

Covenant, Tshwane Varsity Sign MoU on Sustainable Energy Solutions

Covenant University and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Pretoria, South Africa, have strengthened their existing relationship with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU, signed on Monday, July 3, 2017, between the Management of Covenant University and representatives of TUT, will see the latter's Centre for Energy and Electric Power (CEEP) working in concert with researchers in Covenant's Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Information Engineering in finding solutions to energy challenges.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Leader of the Tshwane University delegation, Professor Patricia Popoola, who expressed excitement that her university

was going into a formal agreement with Covenant University, said that TUT had hitherto had a fruitful relationship with Covenant in the area of research publications. The latest development, she added, is a step forward for both institutions.

Her colleague, Dr. Olawale Popoola, while making a brief presentation on CEEP, which he heads, revealed that the centre is into giving solutions. The main emphasis, he explained, is looking into diminishing energy reserves in Africa, then examine things that can bring about sustainable energy.

CEEP, he said, looks at issues like balancing and supply, value chain, and young entrepreneurs. According to him, CEEP is interested in innovating and implementing sustainable energy solution and resource, and using University staff and students as outlet to carry out research and contract work.

Dr. Popoola added that CEEP's initiative provides additional income for partnering universities and the centre is interested in conducting cutting edge research. "We hope Covenant University will come with us and together, we can provide solutions," he emphasized.

Giving an insight into the genesis of the MoU, the Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Covenant University, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi, said that faculty members of both universities had previously worked together on research projects, but earlier in 2017, he made a proposal to Professor Patricia Popoola on the feasibility of having a College to College collaboration because great researchers abound at Covenant University. He said that a discussion was also held on having faculty exchange.

Following the signing of the MoU, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, described it as a wonderful thing because, according to him, it was a lesson on how MoUs should be done. He said that the relationship between the two universities had already yielded fruits before its formalization.

While assuring the delegation from TUT that the relationship has the full backing of the Covenant management, the Vice-Chancellor urged faculty members involved to take the relationship to the next level.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, signing the MoU on behalf of Covenant

Also present at the occasion were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu; Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Samuel Wara; Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. David Omole; Acting Head, Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Dr. Francis Idachaba; Professor Cleophas Loto of the Mechanical Engineering Department; and a host of other faculty members from the Mechanical Engineering and the Electrical and Information Engineering Departments.

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