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Editorial Suite

What can stop the UNN from being academically creative?

Nothing but itself and within itself. Blocks piled upon each other and weighing down upon each other. It takes a lot of creativity to build harmony. Harmony is a collective goal that allows great latitude of independence to all its components as constituents. For instance, in Artificial Intelligence- a scientific study that started far back in the 19th century in the IT world, it has given rise to innovation and invention like vices even in our cell phone that study improved ways of behaviour and data collection. The various technicians and engineers work in harmony-each with an understanding that each is a vital component to the collective goal.

As we continue to work tirelessly toward our goal and mission to "restore the dignity of man", we must also look beyond preparing to leverage on our success even into greater successes to come. Today, we have the Science Park, the Roar Hub, improved variety of agricultural products, the biotechnology, engineering facts, qualitative academic scholar and students, top rankings, healthy staff welfare packages et al.

We know that if we want to see the UNN even better in the years ahead, we will need more willing hands, more caring hearts, more light minds and more flexible facilities and departments taking up the task of taking the UNN to its avowed pride of place in the world of academics.

Kudos to all for the march is on and we are glad in the leadership of our Vice-Chancellor, Prof B.C. Ozumba who is already looking ahead to seeing a clear need to prioritize continuity in his visionary leadership, even as the sunsets. Let's see what's happened in the past couple of weeks in parts of our campuses.

Welcome and happy reading!

Okwun Omeaku - Chief (Dr) FCAI

Editor

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Medical Class of '97 Donates Cafeteria to Students



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Benjamin Ozumba Commissioning the Cafeteria donated by Members of the University of Nigeria Medical Students Association, Class of '97 at the College of Medicine, Ituku Ozalla. Insert is the Cafeteria

The University of Nigeria Medical Students Association, Class of '97 recently commissioned a cafeteria it built for students at the College of Medicine, Ituku Ozalla.

The commissioning exercise was part of the Class' Reunion programme held at the College of Medicine, Ituku Ozalla on August 3, 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Benjamin Ozumba, while commissioning the building, expressed happiness that alumni of the institution were returning home to give back to their Alma Mater.

He commended the Class of '97 for their intervention which he said would enhance the comfort of students, maintaining that the gesture was a proof that the alumni of the University could do like their counterparts from European universities.

Ozumba, whose tenure had witnessed a number of alumni interventions, said that the prevailing atmosphere of peace in the University was responsible for

the upsurge in the execution of development projects by the alumni.

“Under my watch, there are no factions in the University of Nigeria; what we have are research groups which are making strides in the academic arena”, the Vice-Chancellor said, stating that his administration enjoys cordial relationship with the alumni.

He said the University had made giant strides in different areas, including the establishment of Roar Nigerian Hub recognised by Facebook, and the recognition of the university's Science Park project by the International Association of Science Parks.

“The period of struggling is gone; we use our brain to get things done”, the Vice-Chancellor said.

A member of the Class, Dr Kelechi Okoye said that the body still had a lot to give back to the University beside the cafeteria.

“Beyond physical structure, human capital development is dear to our heart”, he said.

Okoye said that the class would use the platform of the medical association to set up an endowment fund for scholarship to bright medical students. He said the Class would mobilize other alumni of the College to support development projects in the University.

VC Adds another Feather to his Cap

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Prof Benjamin Chukwuma Ozumba was recently conferred with the title of “Distinguished Fellow of Society of Research and Academic Excellence” (DFSR).

The honour was presented to him by members of the Society of Research and Academic Excellence led by the Vice-Chancellor of Coal City University, Prof. Malachy Okwueze, in recognition of the VC's outstanding support for research and quality leadership in UNN.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Ozumba being decorated with the regalia of a DFSR by Prof. Ituma

The Vice-Chancellor in his reaction, expressed his appreciation for such recognition by an esteemed body. He stated that the University of Nigeria is known for research and academic excellence and the effort of the Administration had made UNN to be heard all over the world. “We must find ourselves in right positions in the international academy,” he said.

UNN Set to Export Ginger to USA by December

Inya-Agha Egwu



The VC Prof Ozumba (Middle) flanked by Prof Obi Njoku and Prof Michael Uguru at the ginger farm

Barring any unforeseen hazard, the University of Nigeria will by December start the supply of ginger to McCormic Company, a major producer of spices, flavouring and herbs in the United States of America, the Vice-Chancellor Prof Benjamin Ozumba has revealed.

