"Nigeria's Quest For Development: The Technological Fast-Tracking"

Topic

"Power and Development In Nigeria: Seeking That Workable Solution"

Special Guest Speaker: PROF. BART NNAJI (Fmr. Minister for Science & Technology)

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2006
Venue: The Shell Hall, The Muson Centre, Onikan Lagos
Time: 11:00am prompt

Special Guest of Honor: PROF. TUNER SOUN
(Dep. Minister of Science & Technology)

Distinguished Chairperson: PROF. OSAINA IGWU, OON
(Director General, NAFDAC)

Theme Speaker & Chief Host: PROF. CELESTINE E. ONWUZULUKE
(Vice Chancellor, Fed. Univ. of Tech, Owerru)
PROGRAMME FOR BI-ANNUAL LECTURE

1. 10.00am-10.30am   Arrival of Guests Recognitions
2. 10.45am   Opening Prayers
3. 10.50am   National Anthem
4. 11.00am-11.10am   Welcome Address by the Alumni Association Lagos Branch Chairman
5. 11.10am-11.25am   Opening Speech by the Special Hostess/Distinguished Chairman, Prof. Dora Nkem Akunyili OFR, (DG. NAFODAC)
6. 11.25am-11.40am   Keynote Address by the Special Guest of Honour; Prof. Turner Isoum, CFR, The Honourable Minister of Science & Technology, Being represented by Dr. Godwin Nkem Onuoha, (DG, Project Development Institute, PRODA, ENUGU)
7. 11.40am-12.20pm   Theme Lecture by the Chief Host, Prof. Celestine O.E. Onwuifi (Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Owerri)
8. 12.20pm-12.35pm   Tea Break
9. 12.35pm-1.35pm   Main Lecture by Prof. Bart O. Nnaji
10. 1.35pm-2.00pm   Reactions/Contributions by Panel of Discussants
11. 2.00pm-2.25pm   Photograph Session Refreshment
12. 2.25pm-2.30pm   Brief Comment by the Alumni National President, Mr. Victor Ijeh
13. 2.30pm-2.45pm   Rapporteur/Communique
14. 2.45pm-2.50pm   Vote of Thanks by Chairman, Lecture Organising Committee, Sir Ndukwe Osogho-Ajala, OON (MD CEO, Soulmate Industries Ltd)
15. 2.50pm-3.00pm   National Pledge & Closing Prayers
16. 3.00pm   Attendees Depart
National Anthem

Arise O Compatriots Nigeria's Call
Obey
To Serve our fatherland
With Love and Strength and Faith
The labour of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain
To serve with heart and might,
One Nation Bound in Freedom,
Peace and Unity.

O God of creation, direct our noble
cause,
Guide thou our leaders right
Help our youth the truth to know
In love and honesty to grow
And living just and true
Great lofty heights attain
To build a nation where peace and
justice reign.

The National pledge

I pledge to Nigeria my Country
To be Faithful, Loyal and Honest
To serve Nigeria with all my
strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her honour and glory
So, help me God.

University Song

Hurrah Our great Fed-u-ni-tech
O-wer-ri Town You come to grace
Hope of our Land to Industrialize
And Comfort for our People
Here in O-wer-ri U-ni-tech
The world's great Minds and
Thinkers meet
To Teach and Mould Ta-lent-ed
Youths
My Al-ma Mater
From North and South and East
and West Converge
We Wis-dom here to seek
Fellow-ship, endur-ance and skill
May we these great Vir-tues find
My Al-ma mater
Welcome Address by the Chairman
FUTO Alumni Association Lagos Branch

Our Special Guest
of Honour, His Excellence, Prof. Turner Isoun, Hon. Minister of Science & Technology; Aply represented here by Dr. Goddy Onuoha, Director-General, Project Development Institute (PRODA), Eziagu.

Our Distinguished Chairperson,

Prof. Dora Akunyili, Director General NAFDAC;
Chief Host and Theme Speaker, Prof. Celestine Onwuhi, Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology Owerri;

Our Special Guest Speaker
Prof. Bart Nnaji, Former Minister of Science & Technology;

Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Alumni National President, Mr. Victor Ihe;

Representatives of Government Ministries and Agencies;

Representatives of Companies and the Diplomatic Corps;

All other Dignitaries here present, Great FUTOites; Gentlemen of the press; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the first lecture series organized by the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) Alumni Association, anchored this year by the Lagos chapter.

FUTO was established in October 1958 by the Federal Government under the regime of President Shehu Shagari, with a definite mission to operate practical, result-oriented programmes, and training geared towards transforming the nation’s economy with a sound technological base.

From its first student enrollment of 225 in 1981/82 academic session, it has grown in student population to over 12,000. It currently has undergraduate and graduate programmes.

FUTO will be twenty-five years old this October, and plans are already on to celebrate this at its next convention scheduled for December later in the year.

At 25, the University has a lot to be proud of. We may not have produced many MDs of big Corporations, State Governors, Ministers and a host of others, but have made very significant penetrations into multinational companies such as ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, Total, Telecommunication, Banking, Food and Beverages companies to mention but a few. In some of these establishments, FUTO has become a household name as its products continue to dominate recruitment intake. This trend will continue for as long as merit is used as a basis of employment and the University on its own part maintains and improves on the quality of its graduates for which it is already known.

In the entrepreneurs sector, a large number of our students own their companies and are doing very well. Some of such organizations are Soul Mate Industries which is now a household name in cosmetics; McQuintus Limited that is a major player in information technology; Sevi Nigeria Limited dealing on Oil and Gas business, and a host of others.

We have also made penetrations into the Armed Forces and Academy. In the academy, we now have very many PhD University lecturers, with some as heads of departments or faculties, and some others as Professors in other Universities as well as in FUTO. Equally important is the attainment of the rank of colonel and above in the Army, and its equivalents in other Armed forces. Due to the unemployment situation in the country, our scientists and engineers now work in banks or consulting firms occupying high positions of strategic importance. The University should be very proud of its Alumni.

Today, we are taking another bold step as we begin our public lecture with this maiden edition. As a University of Technology, our lectures will be focusing on technology-related issues that are contemporary and of maximum benefit to the Nigerian nation. For this edition, we have chosen the Theme: “Nigeria Quest for Development: The Technological Fast-Tracking”, and the topic: “Power and Development in Nigeria: Seeking That Workable Solution”. I am sure you will agree with me that taking a critical look at the Nigerian economy as it is today, the power sector is one that if things are right, it will have a huge multiplier effect on our economy. While the theme paper will be presented by our chief host, Prof. Celestine Onwuhi, Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology Owerri, the topic will be carefully examined by a world-renowned expert in this field, in the person of Prof. Bart Nnaji. Our special thanks go to Prof. Dora Akunyili who made it possible for both to be here today. Our aim is to document issues raised, possible solutions proffered at this lecture, and forward it to appropriate authorities for consideration, as part of our contribution to the Nigerian national development.

Our training at FUTO teaches us to conserve time; so I want to welcome you all again, and thank you for honouring our invitation. Please relax and enjoy these wonderful presentations you are about to witness and hope that you will come again when we call.

Thank you and God bless

Andrew Obagu Ejayosere
Chairman, FUTO Alumni Association, Lagos Branch.
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...still setting the pace

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