



UNILORIN BULLETIN

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VC leads Muslim officials to celebrate Christmas with Christian staffhails Unilorin's interfaith harmony

By Tajudeen Babamale

As Nigerians joined the rest of the world in celebrating Christmas, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, last Wednesday (December 25, 2024), led a delegation of Muslim Principal Officers, Deans, and Directors to pay homage to Christian members of the University community.

The delegation visited notable staff members of the institution, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Technology, and Innovation), Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole; Council Member, Prof. Foluwasayo Ologe; the Dean of Life Sciences, Prof. Rotimi Arise; the Dean of Agriculture, Prof. Oluyemisi Fawole; the Director of Renewable Energy Centre, Prof. Peter Oladipo Adeoye; and the Director of the General Studies Unit, Prof. Rotimi Omotoye.

(Contd. on page 3)

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

"My dear brothers and sisters,

"It is another time for celebrations. We thank God for sparing us till this day and for giving us the opportunity to celebrate. I wish you all a very wonderful season and pray that God will give us the grace to witness more in good health.

"In spite of all the challenges, we have remained focused, resolute, and resilient in dealing with the challenges and be assured, we will arrive at the coast victorious.

"We are hopeful of a prosperous 2025, better than the year that is gradually rolling out.

"Wishing you all the very best of the new year."

Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN
Vice Chancellor



■ The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Egbewole (middle), flanked by his wife (4th left), the Deputy Vice Chancellor (RTI), Prof. Fawole (5th right), his wife, and other members of his family during the visit to Prof. Fawole's house

Egbewole congratulates Council Chairman on birthday

By Abubakar Imam

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has said that the leadership of the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University Governing Council, Surv. Abiodun Jacob Aluko, has been inspiring to him and members of the University community.

Prof. Egbewole stated this last Friday (December 27, 2024) in a congratulatory message he sent to Surv. Aluko on the occasion of his

birthday.

Prof. Egbewole, who is also the Secretary-General of the Association of West African Universities (AWAU), said that the exemplary leadership, wisdom and unwavering commitment to the progress of the University by the Council Chairman are remarkably exciting.

The Vice Chancellor then wished Surv. Aluko many more years of sound health and goodness.



■ Surv. Aluko

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We 'll involve students in UNILORIN @ 50 celebration -- Mokuolu

By Abubakar Imam

The Chairman of the University of Ilorin Golden Jubilee Anniversary Committee, Prof. Olugbenga Mokuolu, has assured students of the University of a pride of place in the anniversary programmes.

Prof. Mokuolu gave this assurance during a meeting of the Committee penultimate Thursday (December 19, 2024) while addressing the concerns of the President of the University Student Union, Mr Victor Agezah, on the role expected of his colleagues.

At the meeting that took place at the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, Prof. Mokuolu said that the celebration is for the current students of the University as it is for the thousands of alumni of the institution that are scattered across the world.

The Committee Chairman urged the students to be on the lookout for the programme and be prepared to play their parts.

Responding, the Student Union President thanked the Committee Chairman for carrying students along in the preparation for the forthcoming



■ Prof. Mokuolu

anniversary.

Mr Agezah added that his colleagues were eager to be part of the events lined up for the anniversary celebration.

The student leader, who is a student in the Department of Accounting, assured the Committee of the cooperation of the entire students of the University.

In her remarks, the General Secretary of the University of Ilorin Alumni Association, Prof. Barakat Raji, also assured the Committee that her Association was fully ready to be part of the celebration.

She explained that the Association was ready to mobilise its members from all over the world to contribute resources and participate in the events scheduled to mark the anniversary.

To this end, Prof. Raji revealed that the Association had constituted some Committees charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the presence of the alumni of the University is felt in everything that has to do with the forthcoming anniversary.

Speaking on other issues, the Chairman applauded the Directorate of Corporate Affairs of the University for following up on the activities of the Committee since its inauguration.

He specifically welcomed the creation of a special programme on **UNILORIN 89.3 FM** tagged '**UNILORIN @ 50**', which would sensitise members of the University Community and the general public on the activities of the Committee and the achievements of the University and its Units over the past years.

VC promises to upgrade UNILORIN Zoo

By Idris Alooma

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has promised to upgrade the facilities at the Unilorin Zoological Garden and increase the varieties of its attractive animals through the Unilorin Holdings.

Prof. Egbewole made this promise last Thursday (December 26, 2024) while speaking at the maiden Family Fun Fair organised by the Zoological Garden to provide a fun-filled experience for families and children on Boxing Day.

The Vice Chancellor commended the management of the UNILORIN Zoological Garden on organising the fun fair, which, he said, was aimed at connecting the University with the community.

Prof. Egbewole praised the event for promoting community engagement, relaxation, and entertainment beyond academics. He



■ Prof. Egbewole

emphasised the importance of having good facilities and designing programmes to attract members of the community, particularly children.

