

Varsities Must Explore International Collaborations

—*Professor Rasheed*

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Abubakar Adamu

future if Nigerian universities begin to explore ways of diversifying international collaborations.

Development (AFD), Mr. Vincent Larrouze and Deputy Country Director, Mr. Andre Hue in his office last Friday.



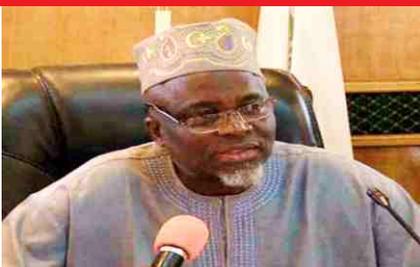
R-L: Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed; Country Officer, AFD, Mr. Larrouze Vincent and Deputy Country Director, AFD, Mr. Hue Andre

Rasheed, mni, MFR, FNAL, has said that higher education in Nigeria would only have a better

He made the remarks when he received the Country Officer, Agence Française de

The delegation was in the Commission to strengthen existing relationship and seek further

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cooperation on higher education between the two Agencies.

Professor Rasheed pointed out that the Commission valued its relationship with AFD, especially for its commitment and support to Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) Impact Projects. He expressed the Commission's appreciation to the Agency for its interest and contribution to ACE, which had significantly increased funding of the project.

He said that the intervention of AFD in ACE Impact and strategic support for Higher Education (HE) with a wider scope in education through scholarships and other remarkable interventions had made the Agency popular in the Nigerian University System (NUS).

The NUC Scribe also stated that with the collaboration of AFD, preparations were underway for quality assurance assessment of ACE Health programmes in University of Jos (UNIJOS) and Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria and subsequent assessment of Agriculture in Bayero University (BUK), Kano, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB), and Benue State University (BSU), Makurdi.

He stressed that all ACEs would go through accreditation by Higher Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hecres), which was the French accreditation agency to assure quality and ensure common standards in all the Centres.

The Executive Secretary informed Country Director that the Commission had considered reviewing the guidelines on Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and trans-border education through direct interaction, establishment of campuses and involvement of some agencies in e-learning to further open up space and provide access to quality university education in Nigeria.

He said that the Commission had identified AFD as one of the key partners to deliberate on those issues, stressing that the future of Nigerian universities did not only rely on research and teaching, but also, on their willingness to open doors to diverse international partnerships.

He stated that the Commission was reviewing the curriculum of the NUS and when funds were made available, it would work on the blueprint on the strategic plans on university education in Nigeria. He, therefore, solicited the input of AFD on the draft documents.

Professor Rasheed further stated that the Commission had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Francophone universities on Quality Assurance mechanisms, mobility, scholarship and language promotion especially French in Nigeria. He noted that most people from francophone countries understood a little bit of English, while on the other hand, those in Anglophone could hardly speak French.

He attributed the language barrier as impediment to effective collaborations and partnerships among universities within the West African region. He proffered that through exchange programmes, some students could study in France which could encourage diverse perspectives and worldview. He elaborated that encouraging foreign studies in France and provision of scholarship opportunities would also improve research network and knowledge-economy which had been globally identified as key to national development.

The Executive Secretary also said that during the upcoming meeting between the two agencies between October and November 2019, the Commission would exploit the opportunity and make arrangement for public lecture in select fields to be delivered by AFD for interested





Nigerian universities. He explained that the proposed forum would provide the opportunity to address some issues and deepen students' understanding of those issues.

accommodation as most students stayed off-campus and were exposed to all forms of insecurity which had become worrisome. He emphasised that the more the issue of accommodation was

data to that effect.

In line with that, the Commission had constituted 39 visitation panels to 78 to inspect and assess the facilities including classes,



Prof. Rasheed, Mr. Vincent and Andre (5th - 7th right) respectively in a group photo with other Management Staff of NUC

He said that Vice-Chancellors would also be contacted on strategic areas that needed AFD interventions with bias to Physical facilities.

