

Advancing the SDGs Goal4: Commissioning of the UN Corner & Unveiling of the Model UN Association of UNIUYO at Mbo Hall, Le Meridien Hotel /Library, Permanent Campus, Uniuyo on 23 June 2017

The Report

On April 19 2017, His Excellency, Peter Thomson, President of the United Nations General Assembly wrote and I quote ***“Everything I have learned as President of the UN General Assembly has convinced me that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda...provides humanity with the best chance we have to shape a sustainable way of life for our species on this planet.”***

Consequently, the afore mentioned necessitates action to make these goals an integral part of research, teaching and study at Universities and other institutions of learning.

And whereas, the African Youth Movement in conjunction with the University of Uyo through support and partnership from the United Nations Information Centre, Lagos, had secured reading materials and a corner within the Library of the University of Uyo where the books are being displayed, found it necessary to sensitise the students and the reading public on ‘Teaching the SDGs’ through an appropriate reading culture to enhance full utilization of the reading materials donated by the United Nations Information Centre.

Also, was the need to bring to notice the selection of outstanding students of Law, Political Science and International Studies for membership of the Model United Nations Association of University of Uyo.

The roll call of delegates to the forum included the Honourable Minister of Education (represented by the Vice Chancellor, University of Uyo), the Director General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (represented by the Director, Strategic Partnership & Liaison), the President of the National Council of Women Societies (represented by the National Treasurer), the Special Adviser to the Governor of Akwa Ibom State on Legal Matters, Vice Chancellor of University of Uyo, the Registrar, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Librarian and Bursar of the University of Uyo, the President of University of Uyo Alumni Association, Head of Department of Public Law, University of Uyo, President of the African Youth Movement, Students and proposed members of the Model United Nations Association of University of Uyo, members of the press and international consultants.

Speakers at the forum included Professor Enefiok Essien, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo and representative of the Honourable Minister of Education who spoke on ‘Education for Change’ and pledged the commitment of the University of Uyo towards ‘Teaching the SDGs’. He also thanked the African Youth Movement for collaborating with the United Nations Information Centre and for choosing the university to be the first host to a United Nations corner in Nigeria and called for more partnerships in the area of research and also an expansion of the United Nations corner to a stand-alone facility.

He mentioned that he was mandated by the Honourable Minister of Education to represent him having received an invitation to the forum.

In his speech, Dr. Friday Okpara, Director of Strategic Partnership and Liaison of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria who stood in for the Director General spoke on ‘Enterprise Education Strategies’.

In his speech, Dr. Okpara enumerated on the benefits of reading to include a culture of skill acquisition and enterprise development urging students and the reading public to always take time to research and read while planning to be able to be better informed on start-ups using successful models available through reading channels.

He said the agency had support initiatives through partnerships with the Bank of Industry and other federal government agencies to deserving entities and persons citing that students and invariably youths were a major stakeholder in the agency's programmes.

Other speakers included Dr. Geraldine Etuk, National Treasurer of the National Council of Women Societies who stood in for the National President.

Speaking on 'Women as agents of educational change' emphasized the relevance of women to a project as such as the UN Reading Corner, who by their very nature as home keepers needed to read to be able to educate their children and also better their lot in a competitive society such as ours.

She thanked the organisers for taking such a bold and pragmatic step at setting up the United Nations Reading Corner.

Obong OTU Robert Akpan, a Community Leader in his speech encouraged youths to be agents of change and to take reading as a habit and culture. He said that was the surest path to a sustainable future.