Prof. A.T. Ande of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Life

Sciences, delivered a lecture highlighting the significance of animals and the need to recognise and care for them.

The don commended the Vice Chancellor on his support for the Zoo, noting that UNILORIN Zoo is a unique centre of attraction in Kwara State and beyond.

The General Manager of Unilorin Zoo, Mr. Yusuf Olatunji Kareem, appreciated the attendees and encouraged them to visit the zoo regularly for educational and entertainment purposes. The zoo features various facilities, including a suspended bridge, playing ground, and a variety of animals.

Dignitaries in attendance included the Registrar, Mr. Mansur Alfanla; the Bursar, Mr. Abiodun Lawal; the Director of Health Services, Dr. Abdulrasheed Odunola; and the Acting Director of Legal Services, Mrs. R.R. Olookoba, among others.

VC leads Muslim officials to celebrate Christmas with Christian staff

(Contd. from front page)

Speaking with *UNILORIN Bulletin*, Prof. Egbewole explained the significance of the visit, describing it as an effort to strengthen the bonds within the University community saying that it also demonstrates the institution's commitment to unity in diversity.

The Vice Chancellor used the annual visit to call on Nigerians to emulate the mutual understanding and harmony between Christian and Muslim groups at the University in order to promote national unity and development.

"Whatever religion we profess is a personal relationship between us and our Creator. It should not affect our relationships with fellow human beings", the Vice Chancellor said, adding that "the nation has a lot to learn from the unity within the University of Ilorin. Religion is a matter of the heart, and today's visit has not diminished our faith nor that of our hosts. Instead, it has fostered love within the larger family and community of the University."

While welcoming the Vice Chancellor and his entourage to his house, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Technology and Innovation), Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole, said he felt highly honoured by the open expression of brotherly love, and his family was very delighted to host the Muslim colleagues.

Prof. Fawole said though the visitation sounds routine and official by the Unilorin Community to the houses of Christians by our Muslim brothers and



sisters at Christmas, he and his wife appreciate the deep love and affection that go with it.

While praying for the Administration of Prof. Egbewole to continue to record achievements and successes in leaps and bounds, the Deputy Vice Chancellor "thanked each and every one in the entourage, especially our principal officers, and other distinguished men and women that accompanied the Vice Chancellor on the visit."

He said, "Particularly, we want to thank more, our mothers; the wife of the Vice Chancellor - Mrs Egbewole, and the wife of the Deputy Vice Chancellor

Management Services, Mrs Ambali, who supported us for many hours to receive you into our home. We thank you very much for leading the University Community to visit us in our house. We must say that this visitation has further shown your kind of person, worthy of emulation, and it has moved you on to the highest esteem in our hearts."

Commenting on the lessons Nigerians can learn from the peaceful coexistence that exists in the University of Ilorin, the Deputy Vice Chancellor said, "The lesson Nigerian communities can learn from this gesture is that we are one. The University has always worked together as one, and we thank our leader, the Vice-Chancellor, who has made it easy for us by not emphasising the differences in our faiths".

On her part, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Oluyemisi Bolajoko Fawole, said that Nigeria should learn tolerance and unity from the University of Ilorin.

The Dean, who welcomed the team to her residence along with her husband, said, "The country should understand that we must be tolerant of one another because we are brothers and sisters. There is no home, particularly in the South West, where you won't find Muslim and Christian brothers and sisters within the same family. This is something that should exist across the country. We should coexist in love".



(Contd. on page 4)

VC leads Muslim officials to celebrate Christmas with Christian staff

(Contd. from page 3)

Speaking further, she said, "We are so glad to have the Muslim officials of the University celebrate with us during this Christmas festivity. It just shows the love that binds us together in the University. For them to leave their homes to come and celebrate with us, it shows love, and we are appreciative of that. We are glad to have people around us at this time of the season".

"We should continue in this spirit. When it is on Christmas time, they celebrate with us, and when it is Ileya time, we celebrate with them. We belong to the same community, and it is the love of God that binds us together. My prayer is that the blessings of this season will abide in our homes," she added.

On his part, the Director of Renewable Energy Centre, Prof. Peter Oladipo Adeoye, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and his team for the visit, describing it as an honour during the festive season.

Prof. Adeoye, who is a former Director of the Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre (TEC), said, "It's really impressive that the Vice-Chancellor took time to celebrate with us during this special season. It is a joyous moment, and I'm glad the University leadership joined us today. We must work collectively to achieve the shared vision of the University."

Speaking in a similar vein, a Council Member, Prof. Foluwasayo Ologe, described the visit as a testament to the existing harmony

between different faiths at the University. The Otorhinolaryngologist said, "This demonstrates that Muslim members of our University are happy to collaborate with colleagues of different religions. This is the kind of unity the country needs."

Similarly, the Director of the General Studies Unit, Prof. Rotimi Williams Omotoye, expressed his appreciation, saying that the gesture of the Muslim community signifies love and unity within the University.

