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Special Release

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APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) - PROFESSOR ABEL IDOWU OLAYINKA



The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN has given executive approval on behalf of Council, to the appointment of Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka of the Department of Geology as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) for a two- year-term, with effect from Friday, 17 December, 2010. By this appointment, Prof. Olayinka becomes the 6th Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University.

Prof. Idowu Olayinka was born on 16 February, 1958. He attended Saint Bartholomew's Primary School, Odo-Ijesa, from 1964 to 1969 and was appointed the Senior Prefect in his final year. He was admitted to Ilesa Grammar School, Ilesa, in 1970 and completed his secondary school in 1975, finishing in Division One. He enrolled at the University of Ibadan in 1977 and completed his BSc (Geology) with Second Class Honours (Upper Division) in July, 1981. He was the best graduating student in his class.

He participated in the National Youth Service Corp scheme as a Hydrogeologist in the Hydrogeology/Hydrology Division of the Federal Department of Water Resources, Port Harcourt, between 1981 and 1982, during which time he had the opportunity to participate in the National Borehole Programme Phase I in the old Rivers State (now Rivers and Bayelsa States). He was employed as a Geophysicist with Deptol Consultants, from July 1982 to August 1983, and carried out extensive field work in the present-day Kaduna, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Taraba States.

Prof. Idowu Olayinka proceeded to the United Kingdom in September, 1983 for his postgraduate studies. He read Geophysics at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, obtaining an MSc of the University of London and the Diploma of Imperial College, in July, 1984. Between 1985 and 1987, he was at the Research School of Geological Sciences, the University of Birmingham, for a doctoral research in Applied Geophysics. He subsequently had post-doctoral training in Germany, at the Institute for Geophysics and Meteorology, Technical University, Braunschweig (1996) and at the Department of Applied Geophysics, Technical University, Berlin (1997-1999).

He joined the academic staff of the University of Ibadan in April 1988, as Lecturer Grade II. He rose through the ranks, being promoted Lecturer I in 1991, Senior Lecturer in 1994, and Professor of Applied Geophysics in 1999.

He has supervised six PhD theses and 76 MSc dissertations. He has authored and co-authored 43 articles in refereed scholarly journals. He has written one book and co-authored 11 chapters in books on aspects of research methodology. He has attended seminars, workshops and other scientific meetings in many parts of the world and has presented 97 Conference/Workshop papers.

At the University of Ibadan, Prof. Idowu Olayinka has served in many positions of responsibility. These include Departmental Postgraduate Coordinator (1989-1997); Sub-Dean (Postgraduate), Faculty of Science (1995 – 1997); Sub-Dean, Postgraduate School (1999 – 2001); Member, Faculty of Science Appointments and Promotions Panel since 1999; Member, University Senate (1994 – 1997; 2000 till date); Dean of the Postgraduate School, 2002-2006; Head, Department of Geology 2001 – 2002; 2006-2010; Member, representing Senate on the University Governing Council, 2007-date. He was appointed Chairman, Senate Curriculum Committee in February, 2007. He is also a member of many important ad-hoc and standing committees of Senate and Council. In September, 2010, he was invited by the then Vice-Chancellor designate to serve as a member of the Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) which was charged with the responsibility of producing a five year (2010-2015) blueprint for the Prof. Isaac F. Adewole administration. Professor Olayinka was Chairman and Convener of the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee and also Chairman and Convener of the Harmonization Sub-Committee of TAC.

He is a Fellow, Geological Society of London; Member, European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers, The Netherlands; Member, Environmental and Engineering Geophysics Society, USA; Member of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE); Member, Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS); Member, Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists; and Member, Science Association of Nigeria (SAN). He was Chairman, Local Organising Committee of the 40th Annual Conference of SAN (March, 2004).

Prof. Idowu Olayinka is currently Chairman of the Awards Committee of the NMGS; Associate Editor, Global Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences; and Deputy Editor of the Nigerian Journal of Science. He previously served as Editor-in-Chief, Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists from 2008-2010, and Associate Editor of the Journal of Mining and Geology from 1994-2004. He is a peer reviewer for many learned journals, including the European Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics.