He said that NUC would liaise with National Higher Education Regulatory Agencies to engage and agree on key areas that needed intervention in Higher education. He noted that the area that needed urgent intervention in Nigerian universities was provision of standard

addressed, the better the quality of learning in the NUS.

Professor Rasheed disclosed that as part of its commitment towards provision of standard facilities for conducive learning environment by students, the Commission through its Directorate of Student Support would soon embark on assessment of students' facilities in selected universities that would serve as pilot models as currently there was no empirical

accommodation, libraries, power supply, security gadgets and general sanitation as well as survey on teaching and learning, among others.

He, therefore, solicited AFD's support and partnership in providing standard accommodation in some universities. He reiterated that it should be under strict guidance of NUC in accordance with the master plans of the select universities.



The Executive Secretary also assured that the Commission would work in synergy with the Federal Ministries of Education and Finance to facilitate the approval of requests by AFD on contributions towards education in Nigeria. He also reassured that the Commission would be committed towards getting the support of the new 9th National Assembly on higher education agenda.

Speaking on their mission, the Country Officer, Mr. Larrouze said that it was to discuss possible areas of AFD intervention in the NUS and how to interface through NUC Blueprint on higher education.

He stated that French influence in the NUS was becoming more visible and pronounced through the intervention of AFD in education sector. He said that the Agency was already into strong partnership with NUC and the NUS, which was a very important aspect of the cooperation between Nigeria and France.

The Country Officer said that in line with President Emmanuel Macron's policy on education,

AFD was determined to be active partner in Higher Education not only in funding but also through technical support. On partnership with the NUS through e-learning, Mr. Larrouze said that AFD would only be able to contribute in that aspect when it had seen the guidelines provided by NUC to that effect.

In his contribution, the Deputy Country Director, Mr. Hue explained that Nigeria-France cooperation had been an impressive partnership in all spheres and French government was trying to expand its portfolio in French cooperation and financing French programmes in the NUS.

Mr. Hue said that AFD had new mandate which entailed working in line with Higher education blueprint and also active participation in ACE Impact in partnership with World Bank, towards better financing of the project through NUC's guidance.

He said that towards the end of the year in November, AFD would hold a stakeholders' forum on its activities especially in ACE and the role of Hecres in quality assurance as well as other

projects in education sector. He also disclosed that by July, AFD was expected to send progress report on its activities to French government, requesting that NUC should assist in forwarding a report on ACE Impact which would form part of the report to be sent to the home government.

AFD, the socio-economic development agency of French government which funds, supports and encourages transition to a better world towards Sustainable Development Goals.

Also present were NUC's Directors of Executive Secretary's Office, Mr. Chris Maiyaki; Accreditation, Dr Noel Salihu; International Cooperation and Liaison Services, Mrs Constance Goddy-Nnadi; Inspection and Monitoring; Mr. Boniface Odum as well as Ag. Director, Management Support Services, Mallam Abdullahi Kabiru. Others were Deputy Director, Corporate Services, Mr. John Mairafi; representative of Director, Establishment of Private Universities, Mr. Mustapha Rasheed and representative of Director, ICT, Mr. Obi.



JAMB Used 7000 Resource Persons For 2019 JAMB —— Prof. Oloyede

The Registrar, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Is-haq Olarewaju Oloyede last week said whatever achievement people thought was achieved by the Board could only be ascribed to the Ministerial support it received in carrying out its mandate after his assumption of office in August 2016.

Speaking at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Pre-mobilisation workshop for stakeholders held at the Merit House, Abuja, Professor Oloyede noted that only few Nigerians believed in the capacity of JAMB to deliver on its mandate due to perceived wrath in the system.

He stressed that irrespective of his introduction of the Computer Based Centres (CBT) and e-testing in the Nigerian tertiary education system when he was Vice-Chancellor there where chronic pessimists and inveterate critics who gave him no breathing space as, he decided to stop the use of the paper and pencil format in Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

The Registrar described the administration of the UTME as a collective effort of stakeholders and a crucial national assignment. He recounted that about 7,000 human resources



Prof. Is-haq Olarewaju Oloyede
JAMB Registrar

were at the disposal of the Board for the conduct of the 2019 examination, whereas the entire workforce of JAMB was less than 1,800 across all the states of the Federation.

