Sustainable Goals Dominate BIMUN 2019

As global attention shifts towards attaining millennium development goals by 2020, panelists at the 3rd Babcock International Model United Nations (BIMUN), have identified innovation as the key to integration and sustainable development in Africa. Nigeria’s former representative and President of UNESCO Professor Emeritus Michael Omolewa, raised the issue at the opening session of the BIMUN 2019 held at the Babcock Business School Auditorium with three others: Ambassador Peace Martins, Country Director, United Nation Information Centre, Lagos, Mr. Ronald Kayanja and Volunteer Director, Centre for Human Rights Climate Change Research, Ms. Omeyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel.

In his submission, Mr. Kayanja argued that African governments went about the pursuits of millennium goals without sustainable developments goals.

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The 3rd International Conference for Faith Integration held last week created a platform for proffering solutions to the challenges of modernism and bridging the gap between faith and learning in multicultural settings.

Beyond knowledge sharing, the three-day conference hosted by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, also provided networking opportunities for participants as well as platform for the unveiling of an international journal on faith and learning, IJFL and the establishment of a body for an international Faith integration..

Chief host, President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola S. Tayo, said the timing of the theme, *Faith Integration in the 21st Century: The Missing Link*, was on point.

“With our world beset by crises and security challenges in different continents, the theme brings to the fore, the need to integrate faith in God who created the heavens and the earth,” said Prof Tayo.

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Represented by the Senior Vice President Academics, Prof. Iheanyichukwu Okoro at the opening session, Prof. Tayo said “our efforts at providing solutions to the myriad of problems facing the world must have faith as its fulcrum.”

Prof. Okoro who also spoke in his own capacity, said with increasing materialism and secularism in today’s world, the conference could not have come at a better time.

“We need to reexamine our mode of course delivery and emphasize the importance of acknowledging God in all we do,” he added.

He encouraged participants to optimize the learning opportunity of the conference and contribution to the IFL journal which he said would be graded as a category B journal for academic evaluation.

For Associate Director of Education at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church, USA, Dr. John Wesley V, faith integration “is like an icing over a plastic cake.” It was not the missing link.

The real problem, he said, was translating biblical world view into real life situations.

“Witnessing is not simply a slice of life, but life itself,” he said. “When you glance quickly, everything looks fine. But when you look beneath the surface, when you talk with students, a different picture emerges.”

Speaking from a judicial viewpoint, Honourable Justice Eruba of the Abia State judiciary recommended a conscious effort to integrate faith in professional practice to ensure that true justice prevailed.

With more than 30 papers presented, participants rose at the end of the plenary sessions convinced that unless a more intentional approach was adopted, the true essence of faith integration in learning would be lost.

But Associate Vice President OIE, Prof. Constance Nwosu is optimistic. “As an institution established to serve as a tower and edifice of truth, Babcock is positioned to advance the frontiers of faith integration beyond its walls.”
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He said this created a scenario akin to “playing football in a pitch without a goal post” and “footballers shooting without scoring any goals.”

Speaking further on the theme, Innovation as a pathway to integration and development: Challenges of a dynamic Africa, he identified scarce financial resources as well as the multiplicity of goals as some of the several challenges mitigating against attaining or sustaining development goals in Africa.

According to him, Africa needed an estimated one trillion dollars yearly for about 30 years to achieve the sustainable development goals.

“Government alone is unable to do the mobilization for sustaining these goals,” he said. “We still need to mobilize movement among the younger people around the sustainable development goals and get them to buy into them.”

Ambassador Peace Martins addressed the issue from the perspective of diplomacy. He explained that since diplomacy was not restricted to one particular field, young people who were interested in becoming career diplomats could strive to be one through capacity building.

Expressing similar opinion, Professor Omolewa said diplomacy was a great privilege in which career diplomats were opportune to participate at the highest level.

Similarly, he said while innovation was a key to integration and sustainable development in Africa, the major issue was to identify the right kind of innovation.

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“We need new ideas, new inventions that will enable African sustainable development,” he said. “The innovation should be more than technological.”

