In compliance with the Governing Council’s directive that Senate should conduct elections into the vacant offices of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Development) before its next meeting on September 29 and 30, 2014, the Senate has elected two Deputy Vice-Chancellors for the university at its statutory meeting held on Thursday, 25th September, 2014.

At the conclusion of the election, Professor Bayonle Olorede, a distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously elected the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic). In the same vein, Professor Siyan Oyeweso, an eminent Professor of History and Pioneer, Provost College of Humanities and Culture, Ikire Campus was also unanimously elected as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Development).

In his post election comment, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Okesina appreciated senate members for making themselves available to conduct the election and for the spirit of camaraderie that existed among the contestants.

The Governing Council is expected to ratify this appointment at its next meeting.

The Senate, at its special meeting held on Thursday, 2nd October, 2014 has elected its four representatives into the Governing Council for a term of two years. This election is sequel to the expiration of the term of the current representatives on 14th October, 2014.

The four elected representatives on Council include Prof. Wasiu Alagbe Gbolagade, the Dean of Post Graduate School, Prof. Oguntola Jelili Alamu, the Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Dayo Akintayo, the Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences and Prof. Fikayo Ezekiel Babatunde, the Head, Department of Agronomy.
We, at the UNN Desk, felicitate with these distinguished academics on their election into Council and wish them a highly productive tenure in the interest of the Senate and the entire university.

The Management of Osun State University, Osogbo, has congratulated the Chief of Staff to the Governor of the State of Osun, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola on attaining the age of 60. In a birthday congratulatory message signed on behalf of the University Management by the Principal Assistant Registrar, Corporate Affairs, Mr. Oladeji Abokede, Alhaji Oyetola was described as a “quiet and humble man of immense power”, “a tested technorat” and disciplined gentleman and welfare of the needy and the poor. The Management urged Alhaji Oyetola to continue to maintain his honour and integrity to the public and prayed that he should live to a ripe old age in good health, happiness and contentment.

We, at the UNN Desk also congratulate the “Birthday Boy” on the joy of attaining the age of 60.

The Vice Chancellor of Osun State University, Prof. Adekunle Bashiru Okesina, has felicitated with the muslim community in Osun State University, in particular and the State of Osun in general. In a statement by Mr. Oladeji Abokede, the PAR Corporate Affairs, called on the UMMAH to imbibe the lessons of Eld-el-Udha in their day to day activities. He reminded the muslims that the essence of the festival is not about feasting and celebrations only but about piety, fear and the worship of Almighty Allah. He urged the people to continue to pray for the peaceful co-existence of Nigerians irrespective of religions, political and ethnic considerations.
The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Board of Trustees has approved a five-year vision for the fund to improve academic content and quality to achieve excellence. The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Sulaiman Bogoro, made this known at a one-day 2014 Joint TETFund/FIRS Interactive Forum at the University of Lagos. The forum had the theme: “Impact of Strategic Partnership in the Collection of Education Tax”.

Bogoro, represented by an official of the TETFund, Mr Oladipo Salau, said that the vision would run from 2014 to 2019. He said that the department of Research and Development as well as Centres of Excellence had been created in TETFund as part of the vision. “Its main objective is to institutionalise research and development in tertiary institutions by supporting establishment and operations of research outputs in these institutions,” he said.

According to him, the impact of strategic partnership between TETFund and FIRS has resulted in an annual increase in allocation to benefiting institutions. He noted that the number of benefitting institutions had also increased considerably over the years. Bogoro said that 183 public tertiary institutions were currently benefiting from the Fund’s intervention as against 157 in 2010. He said that allocation to each university grew from N303 million in 2010 to N912 million in 2014. The secretary also said that allocation to a polytechnic rose from N183 million in 2010 to N581 million in 2014. “The continued success of our intervention activities will continue to depend largely on proper project conceptualisation by benefitting institutions through wide range of consultation within the academic community. “It will also be based on implementation, based on full compliance with due process.”

The official said that, although TETFund would not dictate what beneficiaries should do with their funds, it would continue to insist that projects proposed for the utilisation of the intervention should relate directly to the core mandate of the institutions. Bogoro said that inability of some institutions to adopt sound project management principles was a challenge faced by the TETFund over the years. He described TETFund as the face of transformation agenda of the education sector, and gave the assurance that it would not derail in carrying out its mandate as an intervention agency to all the Nigerian public tertiary institutions. In his remarks, the Chairman, Board of Trustees of TETFund, Dr Musa Babayo, said that the collaborative partnership between TETFund and FIRS had strategically improved the quality of education in Nigeria. Babayo said that this was achieved through improved infrastructure, teaching and learning environment and research and book development. “The collaborative partnership over the years is attributable to the strong institutional structures put in place by the management of the two
agencies in order to overcome major challenges hindering the transformation of the nation’s public tertiary institutions. “The increase in education tax collections in recent years was made possible by the positive attitude of the FIRS officers in ensuring that education tax payers remit their returns. “In 2013, the Fund surpassed its target of N118 billion by recording a total of N279 billion,” he said. He noted that this showed an increase of N161 billion over the target set for the year.

