



## EDITORIAL

On behalf of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), I hereby present the first edition of our electronic newsletter to you this year. The NYA newsletter is a regular publication of the Academy which will be published quarterly – in January, April, July and October of every year. This will serve as an avenue to acquaint members of the activities of the Academy and to create awareness for the public.

This edition documents the events at the last NYA conference and General Assembly at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun. Highlights of the opening ceremony included the induction of new members into the academy and presentation of National Young Scientists prizes in Microbiology, Chemical and Health Sciences. A major outcome of the General Assembly was the election of new officers into the Executive Committee of the Academy following the completion of two year-tenure of the previous leadership.

From all the lectures delivered including the keynote address and plenary sessions, participants unanimously agreed to the fact that economic recession can be mitigated using research and innovation. This is what led to the issuance of communiqué at the end of the conference to present detailed steps by which the Nigerian economy can move out of the recession in a very short time. However, there is the need for all stakeholders involved in the Nigerian project to contribute their quota.

This and many more are what you will find in this edition of the newsletter. On behalf of the Publicity Committee, I welcome you all and wish you a happy reading.

M. I. Kazeem, PhD, MNYA  
Publicity Secretary

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## 2017 NYA CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE: MITIGATING RECESSION THROUGH RESEARCH

The 7<sup>th</sup> Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Conference and General Assembly was held between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Effurun, Delta State, with the theme, Combatting recession through research and innovation: Leveraging on the Nigerian content.

The opening ceremony was attended by many important dignitaries including the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun (FUPRE), Prof. Akii Ibadode (FAS); former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, Prof. Abhulimen Anao; and former Vice-Chancellor of the Delta State University (DELSU) Abraka, Prof. Uvietobore Igun.

Prof. Ibadode delightfully welcomed the participants and other dignitaries to the Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun. He stated that FUPRE is the premier institution with the state of the art facilities to provide education, training and research to petroleum industries and other allied sectors. He expressed his delight on the positive impact the NYA is making on the nation and assured the academy of his continuous support.

Prof. Anao on his part delivered the keynote address in which he alluded to the fact that one of the most important pathway of recession is the conduct of cutting edge and ethical research, as this will reflect the causes of the problem and proffer appropriate solutions to it. In view of the challenges posed by militancy on the Nigerian economy, Prof. Igun spoke on combating the proliferation of armed groups towards sustainable development: The way forward. He suggested several

measures including public awareness, improved border security and enhancing the capacities of our security agencies.

The high point of the occasion was the induction of newly selected NYA members by the President of the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), Prof. Mosto Onuoha, ably represented by the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun. The President, Dr. Emmanuel Odjadjare also paid glowing tributes to the exiting members of the academy for their selfless service and support to the Academy throughout their five-year term.

In recognition of excellence, the Academy presented prizes to three distinguished young researchers in Nigeria. The prizes included Prof. Oyewale Tomori National Young Scientists' Prize for Microbiology, Prof. Friday Okonofua National Young Scientists' Prize for Health Sciences and Prof. Kayode Adebowale National Young Scientists' Prize for Chemical Sciences. The prizes were won by Dr. Chinwe Chukwudi (University of Nigeria, Nsukka), Dr. Enitome Bafor (University of Benin, Benin) and Dr. Lukman Olasunkanmi (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife), respectively.

A total of thirty-eight papers were presented at the conference including a keynote lecture and three plenary sessions. Three panel sessions were also held featuring distinguished academics, industry experts and political office holders. On behalf of the NYA, the Executive body of the NYA appreciated the Vice-Chancellor of FUPRE, Prof. Akii Ibadode, for graciously hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Conference and General Assembly.



A cross-section of participants and guests at the formal Opening Ceremony of the 2017 NYA conference at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun

# TOWN AND GOWN SHOULD COLLABORATE FOR MEANINGFUL IMPACT

## Conference communique

At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Nigerian Young Academy conference held between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, a communique was issued and signed by the outgoing President, Dr Emmanuel Odjadjare. An excerpt of the communique is presented below:

### Preamble

The theme of the conference is indeed appropriate and pertinent in view of dire circumstances facing Nigeria today. Efforts to combat the prevailing economic recession have many angles to it because the problem is in itself multifaceted. Hence, the solution must not only be sought after by the government and industry, but also by all segments of the society, including the academia. As a part of the stakeholders in solving the problem of recession, the conference participants reached the following resolutions:

### Resolutions

1. NYA is accepting the challenge to assist the country to combat the prevailing economic recession through deploying its talents and resources to advance scientific researches and innovations that will redress the current local content deficiency in our country's economy.
2. It was noted in the foregoing that the Nigerian local content policy, for

reasons of its restricted coverage as well as defects in the implementation mechanism, is not working as it is expected. We, therefore, posit that to produce the desired results, the local content policy must be expanded in scope to cover more sectors besides oil and gas. It must be linked to other vital areas of national life such as educational policy as it relates to science, technical and vocational training.

