

Your Excellency, the Governor of Ondo State and Visitor of the Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON,
His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Ondo State , Mr. Lucky Ayedatiwa,
The Speaker, Ondo State House of Assembly,
The Chief Judge of Ondo State,
Member of Ondo State Executive Council,
The Chancellor of the University, His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan, CON, FPD-CR, FNIM, FICA, Okoro Ajiga 1, Olugbo of Ugboland,
The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the University, Professor Akinbo Adesomoju, Members of the Governing Council,
Principal Officers of Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology,
Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts of other Institutions,
Principal Officers of other Institutions,
Your Majesties,
My Lord Spiritual and Temporal,
Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed,
Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund), Arc. Sonny S.T Echomo, OON, FNIA
Deans, Heads of Departments and Directors of Centres/Institutes,
Members of Senate and Congregation,
The University Community,
Distinguished Guests,
My dear Graduands, Parents and Guardians,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

It is with great joy and thanks to Almighty God that I join our highly revered Chancellor, His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan, CON, FPD-CR, FNIM, FICA, Okoro Ajiga 1, Olugbo of Ugboland, and our amiable and well respected Pro-Chancellor, Professor Akinbo Adesomoju to welcome our Visitor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON to this Maiden Convocation Ceremony of this University. I welcome our distinguished guests, graduands, staff and students to this Convocation ceremony which happens to be the very first of its kind since the establishment of this great University in 2008. Today's convocation therefore represents a watershed in the annals of this university.

I want to specially welcome our Guest Lecturer for today's convocation, Emeritus Professor Olufemi Bamiro, the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan.

Highlight of the Convocation

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, at this ceremony, the university is conferring a Postgraduate Degree of Doctor of Business Administration (Honoris Causa) of the Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology on our Chancellor, His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr.) F.E.O. Akinruntan, CON, FPD-CR, FNIM, FICA, Okoro Ajiga I, Olugbo of Ugboland. This award is in recognition of his success stories in the global business environment which he traversed scientifically with regal success.

With respect to our graduands, we have a total of 982 graduands from five sets that have earned our University's first degrees in the 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 session.

The breakdown from 2014-2020 further shows that a total of 26 graduands made First Class out of 982 graduates; 307 made Second Class Upper Division, 488 in Second Class Lower Division and 161 in Third class.

Graduand Statistics (2014 – 2020)

Year	First Class	Second Class Upper Division	Second Class Lower Division	Third Class	Total
2014/2015	7	23	28	6	64
2015/2016	3	25	40	3	71
2016/2017	Nil	47	59	16	122
2017/2018	5	37	57	30	129
2018/2019	5	75	86	36	202
2019/2020	6	100	218	70	394
Grand Total	26	307	488	161	982

Our Achievement in the last one year

(i) Program Expansion

The University in her bid to train competent hands in various field of study for the development of the country, recently hosted a Team from the National Universities Commission for Resource Verification of the following programme in the School of Management Sciences:

- B.Sc. Accounting
- B.Sc. Business Administration
- B.Sc. Entrepreneurship Management
- B.Sc. Project Management

By the grace of God, the National Universities Commission gave approval for the commencement of the above programs in 2022/2023 session.

The following programmes in the School of Earth Sciences and the School of Basic Medical Sciences are awaiting NUC Resource Verification. They are:

- (i) B.Sc. Applied Geology
- (ii) B.Sc. Nursing Science,

In the School of Engineering, we would be commencing B.Sc. Computer Engineering, B.Sc. Petroleum and Gas Engineering; and B.Sc. Marine Engineering from 2023/2024 academic session.

(ii) Proposed School of Maritime Transport and Logistics

We are also grateful to the Visitor Sir, for his support through Ondo State Oil Mineral Producing Commission (OSOPADEC) for the construction of a proposed School of Maritime Transport and Logistics at Ugbo Nla. The Maritime Academy when completed hopefully by September, 2023 will run the following courses which would help us to drive the blue economy.

- B.Sc. Nautical Science
- B.Sc. Port and Shipping Management
- B.Sc. Maritime Transport and Logistics
- B.Sc. Maritime Economics and Finance
- B.Sc. Coastal Tourism
- B.Sc. Maritime Security

(iii) Repositioning of the Postgraduate School

At the postgraduate level, we have also established two research centres, Centre for Blue Economy and Innovation and Centre for Governance and Business Technology not only to increase our IGR but more importantly to drive the training of manpower in the following areas.