For Odigie-Emmanuel, innovation also raised new human right issues. According to her, there is a need to put a human face to the discourse.

“Innovation that will enable us achieve sustainable goals should be our major interest,” she said. “Ideas that do not violate human rights and that would be more encompassing or that would not leave anyone behind should be the target.”

After the plenary session, the Director General Nigeria Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, Mr. Ayo Olukanni called for concerted efforts to turnaround the pervading global inequality where 1% of the world population own 99% of the wealth.

In his presentation: Celebrating the United Nation at 75: triumphs and trials, he charged the world not to blame the UN for global crises.

President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola Tayo, thanked the UN Information Centre in Nigeria for its unflinching support towards the hosting of the BIMUN which has become a “noble course of fostering regional and global integration.”
The Ogun state government has pledged to partner the Nursing department of the Babcock University Teaching University (BUTH) to realize her dream. Wife of the Ogun State governor, Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun made this commitment while delivering a keynote address at the opening of BUTH nurses’ annual week.

Besides cross fertilization of ideas and strategies to advance the cause of Nursing, Mrs Abiodun said she was impressed by the Department’s plan to raise funds to purchase a bus to enhance its health advocacy and community outreach programme in Ikenne.

Represented by the wife of the Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly, Mrs. Bolanle Victoria Oluomo, Mrs Abiodun said the programme was a “lofty one which should be supported by well-meaning Nigerians.”

The wife of the Deputy Speaker, Ogun State House of Assembly, Mrs. Oluwaseun Kadiri, was also present.

The Provost of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor Iheanyichukwu Okoro representing the President/ Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo, said he was very proud of quality of service delivery of the BUTH nurses.

“Doctors cannot function without the nurses,” he said.

On behalf of the BUTH Nurses, the Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Mojisola Olajide pledged the commitment to addressing primary health care issues of host local government, Ikenne and its environs. She said previous intervention programmes addressed health care needs of 1000 lives in Ilara and Ilishan.

“Government alone cannot provide the healthcare of our people,” she said. “BUTH nurses intend to bring the needed change to transform more lives.”
The second day of the Nurses Week featured an interactive symposium session which was streamed live. Excerpts of participants’ response:

*It is a week to reflect on Nursing as a profession. It will help me improve on patient care. I found the symposium most inspiring.*

ADELEKE Moradeun

*The symposium addressed burning issues concerning the profession. It will improve my personal relationship with patients.*

OMEONU Goodness

*Every topic addressed was really refreshing and will improve every participant’s clinical experience and service delivery.*

AJIROBA Adesola, Chief Nursing officer

*It’s a week to celebrate the mother of Nursing, Florence Nightingale, and all Nurses who have dedicated their lives to the care of humanity and service to God. The symposium will help me better interact with my patients and improve my understanding of the various challenges facing the profession.*

OSEI Anderson

*It is a period to celebrate Nurses, count our blessings and look forward for more grace to excel. The call for service to our community is very essential. The symposium is both informative and interactive. It will enhance our delivery of quality Nursing care and added value.*

CHINONSO Prince

*The symposium is interactive and enlightening. It will help improve my service delivery and patient care.*

OLAKANMI Ruth

*Besides celebrating Nurses, addressing issues and learning new trends, the week accommodates a community outreach programme which provides opportunity to interact and help others as well as create awareness of the importance of what we do.*

ORAZULUME Princess
Twenty-eight out of 51 pupils opted for medical related professions as the Babcock University Staff School held its Career Day for the Sapphire Graduating Class.

While two chose Law, only one each chose Agriculture, Art and Accounting.

In her presentation to the pupils, special guest, Mrs. Betty Adeyeye encouraged them to be honest, hardworking and God-fearing especially in making career choices.

“Do not allow pressure from parents, peers or friends to force you to choose a career you cannot handle,” said Adeyeye who is a staff Nurse at the BU Teaching Hospital, “Do not follow the crowd. Just because your friends are choosing Medicine for example, does not mean you should do the same.”

She also advised them on selection of courses to enhance their future career choice as well as the possibility of making mid-career changes.

“If you want to be successful, start early to work hard and study your notes,” she said.