3. For the NYA's aspiration to become an effective instrument for combating economic recession therefore, its members are braced up to collaborate with other segments of the society, and if possible, constitute themselves into a pressure group, which will on a continuing basis strive to influence policy makers (legislators and the executive arm of government) as well as entrepreneurs.
4. The organisation of faith-based political parties may be the way forward for Nigeria in order to proffer solutions to the current chaos in Nigeria.
5. We suggest measures to resolve the armed groups' proliferation, such as improved border security, aggressive public awareness, sensitization

campaigns and the enhancement of the capacities of security agencies to deal with the problem through focused training and deployment of modern technology, amongst others. However, there would be a missing link, until the weak law for dealing with such offences is reviewed.

6. Nigeria seems to be groping in the dark in terms of national development; hence, she continues to face serious economic challenges. It is imperative that every society must continuously return to its cherished values. For Nigeria therefore, in its effort to be rejuvenated, it is imperative that it anchors its mission on strong values and meet the basic needs of its citizens. In doing this, the political class at the moment should be in the vanguard of working to restore our jettisoned social values.
7. The fact therefore, remains that as long as most Nigerians remain unemployed, hungry and the education of the youths is not properly tackled, Nigeria will continue to be under the siege of insecurity. In view of this, our leaders must show true commitment to good governance which will guarantee the provision of dividends of democracy to the good people of Nigeria. This will, invariably, be a right step in stemming recession in Nigeria.

## NYA INDUCTS NINE NEW MEMBERS IN EFFURUN

The Nigerian Young Academy, as part of her annual exercise, inducted nine new members into her fold. This followed their strict selection from the pool of about sixty candidates who applied for membership of the Academy. The short profiles of the newly-inducted members of the Academy are presented below:

**Name:** Dr Lukman Kolawole ABIDOYE

**Affiliation:** Department of Civil Engineering, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Application of multiphase techniques in water purification.

**Name:** Dr Isaac Oluseun ADEJUMO

**Affiliation:** Department of Animal Science, Federal University, Gashua, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Production of novel feed varieties

**Name:** Dr Emmanuel Jolaoluwa AWOSANYA

**Affiliation:** Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Epidemiology of infectious and zoonotic diseases

**Name:** Dr Abiodun A. EGBETOKUN

**Affiliation:** National Centre for Technology Management, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Economics of innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Name:** Dr Mutiu Idowu KAZEEM

**Affiliation:** Department of Biochemistry, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Antidiabetic drug discovery and metabolism.

**Name:** Dr Aliyu MUHAMMAD

**Affiliation:** Department of Biochemistry, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Cancer chemoprevention, therapeutics and molecular toxicology.

**Name:** Dr Oluwabunmi Opeyemi OYEBODE

**Affiliation:** Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Multimodal discourse analysis and applied linguistics.

**Name:** Dr Daniel Uhunoma OKUONGHAE

**Affiliation:** Department of Mathematics, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Mathematical modelling of real life phenomena e.g. diseases.

**Name:** Dr Anthony Moses UGBENYEN

**Affiliation:** Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Edo University, Iyamho, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Isolation of biofloculant-producing bacteria for water/wastewater treatment.



A cross-section of the new inductees at the NYA conference at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Nigeria

# THREE DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS WIN NATIONAL YOUNG SCIENTISTS' PRIZES



A cross-section of the award winners (L-R: Drs Lukman Olasunkanmi, Enitome Bafor and Chinwe Chukwudi) at the 2017 NYA conference at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Nigeria.

Three distinguished scientists won the National Young Researchers Prizes of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA). These included Dr Enitome Bafor (from University of Benin), who won Prof. Friday Okonofua National Young Scientists' prize in Health sciences, Dr Chinwe Chukwudi (from University of Nigeria, Nsukka), honored with Prof. Oyewale Tomori National Young Scientists' prize in Microbiology and Dr Lukman Olasunkanmi (from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife), who was awarded Prof. Kayode Adebawale National Young Scientists' prize in Chemical sciences. Excerpt of their profiles is given below.

**Name:** Dr Enitome Evi BAFOR

**Affiliation:** Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Reproductive health and ethnopharmacology.

**Award:** Prof Friday Okonofua National Young Scientists' prize in Health sciences

**Name:** Dr Chinwe Uzoma CHUKWUDI

**Affiliation:** Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Molecular mechanisms of actions of tetracyclines and antibiotic resistance.

