



# OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY

PMB 4494, OSOGBO

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VICE-CHANCELLORS OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (AVCNU), HELD AT THE PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA AUDITORIUM, OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS, OSOGBO, 20 APRIL 2010**

His Imperial Majesty, Oba Okunade Sijuwade Olubuse II, the Ooni of Ife and Chancellor, Osun State University;

The Honourable Minister of Education, represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie

The Secretary to the Osun State Government, Alhaji Kazeem Ademola Adio (who so ably represented the Governor at the reception last night)

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Minister of Education, Professor Dapo Afolabi, represented by Professor Duro Ajeyalemi, the Technical Adviser

Our other Royal Fathers here present

The immediate past Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission and Pro-Chancellor, Osun State University, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR

The Chairman, Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Professor Don Baridam;

The President, Association of African Universities and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, host of the 24<sup>th</sup> AVCNU Conference, my friend, my brother, Professor Is-haq Oloyede

Colleague Vice-Chancellors and our spouses

Other senior university officials here present: Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, University Librarians, Bursars, Directors and all others;

Principal Officers of Osun State University – the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Bursar; and other senior officials

Other distinguished delegates at this conference

Our guests, gentlemen of the media, ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of Senate, Staff and Students of Osun State University to welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU).

When towards the end of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual conference at Ilorin, we offered to host the 25<sup>th</sup> conference, we had one major desire: to offer the environment of our University as a platform for important stakeholders in the higher education sector in this country to dialogue and proffer solutions to some of the challenges confronting the system. As we all know, over the years, the annual conference has served as an avenue to bring together all University Vice-Chancellors in Nigeria, with other important stakeholders in the higher education system in the country and beyond, to exchange ideas, debate issues and outline solutions to the challenges of higher education management in the country.

We were particularly challenged by the deliberations at the 24<sup>th</sup> conference at the University of Ilorin, which had as its theme, “21<sup>st</sup> Century University Education in Nigeria: Strides, Challenges and Pathways”. In submitting our proposal for this year’s conference, our intention was to build upon the achievements of the 24<sup>th</sup> conference with a view to moving the agenda forward. In putting the ideas together during the following months, we benefited greatly from experience sharing with colleagues from other institutions and the outcome of our mutual deliberations.

In Osun State University, it is our intention as an institution to develop into a veritable platform for the evolution of ideas that can positively impact upon the development of our environment. During the last one year, we have hosted the national association meetings of a few academic bodies in this country including the Nigerian Society of Microbiology and the Nigerian Meteorological Society and we are also billed to host some during the next few months. However, none of these compares with the conference we are holding here today and tomorrow.

That UNIOSUN has progressed to this stage in its relatively short period of existence is due in large measure to the tremendous support it has received from its proprietor, the Government of Osun State under the leadership of Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, after whom this auditorium was aptly named. We do expect that this auditorium and, indeed, our institution, will continue to be a haven for great ideas that will engender national development for years to come.

As participants who made yesterday’s session on Vice-Chancellors and the Management of Crucial Relationships will testify, we have tried to introduce some new features that should enrich our conference this year. This morning, we should be witnessing the signing of the Internet Safety Security and Privacy Charter, an instrument that will serve as platform for tackling the menace of cybercrime that has now pervaded so many campuses of Nigeria’s higher institutions and certainly has more perpetrators than cultism. There are also special sessions for spouses of participating Vice-Chancellors, and training sessions for Executive and Personal Assistants to Vice-Chancellors.

However, most interesting of all, at least for us, is the involvement of students in the process. Since this is my second AVCNU conference (the invitation to the first one that I would have attended was not delivered until after six months!), you have to forgive me if my history is wrong, but we believe that this is the first time in the history of these meetings that students would be involved directly. The Essay Competition that we organised for undergraduates in all Nigerian universities on the subject, “The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student”, received several interesting entries and the presentation of the winning essays is expected to be part of this conference.

In closing my remarks, it is only appropriate that I should toll my bell of gratitude for whom it is due. First, is to God who has made it possible for us to convene and for giving divine sanction to our intention. I must appreciate the Government and People of Osun State for the support we as a University have received, an element of which was indicated at the reception yesterday evening. Great appreciation goes to my brother Vice-Chancellors, particularly those who offered ideas, and to the AVCNU Secretariat. Our LOC has been remarkable. In the last few days members of all categories have worked their hearts out to ensure a successful outing. Our consultant events managers, CS2, have been equally remarkable. To all my colleagues at UNIOSUN, I say ‘thank you’, but remember, the work has just begun. The last but not the least

are those who have supported this programme financially: the Central Bank of Nigeria, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, the Education Tax Fund, (the Federal Ministry of Education), Sigma Pension Fund Managers Ltd., Nigerian Bottling Company Plc, Omatek Computers, Green Circle and Oceanic Bank. Please accept our gratitude.

On this note, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this conference and enjoin you to enjoy every moment of it. As noted in the welcome note included in your delegate's pack, we do hope that your participation in this conference gives you as much pleasure as we have had organising it.

Thank you.

Professor Sola Akinrinade  
Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University  
20 April 2010