Prof. Omotoye, whose academic focus is on Christian Studies, Church History, and Ecumenical Studies, observed that "Muslims visiting Christians during Christmas, and Christians visiting Muslims during their celebrations, is a tradition worth upholding. I pray for continued progress for our University. This brotherhood is commendable."

On his part, the Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, Prof. Rotimi Arise, described the visit as a good gesture that fosters peace and unity in the University. "This visit is a demonstration of love, and we must all embrace and sustain it. I feel elated and have a sense of belonging that the Vice-Chancellor and his team found time to celebrate Christmas with us. It is truly a thing of joy," he added.

Meanwhile, a Council member who was part of the Vice Chancellor's entourage, Prof. Rasheed Adeoye, called for sustaining the spirit of unity and the rejection of religious intolerance in the University. He said, "This gesture affirms the essence of one God, one culture, and one world. Fanaticism and bigotry must be

avoided, as they breed divisiveness".

"We should sustain this tradition of mutual celebration. Muslims visiting Christians during Christmas and Christians reciprocating during Eid-l-Kabir. The warm interaction across all places we visited today exemplifies true unity," he concluded.

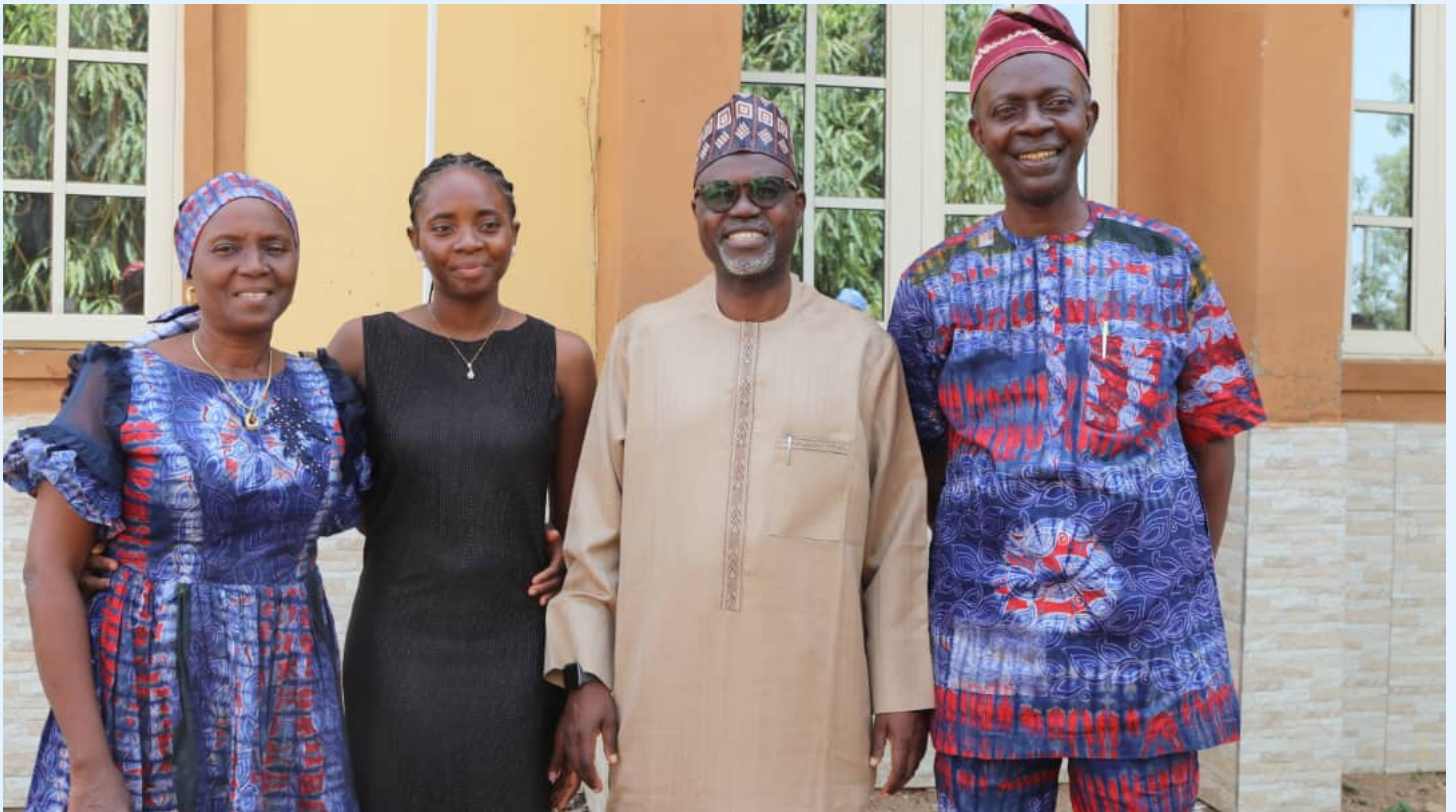
Other members of the Vice Chancellor's delegation were the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services), Prof. Suleiman Folorunsho Ambali; the Registrar of the University, Mr Mansur Adeleke Alfanla; the Bursar, Mr Abiodun Lawal; the University Librarian, Dr Kamaldeen Tunde Omopupa; and the Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle Akogun.