**Award:** Prof Oyewale Tomori National Scientists ' prize in Microbiology

**Name:** Dr Lukman Olawale OLASUNKANMI

**Affiliation:** Department of Chemistry, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

**Research focus:** Inhibition of metal corrosion by organic compounds using various experimental and theoretical methods.

**Award:** Prof Kayode Adebawale National Young Scientists' prize in Chemical sciences

## ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) at her last General Assembly held at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, elected new members into the Executive council. This followed the expiration of the two-year tenure (2015

– 2017) of the previous Executive led by Dr Emmanuel Odjadjare. The new officers are Drs. Temitope Olomola (President), Isoken Igbiosa (Vice-President), Matthew Omoruyi (General Secretary), Oluwatosin Rotimi (Financial Secretary) and Elijah

Adebayo (Treasurer). Other members are Drs Idowu Kazeem (Publicity Secretary), Abiodun Egbetokun (Technical and Logistics Secretary), Emmanuel Odjadjare (Ex-Officio I) and Temitope Jaiyeola (Ex-Officio II).

## NYA PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTES TO HER EXITING MEMBERS

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) paid glowing tributes to her erstwhile members who exited the academy in 2017. This was part of the activities of the 2017 NYA conference held at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun. The immediate past President, Dr Emmanuel Odjadjare who incidentally belongs to this group, described his colleagues as brilliant researchers that rendered selfless service to the academy within their five-year tenure. The exited members included Drs Sunny Abarikwu, Misbaudeen Abdul-Hammed, Matthew Adebayo, Ayodeji Oluwatope, Clement Isaac and Ayodeji Morakinyo. Others were Drs Emmanuel Odjadjare, Ahmed Oloyo, Mojisola Usikalu and Olufunke Fayehun. The academy wished them success in their future endeavours as they joined the league of her distinguished fellows.



A cross-section of some exiting members (L-R: Drs Emmanuel Odjadjare, Clement Isaac and Sunny Abarikwu) of the academy at the 2017 NYA conference at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun



**A**nnals of Science and Technology (AST), the official journal of the Nigerian Young Academy henceforth, will be published by De Gruyter Open. De Gruyter is a classified and highly reputable publishing outlet that publishes peer-reviewed journals and books on various subjects and disciplines, with their head office in Germany. AST is a standard journal that publishes both theoretical and experimental high quality articles twice in a year. It publishes research articles, state of the art reviews and short communications in the field of biological, health, chemical, mathematical and physical sciences, as well as engineering and technology.

More information on the journal such as submission guideline can be found in the link below; <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/ast>

## PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT

### MEMBERS

**DR. HUMPHREY ADEBAYO** was promoted to the rank of Professor at Covenant University (effective December 15, 2017).

**DR. OBINNA NWINYI** was promoted to the rank of Professor at Covenant University, Ota (effective December 15, 2017).

**DR. OLATUNJI KOLAWOLE** was appointed as the Acting Director, Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology, University of Ilorin, Ilorin (effective November 2017).

### Fellow

**DR. OLUYOMI ADEYEMI**, was elevated to the rank of Associate Professor at Landmark University, Omu-Aran (effective November 10, 2017).

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### TWAS-CAS President PhD Fellowship

This fellowship provides students/scholars that are non-Chinese citizens an opportunity to pursue doctoral degrees at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) or Institutes of CAS around China. For details:

<https://twas.org/opportunity/cas-twas-presidents-phd-fellowship-programme>

**Deadline:** March 31, 2018

### International Climate Protection Fellowship

Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation welcome applications from early-career researchers from developing countries that are active in any area of climate change, for the International Climate Protection Fellowship. For details:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/icf.html>

**Deadline:** March 1, 2018.

## EVENTS & NEWS

### Anti-plagiarism workshop

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) in conjunction with the School of Postgraduate Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria presents an Anti-Plagiarism Workshop.

**Theme:** Pains and Gains of Quality Research: Combating the 'Plagiarism Cancer' and other Unethical Practices

**Date:** Monday, February 5, 2018

**Venue:** African Leadership Development Centre, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State

**Time:** 11.00 am – 3.00 pm prompt

### Capacity-building workshop

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) with the support of The Interacademy Partnership-Carnegie Project (IAP) presents a Capacity Building Workshop for Young (Early-Career) Women Academics in West Africa

**Date:** Wednesday, March 7 - Thursday March 8, 2018

**Venue:** Academy House, 8A Ransome-Kuti Road, University of Lagos Campus, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos.

### Call for NYA membership and prizes

The call for submission of application for membership of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) and National Young Researchers' prizes will be released soon. Watch out on our website and social media platforms.

[www.nigerianyongacademy.org](http://www.nigerianyongacademy.org)

**Facebook page:** contactNYA

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