jointly received by traditional rulers of FUTO host communities, Their Royal Highnesses, Eze A.C. Enyinnaya of Obinze, Eze Sir S.O. Okoroagbara of Eziobodo, Eze F.I.N.O. Nwabiri of Okolochi, Eze M.S.J. Eke of Umuoma, Nekede and Eze Dr. A.N. Okerefor of Emeabiam in the palace of His Royal Highness, Eze Sir J.O. Muruako, Nnaochie 11 of Ihiagwa.

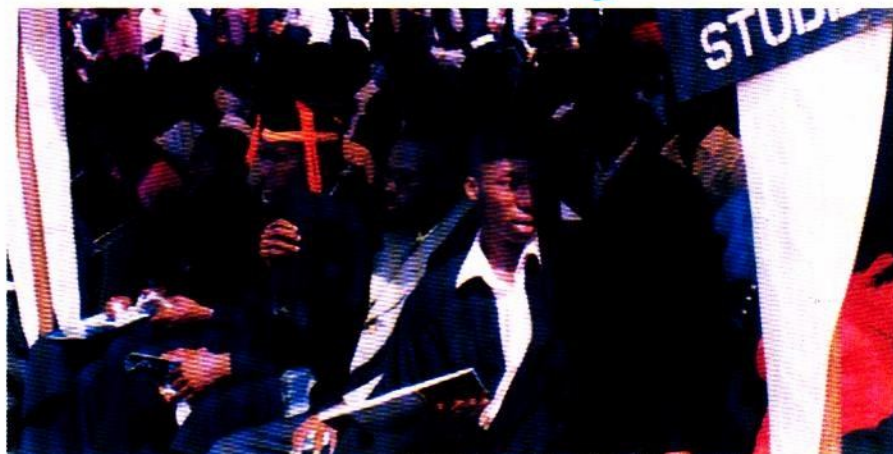
- Nndi Eziolisa



FUTO Holds 27th Matriculation Ceremony



Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, FAS,
Vice-Chancellor, FUTO



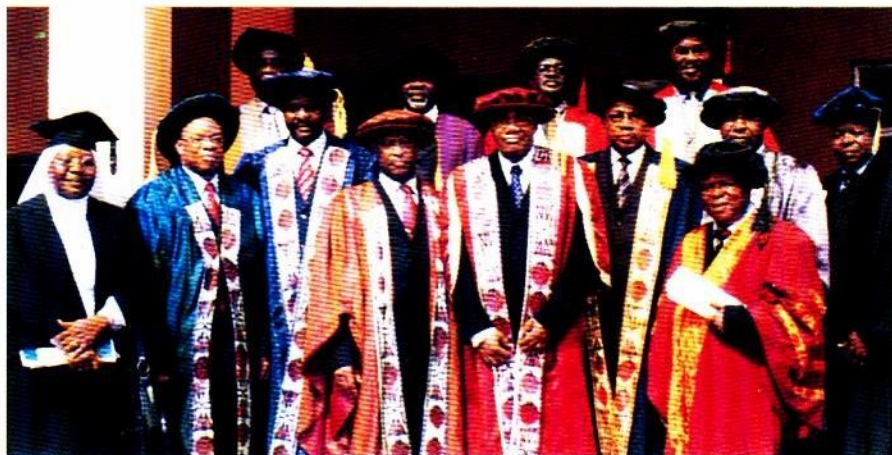
A cross section of the matriculating students.

The celebrated 27th Matriculation Ceremony of the Federal University of Technology on Saturday, January 31, 2009 attracted a multitude of dignitaries from all walks of life including parents, friends and well wishers of the matriculating students.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri congratulated the matriculants for the feat they had achieved. He charged them to brace up for painstaking study and for the task of acquiring entrepreneurial and ICT proficiency.

The Vice-Chancellor preached peaceful co-existence between the students and host communities and cautioned against conduct and utterances that foster rancour and acrimony. He charged the fresh students to internalise the rules and regulations of the University so that they would be found worthy in character and learning to be awarded the degrees of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri in record time.

- Eucharia Onuoha



The Vice-Chancellor in a group photograph with all Principal Officers and Deans of FUTO.



The Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department in a group photograph after the Matriculation Ceremony.

WORK HARD AND JUSTIFY YOUR ADMISSION - VC Urges Freshmen

Newly admitted students of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri have been charged to work assiduously to justify their admission into the University.

Speaking during the pre-Matriculation Parent Management Forum held on January 31, 2009, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E Onwuliri noted that the admission process was very keen and stringent and therefore enjoined parents and guardians to show greater commitment to the monitoring of the activities of their children and wards.

He acknowledged the contributions of PMF to the development of the University, and charged the Executive to convene an extraordinary meeting within the year to outline the new focus and direction of the body.

While acquainting the forum with the progress so far made by his administration, the Vice-Chancellor announced a 100% score during the last NUC accreditation exercise. He enumerated the concerted efforts of his administration in attracting linkages and collaborations with national and international institutions, industry, the public and private sectors.

Prof. Onwuliri noted that there was industrial peace on campus owing to the well meaning efforts of staff, students and host communities and called on all to

continue to support his administration in the goal of raising balanced graduates who could face the challenges of life after school.

Earlier in his address, the PMF Chairman speaking through Mazi Okey Njoku said that the objective of the forum was to bring parents and guardians together with a view to proffering lasting solutions to some of the problems facing their children and wards in the University.

According to him, membership was free and automatic, on the admission of one's ward in the University and urged them to endeavour to attend meetings convened by the forum.

The meeting which had in attendance Rev. Mrs. N.D. Izuchukwu, was witnessed by Principal Officers, Deans, Directors and Co-ordinators of the University and an impressive turnout of parents/guardians.

- Ndid Eziolisa

REGISTRAR PROCEEDS

ON NIPSS COURSE 31

Mr. Charles Omeire, Registrar of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri has embarked on the 10-month *Senior Executive Course No. 31 2009* at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru as approved by the Presidency on the strength of his nomination by the National Universities Commission.

A letter dated January 29, 2009 from the Ag. Director-General of the institute addressed to the NUC Executive Secretary, Prof. Julius A. Okojie, conveying the Presidency's approval stated that the Registrar would not be available to the University for any official engagement not related to the

course throughout the duration of the programme.

The Vice-Chancellor has since approved the release and participation of Mr. Omeire at NIPSS effective February 1, 2009. According to the Vice-Chancellor, the nomination of the Registrar to the prestigious institution is testimony to his diligence and resourcefulness.