Ozumba made the disclosure recently while inspecting over five hectares of ginger farm planted in April at the Nsukka campus of the University.

“We have signed Memorandum of Understanding with McCormic Company to off-take any quantity of ginger we produce” the Vice-Chancellor said, adding that the farm was a pilot study for a large scale ginger production by the university.

The initiative, according to the Vice-Chancellor, was

facilitated by alumni of the University based in the United States of America with the intention of providing good teaching point for students and revenue to the institution.

He said the farm was established for the purpose of research, teaching and agribusiness in line with the land grant mandate of the institution. “As a land grant university, agriculture is one of our strong points”, Ozumba said.

Besides the ginger farm, the Vice-Chancellor said his administration had also invested in other aspects of agriculture including pepper farm, cattle fattening and ranching, snail farming and poultry farming.

He said the university was making arrangements to bring in 300 dairy cows with robotic milking from Michigan State University before the end of 2018 to start milk production in the university.

“We want our students to know that there is money in agriculture” the Vice-Chancellor said.

Under Ozumba's administration, all moribund farms in the university has been revived,



VC, Prof Ozumba (Middle) with Prof Uguru (Left) and Prof Njoku (Right) at the ginger farm

including the establishment of feed mills, cassava flour processing plants and the building of green houses.

Problem Solving Skill: Pathway to Wealth

Choice Alika

As the world anticipates a means to end poverty, a call has been made for youth to acquire the skill of turning problems into opportunities which is the major key to unlock wealth and success.

The guest speaker and Director Youth Friendly Resource Centre UNN, Dr Chinedum Aranotu at the 2018, University Women Association annual conference held at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium and unity Hall, spoke on the topic "Youthful and Useful".

He stressed that when the young overcome their youthful challenge they would become useful. He said that the actions of youth whether good or bad is born out of self preservation.

Further, he emphasized that light is truth and knowledge and that change causes a paradigm shift which determines ones' reaction towards what he sees. He also said that youths sometimes behave irrationally and indulge in social vices because they feel insecure, unsteady and disconnected as they crave for love and acceptance. The solution he noted is to show youths love and acceptance rather than judge or criticize them.

Dr Aranotu echoed that love and empathy are the only ways to raise a healthy, productive and vibrant youth that would

become the next generational leaders. He encouraged parents and guardians to imbibe his principles to avoid raising dysfunctional leaders.

Also, Dr P.O.K Asadu who represented the Director Medical Center, Dr A. Onwurah commented on the theme of the conference titled: "Packaging

distribution of a demographic analysis.

Prof Oreh briefed that packaging means presenting someone or something in an attractive or advantageous way thus education at different levels starting from home, crèche to tertiary institution packages youth for the future if they remain yielded and malleable.

She lauded the efforts of the University Women's Association (UWA) for collaborating with the Youth Friendly Resources Center, University medical center and the Students' Affairs Unit for organizing an inspiring and educative sensitization forum for students and youths who are the future leaders of the Nation.

The President of the Association Dr Mrs Ejikeme Anthonia said that the workshop was organized to better the future of students. She appreciated the effort of the Patron of the association Pharm. Mrs. Chinelo Ozumba stressing that she has contributed selflessly to the upliftment of the association.

Dr Anthonia also emphasized that since the inception of the University women Association in 1960, it has helped to bring women together to work for the welfare of the University community. She said membership is open to all women in the University as well as alumnae and female retirees resident in Nsukka.



The Patron, University Women Association, Pharm Mrs Chinelo Ozumba (4th from right), Guests speakers and other members of the Association at the conference arena.

yourself well for the future". He said for a youth to package his or herself well, it entails avoiding premarital and unsafe sex which could lead to sexual transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

He advised that youths should pick a role model, someone they can look up to in the society. He said they should focus on their studies to enable them be successful as their role models.

In her remarks, the chairman of the occasion Prof Catherine Oreh said that the youths are the most dynamic and productive segment of any well meaning society, as they are regarded as a bridge between the young and the old in the age

GTB Launches Brighter and Best Recruitment Exam in UNN

Uju Akamigbo



A group Photograph of GTB's reps with the Vice-Chancellor designate and the top management team of the university

University of Nigeria Nsukka known for its enviable position and high brand, has caused many organizations to show interest in partnering with the University.

