

## **Communiqué of the First Lead City University Postgraduate Multidisciplinary International Academic Conference held between Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at LCU International Conference Centre**

### **Preamble**

The theme of the conference was “Innovative Research and Quality Education for Sustainable Development.”

The Conference drew participants from the Nigerian academic community, the African continent as well as outside the shores of Africa. In all, there were more than two hundred registered participants, majority of who presented academic papers across various fields.

The theme of the Conference resonated deeply with the urgent need for innovative solutions that are both scientifically rigorous and ethically grounded. The lens of this theme provided an enjoyable environment befitting of a truly multidisciplinary discussions leading to ground-breaking insights which we hope would propel us forward on the path of sustainability.

Attendance at the Conference was both in-person and virtual.

### **Organisation**

The conference started on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October with a Pre-Conference Workshop on Techniques of Academic Writing, presented by Prof. Godwin Oyedokun. The focus was on teaching participants how to improve their academic writing. This was a timely topic, because any form of speech, discussion or written work done in the academic space is Academic Writing. The workshop ended with questions and answers.

A second Pre-Conference Workshop on Understanding the scientific indexing bodies in academia was held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October. This was handled by Prof Emmanuel O. Adu of University of Forte Hare, South Africa.

At the opening session of the Conference, Emeritus Prof. Toyin Falola delivered the Keynote Address. He observed that African universities are in a unique position to provide innovative solutions to challenges facing the continent. He pointed out that if universities are to be the engine of development, research must be approached in a trans-disciplinary manner.

The Lead Paper on Climate Change, Flood Risk and Sustainable Development was delivered by Prof. Temi Ologunorisa, Vice Chancellor, Ondo State University of Science and Technology who examined the drastic change in the climate due to increased occurrence of flooding in Nigeria and its effect of sustainable development. The session also ended with questions and answers.

The Technical Session, which was on Culture of Academic Excellence, was handled by the Convener and Provost of the College, Prof. Afolakemi Oredein. She reiterated it that academic excellence is being able to demonstrate or perform excellently in scholastic activities pointing out that there can be no room for excellence within a culture that is toxic.

At the end of the Conference the following are the communiqué:

1. Developing countries must invest in quality education
2. Africa should be centre focus of its education policy
3. African indigenous knowledge predated Western approach to research, therefore it is erroneous to say that Africa does not engage in scientific research
4. Ranking skewed against Africa, therefore Africa should not attempt to compete with the Western world for ranking of its universities
5. Departments for the teaching and studying of indigenous knowledge e.g. Kingship, occultism etcetera should be created
6. Quality education should focus on developing indigenous ideas, medicine, technology, etcetera
7. Research should be developing problem-solving learning templates
8. Education and innovation have symbiotic relationship
9. Focus should be on what is possible within our limitations, resources and environment
10. Focus should be on generating new ideas among the young population based on their strength
11. No one has any business having a PhD and not being a scholar
12. Researchers should sign up to Google Scholar to widen their visibility and citation
13. It's unscientific to cite literature that are older than yourself
14. Potentials of innovate research are numerous.
15. Academic writing should be clear, concise, and easy to understand. The ideas presented should be logical and well-organized, with each paragraph contributing to the overall flow and coherence of the piece.
16. Academic writing should maintain a formal and objective tone, avoiding personal opinions, emotions, or biases. It should be based on facts, evidence, and logical reasoning rather than personal anecdotes or subjective experiences.
17. Academic writing should employ formal language and avoid colloquialism, slang, or inappropriate language.
18. Academic writing requires proper citation of all sources used, be it in-text citations or a bibliography at the end of the document. This is essential to acknowledge the work of other scholars and to avoid plagiarism.
19. Writers must avoid plagiarism and must provide citations and references for all sources used and properly paraphrase or quote the original authors' words when necessary.
20. Writers should effectively communicate their research findings to contribute to their respective academic fields.
21. Academic culture should revolve around academic outlooks, academic spirits, academic ethics, and academic environments
22. Academic excellence culture should promote critical thinking, teamwork spirit/collaboration, and the ability to translate knowledge to practice in real-life situations, good leadership, readiness to learn, unlearn and relearn
23. Academics should give up on small ambitions, dream big, keep on moving, learn to control attitudes, and see mistakes as part of the recipe to the next level
24. To have a sustainable development in education, the academia community should abolish toxic academic culture, especially amidst lecturers and lecturers/students' relationship.

## **Conclusion**

The participants at the conference congratulated the organisers and commended them for the success of the maiden Lead City University Postgraduate Multidisciplinary International Academic Conference.

**Communiqués Drafting Committee**

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