The event ended with a closing remark by the OTU, Uwem Robert, President of the African Youth Movement who thanked University of Uyo, his Alumni and the United Nations Information Centre for making the dream a reality.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/40O9KPQNzJQ>

Pictures:



L-R: Librarian, Uniuyo; Director, Strategic Partnership & Liaison, SMEDAN; Registrar, Uniuyo; DVC, Uniuyo; Vice Chancellor, Uniuyo & Representative of the Honourable Minister of Education



Cross section of students



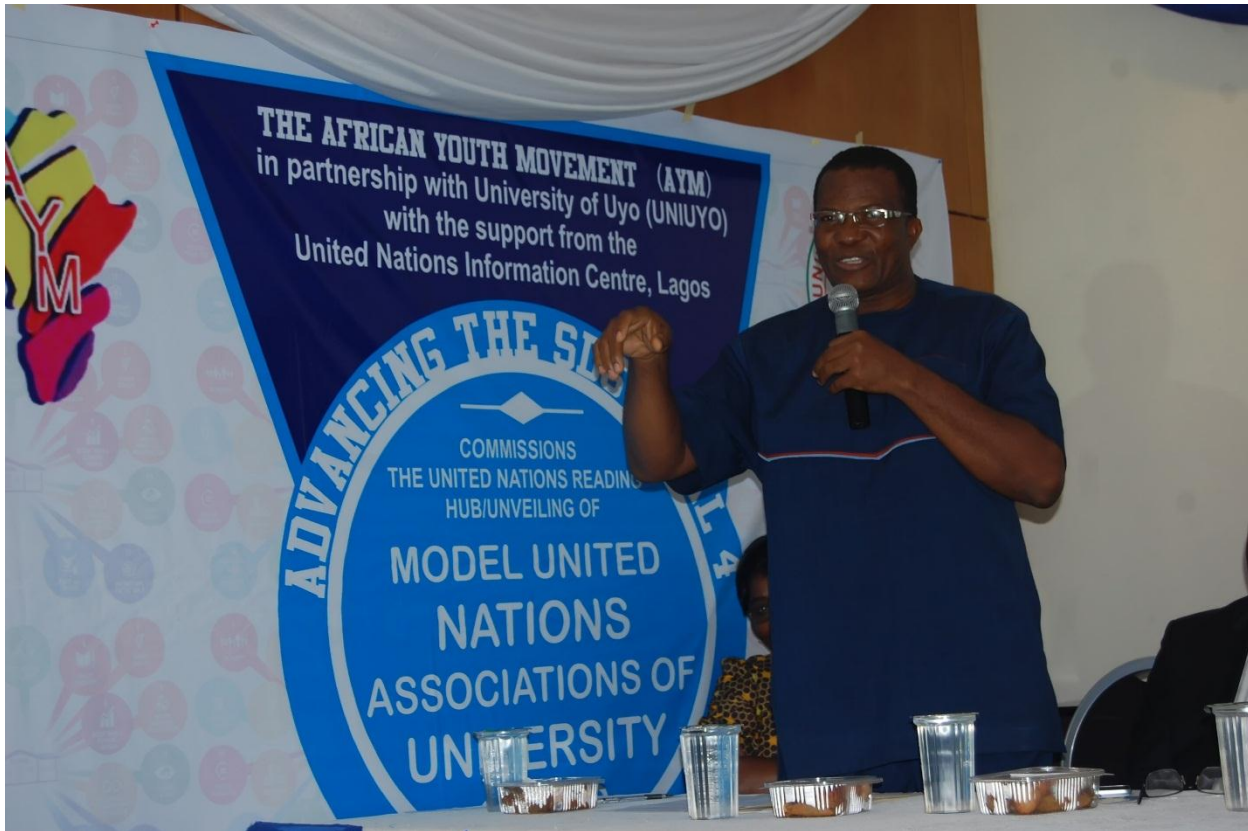
Cross section of National Council of Women Societies members



Group Photograph: AYM, Uniuyo, SMEDAN, NCWS, Uniuyo Alumni



Group Photograph with members of Model UN Association of Uniuyo & Others



Director, Strategic Partnership & Liaison, SMEDAN, Dr. Okpara speaks



Community Leader, Obong O. R. Akpan speaks with Andem Ndem Esq (SA to the Governor of AKS on Legal Matters) LEFT & Dr. Geraldine Etuk, NCWS, RIGHT