One of them, a Multinational Financial Institution and one of the leading banks in Africa, Guarantee Trust bank identified with the UNN by pioneering its 'Brightest and Best'

recruitment programme with Final year students of the University.

The Regional Manager of GTB, Mr Olijoh Innocent, during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, said that the programme was part the bank's Corporate Social Responsibilities which also include Sports, Quiz, and Spelling bees.

“The 'Brightest and best' is what we have brought for UNN students to partake in”, he said while stating that the idea was for the bank to train and hire the best brains in different faculties after scaling through a set examination.

To qualify for the selection process, Olijoh said the student must be in the final year and be the best in his or her class.

“This will serve as a motivation to the students” Olijoh said while commending the VC and his management team for the academic standard the University has maintained over the years.

The Vice-Chancellor's designate and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Prof Charles Igwe, in his response, welcomed the GTB team and appreciated them for bringing such motivational programme to the University.

Prof Igwe added that the bank should also consider registering their presence in the University by having a branch or at least a cash centre. He went further to encourage the team to extend their CSR to things like hostel building under Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement, scholarships, award for staff, among others.

UNN Wins 1st, 2nd Positions in Statistics Competition

Ugwu Cynthia Chibugo

Undergraduate students of the Department of Statistics in the University of Nigeria have won 1st and 2nd positions in the maiden edition of Nigeria Statistical Associations Competition for undergraduate students in Nigeria.

Attah Fedrick Onyebuchi from the Department of Statistics, University of Nigeria won a gold medal while Ugwu Chibuike Emmanuel from the same department won silver medal in the competition that was held in Abuja and keenly contested by students of statistics from different parts of the country.

“ This same department that failed accreditation in the past has made the University of Nigeria proud by winning this trophy”. Dr Ossai, the HOD of Statistics said, while thanking the Vice-Chancellor for securing full accreditation for the department.

Presenting the trophy to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ossai thanked the university administration for providing a conducive environment that enabled them to prepare for the competition.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Chukwuma Ozumba, who was represented by

the former Director of Academic planning Prof. Micah Osilike welcomed the team and congratulated them for their achievement.

Prof. Osilike thanked the two students for representing the University well in the competition.

“This is something to be proud of” Prof. Osilike said, while urging the students to work harder, stating that “reward for good work is more work”.

He assured them of the administration's commitment to promoting excellence in research and learning among staff and students.

VC Celebrates Ramadan with Muslim Community in UNN

Inya-Agha Egwu

The Muslim community in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka paid a Sallah homage to the Vice-Chancellor to mark the 2018 Ed-el-Fitr celebration.

Chief Imam of University of Nigeria Central Mosque, Sheikh Idoko, who led other Muslims to the visit, said they considered it worthy to mark the celebration with the Vice-Chancellor because of his administration's favourable disposition to the welfare of Muslims in the area.

'We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor for honouring our requests which his predecessors failed to grant', the Imam said.

He specifically thanked the Vice-Chancellor for renovating the old house of the chief Imam. Idoko added that the visit was in

compliance to God's command to law abiding citizens to respect constituted authorities.

He noted that the last time

paying him a visit.

He said his administration was committed to bringing back the ideals of the university which "is to accommodate all Nigerians irrespective of their religion and ethnicity".

Prof Ozumba urged Nigerians to accommodate one another, stating that God did not make mistake in bringing diverse ethnic nationalities together to form Nigeria.

'Our strength is in our diversity and I believe we are stronger together', the Vice-Chancellor said. He promised that as long as he remained in the university as Vice-Chancellor, Nigerians would always have the institution as a common home.

Prof Ozumba promised that his administration would continue to support the welfare of Muslims in the university.

Highpoint of the visit was exchange of gifts between the Vice-Chancellor and the Muslim community. The Vice-Chancellor presented a ram to the Imam, while the Imam, on behalf of his members, presented cartoons of wine to the Vice-Chancellor.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ozumba presenting Ram to the Chief Imam of the University of Nigeria Central Mosque, Sheikh Idoko, during VC's Sallah celebration with the Muslim Community in the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge

Muslim community paid such visit to a serving Vice-Chancellor was about a decade ago under the tenure of late Prof Ginigeme Mbanefo. Idoko prayed God to always guard the Vice-Chancellor and take him to greater height

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Benjamin Ozumba thanked the Muslim community for the honour of

VCN VISITS UNN TO REGULATE EXAMINATION AND SCORING

Ugwu Cynthia Chibugo

A team of exam observers from Veterinary Council of Nigeria led by Prof. Maxwell Ezeja, recently visited the university of Nigeria to assess the quality of examination and scoring in the faculty of veterinary medicine.