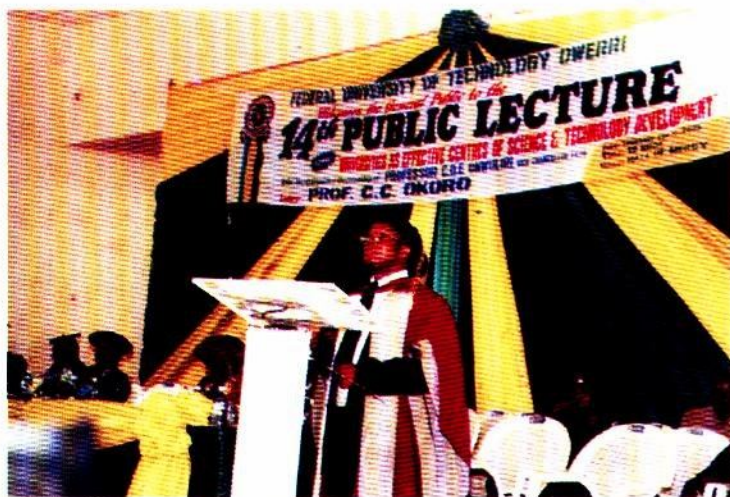
...MEZIEOBI APPOINTED ACTING REGISTRAR

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor has appointed Barr. H.O. Mezieobi, Deputy Registrar/Co-ordinator, Legal Matters Unit to act as Registrar with effect from February 9, 2009 until further notice.

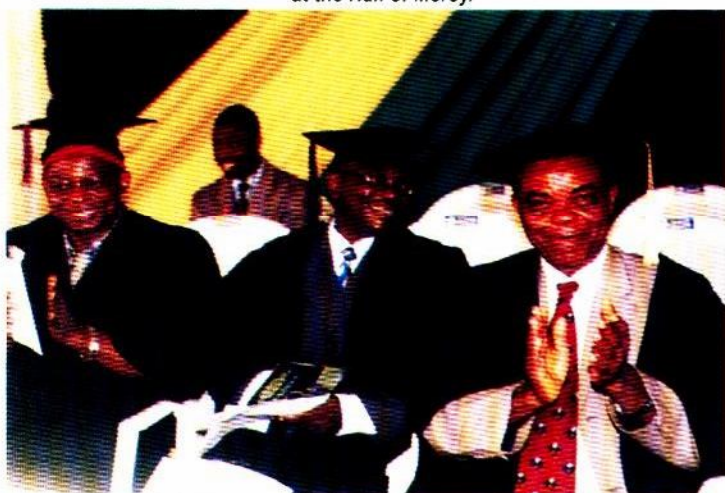


Universities Must Meet the Challenge of Globalisation

- Prof Okoro



Prof. Christopher Okoro delivering the 14th Public Lecture at the Hall of Mercy.



L-R: Prof. M.O.E. Iwuala, Director, Academic Planning and Development; Prof. M.C. Ofoh, Director, Centre for Agric Research; and Prof. F.O.U. Osuala, Director, CCE applauding the Lecturer. Behind is Mr. Ademola Adelakun, AO, IPRP.



The Lecturer in a group photo with Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, Vice-Chancellor Prof. E.T. Eshett (3rd right), DVC Academic and students of the School of Engineering & Engineering Technology, FUTO.

University don, Prof. Christopher Okoro has declared that the challenge of globalisation can be overcome by universities as research incubators and drivers of innovations in Science and Technology.

He made the declaration while delivering the 14th Public Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri on February 12, 2009 at the Hall of Mercy, FUTO.

Prof. Okoro in his lecture entitled *Universities as Effective Centres for Science and Technology Development* stated that universities must play the role of catalysts to the re-engineering of the mindset of Nigerians.

Providing students the practical opportunities for creativity in generating hands on solutions to real life problems is key to exploiting their God-given talents and ingenuity. This he noted was directly linked to the University-Industry-Community relationship where research is undertaken to meet emerging societal needs. Prof. Okoro, a former Hon. Commissioner for Education in Imo State however lamented the abysmal 6% budgetary allocation to education as opposed to UNESCO's much publicised recommendation of 25%.

The first beneficiaries, he observed would be the University host communities thereby completing the tripod mandate of teaching, research and community service.

Speaking during the lecture the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri thanked the lecturer for a well researched lecture, which he noted would be useful to both policy makers and the academia. According to him, the University Public Lecture Series has gathered momentum and would continue to maintain its pace.

In a citation on the lecturer, Prof. M.O.E. Iwuala, University Orator stated that Engr. Prof. Okoro has vast international industrial experiences as a renowned scholar, teacher, researcher, educational administrator, expert consultant and celebrated Power Systems Engineer. A distinguished Knight of the Order of Saint Christopher (KSC), he is happily married to Lady Stella Ihuoma Okoro and they are blessed with four children.

- Ademola Adelakun

FWMT SET TO MEET International Standard

Management of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri has resolved to raise the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management Technology of the University to international standard.

This was revealed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri on the occasion of the opening ceremony of a one-day interactive session organised by the Department for their 100 level students on February 19, 2009.

According to Prof. Onwuliri, the course content of Forestry and Wildlife Management Technology is intensive, and is a plus for students who would through such means acquire entrepreneurial skill for gainful self employment at the end of their study.

He outlined the importance of Wildlife describing it as a

professional course that affects the environment and activities of man directly and would open so many avenues for the students. "The need to conserve plants and animals would help them conserve humanity" the Vice-Chancellor stated.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Dean, School of Agriculture & Agricultural Technology, Prof. C.C. Asiabaka thanked the Vice-Chancellor for honouring their invitation and commended the Head of Department, Dr. A.E. Ibe for the wonderful initiative.

He encouraged the freshmen to be serious with their studies as they were privileged to be pioneer students of the Department and were expected to come out better equipped to face the challenges of life.

- Tessy Iwuji

FISO
Secures
Approval
From Imo State Government

FUTO International School, Owerri has been granted approval to operate as a private Secondary School by the State Ministry of Education.

This licence followed the successful Approval Inspection carried out in FISO on February 6, 2009.

It may be recalled that it was Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri who, barely six months in office as Vice-Chancellor in December 2006 established the University Secondary School with 116 pioneer students after 26 years of the existence of FUTO.

COMMITTEE ON INVENTORY OF LABORATORY AND RESEARCH EQUIPMENT IN FUTO PRESENTS REPORT TO VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Committee on Inventory of Laboratory and Research Equipment in FUTO has presented its report to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri. The Committee chaired by Engr. J.I. Obibuonyi had Mrs. Loveth C. Ekwemakor, Mr. Ken Okeke, Mr. R. Obineche as members while Mr. Stanley Njoku clerked its sittings.