This implies taking their studies very seriously, she added. Some of the pupils expressed joy at the opportunity to participate in the programme and the understanding it brought for them.

“The program has inspired me to know that my dream of being a Medical Doctor is achievable,” said Chikamyima Nwaneri.

Chinomso Odii-Francis, shares similar views. “The Career Day teaches me more about the courses to follow to achieve my goal,” he said.

“It makes me better understand the profession I’ve chosen to follow,” remarked Blossom Abali.
I chose to be a Scientist because I love doing things that deal with science.

- **ADESOGBON Tobiloja J.**
  10 years old
I want to be a doctor because I want to help and save people’s lives.

- **OCHEFU Sharon,**
  10 years old
I chose to be a Nurse because I want to save and treat people.

- **AGBENIGA Shekinah**
  10 years old
I chose Law because I want to tell people the right way to go and to judge them well.

- **OYAGIRI Buduka**
  10 years old
I want to be a Robotic Engineer to make Nigeria a better place by making robots more useful.

- **ODII-FRANCIS Chinonso**
  10 years old
I chose to be a Paediatrician because I want to save the lives of children.

- **CHIDO-NWAKANMA Sharon**
  10 years old
I want to be an Agriculturalist to save my country from hunger.

- **AKINOLA Anjola**
  10 years old
I want to be an inventor because I want to change the world for better

- **IZIGUZORO David**
  10 years old
I want to be an Artist because I love to draw things and I want Nigeria to be a better place.

- **ZOAKA Jorim**
  11 years old
I want to be a professional footballer because footballers are famous and rich.

- **CHUKWUEMEKA Emmanuel**
  10 years old
Fun, glamour and comradeship as participants and invitees created memories at the 3rd Babcock International Model United Nations 2019.
The event attracted about 450 persons from 20 countries, the highest since the 1st edition held in 2017. Pictures of some of those moments.
THE BIMUN team held a dinner to flag off its events. It was an evening to also showcase some of the cultural values of participants. Pictures capture the dinner.

Left: A BIMUN official presents an award to Prof Ademola Tayo and spouse, Prof. Grace Tayo, while Prof. Iheanyichukwu Okoro, waits to receive his.
The week was a beehive of events from the Nursing Week to 3rd international IFL conference and BU Staff School Career Day. The Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Mojisola Olajide presented awards to several personalities amongst whom was Mr. Richard Awoyinka, asa Papa Ajasco, a professional Nurse, actor, comedian and TV producer.

Participants at the IFL conference with co-host, Prof. Iheanyichukwu Okoro, conven-er, Prof. Constance Nwosu (sixth and fifth right) and invited speakers.
President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo has described the Babcock University Health Research Ethics Committee (BUHREC) as one of the most valuable committee on campus.

Professor Tayo stated this while declaring open the 4th bi-annual training of BUHREC which took place at the University Guest House.

He stated that he would always cooperate with the committee even if they had to review the BUHREC license annually.

He appreciated the BUHREC committee for the good job of maintaining standard and ethical research procedures in the university.

Chairman of BUHREC, Professor Dora Akinboye thanked the university administration, particularly the President/Vice Chancellor for the immense support towards the committee, and for personally attending the opening ceremony despite his tight schedule.

While welcoming the participants from other universities and all BUHREC members, Professor Akinboye highlighted the importance of maintaining ethical values in Babcock University as well as other universities.

COMING EVENTS

JULY 29 - AUG 2
VBX
The Babcock district hosts the Vacation Bible Experience for children ages 5 - 13. Theme: Jamii Kingdom
Venue: BUHS @ 8:00am daily. See poster for details.

AUG 7 - 12
COLLOQUIUM
This year’s colloquium to flag off the 2019/2020 academic year with the theme, All faculty and staff members are expected to be in attendance for the five-day programme featuring plenary sessions. Thanksgiving holds on Saturday and sports and social interaction on Sunday morning.
Venue: Central Cafeteria. Time: 8:30am BU Sports Complex

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REFLECTION

“There are two great days in a person’s life; the day we are born and the day we discover why.”
- William Barclay