Prof. Ezeja, who is also the Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Ibadan, said that the visit was part of the quality assurance measures put in place by VCN to uphold the standard of training of Veterinary Doctors.

"The observation team is here to monitor professional examination in your faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Prof. Ezeja told the Vice-Chancellor in his conference room at Nsukka campus.



Team of VCN and Principal Officers of the University in a group photograph after a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Romanus Ezeokonkwo the former Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

UNN said that it was an annual exercise for the VCN to monitor and observe examinations during

second semester to assess the questions, marking scheme and the marked scripts of students.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Ozumba, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof. Charles Igwe, welcomed the VCN team, explaining that VCN had been consistent as a regulatory body that monitor the programme of Veterinary Medicine to make sure that they get enough training before graduation.

Prof. Igwe urged them to add a voice to the Federal Government so that other regulatory bodies would be introduced to other Faculties in Nigerian universities.

COREN VISITS UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

Ugwu Cynthia Chibugo

Council for Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) recently visited the University of Nigeria for accreditation of Engineering Faculty.

Speaking at the conference room of the Vice-Chancellor during the courtesy call, the coordinator of COREN Engr. Peters Awunde said that before a course is approved in any Engineering department by other regulatory agency, that the COREN must accredit the course first.

Engr Awunde thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his huge contributions towards the completion of University of Nigeria Energy building and also urged him to keep it up with the good work. "We are still looking forward to a successful accreditation exercise", he further remarked.

The team leader, Engr. Ali Alimasuya Rabi in his own

speech said that COREN's duties included making sure that adequate facilities were in place before accreditation right is given to the department.

appreciated the team for finding time to come for the accreditation. He said that current University of Nigeria administration loved engineering as exemplified in its

establishment of the first ever Science Park in a Nigeria university and a Laptop Assembly Plant managed by the Department of Electronic Engineering.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that he was mindful of the requirements for

accreditation and expressed hope that the Faculty of Engineering would pull through the accreditation exercise.



Former Dean Faculty of Engr, Prof. Okparaku giving a speech during COREN visit to the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Ozumba who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Prof Chukwuma James Ogbonna

UNN, SUNY Oswego Partner to Train Academics on Online Instructional Delivery

Inya-Agha Egwu

Young lecturers in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka have been trained on how to deliver their lectures using online modules designed to overcome the barriers of time and space in teaching and learning.

The two day train-the-trainer workshop was made possible through a partnership between the Faculty of Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) and the State University of New York (SUNY Oswego)

The trainer, Prof Benjamin Ogwo, the Departmental Chair, Career and Technical Education Programme, SUNY Oswego, said that the training was necessary in order to equip the young lecturers with the skills needed to deliver their lectures in a global environment.

“Online instructional delivery is the current trend in academics; staff of the University of Nigeria cannot afford to be left behind”. Ogwo said at his courtesy on the Vice-Chancellor of the UNN before the training.

He noted that the online instructional delivery pattern affords academics the flexibility of preparing and delivering their lectures to students in different parts of the world without their

physical presence.

“The world is becoming smaller everyday and we just have to be part of it”, Ogwo told over 40 young lecturers who were shortlisted for the hands-on training

The workforce development expert further advised the trainees to consider their academic positions as a call to think out solutions to societal



Participants of UNN-SUNY Oswego workshop for academic staff.

problems and not as an opportunity to fraternize with politicians

“You should dedicate yourselves to your vocation because the society looks up to you for ideas”, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Prof Benjamin Ozumba, while receiving the SUNY Oswego delegate said that the training was timely as it came at a time the University had just launched its distance learning programme.

“Every academic needs the skill on online instructional

delivery”, the Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the DVC administration, Prof. Charles Igwe said while advocating for the participation of older lecturers in the workshop.

He commended Prof Ogwo for thinking home, stating that the University of Nigeria was open to expanding its partnership and collaboration with SUNY Oswego in areas that would be mutually beneficial to both universities.

The former Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Stella Nwizu, under whose request the training was organised, said she considered young academics because of their high level of compliance to the internet.