Engr. J.I. Obibuonyi presenting the Report to Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri Vice-Chancellor.



Committee members with VC during the presentation ceremony in the Vice-Chancellor's office.



RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

- The Answer To Energy Crisis

The relevance of energy as a driving force for the actualisation of sustainable development in Nigeria has once again, being brought to the fore by the academia and experts in the energy sector.

Speaking during the Opening Ceremony of the just concluded *FUTO International Conference on Renewable and Alternative Energy* held on March 30, 2009, the Vice-Chancellor and host, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri in his welcome address drew attention to the indispensability of energy in human development and economic prosperity, noting that every sector of the economy depended on energy for its survival. He posited that the outcome of the workshop would have an enduring positive impact on participants and the nation.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Prof. Raymond Akwule, President, Digital Bridge Institute who stood in for the Chairman, noted that the conference theme was pertinent to the realisation of the developmental goals of Nigeria.

Addressing the participants, the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Sam Egwu speaking through Prof. Val Ekechukwu, Director, Research and Planning, National Universities Commission described the human factor as critical to the exploitation of natural resources and urged the Vice-Chancellor to seek funding for a FUTO Centre of Excellence on Energy under the World Bank's initiative.

The Director, Vocational Skills Development, NDE, Barr. (Mrs.) N. Okogbue while delivering a goodwill message, on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Productivity commended the initiative of the organisers of the Workshop and listed the *Solar Energy Training Scheme* and the *Small Hydro-Power Project* as some of their programmes in the area of Renewable and Alternative Energy.

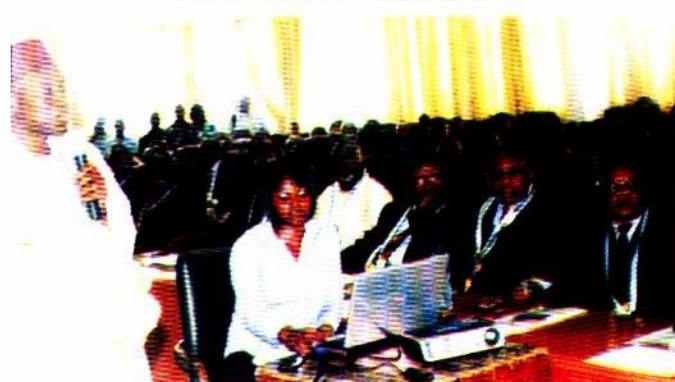
In his Keynote Address, tagged *Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in Nigeria*, the Director-General, Energy Commission of Nigeria, Prof. Abubakar Sambo represented by Dr. E.J. Bala, Director Renewable Energy stated that solution for the energy crisis lay in the harnessing of all sources of energy and encouraged more research in the



L-R: Dr. E.J. Bala, Prof. Val Ekechukwu, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri and Prof. Raymond Akwule at the Opening Ceremony.



L-R: Prof. Raymond Akwule, Barr. H.O. Mezieobi, Ag. Registrar, Dr. Jude Amaefule and Prof. T. A. Kuku.



The Keynote Address by Prof. Abubakar Sambo, DG, Energy Commission of Nigeria being delivered by Dr. E.J. Bala.



An Exhibition mounted by Prof. A. C. Onyeagba of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem International Institute (HUJII) in collaboration with ECOBank.

application of renewable energy and alternative energy sources with a view to stimulating its utilisation.

Resource persons included Dr. Jude Amaefule, Managing Director/CEO, Emerald Energy Resources Limited; Prof. Raymond Akwule, President, Digital Bridge Institute; Prof. T.A. Kuku, President, Solar Energy Society of Nigeria; Prof. Val Ekechukwu; Engr. Ajulu Uzodike, Chairman/CEO Cutix Plc and Prof. Sahalu Junaidu of ABU Zaria.

Other dignitaries that attended the conference were the representative of the Hon. Commissioner for Education,



L-R: Prof. (Mrs.) Viola Onwuliri, Prof. Chidi Akujor, LOC Chairman, Prof. E.E. Anyanwu, Engr. Prof. O.N. Oguoma, Prof. G.E. Nworuh and others at the Opening Ceremony

Imo State, Prof. Jude Njoku; Mrs. Chioma Nwosu, Deputy Director, FME Prof. Martin Ogbe, DVC, Delta State University, Abraka; Prof. Babatunde, Covenant University, Ota; Dr. L.O Eke, FedPoly Nekede; Mr. Felix

Chukwu, FUTO Alumni National President; Mr. Joe Mordey, State Co-ordinator, NDE Imo State; Rev Fr. David Iheanacho; and Mr. Andy Nnanta, Manager, Ecobank Owerri.

- Nndi Ezolisa

COMMUNIQUÉ

ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY HELD AT THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI (FUTO) NIGERIA FROM MARCH 29 - APRIL 2, 2009

The Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) Renewable Energy Group with the support of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Private Sector organised an *International Conference on Renewable and Alternative Energy* to create awareness of, and harness the existing expertise in Renewable and Alternative Energy. The Conference was declared open by the Honourable Minister of Education and chaired by the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC). Also in attendance were the Honourable Ministers of Labour and Productivity; Interior; Women Affairs, Imo State Commissioner for Education, Heads of Federal and State Ministerial Department and Agencies, leading Researchers and Captains of Industries.

A Keynote Address entitled **"Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in Nigeria"** was presented by the Director-General of Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), Prof. Abubakar Sani Sambo, FAS. Eighty two (82) scientific and technical papers were presented and discussed exhaustively on the various conference themes namely: *Solar Energy Systems; Biomass Conversion Processes; Wind, Tidal, Geothermal, Small Hydropower, Renewable Energies in Agriculture and Environment; Secondary Energy Sources and Usage; Policy Issues on Energy Production and Usage, Renewable Energies in Developing Economies; and Energy Production and Environmental Sustainability in the Niger Delta.*

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. With the global threat of climate change resulting from the emission of green house gases, there is an urgent need to promote research and development of technologies for deployment of Renewable and Alternative Energy sources in Nigeria.
2. With the advent of digital technology, Nigeria should pursue a further aggressive liberalisation of the power sector through a diversified power generation approach; enhance communication and collaboration between the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).
3. The potentials of solar energy are well known and Nigeria is blessed with



its abundance. However, the use of solar energy in Nigeria is constrained by the lack of necessary infrastructure for the local production of solar panels. There is therefore the need for concerted effort to encourage Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in Research and Development of Renewable and Alternative Energy technologies.

4. The conference recognised the promotion of Bio-fuel Technology in order to benefit from its potentials for energy supply, sustainable environmental management, food security and poverty reduction through job creation. There is therefore need to encourage research in the development of bio-energy crops.