He has served as Consultant to many organizations/clients including the Shell Petroleum Development Company Ltd, the Bitumen Project Implementation Committee, Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (2009).

He received the Overseas Research Students' Award from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of United Kingdom Universities (1985-1987), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Award for Senior Academics (1996) and the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Research Fellowship, 1997 - 1999, and 2003.

In 1999, he won an equipment grant from the AvH Foundation, Bonn, Germany. The Multi-electrode resistivity array and accessories, was worth about 27, 000 US Dollars. This facility has helped greatly in the execution of research projects of many MSc and PhD candidates in Applied Geology and Geophysics, in the Department of Geology.

He has won the prestigious TOTAL Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited /NMGS Prize thrice - 1998, 2000 and 2006- respectively. He also won the Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company Nigeria Limited/NAPE Prize in 1996. He has received travel grants from Schlumberger Nigeria Ltd (2001), Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited (1998 and 2002), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (2002), the Association of Commonwealth Universities, London (2004), the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa (2004), the Shell Petroleum Development Company Ltd (2004), the National Universities Commission (2008), the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (2009), and the Canadian International Development and Research Corporation (IDRC) (2009, 2010).

He leads an active Applied Geophysics Research Group in the Department of Geology, University of Ibadan and collaborates actively with researchers from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Federal University of Technology, Akure (Nigeria), Technical University, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, and Technical University, Berlin (Germany). The research group has undertaken extensive geophysical surveys for siting water-supply boreholes in many parts of Southwestern Nigeria and site characterization in the Niger Delta. His current research interests include computer modelling studies and geoelectrical imaging, their hydro-geological and environmental applications, and research methodologies.

He served as Guest Lecturer in the Institute of Geophysics, Technical University, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany. He has also been Visiting Lecturer or External Examiner to some Nigerian Universities including those at Ado-Ekiti, Akure, Ilorin, Ago-Iwoye, Ile-Ife, Yola, Covenant University and Bells University, Ota. He has been invited to serve as External Assessor for professorial candidates in Geology, Applied Geophysics and Applied Physics in 13 different Universities. He has served as a Member of the National Universities Commission Accreditation Team in Physical Sciences to some Nigerian universities.

Prof. Olayinka convened the First International Conference on Research Management in West Africa in Lagos in November, 2006. This led to the establishment of the West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA), with secretariat/headquarter at the University of Ibadan. He served as Chairman of the Steering Committee, from 2006 till 2010 and was elected the President of the Executive Committee of WARIMA for a two-year term in December, 2010.

He received a Merit and Leadership Award from St. Luke's Anglican Church, Molete, Ibadan, April 2010; Distinguished Award for Excellence, National Council for Exceptional Children, August 2007; and Distinguished Award of Excellence, Sultan Bello Hall, University of Ibadan, 2005. He was cited in 'Who's Who in Nigeria,' Nigerian International Biographical Centre, 2003 and received a Gold Medal from the American Biographical Institute, Inc, Raleigh, NC, USA, in October 2010. Prof Idowu Olayinka is the Chairman of the Ibadan Branch of the Ilesa Grammar School Old Students' Association and he is cited as one of the 70 prominent alumni/alumnae of the school (<http://www.ilegrams.org>).

He has been involved in the mentoring of emerging scholars/early career researchers, encouraging scholarship and scholarly publications, capacity building (including skills for writing competitive grant proposals), institutionalizing research management, and fund mobilisation and prudent management.

Prof. Idowu Olayinka's vision is to see the University of Ibadan evolve as the most preferred tertiary institution in Africa for knowledge acquisition and functional human capital development. He hopes to contribute effectively towards improving UI's reputation, quality and impact. His mission is to be part of efforts to empower UI adequately for the national, regional and international development challenges of a 21st century knowledge-driven, rapidly globalizing international economy.

He is happily married and blessed with children.

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