He said the diversity in mobilizing officials for the UTME had given him the idea of the remoteness of organised crime targeted against the Board's examinations.

According to him, the given circumstances and nature of the

organised crime perpetrated by evil-minded persons made it difficult for JAMB in 2017 to adopt the international best practice of pre-release clinical scrutiny of the result of the examination. This, he said, was especially more so when one was aware of how endemic the rot had been since the period of the Paper and Pencil Test until the recent introduction of CBT.

He stated with a sense of pride that JAMB released the 2017 and 2018 UTME results almost within 24 hours of each session to convince the doubting Thomas's that the expeditious release of CBT results was not beyond JAMB capacity. After the release of the 2018 result JAMB publicly announced that the result of 2019 UTME would not be released until they subject the procedure to some scrutiny with a view to ascertaining the degree of success of the structures, infrastructure, policies and processes put in place to checkmate the processes. This he noted was able to fish out not very few among JAMB staff who believed in the pervasive illegitimate means of truncating the Board's set ambitions and goals.

On the synergy with the NYSC, Professor Oloyede highlighted



that likewise in the mobilization process, tertiary institutions were in the habit of sending names of graduates to JAMB for confirmation that were plagued with lot of challenges. This, he stressed, include multiple registrations, falsification of Age, wrong spelling of names, improper admissions processes, among others.

The JAMB boss noted that applicants for change of date of birth being forwarded to JAMB by institutions were mostly from over-aged persons who wanted to get mobilized for the national service. He explained that since his assumption of duty as Registrar, JAMB had been taking measures to block sharp practices, while also seeking enhanced inter-agency renewed commitment to eliminating such practices and anomalies.

He said that the menace of multiple registrations was yet to abate as over N200 million was still paid to JAMB by the syndicate to correct data relating to pre-meditated name error. There were many ways multiple registrations manifests, according to him, while the rich procure graduates and senior undergraduates to write examinations in the name of their pampered children who

then uses the highest score to get admission into institutions.

Prof. Oloyede said the Board this year had deployed appropriate technologies to detect not only the facial duplication of candidates but also the biometric multiplications. He reiterated that the Board had also gone as far as identifying identical twins and siblings whose existence were recognised.

He said one of the major strategies of JAMB to counter this include the introduction of a short code where every candidate was required to type his or her name personally through the phone and send it directly to 55019. This, he said, was to eliminate the issue of error in names spelling since they register themselves using their phones and all messages were sent to their phone numbers.

The Registrar lamented that most institutions were the cause of the problem of mobilisation of corps members. He identified some of the challenges to include; Institutions denying Post UTME test to disqualify candidates; Admitting unqualified candidates on awaiting result; Warehousing candidates from pre-degree programmes; Stratification of

candidates into programmes before summation of scores; Lowering of merit aggregate cut-off mark to jump others as well as Cutting off merit before 45%.

This according to Professor Oloyede result to candidates graduating without passing through the proper admission processes set out by JAMB. This lead to most institutions sending a long list of names for re-regularizations with the payment of N5, 000 fees to JAMB after collecting over N10, 000 from candidates. He said JAMB had introduced what he called 'indemnity form', which would be dully signed by the Vice-Chancellor before any candidate could be re-regularized and sent for NYSC mobilization.

He added that JAMB was working hard to ensure a smooth mobilization process of corps members for national assignment in collaboration with NUC, NYSC and other relevant stakeholders. He submitted that without sincerity and synergy with tertiary institutions all efforts would remain futile.

The presentation by the JAMB Registrar drew applause from the gathering who agreed with him that sanity had been restored to a great deal in the organisation of the Board's examination.



.....To Release Cut-Off Marks for 2019 Admissions This Week

Barring any last minute change of decisions, students who have been waiting anxiously for the cut-off mark for the 2019/2020

be made public at the end of the meeting.

According to JAMB, “A

who are on the prowl to defraud them.”