She said that those who participated in the workshop would help in training other members of the faculty. Prof Nwizu, said the training was her parting gift to the young academics in her faculty.

The two day workshop featured topics on synchronous and blended instructional delivery; designing of online syllabus; grant writing techniques and the development of online instruction on module. Other topics treated included Open education resources and online instruction; tips on publication and career advancement and the assessment of demands for 21st century academics in Nigeria

Professor Abanihe Calls for Urgent Repositioning of Nigeria through TVET

Choice Alike and Ugwu Cynthia



Staff of Faculty of VTE and guests, after a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor

The Registrar and Chief Executive of National Business and Technical Examinations Board, (NABTEB), Prof Mrs. Ifeoma Isiugo-Abanihe has called for urgent action to reposition Nigeria's technological take-off through Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET).

Prof Isiugo-Abanihe who was the lead paper presenter at the 2nd National Annual Conference, of Centre for Technical Vocational Education, Training and Research, (CETVETAR), University of Nigeria, said that TVET is a specialized education designed to empower learners through the development of their technical skills, human abilities, cognitive understanding, attitudes and work habits in order to prepare learners adequately for the world of work which includes self employment after graduation.

She said that Nations such as Tanzania, Brazil, Singapore and Malaysia have embraced the virtues of Technical Vocational Education Training and their economies are blazing with

technological innovations and economic boom. "Research has proven that youth restiveness, militancy and other social vices would have been averted in Nigeria if appropriate technical and vocational skills were inculcated into youths" she

added.

The Secretary National Board for Technical Education, Dr Masudu Kazaure who was represented by Alhaji Dr. Muhammed Nalado delivered a lecture as the keynote speaker titled: Improving TVET Quality for Matching Skills Demand and Supply.

Dr. Nalado said that skill gap is the major difference between a performing Nation and the non-performing ones. He said the mismatch between skills required in the labour market and the skill acquired in Technical Vocational Education and Training Institutions in Nigeria has remained a challenge.

He said that the demand for qualitative and most appropriate skills to fill in the gaps created due to inadequacies of the past is paramount, especially in recent days characterized by rapid technological and ever-changing advancements.

Moreso, he stressed that Nigeria as a Nation understands that to provide qualitative education for its citizens is no

doubt a form of productive investment in human capital which is also a stock of skills and knowledge acquired through formal education system or an informal one or even both.

Dr Nalado said that investment in human capital is a function of the potency of the labour force to contribute meaningfully to the growth of Gross National Product. He emphasized that the joy of paying an artisan for his services is derived from the satisfaction of the service rendered which made it pertinent to understand that the measure of improving an individual's technical and vocational skill is not just beneficial to the worker alone but also to the customer that patronizes the worker.

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Prof Benjamin Ozumba buttressed that CETVETAR is a World Bank assisted center of excellence in TVET which is the University's' major medium for empowering unskilled and unemployed people with vocational technical and entrepreneurial skills.

Prof Ozumba said that the center has empowered over five thousand people across Nigeria with skills in various trade areas since its inception in 2010. He said the advancement in information and communication technologies has changed the nature of work and the skills required for it to be successful. He noted that organizations now need employees who possess the skills that are critical for success in a complex, technologically connected and fast changing world.

LRCN Commences Point of Graduation Registration for Trained Librarians

Inya-Agha Egwu

With effect from the 2018/2019 academic session, the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) will commence compulsory certification of trained librarians at the point of graduation in order to boost the global competitiveness of Nigerian Librarians, Professor Michael Afolabi, the Registrar of LRCN has revealed.

Prof Afolabi made the disclosure at the University of Nigeria during a national workshop organised by the council to up skill certified librarians across the country. The Registrar said the council had secured the approval of the Ministry of Education to commence the compulsory registration exercise.

"We are determined to ensure that more graduates are certified in order to emerge as globally competitive professionals", Afolabi said,

point of registration initiative would help weed out quacks in the library profession.

He further disclosed that the council had written to employers of labour to recruit and promote only certified librarians as part of the measures to ensure that the profession is sanitised of quacks.

The registrar, who stated that the council had certified about 5437 librarians, called on all holders of degree in Library and Information Science to register with the council or be denied opportunity to practice as librarians.

He said the workshop tagged "Electronic Resource Management Systems in Libraries" was organised to build the capacity of librarians on contemporary issues in Library and Information Science to enable them perform better.