5. Poor funding has been identified as the greatest impediment to research and development which is a key to the development of energy sources in Nigeria. There is therefore an urgent need for setting up a Renewable Energy Fund for Research

and Development in the educational and research institutions.

6. While recognising the potentials of Renewable and Alternative Energy resources and the major dependence of the country on fossil energy, there is need to put in place mechanisms for appropriate energy mix for sustainable energy supply in the country.

7. For sustainability in energy supply, there is the need for human capital development in the various aspects of the energy industry. This requires urgent Government and Private Sector intervention.

8. At the end of the conference the participants unanimously resolved to, and formed the **Renewable and Alternative Energy Society of Nigeria**.

9. The Conference commends the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. His Excellency, Alhaji

Umaru Musa Y'Adua, the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Sam O. Egwu and the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission, Prof. Julius Okojie for their continuing efforts towards the realisation of the **Vision-20-2020** of which reliable energy supply is a vital component.

10. The Conference appreciates and commends the roles of the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria, Professor Celestine O.E. Onwuliri, FAS in initiating and successfully hosting this maiden International Conference on Renewable and Alternative Energy.


Prof. E.E. Anyanwu
Chairman, Conf. Communique Committee


Dr I.M. Mejeha
Secretary, LOC


Prof. Chidi E. Akujor
Chairman, LOC

CENTRE FOR AGRIC RESEARCH HOLDS WORKSHOP

Lack of access to information has been described as one of the major problems facing researchers in low income countries.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony of a workshop tagged "Accessing FUTO Subscribed On-line Resources for Effective Teaching and Research" and organised by the Centre for Agricultural Research in collaboration with the University Library, the Director, Centre for Agriculture Research, Prof. M. C. Ofah stated that the information gap between the less and more advanced countries has now been bridged through major internet based portals like *Health Inter Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI)*, *Access Global On-line Research in Agriculture (AGORA)*, *On-line Access to Research in Environment (OARE)*, as well as the

Environmental Index Databases known as *EBScohost* that provide free or low cost access to the global journal literature in Health, Agriculture, Environment, Biological Sciences and Social Sciences.

According to him, the University Library has subscribed to these on-line resources. He therefore called on staff and students to maximise the benefits inherent in these opportunities while extolling the Vice-Chancellor's capacity-building initiatives, especially the funding of the workshop.

Earlier in his brief address, the Vice-



Prof. M.C. Ofah, Director, CAR, delivering his Address at the Conference.

Chancellor, Prof. C. O. E. Onwuliri expressed his delight at the kick-off of such an important workshop and stated that Management has continued to acquire electronic resources for teaching and research to facilitate access to current core texts and journals.

- Nndi Eziolesa

Imo Govt Identifies Site for **IKEDI OHAKIM** *Conference Centre in FUTO*

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C. O. E. Onwuliri on December 24, 2008 received Chief George Irechukwu, Honourable Commissioner for Finance in FUTO to identify the site for the construction of the proposed *Ikedi Ohakim Conference Centre* in FUTO.

The state-of-the-art 10,000 capacity conference centre with exhibition halls, seminar and committee rooms, will also house about ten offices and an art gallery.

The project consultants, Arc. Ezigbo Okoro and Arc. Ngozi Eloagu of *The Earth Consultants* accompanied the Honourable Commissioner on the Visit. Also on hand to receive the delegation were the Principal Officers of the University and the Director, Physical Planning and Development, Engr. Nnanna Okoro.

Meanwhile, His Excellency, Chief Dr. Ikedi Ohakim has donated a brand new Toyota Hiace 16 seater bus to the Students' Union Government of FUTO. The official presentation of the bus was made to the SUG President, Comrade Justine Ibeh through the Dean, Student Affairs, Engr. Prof. E.E. Anyanwu.

The Vice-Chancellor has conveyed the University's gratitude to His Excellency, Chief Dr. Ikedi Ohakim and the Government of Imo State for their generosity to the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.



The brand new SUG bus donated by His Excellency, Dr. Ikedi Ohakim.

Madam Mgbogo Okiro **Building Commissioned**



IGP Dr. Mike Okiro commissioning *Madam Mgbogo Okiro Building*, witnessed by Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, FUTO VC, the University Community & a delegation from the Nigerian Police Force.



Mother of IGP Okiro, Madam Mgbogo Okiro (1st right), after whom the building was named, seated next to her daughter.

It was a memorable occasion that attracted the top echelon of the Nigeria Police Force and other eminent personalities to FUTO for the February 5, 2009 Commissioning of the 50-Room Academic Staff Office Block donated to the University by the Committee of Friends of the Inspector General of Police, Sir Dr. Mike Mban Okiro, alumnus of the University.

Commissioning the office complex, Sir Okiro extolled the magnanimity of his friends and acclaimed the skill and finesse with which DOVACO Enterprises Nigeria Limited completed the project in a record time of three months. He reaffirmed his commitment to the infrastructure development of the University and promised to continue in all outstanding pledges made by his friends.

canvassed for assistance to the University to enable it effectively play its role as a catalysts to the technological advancement of Nigeria.

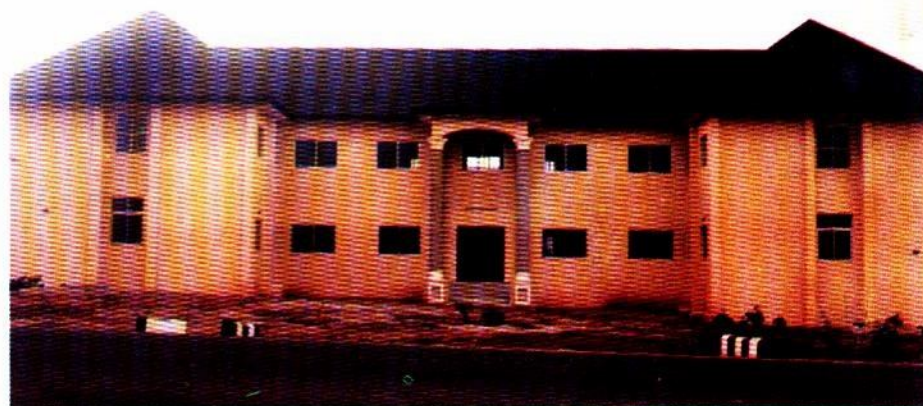
Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri described IGP Okiro as a divine instrument of progress and praised his goodwill for FUTO. He expressed his joy at the zeal and speed with which the project was accomplished, noting that it would alleviate the problem of academic office space.

The highpoint of the occasion was the arrival of Dr. Okiro's mother, Madam Mgbogo Okiro in whose honour the building was named.