He said, “Candidates claiming that they have two results are either



admission year from the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and the universities would know their fate at the end of the Combined Policy Meeting of the Board with universities and other tertiary institutions across the country this Tuesday.

JAMB, which disclosed this in its weekly bulletin last weekend, noted that the policy meeting would take place in Gbogan, Osun State, and would be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Arch Sunny Echono.

The Board noted that the 2019 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination’s candidate must not believe fake cut-off marks being peddled by fraudsters, as the official cut-off marks would

nationally accepted cut-off mark has not been decided. The heads of institutions and other stakeholders will do so at a policy meeting. The board has scheduled the 2019 Policy Meeting for June 11 at Gbogan, Osun State.

The management of the Board state that the clarification became necessary following speculations that it has already fixed the 2019 UTME cut-off marks. The board added that candidates should not also believe rumours that a candidate could have two different results released by the server.

JAMB’s Head of Public Affairs, Dr Fabian Benjamin, said such different results were not possible, while warning “gullible and desperate criminal elements

fraudulent or victims of examination syndicates. The Board has evidence of candidates who paid money to these syndicates, who on realizing that they could not deliver as promised, came up with these forged results and sent same to these candidates who believed them.

“These were the set of candidates claiming to have two results. It is practically impossible to have two results. This is because we don’t send results. Rather, it is the candidates that would send ‘Results’ to 55019 and the result is subsequently transmitted to the respective candidates.

“The results are fortified with state-of-the-art security features that render the efforts of any syndicate or fraudster a nullity. One of such features was the unique barcode on each result to safeguard it.”



Professor Kota is Skyline University Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sudhakar Kota has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Skyline University Nigeria (SUN), Kano, by the Management of the University. His appointment is with effect from 22 April, 2019.

The new Vice-Chancellor holds a Doctorate degree in Economics and Marketing from Barkatullah University formerly known as Bhopal University, India in 2003. He had his MBA degree in Marketing Management in 1990 and PG Diploma in Labour Laws and Industrial Relations in 1986. It is noteworthy that he also holds M.A. and M. Phil. in Regional Planning and Economic Growth and B.Sc Botany, Zoology and Chemistry in 1980 all from same university.

Until his recent appointment, Professor Kota had served in various capacities as an academic in School of Social Sciences, Barkatullah University India and Skyline University

College UAE, where he also served as Director, Quality Assurance and Institutional Research as well as being Research Fellow in various international institutions

Professor Kota brings to bear, a wealth of experience spanning 35 years in higher education across United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), Australia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India. His professional certifications include Quality Enhancement in Education by QAA Scotland (UK), Accreditation Process by AACSB and National Qualification Framework by NQA and CAA.

He has to his credit, the authorship of many academic publications and papers as well as Research projects on Environmental and Human development funded by local and International Development Partners.

According to the statement by SUN, in addition to administrative operations, the new Vice-Chancellor will be providing other critical functions that would support the university's research mission. He is also expected to address strategic priorities and work towards the development of the University in teaching, research and community service, including developing an approach for centralised campus services and common good for community development.

It would be recalled that Skyline University Nigeria (SUN), Kano was established last year as Nigerian branch of Skyline University, Dubai.

The National Universities Commission on behalf of the Nigerian University System, wishes Professor Sudhakar Kota successful tenure.



ESSAY CONTEST

"WRITING IS A WAY OF TALKING WITHOUT BEING INTERRUPTED"

Julius Renard

Topic: Enhancing Confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building: Towards Economic Success and Improved Quality of Life for Nigerians

Eligibility: Entrant must be an undergraduate of a Nigerian University

REQUIREMENTS :



Entries must be written in English



One entry per participant



1,500 maximum word count



Plagiarism is not accepted



Submitted before July 24, 2019

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



ESSAY CONTEST

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) in partnership with the National Universities Commission (NUC) is pleased to announce the theme for the Nigerian Economic Summit (NES) 25th Anniversary Essay Competition- "Enhancing Confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building: towards economic success and improved quality of life for Nigerians"

Trust is the social glue that holds families, communities, organizations and societies together, without it, reaching any agreement can become a fraught negotiation. – Peggy (Rockefeller) Dulany, Synergos

With a global shift towards 'inclusive' economic growth, it is argued that economic prosperity and business success cannot be adequately explained by abundance of natural resources, brilliance of intellect, or the presence of good laws and institutions. Rather, economic prosperity requires (in addition to the above elements listed) a culture of trust and social capital that forms an economic input (Fukuyama, 1995).