Others were the Director of TEC, Prof. Usman Raheem; the Director of LABTOP; Prof. Muhammed Jimoh Saka; the Director of Ilorin Business School, Prof. Ismaila Bolarinwa Kadiri; the Dean of Environmental Sciences, Prof. G. Amuda-Yusuf; the Director of Physical Planning Unit, Q. S. Toyin Jimoh; the Director of UNILORIN Health Services, Dr Rasheed Odunola; the Director of Centre for International Education, Prof. Ibraheem Onireti; the Deputy Registrar, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Mrs Azeezat Q. Ibrahim; Assistant Director in the Directorate of Corporate Affairs and Protocol Officer of the University, Mr Segun Alabi, Personal Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Mubarak Akintola; and the Senior Assistant Registrar, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Mr Bashir Hamid.





VICE CHANCELLOR'S CHRISTMAS VISITATION



VICE CHANCELLOR'S CHRISTMAS VISITATION



Bühler Group to collaborate with Food Engineering Dept

By Bashirat Omotosho

A Swiss industrial giant, Bühler Group, has entered into a collaboration agreement with the Department of Food Engineering, University of Ilorin, with a view to providing solutions to food insecurity and similar challenges.

This was the highpoint of the engagement between the management of the company, represented by Mr. Olusola Awosola (Sales Channel Manager), Flyzeagle Zuao (Sales Manager), and Ozeiegbe Unuigbe (Service Manager), and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Jamiu Odusote and the Head of the Department of Food Engineering, Dr Saheed Mayowa Sanusi recently. The meeting was held at the Conference Room of the Department of Food Engineering.

Speaking at the meeting, Prof. Odusote emphasised the critical role of industry-academia partnerships in tackling food insecurity in Nigeria.

Prof Odusote noted that one of the problems in Nigeria is that of little or no collaboration between the industries and the academia.

He added that the planned collaboration between Bühler and the



Prof. Odusote

Food Engineering Department is a fantastic decision that would have positive mutual benefits.

On his part, the Head of the Department, Dr Sanusi, outlined the commitment of the Department to sustainable food solutions and the development of innovative equipment and products.

He stressed that the partnership with Bühler aligns with the mission of the Department to advance innovation, teaching, and research.

Dr Sanusi added that the Department of Food Engineering remains optimistic about the partnership and anticipates advanced

discussions that will foster innovation and benefit the broader community.

Speaking on behalf of the company, Mr Awosola affirmed Bühler's commitment to the collaboration, which he described as an opportunity to strengthen Bühler's presence in Nigeria's academic and industrial sectors while addressing pressing food security challenges.

He also noted that "this visit underscores Bühler's commitment to driving local innovation in food processing and enhancing the capacity of academic institutions to tackle global challenges."

Mr Awosola expressed the interest in establishing a mutually beneficial partnership, saying that the company is committed to adding value to local foods and providing equipment in food processing and animal nutrition.

He further emphasised Bühler's dedication to fostering innovation in Africa through its Grain Processing Innovation Center (GPIC) initiative, which supports enterprise growth by offering trial services for new food products and comprehensive technical training in grain processing and milling solutions.

Owoyele elected IBRO-ARC Chair

By Abubakar Imam

The Dean, Postgraduate School, University of Ilorin, Prof. B.V. Owoyele, has been elected new Chairman of the African Regional Committee (ARC) of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).

Prof. Owoyele was elected to the position on December 4, 2024 while his election was formally approved penultimate Wednesday (December 18, 2024) by the Board of Directors of IBRO.

IBRO-ARC is composed of elected voluntary leadership that focuses on supporting and promoting

neuroscience in the African region based on its specific needs and conditions.

Speaking on his election, Prof. Owoyele said that he was very grateful for the opportunity granted him to lead the IBRO-ARC as he has also served the Committee since January 2021, particularly in the area of overseeing the training workshops known as IBRO Funded Schools.

The Dean also thanked the authorities of the University of Ilorin for the opportunity granted him to serve on the International Committee, saying that he is enjoying the privilege based on the enabling environment provided for staff of the University by its visionary leaders.



Prof. Owoyele

Gidado charges staff on positive attitude to work

By Abubakar Imam

A member of the University of Ilorin Governing Council, Mr AbdulRasheed Dauda Gidado, has encouraged staff of the institution to develop a good attitude to work as part of their New Year resolutions.

Mr Gidado gave this advice last Monday (December 23, 2024) in a chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin* in his office.