Among dignitaries who accompanied the Inspector General of Police were Mr. O. Efuntayo AIG-Zone 9, Mr. Innocent Ilozueoke, Imo State Commissioner of Police, HRH Eze Leo Nwokocha and Chief Dayo Adeyemi who was represented at the occasion.

It will be recalled that at its 20th Convocation Ceremony held in February 2008, IGP Sir Mike Okiro was awarded the degree of Doctor of Law *Honoris causa*.

- Ndidì Ezìolisa



Madam Mgbogo Okiro Building



IGP Okiro commending the contractor, Charles Onu (right), Managing Director, DOVACO Ent. Nig. Ltd. For a job well done.



Dr. Mike Mbama Okiro, CFR, LLD, psc, mni and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri in a group photograph with Principal Officers, Deans and Directors of the University and top officers of the Nigerian Police in the IGP's entourage.

DR. IBENECHÉ VISITS FUTO - Presents New Coaster Bus



Dr. Ibeneche handing over the keys of the bus to the VC with Prof. M.I. Nwufu, DVC Admin looking on.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG), Engr. Dr. Chimaobi Jonathan Ibeneche was in FUTO on Friday, January 16, 2009 on his first visit to his Alma Mater after the recent

conferment of a Doctor of Management Technology *Honoris causa* by the Federal University of Technology, Owerri at its 21st Convocation Ceremony.

In the course of this visit, Engr. Dr. Ibeneche presented a brand new

airconditioned Coaster Bus to the University. He made a proposition to FUTO Management to key in to an on-going NLNG Physics linkage programme with a University in Texas, United States of America.

According to him, the linkage programme will offer training to the

teaching staff and improve their relevance in creating answers to societal challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, in his response expressed profound gratitude to Dr. Ibeneche and friends for the magnanimous donation. He conveyed his expectation of an intensified NLNG contribution to infrastructural development in FUTO, given its natural endowments in a serene location.

In the company of the NLNG Chief Executive, was his friend, Chief Johnny Maduafokwa, a Director at TECON Oil Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt.

- Nnidi Ezioalisa

DR. NDUKWE Donates Laptops To FUTO

Engr. Dr. Ernest Ndukwe, a very distinguished FUTO alumnus and Executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission has donated a hundred and ten laptops to his Alma Mater to boost the use and application of Information Communication Technology in the University.

The Zinox Divine T2300 user-friendly laptops are configured with 1 GB Ram; 120 GB HDD, Net Trace Theft (NTT), Office XP, Norton Anti Virus and powered by Microsoft Vista.

It will be recalled that in recognition of the grant strides made by Dr. Ndukwe in the operation and application of ICT in Nigeria he was conferred with a

Doctor of Technology, *Honoris causa* at the 17th Convocation Ceremony of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri on May 14, 2005.

The recent donation by Dr. Ndukwe, has further complemented the concerted efforts and contributions of Prof. Onwuliri's administration towards infrastructural development of FUTO.

- Nnidi Ezioalisa

NOTAP INSTALLS VSAT IN FUTO



VSAT Communication System

The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) has installed a VSAT Communication System with a wireless radio device of a 100m radius in the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

The system became functional on January 5, 2009.

Dr. C.B.C. Ohanuzue, noted that the recent development had empowered IPTTO to provide access to research findings and patents and expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri for his support.

- Tessy Iwuji



PGS BOARD EXTOLS VC

The Board of the Postgraduate School has extolled the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri for his commitment towards the upliftment of the school demonstrated by the allocation of a new PGS lecture hall.

In a letter of commendation signed by the Dean, Postgraduate School, Engr. Prof. C.D. Okereke, the Board at its 90th Meeting decided to write a letter of commendation to the Vice-Chancellor as a way of acknowledging his focused and purposeful leadership.

It will be recalled that on the January 15, 2009, the Vice-Chancellor in a ceremony that attracted wide press coverage commissioned six ultra modern lecture theatres, one of which was the Postgraduate School Lecture Theatre.

Meanwhile the construction of the PGS Building is in progress.

IMPLEMENTATION OF e-PAYMENT IN FUTO

Members of staff of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri have been informed of the commencement of the use of electronic means for all payments by the Federal Government of Nigeria and its institutions.

According to the circular issued by FUTO Bursar, Mr. R.U. Akujobi, each employee of the Federal Government of Nigeria is required to open an account with any Commercial bank and/or FUTO Microfinance bank into which all payments due to them would be paid.

THE SMARTEST *Are From FUTO*

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited speaking through its Head, Geological Services, Dr. Kehinde Ladipo has reaffirmed its belief in the high quality of graduates of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri describing them as the smartest.



Dr. Kehinde Ladipo making the book presentation to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri in his office.



61 donated titles on display in the Vice-Chancellor's office.



Prof. Boniface Obah, SPDC Petroleum Engineering Chair addressing the team while the VC and DVC Academic look on.

He made this known during a Book gift presentation to FUTO Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri on March 10, 2009 in his office.

According to him, the excellent performance of FUTO graduates is evidence of the quality of teaching and knowledge maintained in the University. He stated that the book were to be housed in the University Main Library to further promote learning and research. All 61 books were Mechanical Engineering titles.

The Vice Chancellor thanked SPDC for its contribution to educational development in Nig. and promised that the books would be put to good use.

We recall that SPDC on behalf of the Joint Venture Partners; NAPIMS, TOTAL and Agip have endowed a Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering in the University. The SPDC University Liaison Officer, Prof. Olayinka Ogunkoya also made the visit. Others were Principal Officers, Engr. Prof. O.N. Oguoma, Dean, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Prof. Boniface Obah and Dr. C. Anyakwo, Head of the Department of Material and Metallurgical Engineering.



Prof. Onwuliri presenting Kolanuts to Alhaji Lateef Jokomba, NAAT President while Engr. J. I. Obibuenyi Chairman, NAAT FUTO looks on.

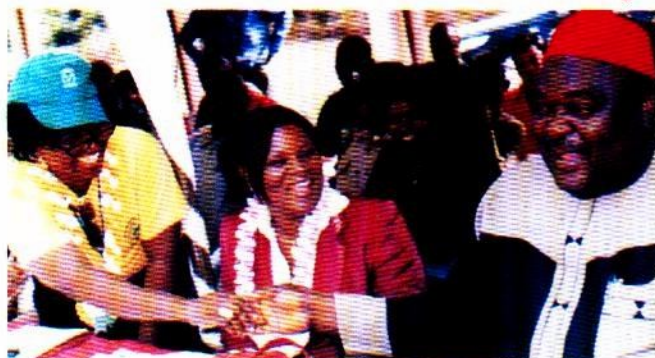
NAAT NATIONAL EXCO VISITS VC

Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri has welcome the National Executive of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) on a courtesy call to his office, while in FUTO for their 4th National Executive Meeting on January 16, 2009.

