



2841

Special Newsletter

23 March, 2012

## **University of Ibadan signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations University and University of Tokyo**

Dateline 01-03/03/12

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. I.F. Adewole, FAS has on behalf of the University of Ibadan witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding involving the United Nations University, the University of Tokyo, Japan and the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

The signing ceremony took place at an International Seminar on Sustainability Science Research and Education in support of Africa's Development organised by the University of Tokyo Graduate Programme in Sustainability Science and held in Tokyo, Japan.

The University of Ibadan team to the Seminar was led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. I.F. Adewole who presented a stimulating keynote address on **Sustainability Science in African Higher Education**. Other members of the delegation were Prof. Labode Popoola, the Director of CESDEV and Prof. Janice Olowoye, a former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry. The presentations by the three participants from Ibadan on the University's approach to Sustainable Development Research and Education elicited great interests among participants.



**Prof. Adewole and others at the signing of the MOU**

The purpose of the International Seminar was three fold

- To serve as a launching of events for Global Leadership Initiative (GLI)
- To explore ways to strengthen international research network for sustainability science especially in support of sustainable development concerns of African countries; and
- To develop short and long term research perspectives on sustainable development in Africa.

The Global Programme of Sustainability Science (GPSS) of which the University of Tokyo is the lead institution, is the new initiative in graduate education, entitled Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) with a multi-year funding support from the Japanese Government.

The GLI is conceived as a 5-year Ph.D. programme aimed at developing global leaders who are capable of internalizing and practicing holistic, resilient and transboundary perspectives for bringing about a sustainable society. The graduates from the programme will be expected to become leaders at local, national and international levels to shape public policy based on sustainability principles, University professors and researchers to spear-head a global sustainability Science network; and practicing professionals in enterprises, NGOs and Community organizations for leading experimentation in sustainable living.

One important thrust in this new initiative is transboundary learning for the enrolled students as well as faculty, especially in respect of sustainable development concerns in African countries. The GPSS is collaborating with the United Nations University programme on Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) to promote exchanges with the leading African Universities participating in the ESDA programmes so that concrete

opportunities may be created for research and educational collaboration benefitting both sides.

The University of Ibadan is one of the eight African Universities selected for this initiative. The others are: University of Cape Town; University of Ghana, Legon; University of Zambia; University for Development Studies, Tamale; University of Nairobi, Kenya; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; and Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Meanwhile, the University of Ibadan is to pioneer the Master's Programme in Integrated Rural Development (MIRD) which will be hosted at the CESDEV. Prof. Janice Olawoye will serve as the pioneer Coordinator.

Thank you.

**V.A.A. Adegoroye**  
**Acting Registrar**

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**SECURITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

<b>Main Office</b>	<b>Main Gate</b>	<b>Second Gate</b>	<b>The Polytechnic, Ibadan Gate</b>
08033889854	08033909739	08060420982	08030667385
08051865795	08051865781	08077468750	08077468746
08083172857	08083172912	08083172914	08083172913

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