

Environmental Management Conference 2011

Opening Address by the Vice- Chancellor, Prof. Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, on this occasion of the first Environmental Management Conference to be organised by the College of Environmental Resources Management of the University.

Globally, the issue of the environment is no doubt a very serious one, and Nigeria is no exception. The reports of recent flooding in Lagos, Abeokuta and Ibadan due largely to reclamation of coastal areas, solid waste dump into water channels, lack of canals, and faulty urban planning, to mention a few, are still fresh in our memories. Also noteworthy are problems of industrial and domestic pollution of surface and groundwater, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, air and noise pollution, which are all very prominent in our environment.

Here in UNAAB, we realised quite early the need to study and assess the environment in all its ramifications. That is why UNAAB is the first University in Nigeria, right from inception, to have a College of Environmental Resources Management, where we consider issues relating to the environment, through the establishment of the Departments of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management, Forestry and Wildlife Management, Environmental Management and Toxicology and Water Resources Management and Agricultural Meteorology. It is therefore in order that the University is the host to the first edition of the Environmental Management Conference.

I have been informed that this conference is being co-sponsored by the Africa Geosciences Review, an International Journal of repute. Prof. Cornelius Kogbe, its founding Editor-in-Chief, is heartily welcome to UNAAB.

As scientists gather in this university in the next two to three days to present scholarly papers and reflect on the theme: 'Environmental Management in Coastal and Wetland Areas of Nigeria', I enjoin you to be proactive in your considerations as you formulate implementable environmental management policies. I wish you a very fruitful deliberation.

Finally, I want to seize this opportunity to urge you to take time out to look round our beautiful campus and visit Abeokuta city, taking cognisance of its historical sites like the popular Olumo rock and the traditional 'Adire' textile market at Itoku.

Thank you very much.