The Council member said that his advice is very important for the personal growth and career progression of the staff, pointing out that it would also stimulate the general growth of the University and sustain its greatness.

Mr Gidado, who is also the Deputy Director of the Academic Planning Unit of the University, said that staff of the University must take good advantage of their employment by the institution to impact positively on the society and work with others in



■ Mr Gidado

helping to mould the nation's younger generations.

He said that staff must recognise the fact that their success as individuals is tied to the success of the University,

adding that they must come together to build a culture of excellence and hard work.

He also implored staff to take personal responsibility for their actions and attitudes at all times as he charged them to be punctual, prepared and committed to their duties.

Mr Gidado, who condemned acts of indiscipline among few staff of the institution, said that every staff must resist the temptations to engage in corrupt practices no matter how small or insignificant it may seem.

He also urged them to support and encourage one another to uphold integrity and excellence as well as the culture of accountability.

Mr Gidado also explained that the cultivation of the habit of constructive criticism of one another would be a positive step towards sustaining excellence as he said that doing so would lead to perfection.

Adewoyin elected new Unilorin FM NUJ Chapel Chairman

By Bashirat Omotosho and Abdulquadri Abubakar

An Information Officer at the Directorate of Corporate Affairs, University of Ilorin, Mr Adewoyin Tijani Adekola, has been elected and sworn in as the new Chairman of the Unilorin FM Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). He takes over from Mr Abdulwahab Tajudeen Babamale.

Other elected members of the new Unilorin FM Executive Committee are Abdulkadir Abubakar, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Felix Dare Afolabi, Financial Secretary.

Mr Adewoyin was the Assistant Secretary in the immediate past Executive Committee. He is currently the Ag. Head of the Islamic Unit of **Unilorin 89.3 FM**. He had previously served as the National President, Congress of National Open University of Nigeria Students (CoNS) (2018-2019), SA Media to the Senate President, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) (2019), National Deputy Secretary General, National Association of University Students (NAUS) (2019), and representative of Ibadan North West Under the Southern Youth Assembly of Nigeria (SYAN) from 2022 till date.

The inauguration of Mr Adewoyin took place last Monday (December 23, 2024) at the Conference Room of the Directorate of Corporate Affairs in the presence of officials of the Kwara State Council of the NUJ and members of the



■ Mr Adewoyin

Chapel.

In his acceptance speech, the new NUJ Chapel Chairman expressed his profound gratitude to the leaders and members of the Unilorin FM Chapel for finding him worthy to assume the mantle of leadership.

While stating that his leadership will reposition the union to make it more viable that all members would be proud of, Mr Adewoyin promised to forge an harmonious relationship between the Chapel and the Kwara State Council of NUJ and to abide by the Constitution of the Union.

The Chairman also showed his appreciation to the members of the Electoral Committee of the Unilorin FM Chapel for organising a credible election.

In his valedictory speech, the

immediate past Chairman of the Unilorin FM Chapel, Mr. Abdulwahab Tajudeen Babamale, described his time in office as one of the most fulfilling and transformative experiences of his professional life.

He called on the Chapel members to rally round the new Executive Committee, saying that collective support is *asine qua non* for effective leadership.

Mr Babamale said, "The success of the new team will be our shared success. Let us set aside our differences, focus on what unites us, and ensure that the Chapel continues to grow and fulfil its purpose. A strong, united chapel enhances our influence and upholds the values we stand for as journalists."

The former Chairman also reaffirmed his commitment to the progress and unity of the NUJ.

He expressed gratitude to his team members for their unwavering support and dedication throughout his tenure.

In a goodwill message, the General Manager of **Unilorin FM**, Mr. Ibrahim Idris (Alooma), urged the new Chapel leaders to remain upright and diligent in their duties.

Notable attendees at the inauguration included the pioneer Secretary of the Chapel, Mr. Segun Alabi; the pioneer Vice Chairperson of the Chapel, Dr Fatimoh Iyabo Abubakre; the Chairman and Secretary of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Mustafa Abubakar and Mr. Adebisi George Adenle.

UNILORIN to deepen collaboration with Malaysian varsity

By Abubakar Imam

In a significant step towards promoting inclusive collaboration, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, and the Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying (FABU), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), have announced plans to collaborate for the benefit of each other.

This was the highlight of a meeting held between the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, Prof. Ganiyu Amuda-Yusuf, and Dr Noorsidi Aizuddin of UTM at the Office of the former recently. The meeting was also attended by the Director, Centre for International Education, University of Ilorin, Prof. Lateef Onireti Ibraheem.

The collaboration is intended to facilitate cross-border academic exchanges, research, and development that would be focused on environmental science, sustainable development, and urban planning.

According to the two parties, the collaboration is also intended to create a framework for sharing knowledge and resources as it would also address critical environmental and infrastructural challenges facing both universities.