Babayo urged sustenance of the partnership existing between the two agencies. Mr Ajayi Bamidele, Coordinating Director, Field Operations Group, FIRS, appealed to all beneficiaries of TETFund’s intervention to ensure accountability and transparency in order to move the education sector forward. Bamidele said that FIRS partnership with TETFund for the fifth time, in its quest to transform the tertiary education system, had yielded positive results. (NAN)

LIBRARIAN REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (IRCN) INDUCTS 877 MEMBERS

The Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) has, on Tuesday, 16 September, 2014 held its 5th induction ceremony at the National Universities Commission (NUC), where it inducted 877 certified librarians with a call on them to be more committed in the discharge of their duties.

Receiving the new members for the induction, the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. MacJohn Nwaobiala, said that the world was living in an information age where competitive advantage was determined by the ability to generate and efficiently manage information to achieve desired national development; it was time for the country to take advantage of the information resources at her disposal, adding that there were enormous tasks ahead for the new inductees.

Mallam Shekarau noted that the digital age had redefined how information was accessed and retrieved, adding that the library was now part of a complex and dynamic educational, recreational, and information infrastructure. He said that in spite of the evolution in librarianship, the basic tenets still place emphasis on access, equity and community space, noting that new information literacy skills were, therefore, needed now to retrieve information. He expressed confidence that the new inductees were all equipped for this role in the society.

In his address, the Chairman of the occasion and Chairman, House Committee on Education, Hon. Aminu Suleiman, applauded the LRCN for its various efforts in maintaining standards in the library profession and developing the skills of librarians in the country through its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes and production of scholarly materials. He noted that the current trend was now accessing information using ICT facilities and, seamlessly, adding that any institution that still uses analogue would not be relevant to this technologically savvy society.

Hon. Suleiman appreciated the efforts of the Council towards popularising the profession and expanding the frontiers of librarianship by injecting into the system, skilled, well equipped and qualified librarians who would
offer world-class services in the different sectors of the economy.

In a speech, the Minister of State for Education, Barr. Nyesom Wike, represented by Mr. Lambert Opara, said that Librarians were effective managers of information, noting that they should continually furnish the public with more factual information, especially in rural communities. This, he said, was the reason why Government was laying more emphasis on the public libraries.

The Honourable Minister said the librarians should actively engage in training the community on e-governance services now that elections were fast approaching, stressing that people must be aware of the activities of the Government and their responsibilities towards good governance. He stated that the Ministry of Education would always provide necessary support to ensure that the library sector lived up to its expectation.

Barr. Wike said that no administration in Nigeria had given as much attention to the education sector as President Goodluck Jonathan’s administration, adding that between 2010 and 2013, over N124 billion was made available to States to support the provision of infrastructure and facilities through the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC). He explained further that at the tertiary level, the number of institutions funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) increased from 157 in 2010 to 177 in 2013. The Minister said that for improved access, standards and quality in education, the Ministry had made giant strides in infrastructural development, provision of educational and library resources and manpower development.

In a keynote address, the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), Professor Godswill Obioma, represented by Dr. Chima Obani, remarked that libraries had been in existence since time immemorial to serve as sources of information to people and were aimed at developing human resources and intellectual capacity for the growth and development of the society. He disclosed that, according to the UNICEF report, 10.5 children of school age were out of the school system.

Professor Obioma noted that the development of any nation depended largely on the quality of education such nation provided for its citizenry, adding that establishing libraries and making them efficient were the necessary ingredients for the attainment of quality education. He said that the librarians had significant roles to play in attaining the goals of the transformation agenda of the present administration, stressing that without adequate and functional libraries and well-informed librarians, development in the education sector could not be enhanced.

Dr. Okojie affirmed that the LRCN would continue to contribute its quota towards ensuring that the Library and Information Science sector delivered maximum impact on education and learning. She explained that in the 21st century when information was regarded as the fourth factor of production and was the currency of business, it was critical for library and information scientists to work in line with Mr. President’s Transformation Agenda to engender national growth and development. She congratulated the newly inducted members on their meritorious and well-deserved certification, adding that being registered and certified, they could practice in Nigeria, as qualified librarians.

