

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN
OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

CHAIRMAN WELCOME ADDRESS

**AT THE 12TH LEADERSHIP FORUM OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF
PETROLEUM EXPLORATIONISTS-UNIVERSITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME,
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON
SATURDAY, 16 MARCH, 2013**

PROTOCOL

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission,
The President of NAPE, **Mr George Osahon**, fnape,
Other Members of the NAPE Executive,
The Keynote Speaker and our former Vice-Chancellor, **Emeritus Professor Ayo Banjo**, NNOM,
Visiting Vice-Chancellors
Visiting Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans,
Heads of Departments of Geoscience Departments,
Fellows and Members of NAPE,
Distinguished Participants,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students of the University of Ibadan, I like to welcome all participants to the 12th Leadership Forum of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) – University Assistance Programme (UAP) with the theme ‘*Enhancing Skill-Based and Professionalism in Geoscience Education in Nigeria – Industry to Academic Support and Collaboration*’. I understand that this gathering will bring together participants comprising top government officials, Chief Executives and top explorationists from the petroleum industry, senior members of the academia including Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Provosts, Deans, Heads of Departments, students, members of the Press and other stakeholders. I welcome you all to the premier University in Nigeria, and by extension to Ibadan metropolis, the acclaimed intellectual capital of Nigeria.

It is obvious to anyone familiar with higher education in Nigeria that government alone cannot possibly fund all its Universities amidst other competing demands in the other sectors of the economy. It is in this respect that the Vision of NAPE-UAP, to make Nigerian tertiary education as competitive as others in the world, by complimenting efforts of government and the Universities, and to establish effective network with international geo-scientific institutions, organization and regional leadership in other affiliated societies is most commendable. I am aware that our Department of Geology, staff and students have benefitted from the support provided by NAPE and its distinguished corporate and institutional members including but not limited to your provision of teaching and research equipment, Grants-In-Aids to outstanding undergraduate and postgraduate students, sponsorship of staff and students to attend local and overseas conferences. I commend the giant strides recorded by NAPE-UAP sustained initiative to other professional and learned societies in Nigeria.

WHAT WE ARE DOING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

As part of implementation of the UI Vision & Mission for the 21st Century, the UI Strategic Plan 2009-2014 and the UI Internationalization Plan 2009-2014, we are trying to ensure that our University, creates a *teaching environment that promises analytic, critical and strategic thinking*, so that our students are *enquiry-led learners*, recognised by employers for their intellectual calibre; strengthens research capacity of *emerging researchers* who are interested in doing research to shape society by finding solutions to current and future problems, stimulate new knowledge, be inspired to transcend boundaries and who want to be leaders in a knowledge-based economy- this is a veritable tool towards sustainable and increased research output. In essence we have to localise the global and globalise the local; invests in areas of locally and nationally relevant and internationally significant research that have *impact on contemporary society*; fosters a *global perspective in our teaching and research activities*, preparing students for work in the global economy and encouraging researches that have international impact; welcomes the expertise of leaders from business and industry to inform the development of an *entrepreneurial University*.

As part of our efforts to improve the teaching effectiveness, the University has established a Directorate of Quality Assurance and a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. We re-introduced the tutorial assistantship scheme during the 2011/2012 session. All outstanding non-final year undergraduates whose results correspond to a First Class degree are now designated University Scholars and given a number of incentives to inspire the recipients and also serve as a form of encouragement to the entire students' body. Moreover, automatic scholarships were offered all students who graduated with First Class Honours (or those who passed with Distinctions in those programmes not operating the Course System) at the end of the 2010/2011 session and I am happy to report that about 60 of those students have now enrolled for various postgraduate programmes in this university.

Efforts are on-going to upgrade our teaching, learning and research facilities. As you are aware of, the University of Ibadan was selected after a highly competitive bid as the host for West African Hub for the Pan African University in the thematic area of Life and Earth Sciences. The first set of 44 postgraduate students will resume shortly. Geoscience, including Petroleum Geology and Mineral Exploration, is one of the four disciplines covered under this theme. The other disciplines to be offered at Ibadan are Reproductive Health Sciences, Plant Breeding and Environmental Management.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge, with thanks, the considerable support of the NAPE-UAP, many alumni/alumnae of the Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, also known as *The Ibadan Geologists*, corporate institutions including EXXONMobil, Total, the Shell Petroleum Development Company, Schlumberger, Chevron, AGIP and our own *Prof Mosobalaje Oyawoye*, DSc (Ibadan, honorari causa), CON. I trust you will continue to extend your hands of fellowship to this institution.

I implore you to take some time off your very busy schedule to visit our campus and see for yourselves the humble efforts the current administration are making to build on the very solid foundation made over the past 65 years since the establishment of our University. You can visit

the Zoological garden, the Botanical Garden, the channelization of Awba Dam, the Ajibode Extension etc. Those of you who are alumni/alumnae of UI can also visit your Hall of Residence. There are also many interesting places of interest in Ibadan that you can visit for relaxation or shopping. These include the Bower Tower, the popular Oje market, the historic Cocoa House and the famous Mapo Hill.

It is my pleasure to declare open the 12th Leadership Forum of NAPE-UAP.

Thank you.

Prof Isaac F. Adewole, FAS
Vice-Chancellor