- Public Administration and E-Government
- Business Administration and E-Commerce
- Finance and E-Banking
- Agric Business Management
- Forensic Accounting,
- Coastal Environmental Management
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology,
- Coastal Tourism
- Port and Shipping Management
- Coastal Bio-technology

(iv) Research, Grants and Fellowship Awards

As a University, our research agenda is based on the concept of Blue Economy. This is the economy of the marine, coastal and ocean environment. To drive this, we are establishing the School of Maritime Transport and Logistics, and the Centre for Blue Economy and Innovation.

Our collaboration with the Caribbean Maritime University, Kingston, Jamaica which the Visitor facilitated in 2018 is yielding fruits. This School will produce the needed manpower that will drive the blue economy of the state and Nigeria, especially now that the State government wants to develop the deep seaport in the coastal region of the state.

We are leveraging on our strategic location at the coast to develop programmes and courses that will produce the needed manpower in the critical field of maritime sectors/industry. In terms of fellowship award, I am proud to inform you that some of our staff are recipients of prestigious fellowship awards. They are:

- Dr. A.O. Oladimeji of the Department of Chemical Sciences received CSIR – TWAS Postdoctoral award at the Indian-Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India in 2020; and 2022/2023.
- Dr. D.A. Omoboyowa of the Department of Biological Science received the ICCBS-TWAS Postdoctoral Fellowship award in 2019.
- Dr. Modupeoluwa Ejelonu of the Department of Chemical Science received a fellowship to Indian Agricultural College, in 2022; and was recently invited as a Visiting Fellow to the University of Vienna Austria to deliver a Guest Lecture to Postgraduate Students in Chemical Sciences in January, 2023; and finally,
- Mr. Maxwell Adeyemi, a lecturer in the Department of Animal Production and Health won an International Foundation for Science (IFE) Research Grant worth 15,000 Euros to undertake a six months research in one of the leading universities in Argentina.

(v) Public Lectures and International Visitation

The University has continued to attract international scholars and visitors.

Professor Jimmy Adegoke, Director of the Centre for Applied Environmental Research University of Missouri, Kansas City Missouri delivered a lecture on international collaboration on April 4, 2022.

Professor Victor Mbarika from University of North Carolina, USA, and President of ICT University visited on May 25, 2022.

Professor Hakeem Tijani from Morgan State University delivered a lecture to the University community on July 10, 2022.

The first Registry Annual Lecture – “Imperative of Paradigm Shift in University Administration in Nigeria” was delivered by Dr. Omojola Awosusi on 1st February, 2023.

Professor Ajaguna, the Interim President of Caribbean Maritime University, Kingston Jamaica was in our University on January 13, 2023 to discuss renewal of our MoU with his University.

(vi) Infrastructural Development and Tetfund Projects

- In the last one year, we have completed a twin lecture classroom of 300 capacity sponsored by the Needs Assessment under the Federal Ministry of Education
- Completion of the second phase building of the School of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources sponsored by TETFund 2020 intervention.
- The Visitor Sir, I am happy to report that the University has just received a special intervention from TETFund for the construction of student hostel.
- We are also grateful to the Visitor for the 2.5km road project in the University which is currently on-going.
- On-going construction of the School of Management Sciences from our 2022 Annual TETFund intervention
- Construction of on-going 400 capacity ICT (CBT Centre) funded from 2022 TETFund Zonal Intervention
- Central Engineering Workshop under construction funded from our IGR
- Construction of 300 capacity Lecture Theatre sponsored by Omodayo Owotuga Foundation. This 60 million naira project was facilitated by the Special Adviser on Education, Dr. Wunmi Ilawole.

(vii) **ICT and improved funding for the University**

We have eliminated manual registration of courses by students through the introduction of a new student Portal and a new software for result processing. The new portal has helped in the recovering of outstanding students' debt of about one hundred million naira (₦100M) owed the university by students. It has also helped to block all leakages in our internally generated revenue. This has helped in eliminating manual processing and issuance of students transcripts. We now issue e-transcripts.