The two Faculties also agreed to



■ Prof. Egbewole

work together towards integrating teaching, research, and community service in ways that would foster sustainable solutions as it is also expected to lead to the development of joint academic programmes, specialised workshops, and opportunities for student exchanges.

The collaboration is also intended to build a strong relationship between the alumni and Faculty members of both institutions as it was observed that graduates of the University of Ilorin and UTM have always maintained robust connections, which have been contributing to a thriving network of professionals in environmental science and the built environment for deeper and more

meaningful collaborations in the future.

Speaking with *UNILORIN Bulletin* after the meeting, the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, Prof. Ganiyu Amuda-Yusuf, said, "We are excited about the potential this partnership holds for both institutions. It offers an opportunity not only to bridge academic knowledge but also to create programmes that are relevant to our local communities while making a global impact. We are committed to ensuring that this collaboration results in long-term, high-impact solutions for our countries".

Prof. Amuda-Yusuf disclosed that the two Faculties are planning a series of initiatives to enhance research capacities in areas such as climate change, urban sustainability, and infrastructure development.

He explained that the initiative would include the establishment of a joint research centre that would be focused on developing solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change on urban populations in Malaysia and Nigeria.

He added that students from the two universities will also benefit from an interdisciplinary approach to learning that would equip them with the skills necessary to address global challenges in the environmental and built environment sectors.

Ambali unveils FONTOX, UNILORIN

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services), Prof. Suleiman Folorunsho Ambali, has unveiled the Forum of Nigerian Toxicologists (FONTOX), UNILORIN Branch.

The unveiling ceremony, held on December 12, 2024 during a meeting of Toxicologists in the University of Ilorin, took place at the Auditorium Basement.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Ambali, who is also a Veterinary Toxicologist, stated that FONTOX aims at sustaining toxicological sciences while enhancing the promotion of the younger generation.

He also disclosed that the essence of FONTOX is to reduce quackery in Toxicology, organise seminars to intimate researchers on the latest findings in toxicological research, solidify FONTOX in the University, and ultimately start up an Institute of Toxicology in the University.

Prof. Ambali added that there are several toxicological societies like the African Toxicologists (AFTOX), the West African Society of Toxicologists (WASOT), and the Nigerian Society of Toxicology (NST), but with the formation of FONTOX, the younger scientists will be groomed and helped into the art of grantsmanship, research collaborations, networking, and



■ Prof. Ambali

training of students amongst other things.

In addition, the Deputy Vice Chancellor inaugurated a 7-man Steering Committee to drive the vision of FONTOX in the University. The Steering Committee is chaired by Prof. Musa Toyin Yakubu, a Biochemical Toxicologist in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin.

Other members of the Steering Committee include Prof. Rasheedat O. Ayanniyi, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology; Prof. O. D. Owolabi,

Department of Zoology; Prof. Modinat A. O. Abdulaheem, Department of Chemistry; Dr. A. Aremu, Department of Veterinary Toxicology; Dr. Agede, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics; and Dr Oreoluwa M. Daniel, Central Research Laboratories, who will serve as Secretary.

The Steering Committee is expected to coordinate all the activities of FONTOX, Unilorin Branch. These include: to embark on a vigorous membership drive among Toxicologists in Unilorin and other sister institutions in the State; give FONTOX adequate publicity, organise Seminars and Trainings/Workshops, strengthen research collaborations within the membership and those outside the state and the country, and come up with Code of Conduct for FONTOX, Unilorin Branch.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the Steering Committee, Prof. Yakubu, agreed with the Convener on the need to put Toxicology in the right perspective in the country and that the establishment of the Institute of Toxicology in the University of Ilorin will go a long way in achieving this.

Prof. Yakubu also solicited the support of Toxicologists within and outside Unilorin towards achieving this important goal and assured members that the Committee will do its best to justify the confidence reposed in them.



S/N	Name	Department	Birthday
	Adeyemi, Sherif Babatunde	Plant Biology	Dec 28
	Sulaiman, Salihu Yamanda	Architecture	Dec 29
	Suleiman, Oba	Works: Works/Maint. Office	Dec 29
	Obike, Olivia Ekwutosilam	Registry	Dec 29
	Abah, Victoria Onyamega	Registry	Dec 29
	Upahi, Johnson Enero	Science Education	Dec 29
	Abdullrahman, Olusola Aaron	Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacy Practice	Dec 29
	Aduloju, Olalekan Tolulope	Urban & Regional Planning	Dec 29
	Abdu, Matthew	Registry	Dec 30
	Bello, Ibrahim Saadu	Security Division	Dec 30
	Oladokun, Abiodun	Works: Works/Maint. Office	Dec 30
	Adabiri, Sunday Samuel	Security Division	Dec 30
	Jimoh, Dauda Mohommed	Works: Works/Maint. Office	Dec 30
	Majiyagbe, Adetutu Josslyn	Unilorin Staff School (Upper Basic School)	Dec 30
	Musa, Balqees Arinola	Health Services	Dec 30
	Afeni, Adebunmi Janet	Registry	Dec 30
	Olaitan, Razaq Abolaji	Geography & Environmental Management	Dec 30
	Usman, Rukayat Ohunene	Registry	Dec 30
	Zubair, Mansur Oladimeji	Educational Management	Dec 30
	Shehaye, Olayide Omolola	Registry	Dec 30
	Oladejo, Isiaka Wola	Works: Works/Maint. Office	Dec 31
	Balogun, Bolanle Ghaniyyat	Computer Science	Dec 31
	Bello, Nurudeen Akinsola	Estate Management	Dec 31
	Alhassan, Nuhu	Registry	Dec 31
	Akande, Sikirat Omowumi	Veterinary Public Health & Preventive Medicine	Dec 31
	Salihu, Ibrahim	Security Division	Dec 31
	Sulyman, Sofiyat Alagbede	Library	Dec 31