Earlier, the National President of the Association, Alhaji Lateef Jokomba commended the Vice-Chancellor for his interest in staff welfare evident in the regular payment of staff salaries and allowances of her members. He however urged him to employ more technologists for effective supervision of laboratory/ research works.



FUTO Women Honour 3 at End-of-Year Party



R-L: Chief Jonas Okeke, Deputy Speaker, IMHA & Chief Launcher of the Maiden FUTOWA Almanac, Barr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Njoku, rep. the Chairman of the occasion, Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Ada Okwuonu and FUTOWA President, Prof. (Mrs.) Viola Onwuliri.



AWARDEES: Chief (Mrs.) Eudora Iwuanyanwu as Ezinne Di Oha Mma FUTO & Matron FUTOWA; VC FUTO, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri (rep. By DVC Admin., Prof. M.I. Nwifo) as Ezinna Chinyere FUTO; HRM Nze S.N. Ozoh of Egbema Kingdom & Chairman, ISOPADEC as Pillar of Development in Oil Producing Communities.



L-R: Dame Anagam Ononuju, representing Her Excellency, Barr (Mrs.) Chioma Ohakim as Mother of the Day, FUTOWA President, Prof. (Mrs.) Viola Onwuliri and Commissioner for Women Affairs, Barr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Njoku.



FUTOWA members presenting their new uniform in grand style to the public at the occasion on December 10, 2008.



The excited children have fun with Winnie de Pooh & Santa Claus at the Children's Corner during the FUTOWA Xmas Party & the End-of-Year Activities in Dec. 2008.

FUTOWA as a Catalyst of Progress

The rebranded FUTO Women Association has in less than three years of its existence become a catalyst of progress in the University.

Making this assertion, Prof. M.O.E. Iwuala, Chairman of the International Women's Day celebration organised by FUTOWA on Friday, March 6, 2009 at the *Hall of Mercy*, FUTO commended FUTOWA President, Prof. (Mrs.) Viola Onwuliri under whom, the association had come alive as a visible group.

In his brief remarks, the Vice-Chancellor expressed his appreciation to FUTOWA for their contributions towards the development of the University. He urged the male folk to eschew violence of any form and to be their sister's keeper.

Earlier in her welcome address, FUTOWA President, Prof. (Mrs.) Viola Onwuliri acknowledged the support of the Vice-Chancellor and his Management team whose female gender - sensitive posture had continued to motivate and encourage the association towards the realisation of its goals.

In his paper on the theme, *Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women and Girls*, the Guest Speaker, Barr. D.C. Denwigwe, SAN speaking through Barr. Nkeiru Nwauwa likened violence on the feminine gender to an abominable violence against self. Barr. Denwigwe frowned at societal reaction to victims of violence such as rape which has hitherto discouraged victims from seeking justice. He called for more commitment to imparting and inculcating sound moral values in the home.

The high point of the occasion was the feasting of the menfolk. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion were Principal Officers, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments/Units and FUTOWA members.

The *Morning Star Troupe* of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Chaplaincy FUTO in a drama, portrayed the wisdom of nurturing and educating the girl child.

- Ndidi Eziolisa





FUTO Alumnus Presents Olympics Bronze to VC

It was with joy and pride that Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, FUTO VC at the 329th Meeting of the Senate received Yagazie Chika Chukwumerije, the Olympic bronze medallist in Taekwondo at the Beijing 2008 Olympics.



Yagazie Chukwumerije, FUTO Mech. Eng. graduate presents his 2008 Olympics Bronze Medal to the VC, Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri while the Registrar, Mr. C.O. Omeire, & Mr. G.A.C. Emejeamara, Sports Director smile in admiration.

FUTO @ 22nd NUGA GAMES

A team of 87 athletes and 9 officials from FUTO were at the 22nd NUGA Games which held in the University of Nigeria Nsukka. FUTO placed 24th out of 61 participating universities.

The team competed in 10 sporting events, winning 1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals.

The NUGA torch had on February 16, 2009 lit up the Federal University of Technology, Owerri and the Imo State Capital Owerri.



Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Ada Okwuonu & Prof. Onwuliri lifting high the NUGA Torch.

22ND NUGA GAMES MEDALS TABLE

February 26 - March 8, 2009

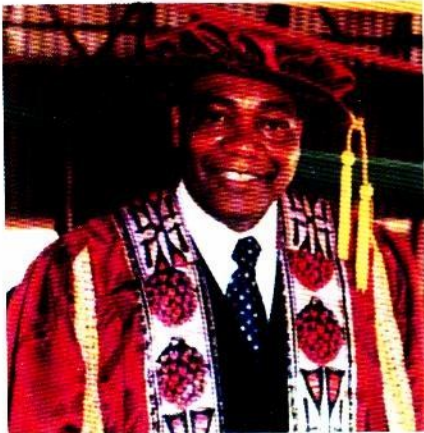
S/NO	UNIVERSITY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL	POSITION
1	UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT	22	15	20	57	1ST
2	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA	21	39	34	94	2ND
3	BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY, BENIN	10	5	8	23	3RD
4	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA	10	5	6	21	4TH
5	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	9	7	11	27	5TH
6	UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI	8	8	10	26	6TH
7	BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO	7	3	3	13	7TH
8	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA	7	2	6	15	8TH
9	OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE	6	7	8	21	9TH
10	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	6	4	11	21	10TH
11	AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY, EKPOMA	5	1	3	9	11TH
12	IMO STATE UNIVERSITY, OWERRI	4	5	4	13	12TH
13	UNIVERSITY OF JOS, JOS	4	4	3	11	13TH
14	OLABISI ONABANJO UNIVERSITY, AGO-IWOYE	3	3	8	14	14TH
15	ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY, AKUNGBA	3	1	5	9	15TH
16	LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY, OJO	3	1	5	9	15TH
17	RIVERS STATE UNIV. OF SCI. & TECH., PH	3	1	-	4	17TH
18	DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY, ABRAKA	2	4	6	12	18TH
19	UNIVERSITY OF ADO-EKITI	2	2	0	4	19TH
20	UNIVERSITY OF UYO	2	1	5	8	20TH
21	ENUGU STATE UNIV. OF SCI. & TECH., ENUGU	2	-	2	4	21ST
22	ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY	2	-	-	2	22ND
23	UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN	1	3	13	17	23RD
24	FEDERAL UNIV. OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI	1	3	3	7	24TH
25	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI	1	3	3	7	25TH
26	UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA	1	2	-	3	26TH
27	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	1	1	3	5	27TH
28	FEDERAL UNIV. OF TECHNOLOGY, YOLA	1	-	1	2	28TH
29	KOGI STATE UNIVERSITY, AYINGBA	1	-	1	2	28TH
30	LADOKE AKINTOLA UNIV. OF TECH., OGBOMOSHO	1	-	1	2	28TH
31	ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UTURU	-	3	2	5	31ST
32	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA	-	2	2	4	32ND
33	ADAMAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, MUBI	-	1	6	7	33RD
34	FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA	-	1	3	4	34TH
35	ANAMBRA STATE UNIVERSITY OF TECH., ULI	-	1	2	3	35TH
36	NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI	-	1	-	1	36TH
37	FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE	-	-	3	3	37TH
38	USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO	-	-	3	3	37TH
39	CROSS RIVER UNIV. OF TECHNOLOGY, CALABAR	-	-	2	2	39TH
40	EBONYI STATE UNIVERSITY, ABAKALIKI	-	-	1	1	40TH
41	TAI SOLARIN UNIV. OF EDUC., IJAGUN, IJEBU-ODE	-	-	1	1	40TH
42	NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AKWA	-	-	1	1	40TH





EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Science for Prof. Onwuliri



Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, FAS,
Vice-Chancellor, FUTO

Prof. Celestine O. E. Onwuliri, Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri has been elected to the Fellowship of the prestigious Nigerian Academy of Science at its Annual General Meeting held on January 24, 2009.

In a letter of notification signed by Dr. M. O. Odubango, Ag. Executive Secretary of the Academy, he noted that by his election, Prof. Onwuliri would as a duty, participate in all activities of the Academy such as attendance of meetings as well execute any assignment that may be given to him by the Council or its committees.

ONWULIRI Honoured as a Nigerian Hero by NANS

In recognition of his doggedness, vision, mission in the education and development of the Nigerian youth, the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) in its maiden award has honoured Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri, Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

The award which took place at the Multi-purpose Hall, J.B Yakubu State Secretariat Complex, Gusau, Zamfara State on February 2, 2009 was described as the first of its kind having also featured the first ever organised *Nigerian Heroes Memorial Lecture* under the chairmanship of Prof. Razak

D. Abubakar, Vice-Chancellor, Al-Hikma University, Ilorin.

In a report by the Vice-Chancellor's representative, Engr. Dr. Remy Uche, Associate Dean, Student Affairs, a total of 43 Nigerians some of whom are deceased were celebrated as heroes.

Prof. Onwuliri was the only Vice-Chancellor in Nigeria honoured by NANS in the epochal event. In the words of the NANS President, Comrade Bashir Muhammad Maru, "the award was to honour Nigerians of great achievement in politics and nation building, commerce and

industry, education, public service, defence and corporate existence of Nigeria".

He described the administration of Prof. Onwuliri as *Nigerian student-friendly* and extolled his initiatives in linkages and exchange programmes that had benefited many Nigerian students.

A crystal commemorative plaque was presented to the Vice-Chancellor by the NANS President on "the authority of over fifty million Nigerian students at home and in the diaspora".

Prof. Onwuliri Appointed Member, Planning & Implementation Committee Of Rochas University

FUTO Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Celestine O.E. Onwuliri has been appointed a member of the Planning and Implementation Committee of the proposed Rochas University to be sited at Ogboko, Imo State.

In a letter dated February 10, 2009 and signed by the Director General of Rochas Foundation, Mrs. Nonye Rajis Okpara, the appointment was in recognition of his invaluable contributions to educational development in Nigeria.

The 15-man Committee has three terms of reference viz production of *The Law, The Academic Brief* and the *Physical Master Plan* of the proposed University.



DR. ONWEREMADU

Wins Global Award

Dr. Emmanuel Uzoma Onweremadu of the Department of Soil Science and Technology has won an International Ecology Award. Dr. Emmanuel Uzoma Onweremadu was declared winner by the Award Committee on Ecology of Support Africa International, Berg, Germany.

His paper on *Tillage Techniques in Relation to Climate Change and Soil Carbon Sequestration in South Eastern Nigeria* was amongst many entries for the global SAI 2008 easy Competition on Climate Change.

By this feat Dr. Onweremadu has brought honour to FUTO and Nigeria.

UPGRADING

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the upgrading of the following staff.

1. **Arimanwa, Joan I.** of the Department of Civil Engineering from the rank of Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer with effect from October 30, 2008.
2. **Ibeneme Sabinus I.** of the Department of Geology from the rank of Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer with effect from October 30, 2008.
3. **Ogbuewu, Ifeanyichukwu P.** Of the Department of Animal Science and Technology from the rank of Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer with effect from October 30, 2008.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

The Vice-Chancellor has approved a one year sabbatical leave for the following staff.

S/NO	NAME	DEPT	EFFECTIVE DATE
1	Dr. (Mrs.) Edna C. Matthews-Njoku	Agric. Extension	Feb. 9, 2009
2	Engr. Dr. Remy Uche	Mech. Engineering	Feb. 1, 2009

Appreciation

I wish to appreciate the sympathetic response of the entire FUTO Community towards the death and burial of my dear wife, BLESSING OBIAGELI OSONDU on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at Ihiteafoukwu in Ahiazu Mbaize L.G.A, Imo State.

God is consoling and comforting me through the concern of the FUTO family. To say the least, the solidarity was both encouraging and superlative.

Thank you for sharing my sorrow with me, and may premature death never be your portion nor the portion of those you represent, in Jesus name. Amen.

Uche Osondu (Agwu)
Council Matters Unit, FUTO
(Husband of Blessing)

Editor's Note

We had observed some errors in *FUTONews* Vol. 28 No.4 edition and wish to make corrections as follows:

FUTO LAUNCHES 1ST MADE-IN-NIGERIA SPORTS CAR- Contrary to what we published on p.6 of *FUTONews* Vol. 28 No. 4, Oct-Dec., 2008, the two *Formula 1* vehicles were conceived, researched and produced from locally sourced materials by the Groups A & B Class of 2007/2008 graduating students of Mechanical Engineering under the supervision of Prof. O.M.I. Nwafor, HOD, Mechanical Engineering; **Francis Onyeneke, Chief Technologist;** Engr. S.U. Ehujuo, Deputy Chief Technologist; and Engr. Johnson Igboke, a Senior Lecturer in the Department.