(viii) **Improved Security of life and property in the University**

The university properties are now more secured with the re-structuring of the security architecture of the campus. Cases of theft and vandalization of university electricity cables and transformers which were very rampant before have become things of the past.

(ix) **Development of the first strategic plan for the University**

A 10-year strategic plan for Olusegun Agagu University (2023-2033) has been developed which will form the blue print for its development. This is the first of its kind since the inception of the university in 2008. It is a vision-driven 10-year strategic plan that will guide the operation of the University from 2023-2033. The document has provided the roadmap to achieving the University's vision and mission, while specifying the critical decision to be taken about the future of the University.

(x) **Improved Visibility and International Collaboration/Partnership with leading Universities in the world:**

In order to improve our ranking, visibility research and academic standing the University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the following leading Universities in the world;

- University of Missouri, Kansas City, United States
- Auburn University, Alabama, USA
- University of Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- University of Texas at Austin, United States,
- Morgan State University, Maryland, USA
- The University of The Gambia
- ICT University in Yaounde, Cameroon
- United Nations African Regional Institute for Geospatial Science and Technology, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

We have also re-constructed our University website for improved visibility and ranking.

(xi) **Digitization of Akinbo Adesomoju Library**

I want to seize this opportunity to thank the Olusegun Agagu Foundation for donating 25 million naira to the University for the digitization of the University Library project. The project is on-going. Other areas of achievement include:

- Establishment of Olusegun Agagu Leadership Academy for the training of the next generation of leaders in our University and the country.
- Establishment of the Olusegun Agagu University Press and Bookshop.
- Promotion of scholarship and culture of Research Excellence
- Establishment of the Directorate of Linkage and Internationalization to drive the internationalization agenda and policy of the University.

(xii) **Staff and Students Welfare**

Within the constraints of our financial resources, we have been able to put smiles on staff and students' faces. In the last six months, staff are paid full salaries. The era of paying staff in percentages or paying net salary is gone. I want to appreciate the Visitor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON for the regular payment of our monthly subvention

Challenges Confronting the University

- (i) **Funding:** Let me appreciate the Visitor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu SAN, CON for the allocation of Three hundred and fifty million Naira only (₦350,000,000.00) for capital project to the university, and ₦150 million for accreditation of the programmes in the School of Agriculture, School of Science and the School of Engineering in this year 2023 budget. It is our expectation that Government will release this money to the University on time. We have less than 8 months to accreditation.

We want to specially plead with Mr. Governor to help us increase our monthly subvention of 42 million Naira as it has made it practically impossible to hire the quantum of professors required to drive our vision and fulfill our mandate as a university considering the fact that the number of Schools/Faculties has increased from three to five. Sir, the subvention we receive for now is inadequate to meet our current needs.

- (ii) **Power Supply:** We hope the reconnection of Ondo South Senatorial district to the national grid will soon be completed. This will help to reduce the cost of providing electricity which is currently high on campus.
- (iii) **Hostel accommodation:** We want to seize this opportunity to appeal to illustrious sons and daughters of Ondo State who may wish to invest in hostel accommodation in our University. They are encouraged to collaborate with us in this mutually beneficial venture by coming to come and build hostels for us based on terms and conditions. Our goal is to have 50 percent of our students resident on campus in the next three (3) years by God's grace. We want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Niger Delta Development Commission and OSOPADEC to help us complete the abandoned students' hostels in our university.

Conclusion

I want to use this opportunity to appreciate the Governor of Ondo State and the Visitor to our University, Arakunrin, Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON for the support to our University and for the opportunity given me to serve this university as the 4th Substantive Vice-Chancellor. I want to thank the Governing Council and most especially the Chairman, Professor Akinbo Adesomoju for his support at all times. I appreciate all the Unions on campus (ASUU, NASU, SSANU and NAAT) for giving me the support and cooperation. I thank members of Management, Senate, Committee of Deans and Academic Directors, Staff and Students for their support. I also appreciate all the friends of the University who have donated projects for teaching,

research and development of our University. Finally, I congratulate the Graduands, Parents and Guardians for their success.

To our graduands, I say go to the world and conquer the world. You have the skills, competencies and all that is required to change the world positively. The University holds you in high esteem. As you break the grounds, stay connected and never forget to contribute to your alma mater.

Thank you and God bless.

Professor Temi E. Ologunorisa
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