The University Board of Health encourages you to visit the University Health Services for medical check-up on your birthday. Thanks



People, issues, and events that made Unilorin tick in 2024

(Contd. from page 12)

More Unilorites Poached

In the year under review, the University continued to show leadership in the nation's academic and socio-political sectors as it remains the proverbial crucible on which vice chancellors and other top managers are forged for other universities and top government parastatals.

Remarkably, three of the University's dons, Prof. Mahfouz Adedimeji, Prof. Nazmat Surajudeen-Bakinde, and Prof. Medinat Folorunso Salman, were appointed Vice Chancellors of the African School of Economics (the Pan-African University of Excellence), Abuja; the Kwara State University of Education (KwasUED), Ilorin; and the University of Applied Sciences and Technology (USET), The Gambia; respectively.

Also, Prof. Olusegun Ige of the Department of Geology and Mineral Sciences and Prof. Abdulkadir Abikan of the Department of Islamic Law were appointed Directors General of the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), and the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), respectively.

N49m Research Grants

Nine academic staff members were awarded various sums of money amounting to N49, 380, 000 to enable them carry out studies on specific areas of interest for the betterment of mankind. The researchers were picked from about 30 applicants that submitted research proposals to the Senate Research Grant Technical Committee after a careful consideration of several factors, including spread across various Faculties, and based on the conviction that the selected "research endeavours have the capacity to make substantial contributions to the advancement of knowledge and research within the University."

JAMB's N500m Award

The University emerged the best institution at the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) National Tertiary Admissions' Performance-Merit Award (NATAP-M Award), for which it won a prize money of N500 million. The University has consistently remained the most subscribed institution by admission seekers since 2014. It has also been attracting the highest number of foreign students.

New Governing Council

After a period of apparent lull, the University got a new Governing Council headed by Surv. Abiodun Jacob Aluko. Other members of the new Council that was inaugurated on July 1, 2024, are Elder Ayobami Oladele Afolabi, Alhaja Abosede Juwon Olayiwola, Pharm. Racheal Tinuke Alabi, and Hon. Akeem Idowu Babatunde. They are to work with the internal Council members.

VC's NIPR Fellowship

In recognition of his immense contributions to the advancement of Public Relations practice through his exemplary management style that has made the University the talk of the town, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, was conferred with the well-coveted Honorary Fellowship of the prestigious Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR).

A New Bursar

In line with the provisions of the University Miscellaneous Act, and following the consideration of the report of the Selection Board on the Appointment of Principal Officers,

the Governing Council, at its 186th Meeting held on October 23, 2024, approved the appointment of Mr Abiodun Lawal, as the new Bursar of the University.

High Profile Retirements

The Year 2024 also witnessed the retirements of several academic juggernauts after attaining the mandatory retirement age of 70 years. Some of these great Unilorites are two former Vice Chancellors, Prof. Is'haq Oloyede, CON, and Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem; as well as a former Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Luke Ayorinde.

Our Wave-making Students

Students of the University also made remarkable waves in the year under review with landmark achievements in their various engagements that saw them flying the Better-by-Far flag aloft everywhere they went.

Eight of our students were offered internship opportunities by the Lassod Inc. UK. The opportunity is an initiative of the African Support Bureau for Entrepreneurship (ASBE). The selection of the students was sequel to a rigorous screening exercise they went through as designed by the company.

A UNILORIN Debating Team emerged champions at the 11th All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship, held in Abuja.

At the grand finale of the Championship, held at Veritas University, Abuja, on September 14, 2024, the University of Ilorin students packed most of the available laurels.

Earlier in the year, a 400 level student of the Department of Statistics, Qudus Owoyemi, barbed his way into the prestigious Guinness Book of World Records by sheer display of skills and precision in barbing acumen as he recorded the fastest time in completing five skin fade haircuts.

