

ROAD MAP 2013

Being the text of

THE INAUGURAL SPEECH OF DR M.O. JELILI, THE AG HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, LAUTECH, OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA.

Greetings/Protocols

In the name of Almighty God, the Most Gracious, the Merciful.

All thanks and praises are due to Almighty God who has spared our lives till this time to witness a remarkable, history-making occasion, an occasion, where for the first time, an alumnus of the institution is presenting his vision and mission as the Ag Head of Department. We are particularly happy that this is taking place amidst the pomp and pageantry of the cream of the intelligentsia, who I choose to call planning icons, gurus and the progressives. Distinguish ladies and gentlemen; join me to welcome ourselves to the dawn of a new era, an era for more progress and development for all.

Where are we coming from?

Our dear fatherly professors and other colleagues, permit me to recall that God has been on the side of, and assisting the Department through the able leaderships of our past Heads of Department. Many thanks to the pioneer Head, who was able to paddle the canoe from a single-office Department to that proud of relatively gigantic structures also facilitated by his administration. Kudos also goes to the other heads of department who have also worked assiduously in making sure we became what we are today.

A particular message of gratitude is hereby registered with our progressive, erudite scholar and professor, the Ag vice-chancellor of our great citadel of learning for identifying with our dear department and making sure that the Department does not lack anything it needs to excel; we hope and pray that he continues with this good spirit.

Dear senior and other colleagues, we are proud to say that our department, which had experienced serious storm, and whose corporate existence had been threatened in the past, is today one of the academic departments at Lautech that can boast of relatively conducive office accommodation, lecture rooms, laboratory and man power of high calibre. We also must not be ungrateful to God by forgetting to mention that this department has made a lot of impacts on the outside world. On the basis of that, we want to give kudos to members of the URP family, past and present, products and staff, who have done us proud by winning national or international merit awards. I am happy to remind us that about the same year that this great department was crowned with the prize of the Best Planning School in Nigeria by the TOPREC, an alumnus of its also won a merit prize of the Second Best Candidate in the 2006 Professional Practice Examination. Not quite long from then, another academic in the Department was recognized internationally as a distinguished researcher, while another one was invited as the only delegate from a whole country, and one of the few from the continent of Africa, to a Global Meeting of a

UN-Habitat-established network that took place at the University of South Florida, USA in May 2013.

Also worthy of note is the fact that attainment of higher degrees, particularly PhD, which was hitherto considered to be a mirage has, with the encouragement of our amiable professors and hard work of our colleagues, been made a surmountable mountain. We thank God Almighty, and appreciate our able professors in the Department in this regard. We also pray for those who are still on one post-graduate programme or the other for timely completion of theirs.

Where are we going?

From the analysis above, one can say convincingly that this department has become a giant among its peers in the nation. The question that comes to the fore is: how do we maintain this and strive harder to attain greater heights? It is on the basis of this that an attempt has been made to do environmental scanning to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Also based on this, a strategic plan (attached) is proposed and presented here for your constructive criticisms and inputs.

The strategic plan is particularly based on the recognition of the fact that we need to improve seriously in the area of **‘human capacity development and research output’**.

This strategic plan, which we want to tag “Road Map 2013 – human capacity development and enhanced research output,” is aimed primarily at projecting further the image of the Department as **“one of the leading institutions and a centre of excellence for urban and regional planning education and research in the world”**. Already, we have started this as individuals, and together as a collective body with vision, we shall attain it.

I wish to put on record and emphasize that this strategic plan is and/or shall be based on the principles of: **(1) academic culture, (2) inclusive, open, transparent and accountable leadership, and (3) committed followership and discipline**. I therefore seek the support of everyone, senior and junior, old and young, male and female, teaching and non-teaching, to join hands with us to make our ‘Jerusalem’ what it deserves to be – giant among its counterparts.

I wish also to reiterate that, as human beings, there is no how one could walk that the head would not shake. If, for any reason, anybody feels agitated, they should approach the department and our fatherly professors for clarification and mutual understanding.

Once again, I thank God for today, thank everyone for your time, and for your readiness to be part of the next round of progress and development of this noble department.

Long live the Department of Urban and Regional Planning!

Long live Lautech!

Long live Oyo State and State of Osun!

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Omoakin Jelili, PhD, **Ag Head of Department, URP**

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 – Omoakin Jelili, PhD

ENHANCED CAPACITY FOR ALL

Vision: To be one of the leading institutions and a centre of excellence for Urban and Regional Planning education and research in the world.

Mission: To run an effective, transparent, accountable and inclusive administration, aimed particularly at enhancing human capacity development, academic productivity and research output, among others.

Objectives:

- To strive to maintain and improve upon the existing levels of development in areas of infrastructure/physical and social development
- To promote the principles of academic culture, discipline and accountability
- To consolidate the process of normalization of post-graduate programmes in the Department.
- To provide an atmosphere capable of promoting the spirit of self and collaborative research and publication.
- To project the image of the Department, as a planning education and research institution, beyond the shore of Nigeria and continent of Africa.

Strategies:

- To institute a transparent, inclusive and accountable committee system
- To provide comprehensive and well-structured guidelines for efficient post-graduate programmes in the Department
- To provide an avenue for assisting one another in the area of research, particularly on Mphil/PhD programmes of our colleagues, and other research areas.
- To resuscitate the departmental seminar series and workshops for participation by both insiders and outsiders
- To identify research focus areas for the Department, institute and execute joint/departmental research projects from time to time.
- To improve on the existing collections and mode of operations of the Departmental E-library
- To encourage the publication of journals, journal articles, research books, books of readings, text-books, and other related academic exercises.
- To ensure the registration of the Department, as an institutional member, with relevant international organizations (like AAPS, HPUI, etc), and promote its participation/representation at the events of such organizations.
- To encourage participation at local and international conferences
- To encourage and celebrate academic successes/break-through, in terms of research output/productivity, attainment of higher degrees, merit awards, etc.
- To launch the maiden edition of the Departmental newsletter, and continue the publication of same as well as hand-books and books of abstracts for both undergraduate and post-graduate students

Targets for the first 1-2years:

- A research focus for the Department, and commencement of a joint departmental research project
- More PhD holders
- New, comprehensive guidelines for PG programmes
- At least one Departmental Hand-book
- At least two conference papers per academic staff per year
- At least three journal papers per academic staff per year
- At least four seminar presentations per semester
- At least one book of readings, research book, or text-book
- At least two issues of the Departmental newsletter
- More senate research grants for academic staff
- More training for technical and administrative staff

Omoakin Jelili, PhD
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