

KEYNOTE ADDRESS PRESENTED BY DR. ONYEKA UWAKWE, DEAN SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, OKO, ANAMBRA STATE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AUGUST 25th - 26th, 2020

Protocols,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all to the 1st International Conference of the School of Information Technology with the theme "Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development."

The conference is timely in various respects. First, It is coming at a crucial time when regardless of the excruciating challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic that had crippled economies and social lives. Scholars are thus surmounting odds by breaking communication and economic barriers to contribute significantly towards achieving the sustainable development goals of our clime. Secondly, it is an e-conference with all the trappings of contributing to scholarship innovatively, despite the woes caused by the pandemic where physical interactions in large groups are almost impossible.

Sustainable Development involves meeting human goals and objectives. Nigeria needs to achieve her many goals to change her recurring stories of extreme poverty, poor leadership, unemployment, economic mismanagement, most recently banditry and terrorism as well as the general vestiges of underdevelopment. Ironically, Nigerians are discussing SDGs in the face of unfulfilled MDGs.

In Africa, the themes of development are not in short supply, but trends in sustainable development are also in short supply. Ranking high on these themes of development is the issue of leadership. On August 19, 2020 Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced around midnight on Tuesday that he resigned

from his post saying that he did not wish blood to be shed following a military mutiny. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/soldiers-arms-mali-crisis-deepens-live-updates-200818124326841.html>). The interrupting to civil rule has not gone down well and is considered an aberration in modern-day Africa. Even though many African leaders have fallen short of leadership expectations, military coups have been blacklisted as an option for solutions to democratic and economic problems. Military intervention is undoubtedly a means of worsening African issues.

The road to sustainable development is thorny, particularly in Africa where military interferences in politics, greed, ethnicity, unemployment, rapid population growth, illiteracy and other social maladies have slowed down the wheels of progress.

With COVID-19 causing adverse damages to our already staggering economy, charting a way forward for Nigerians to pick up her pieces and bounce back to economic prosperity is significant.

The conference is designed to bring together innovative academics, researchers and industrial experts in the field of Information Science and Technology, Social Science and Humanities to a common forum.

Conference Aims and Objectives

The conference aims to bring together global participants— leading and budding academics, researchers and scholars to share ideas and experiences.

The conference provides an interdisciplinary platform for educationists and researchers to present and discuss trends, issues and field experiences. The conference, therefore, offers an opportunity for participants to discuss the

dynamics of media, information and communications technology, information science, engineering and technology, innovations, research trends, etc.

Going by the papers received, it is heart-warming that Nigerians are bringing discussions on ICTs and new media to front burners. Having missed the Industrial Revolution, this effort will ensure Nigerians are not left out on new media revolution and benefits.

The United Nations SDGs

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were also built on the principle of "leaving no one behind," the new Agenda emphasizes a "holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all" (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>).

This conference is part of our commitment to sharing the vision of 2030 Agenda. Consequently, the conference will create an emphatic voice in the drive towards wrestling our many societal challenges.

Conclusion

It is my utmost belief that the cross-fertilization of ideas by revered and budding scholars at this conference will, in various ways ensure that Nigeria rises above board in tackling her prominent challenges. Conferees are expected to suggest solutions for development, social and technological and allied problems such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is expected too, that the conference, in line the global initiatives of Vision 2030, will make suggestions for better living globally.

I wish all conferees rewarding and fulfilling deliberations as we lend our scholarly and industrial voices to that of others in enthroning sustainable development in Nigeria, Africa and the world. By so doing, we will be contributing to making the world a better place to live.

We are thankful to the Rector, Engr. Dr. Francisca Nwafulugo, for accepting to deliver a keynote speech on this conference. Conference papers that meet the peer-review and publication guidelines will be considered for publication at <https://globalcommunicatorjournal.com/index.php> or <https://ojcis.net/>.

Thanks for participating and God bless.

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