**NUC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY COMMENDS TWO DECADES OF QUALITY CONTROL IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, has said that quality control in Tertiary Institutions had received much prominence in the last twenty
years, especially through the trio of the NUC, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) through internal and external of quality assurance. Professor Okojie who was represented by a Visiting Professor and Chairman, Standing Committee on Private Universities (SCOPU), Professor Akaneren Essien, said this while delivering a lead paper at the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, with the theme: “Service Delivery and Quality Control for Industrial Relations, Labour Productivity and National Productivity in the Education Sector: The Role of Regulatory Bodies.” He noted that the theme was thought fully selected in recognition of the understanding of the extent to which poor industrial relations and low productivity jeopardise national development.

The Executive Secretary said that regulatory agencies in Nigeria were established by law to monitor and ensure effective implementation of Government Developmental Policies by various designated Government organisations. He added that some of them were charged with the responsibility of ensuring orderly development of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, stressing that NUC, among other roles, ensured good service delivery and control for industrial harmony in the Nigerian University System (NUS).

Professor Okojie told the participants that that NUC’s mandate was to ensure that the orderly development of a well-coordinated and productive system that would guarantee quality and relevant education for national development and global competitiveness.

He disclosed that a number of variables had been employed in determining quality assurance of academic programmes which included the accreditation of academic programmes or institutions, Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation of existing staff strength, students and facilities, capacity building for teaching and non-teaching staff, exchange programme for teaching personnel, prescription of bench-marks and periodic review and production of instruments on minimum academic standards as well as external moderation system.

The NUC Scribe, while explaining the role of the regulatory agencies in ensuring harmonious industrial relations in the tertiary education system, said that industrial relations was one of the most delicate and complex challenges of modern industrial society, adding that industrial progress was impossible without harmonious relationships and the cooperation of labour. He said that it also involved interactions between employers, employees and the Government, and the institutions and associations through which such interactions were mediated.

Professor Okojie explained that the university community was made up of teaching and non-teaching staff, represented by their respective unions, adding that there were four unions in the system at present - the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the
The Executive Secretary noted that the incessant industrial crises in the universities had on several occasions, compelled the Federal Government to empanel a team to negotiate on its behalf with the university-based unions in order to restore lasting peace in the system. In the process, he said, the NUC, as the regulatory agency, had been playing a pivotal role in ensuring hitch-free collective bargaining by the unions which, he said, often centred mainly on Conditions of Service (Salaries and Earned Allowances). He added that Funding, University Autonomy and Academic Freedom, among others, were believed to be helpful in addressing the rot in the system and repositioning the universities for relevance in the national development.

Professor Okojie said that the Commission had also been actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of all the agreements reached between the Government and the University Unions, adding that most of the time, the NUC bargained issues presented by the unions which, he said, often centred mainly on Conditions of Service (Salaries and Earned Allowances). He added that Funding, University Autonomy and Academic Freedom, among others, were believed to be helpful in addressing the rot in the system and repositioning the universities for relevance in the national development.

He observed that the importance of a well-planned university environment which, he said, was necessary for the overall development of universities in the country. He, however, regretted that though Directors of Works were important to the physical development of the university environment, the professionals did not have a body until recently.

The Executive Secretary expressed joy at the birth of the Committee, and advised them to meet regularly to deliberate on issues concerning the deployment of physical infrastructure in their institutions, adding that having regular meetings would ensure that members shared ideas, experiences and proffered solutions to the challenges. He told the Committee that the NUC would be available to provide advice and guidance to enable them succeed.
In his remarks, the Director, Physical Planning and Maintenance at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Mallam Mohammed Sambo, disclosed that the formation of the Committee was a product of several correspondences amongst the Federal Ministry of Education, NUC, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), the Bureau of Public Procurement and the Directors of Works and Physical Planning of Federal, State and private universities and other stakeholders.

The Director expressed gratitude to the NUC for supporting the establishment of the Committee and assured the Commission that it would work in line with the NUC’s guidelines to ensure that universities developed infrastructure in accordance with their approved Master Plans. He informed the Executive Secretary of some of the immediate challenges facing the Committee and pleaded with the Commission to assist in addressing them.

Ten female medical students of the University of Ilorin have joined the list of beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme instituted by Media Trust Ltd. The latest edition of the university news bulletin showed that the new beneficiaries were presented with their cheques at a ceremony held at the College of Health Sciences on Sept. 24. Media Trust Ltd. are publishers of the Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers. The bulletin said the medical scholarship scheme was instituted by the company seven years ago. Under it, 10 female students each from three benefitting universities in the three geo-political zones of Northern Nigeria are selected annually.