In the light of challenges that have constantly plagued the Nigerian economy despite being the largest African economy, Nigeria has remained a low-trust country and this has resulted in a slow-paced growth.

With an outlook of building a nation that is competitive and sustainable, Nigeria sets to embark on the long march towards economic growth and improved quality of life for its people. Bearing in mind the highly diverse nature of Nigeria, we cannot therefore shy away from the arduous task of rebuilding trust and confidence in her people. It is on this premise that the NESG calls for applicants for the essay competition.

Topic: Enhancing Confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building: Towards Economic Success and Improved Quality of Life for Nigerians

June 13, 2019 – July 24, 2019

ELIGIBILITY AND RULES

1. Entrant must be a Nigerian
2. Entrant must be an undergraduate of a Nigerian University
3. Entries must be written in English Language and be the original work of the writer
4. Only one entry per participant is allowed. Please carefully review your essay before submitting, you cannot edit after submission
5. The maximum word count is 1,500 words; Read the instructions carefully and submit at www.nesgroup.org/essay

Value of Award: Prizes would be awarded to the top 3 winners. They would be awarded a certificate of performance, internship opportunity at the NESG and win an all expense paid trip to Abuja to attend the NES 25th Anniversary Summit, the platform on which they present their essay.

For more information, follow [officialNESG](#)      or visit www.nesgroup.org/essay

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



Re: Recruitment of Qualified Persons to fill positions at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus Trinidad and Tobago

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has received, through the High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, a University of West Indies (UWI) circular, requesting for qualified persons to fill the positions of Director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, in the Seismic Research Centre of the St. Augustine Campus of the University.

The University of West Indies (UWI) is a well-established Independent university that serves 17 countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. It is the oldest, fully regional institution of higher learning in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The UWI began at the Mona Campus, Jamaica, in 1948 as a College of the University of London; and in 1962 achieved full university status.

The St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago was established in 1961 and in 1963 a third Campus was established at Cave Hill in Barbados. In 2008 the University established a fourth Campus-The Open Campus-to better manage and expand multi-mode delivery of its programmes.

The eight faculties of the UWI offer a wide range of Undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral programmes in Engineering, Food and Agriculture, Humanities and Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology, Social Sciences and Sport. Several of these programmes are delivered through the distance mode.

N.B Interested Universities' personnel should visit online and download the application form from the University's website www.uwi.edu or www.sta.uwi.edu for more on how to complete the form.

Furthermore, the completed applications should be forwarded to the undersigned with soft copies via e-mail to hcabuja@foreign.gov.tt and the website <http://foreign.gov.tt/hcabuja> on or before 28th April, 2019 for processing and onward transmission.

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IJES accepts articles submitted in MS Word only and English Language (UK/USA style). Paper should not be more than 15 pages including references in APA referencing style. Authors are free to present their text in the format that suits their articles in as much as the text follows the Journal text page guidelines. All manuscripts should be in 1.5cm line spacing, margins should be one inch (2.5cm) at the top, bottom and side of the page. Font size should be 12 point and font style should be Times New Roman. All papers submitted must bear the name (s) and the title (s) of the author (s), institutional affiliation (s) and address for correspondence, including telephone (s) and email details.

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Payment is subdivided into Peer review fee of ₦5000 (Five Thousand Naira) and Publication fee of ₦15000 (Fifteen Thousand Naira). The Peer review fee is paid and evidence submitted with the manuscript while the Publication fee is paid upon the acceptance of manuscript for publication and evidence of payment should accomplish the submission of the corrected manuscript for publication. Authors are expected to make direct cash deposit or make electric fund transfer to **Account Name uniabuja** Centre for Entrepreneurship **Account Number: 2011987031** First Bank.

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