PRODUCTION OF BIODIESEL - Contrary to what we published on p.10 of *FUTONews* Vol. 28 No. 4, Oct-Dec., 2008, Engr. Ituen U.U. Etim completed his Ph.D studies on *Production and Performance Evaluation of Palm Oil Biodiesel in a Diesel Engine* in the Department of Agricultural Engineering **under Engr. Prof. C.I. Ijioma as the Principal Supervisor.**

The other Co-Supervisors were Engr. Prof. O.M.I. Nwafor of the Dept. of Mech. Eng. and Engr. Dr. C.N. Madubuike of the Dept. of Agric. Eng. It must also be pointed out in this rejoinder that the Dept. of Agric. Eng. acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Iroegbu of the Dept. of Agric. Eng. who successfully fabricated very vital components of equipment used by Engr. Ituen in the studies.

The very significant contribution to knowledge from the work of Ituen was the finding that the biodiesel from the wide native oil palm called *Dura* performed better as fuel than the biodiesel from hybrid oil palm such as *Tenera* in competing effectively with Diesel (AGO) used in the study.





FUTO STUDENTS EXCEL AT NAPE/GEOSCIENCES SUMMER SCHOOL

Three students of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri have been awarded *Certificates of Outstanding Performance* following their brilliance at the last National Association of Petroleum Engineers (NAPE)/Shell Geosciences Summer School.

Dozie John Anyanwu who came first in Geology, Peter Biaghere and Iwebunakiti Nwandu who were first and second in Geophysics were among the ten students selected to represent FUTO. Others were Victor Nduka and Uzonna Anyanwu of Geophysics, Perpetua Iwuchukwu, Justine Ezekiel, Austin Mbonu,

Emeka Nweje and Ifeanyi Ukuoma of Geology.

56 students from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University of Science & Technology (RSUST), Port Harcourt, University of Benin and the Federal University of Technology, Owerri attended the Summer School with Rex Oghanomor of RSUST emerging as first in Physics and overall best.

According to the letter signed by Mr. Nedo Osanyande, SPDC Manager Geosolutions, the Vice-Chancellor was requested to forward the certificates to the awardees and to update Shell with

the contacts and the graduating CGPA of the students through its University Liaison Officer, Prof. Olayinka Ogunkoya as they may be required for other activities of the company in the future.

He stated that the feedback from the 2008 Summer School had led to plans to run two schools in September 2009-Geosciences and Petroleum Engineering Summer Schools with top-performing final year students in Geology/Geophysics, Physics, Mathematics, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering programmes in the University as its target.

26 FUTO GRADUATES

Qualify for Fidelity Bank Job

Twenty-six 2007/2008 graduates of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri have qualified for recruitment into Fidelity Bank Plc following their successful performance in the IAESTE/Fidelity Bank On-Campus Aptitude Test held last October. It will be recalled that in August 2008, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), FUTO entered into a partnership with Fidelity Bank for the recruitment of final year students with a minimum CGPA of 3.5 with a view to selecting the successful

candidates to work in the bank after service.

Ahead of the completion of their one year national service, these twenty six have secured employment with the bank out of a total of 368 candidates that participated in the aptitude test.

The twenty-six graduates who cut across various departments are O.S Eze, A.D Udo, T.K Okafor, Kenneth Onwuegbuchu, E.E. Ambrose, A.L. Oziri, A.E. Mouka and C.O. Ude of Civil Engineering; Amarachi Ruth Mbaonu, Amarachi Ihuoma Eze, Onyeka Ann Ezenwaka

and Ifeachi Nwabunwanne of Food Science Technology. Others are Robson A. Elegbogun, Chinedu Isaac Nwachukwu, Odira K. Okenwa and Theresa I. Ilechie of Petroleum Engineering; Nnamdi A. Okani and Chieloka C. Ifionu of Geology; A.K. Uchendu, U.C. Uchekor and E.R. Ebede of Project Management Technology; Ifeanyi A. Maduikwe of Agric Economics; Agbaeze Ejem, N.N. Arakan; C.K. Ogbonna of Maths/Computer Science; and Chukwuemeka O. Ugonabo of Material and Metallurgical Engineering.

- Ndidi Ezilisa



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

AMENDED CALENDAR FOR 2008/2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

Harmattan Semester

October 19, 2008
New students come into residence

October 20, 2008
Registration of new students

October 26, 2008
Old students come into residence

October 27, 2008
Registration of old students and Orientation Programme for New Students

October 30, 2008
Senate Meeting

November 2, 2008
Week 1- Lectures

November 9, 2008
Week 2- Lectures

November 16, 2008
Week 3- Lectures

November 23, 2008
Week 4- Lectures

November 27, 2008
Senate Meeting

November 30, 2008
Week 5- Lectures

December 6, 2008
Convocation

December 7, 2008
Week 6 - Lectures

December 14, 2008
Week 7- Lectures

Dec 21, 2008 - Jan. 3, 2009
Christmas Break

January 4, 2009
Week 8 - Lectures

January 11, 2009
Week 9 - Lectures

January 18, 2009
Week 10 - Lectures

January 25, 2009
Week 11- Lectures

January 29, 2009
Senate Meeting

January 31, 2009
Matriculation for 2008/2009 Session

February 1, 2009
Week 12- Lectures

February 8, 2009
Week 13- Lectures

February 15, 2009
Week 14 - Lectures

February 22, 2009
Week 15-Lectures

March 1, 2009
Week 16-Lectures

March 8, 2009
Revision Week

March 15, 2009
Week 1 - Harmattan Semester Examination

March 22, 2009
Week 2 - Harmattan Semester Examination

March 26, 2009
Senate Meeting

March 29, 2009
Week 3 - Harmattan Semester Examination

April 5, 2009
Semester Break

Rain Semester

April 19, 2009
Week 1- Lectures

April 26, 2009
Week 2- Lectures

April 30, 2009
Senate Meeting

May 3, 2009
Week 3- Lectures

May 10, 2009
Week 4- Lectures

May 17, 2009
Week 5- Lectures

May 24, 2009
Week 6- Lectures

May 28, 2009
Senate Meeting

June 7, 2009
Week 7- Lectures

June 14, 2009
Week 8- Lectures

June 21, 2009
Week 9- Lectures

June 25, 2009
Senate Meeting

June 28, 2009
Week 10- Lectures

July 5, 2009
Week 11-Lectures

July 12, 2009
Week 12-Lectures

July 19, 2009
Week 13-Lectures

July 26, 2009
Revision Week

July 30, 2009
Senate Meeting

August 2, 2009
Week 1-Rain Semester Examination

August 9, 2009
Week 2-Rain Semester Examination

August 16, 2009
Week 3-Rain Semester Examination

August 23, 2009
End of 2008/2009 Session

August 27, 2009
Senate Meeting

LONG VACATION