It said that the students were awarded scholarship of ₦100,000 each until the completion of their medical training. Other benefitting universities, it said, were the University of Maiduguri in North-East Zone, Usman Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto in North-West Zone and the University of Ilorin from the North-Central Zone.

According to the bulletin, the Provost, College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Johnson, described the initiative of Media Trust as a laudable one. “This will go a long way in encouraging the female students and elevating them to be at par with their male counterparts. “It is not easy for a profit-making company to do this kind of thing.” “Media Trust is not the only media organisation but it is noteworthy that you are probably the only one that has identified this area of community service,” it quoted Wahab as saying.

It noted that Johnson called for more areas of support from the company in terms of building hostels and improving the infrastructure of the college. It said that Mr Umar Ibrahim, the company’s Administrative and Legal Officer, presented the cheques to the beneficiaries on behalf of Media Trust. “The gesture was part of the organisation’s corporate social responsibility aimed at encouraging the students to do more in the society,” the bulletin said. (NAN)
The National Universities Commission (NUC) is in receipt of a circular from the University of Lincoln, United Kingdom, inviting University Administrators in the Nigerian University System (NUS) to attend a Round-table Conference organised by the University of Lincoln from the 12th to 16th October, 2014, as part of a Professional Development Programme by the University’s College of Social Science.

The theme of the Conference is “Managerial and Administrative Skills for University Administrators” and it will provide Members of Governing Councils, Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Bursars and other Senior administrative staff of universities an opportunity to participate in practical workshops and seminars that will bother on the following:

1. Effective Quality Assurance Management
2. University Leadership and Organisation
3. Leadership and Effective University Administration
4. Needs for Leadership Coaching for Efficiency in University Administration
5. Improving Organisational Culture for Effective University Administration
6. Developing Administrative Skills in the University System
7. Overcoming Impediments to Result Oriented Leadership in the University System

A Certificate of Attendance will be issued to all participants at the end of the Conference.

The Conference fee is 3,000 (three thousand pounds) per delegate. Every delegate will receive a Conference pack and course materials. As part of the fee also, delegates will be accommodated in a hotel with free Wi-Fi and breakfast; receive lunch and refreshments during the Conference, attend a Conference dinner and a welcome buffet; airport transfer to Lincoln should the delegates arrive together at the same airport, and return coach to the airport. All fees must be paid in full by September 27, 2014.

Fees do not include flights or visa costs. Please allow plenty of time to apply for your visa.

For further information, please contact:

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The National Universities Commission is in receipt of a call notice from the Office of the Nigerian Ambassador and Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, for entries for 2014 UNESCO-WTA International Training Workshop for Science and Technology Park (STP) Managers in Developing Countries, from 11 to 13 November, 2014 in Daejeon Metropolitan City, Korea.

The annual Workshop aims at upgrading the capacity of STP Managers in developing countries and to exchange knowledge and know-how of developing STPs and innovation clusters.

This year’s theme for the Workshop is, “Development of Research Park and Strengthening of University Role. The event will also feature the 2014 Daejeon Global Innovation Forum (Co-organised by UNESCO, WTA, Daejeon City and INNOBIZ Association), the 9th WTA General Assembly and 11th WTA-Daejeon Hi-Tech Fair, with the theme-Regional Strategic Industry as a base for creative
Economy.

Interested participants who are professionals in Public Sector activities involving developing and managing STPs, are encouraged to apply for participation in the Workshop. Participants should submit five (5) pages of paper introducing the experiences or plans of developing and managing STPs in their respective regions. The selected best case studies will have the opportunity to be presented at the Country Presentation Session. Participants should forward their curriculum vitae to the following address: wta.workshop@gmail.com and after evaluation process, they will receive their invitation letters. Also note that the WTA Secretariat will provide 5 nights’ accommodation and local transportation.

For further details on the Workshop, please contact Mr. Yong-Jun In, at wta.workshop@gmail.com and +082 42 270 2264

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**QOUTABLE QOUTE**

Everyone has inside him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is! ~ Anne Frank

When you get in a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. ~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

If you're not willing to accept your own discipline, you're not going to accomplish two percent of what you could--and you're going to miss out on 98% of the good things you could have. ~ Tom Hopkins

It is human nature to get depressed by setbacks, but it is a superhuman task to rise above your circumstances and rewrite your destiny. The one that stands erect and unfazed, in the face of adversity, ultimately leaves the footprints to success. ~ Author Unknown