Charting a Resilient Future: Climate Change as a Catalyst for Sustainable National Development
Proceedings of the 5th International Conference (FESCON 2025) at Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Uli Campus, Uli, Nigeria
18 - 20 June 2025

ADDRESS BY THE DEAN FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, PROF. A. U. OKONKWO, AT THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, (FESCON 2025), CHUKWEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY, ULI CAMPUS, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

It is with great pleasure and humility that I welcome you all to the 5th International Conference of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University. It is a culture of COOU for Faculties to organize conferences every year on topical issues in the frontier of knowledge and research. This Practice emanates from the efforts of successive Vice Chancellors of this citadel of learning to encourage and drive our university to greater heights. The current Vice Chancellor Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha Fnipr, is never tired of stressing the (3 vs.) agenda of Values, Viability and Visibility of the University, urging all to key in.

Conferences such as this provide opportunities for both seasoned and upcoming scholars to present their research inputs, enable others to assist in refurbishing their papers for publications in high impact or Scopus indexed journals. Our faculty has a Google scholar journal (Ajer) in which we intend to publish such papers from this conference.

The Faculty of Environmental Sciences have always chosen conference themes that align with environmental issues, physically, socially, culturally, economically etc. The Conference theme for this year is Charting a Resilient Future; Climate change as a Catalyst for sustainable National Development. This theme builds on the remarkable foundation laid by last Conference Theme which was “Challenges of Climate Change to National Development”. We chose this year’s theme to proffer solutions to the Challenges of Climate Change to National development, derived from the last conference theme. And this theme could not have been more apt and relevant as the globe is confronted with escalating impacts of Climate Change. It is critical at this point that we develop innovative ways to promote resilience and sustainable development. Research has proved that climate Change affects all aspects of human existence. The presentations and the discussions at this conference are intended to roll out resilience for various climate changes induced activities. It is my hope that this conference will bring to fruition our desires. At this juncture let me welcome all the conferees, physical and Virtual from Anambra State and throughout the Nigerian entity and beyond. I want to appreciate the Chief host our vice Chancellor for creating the supportive environment for this conference to hold at Uli Campus of our University, despite the Security Challenges. I thank the distinguished Chairman of this Opening Ceremony for accepting to chair this session in spite of his state and Profession assignments. Arch Okechukwu Ezeobi you are welcome, I thank Our Keynote Speaker Prof. L.N Muoghalu, Dean FES for 10 years who nurtured the faculty to this height. I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our sponsors who despite the tough economic situation still found reason to extend some financial support to us. While we cannot mention all our benefactors, let us mention but a few; Innoson Group of Companies, Mayor Ihiala. L.G.A, Good Shepherd Schools Nnewi. Commissioner for Chieftaincy matters, Yokohame Gold Industries Ltd. I thank in a unique way, Hon Commissioner of Environment and Education for their enthusiasm and interest in attending this conference.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Local organizing committee, I thank the entire Family of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences our dear students, undergraduates and Postgraduates for their interest, in this conference.

I pray earnestly that God Almighty will see us through and lead us back to our various destinations. Thank you for identifying with us.

Prof. A.U Okonkwo
Dean. Faculty of Environmental Sciences
COOU, Uli Campus.