The Registrar said that the workshop was the second on the list of the Council's workshop slated for 2018.

The first workshop, according to him, was held at the Bayero University on Cloud-based services in the libraries, while the next workshop would be held at



L-r DVC, Administration, Prof Igwe, Registrar LRCN, Prof. Afolabi and the University of Nigeria Librarian Prof Ezeani

the University of Ibadan in November this year.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Prof Benjamin Ozumba, in his address at the workshop, thanked the Council for holding its national workshop in the University for the third time under his tenure.

"This has shown that the Council is really satisfied with the level of ICT development in the University as well as the ambience of our virtual library", Ozumba, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Prof Igwe said. He said that his administration was committed to building a fully digitized library that would meet the present and future demands of teaching and learning.

Prof Ozumba said that the library was playing a crucial role in the newly accredited e-learning of the university, stating the commitment of his administration to making the institution's library to be globally competitive.



Cross section of participants at the LRCN workshop at UNN

maintaining that the Council would ensure that only certified librarians would be employed to manage libraries in the country. The Registrar maintained that the

Japan-Nigeria Relations - UNN top on priority list

Okwun Omeaku



The university of Nigeria (UNN) is to benefit extensively from a growing load-based Japan-Nigeria bilateral relations in the ICT industry.

Speaking in Enugu at a dinner party in honor of UNN Professors as Alumni with Japanese academic background, the Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Yutaka Kikuta expressed optimism that the Professors would make the difference not only in the UNN but in Nigeria and Africa. The Ambassador, who was on a working tour to some parts of South East and South- South Nigeria, said he was pleased to note that many Nigerians go to Japan to study, speaking the language fluently, and are very

successful thereafter.

“This is why I am giving this dinner. I have come to interact with some of the Professors here at the UNN after their return to Nigeria and organized themselves into an Alumni Association to increase their network collaboration,” he said.

Ambassador Kituka agreed with the reporter that the Japanese language was not quite popular globally, but promised to increase the horizon for the Japanese studies through ICT and the social media. To this end the embassy in Nigeria has initiated a Facebook platforms. On the challenges militating against the maximal gains to Japanese Academic Scholarships, the Ambassador promised to ease the pressures by injecting more

English guides on the forms as advertized to the benefit of Nigerians.

Responding on behalf of the UNN team, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof James Ogbonna, appreciated the Ambassador and his team for the dinner which he said, had provided an enabling platform to rub minds. Issues relating to the establishment of a Japanese language school within the Department of Foreign Languages (UNN) to take-off later this year were discussed.

A batch of over 45 students from the UNN are currently in Japan for studies as part of the African Business Education Initiative (AOBI).

NUC Accredits UNN's Distance Learning Programme

Inya-Agha Egwu

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved the commencement of academic activities in the University of Nigeria's Centre for Distance and e-Learning (CDeL).

Notification for the approval was contained in a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor of the university and signed by the Executive Chairman of the NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed.

The letter dated July 16, 2018 stated that the approval “is based on the validated status recommended by the panel of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Subject Matter Experts and NUC representatives that paid a pre-validation Assessment visit to the proposed Centre from 22nd to 25th April 2018”

The approval granted the university the authority to commence Master's degree programme in Business Administration (MBA) in four subject areas namely; Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Marketing and Management.

However, the Director of the CDeL, Prof Boniface Nwogu said the second phase of the programme would include courses



Members of NUC's Open and Distance Learning (ODL) at the Centre for Distance and e-learning, University of Nigeria during the team's pre-validation exercise

in social sciences, Computer Science and Mass Communication at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

“We have already developed programme for the courses, very soon we will re-invite NUC for the accreditation”, the Director said.

Prof Nwogu noted that the uniqueness of the MBA programme in the university was that the course materials were written in interactive and conversational mode for easy understanding of students.

“We are fully prepared for the programme”, the Director said. He added that the instructional materials also included recorded video lectures stored in tablets and CDs which would be given to

registered students.

“We have a programme that no other existing MBA in this country can compare with”, he said. Nwogu said that the commencement of the MBA programme marked the transition of the University of Nigeria from a single mode institution to a dual mode institution, which, according to him, is the first of its kind in the whole of South-East and South-South.

He described the NUC approval as a remarkable achievement of Prof Ozumba's administration which would improve quality of higher education delivery in the country and enhance the global visibility of the university