Also, a final year student of the Department of Mass Communication and President of the Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ), Miss Hannah Boluwatife Oladele, won the Broadcast Category at the sixth edition of the Campus Journalism Award in Abuja.

And the Presidential Accolade

Indeed, Year 2024 was a very remarkable year for the University of Ilorin. It was parked full with numerous groundbreaking achievements, some of which were highlighted above.

Such was the profundity of most of the feats that not even President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would gloat over them. The President, who is also the Visitor of the University, copiously acknowledged UNILORIN's 2024 landmark achievements in his address during the 39th Convocation Ceremony of the University on October 22.

Acknowledging the remarkable achievements of the University, which, he said, have earmarked UNILORIN as a true centre of academic excellence, the President noted that "the institution has continued to do well in fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment where students from diverse backgrounds come together to explore, learn and grow."

President Tinubu congratulated the Governing Council, management, staff, and students of the University for making the nation proud over the years.

He specifically noted the N500 million cash award the University won from the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), emphasising that it "is a reward for hard work, dedication, and commitment to always doing what is right."

A big kudos to the Better by Far citadel of excellence!



TOWN & GOWN

by Kunle Akogun



@UniversityOfIlorinNigeria



@unilorinng

People, issues, and events that made Unilorin tick in 2024

As we round off Year 2024 and look anxiously forward to embracing 2025, it would not be a bad idea, at this moment, to take stock of how the ever forward-looking Better-by-Far University fared in the outgoing year.

By all means, 2024 was an outstanding year for the University of Ilorin, having recorded several landmark achievements in all areas of its three core mandates of teaching, research, and community service. In all of these, kudos must be given to our visionary Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, for providing exemplary leadership that invariably ensured steady and consistent progress for the University in the past two years since he mounted the saddle.

Sustaining Excellence

The year opened on a bright note with the release of the Elsevier Scopus SciVa report that rated our University as the 3rd Best University in Nigeria based on the quantity and quality of scholarly outputs of its academic staff members.

According to the report by the global publication outfit based in Netherlands, the University has a total of 3,714 scholarly outputs contributed in 2,739 outlets by 500 staff members of the nation's most sought-after University.

Also, seven of the University's academic staff members were named among the top 2% leading scientists in the world by Elsevier.

Drought-resistant maize

In a revolutionary initiative, the University announced the registration and release of its first drought-tolerant and striga-resistant hybrid maize, ILOMAZ 3 maize.

The leader of the research team responsible for the development of the maize variety, Dr Folusho Bankole of the Department of Agronomy, said that ILOMAZ 3 was developed and tested in collaboration with scientists from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Oyo State; the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Zaria; and the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Moore Plantation, Ibadan.

Hosting the D-8 NPRI Summit

The University once again showcased its research prowess, organisational skill, and superlative hospitality to the global community, as it hosted the 3rd Summit of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI).

The successful hosting of the Summit, between November 24th and November 27th, is unarguably another manifestation of the steady progress in the University's

internationalisation drive, which has once again confirmed the global standing of the University as a citadel of international reckoning.

Most Outstanding University Award

In another confirmation of its ever rising profile, UNILORIN was early in the year named the 'Most Outstanding Nigerian University 2023' by one of the nation's leading newspaper outfits, *The New Telegraph*. The award, presented to the Vice Chancellor on February 2nd, was premised on the continuous recognition of the University of Ilorin as the nation's most subscribed institution of higher learning in the past one decade, a position also authenticated by statistics from the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

Establishment of New Centres

In pursuit of the developmental agenda enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in line with its community service mandate, the University established two new Centres – the Centre for Blue and Regenerative Economy and the Centre for Gender Studies – in the year under review.

The establishment of these innovative academic Centres would not only complement the University's teaching and learning mandates, it would also facilitate its contribution to the nation's socio-political and economic development.

MOU with Chinese varsity

In a deliberate and strategic move to widen its horizon, the University of Ilorin signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power.

The MoU is expected to benefit both institutions by promoting academic cooperation in various fields, including education, research, and cultural exchange.

The U-INSPIRE Initiative

In a bid to expand the skills acquisition programme of the students beyond the GSC courses run by the Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre (TEC) for undergraduate students, the U-INSPIRE initiative was launched in October.

The programme, through which students would be exposed to work place experience, and skills needed to set up their businesses, is expected to forge a partnership between the University and the industry and bridge the skill gap to make graduates ready for the industry.

(Contd. on page 11)

Birthday Greetings to a Purposeful and Impactful leader

December 26th of every year is 'World Egbewole Day', as it marks the birthday of the purposeful and impactful Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, the veritable

visionary behind the feats credited to the University in the last two years.

Town & Gown joins thousands of his admirers to wish him many happy returns of the day in continuous good health, sound mind,

and Allah's continuous guidance in his bid to make an indelible mark at UNILORIN through a truly positive impact on the lives of Unilorites, Nigerians, and humanity in general. Congratulations!