

Professorial Inaugural Lecture
Balancing the Scales:
Prof. Tsauni's Vision for
Nigeria's Economic Growth

By Lamara Garba

It was a day of intellectual stimulation as Professor Ahmad Muhammad Tsauni of the Department of Economics took to the podium to deliver a thought-provoking Professorial Inaugural Lecture titled "Economic Progress on a Tightrope".

Presenting the 51st Professorial Inaugural Lecture on Thursday, 19th December, 2024 at the Convocation Arena, which drew a large and diverse audience, was a clarion call to re-examine Nigeria's economic trajectory and seek a more sustainable and inclusive path to growth.

Professor Tsauni, a renowned economist and scholar, began by attributing Nigeria's underdevelopment to its over reliance on what he termed a western script of economic reforms known as the "Washington Consensus" model of economic growth.

He advanced reason as to why contemporary therapies have failed to correct or prevent slothful economic growth in Nigeria "it should be noted that Nigeria, like other low-income economies, relies on developed economics concerning the development models, technological skills,

ideas, and other necessary capabilities required towards attaining economic progress. Therefore, Nigeria, accepts the resolutions of the "Washington Consensus" consisting broadly of free market economic ideas, which are expected to engender advancement in technological change and productivity, as the main drivers of long term growth."

Contemporary therapies for development, he noted were premised on the western experiences, and that was why the thinking of developing countries like Nigeria is, "indeed, guided by those theories, to the extent that every model to adopt, which forms the basis for development planning, is dictated by the therapies and international organisations," said Tsauni.

He explained that the Washington Consensus was built on 10 commandments which included; fiscal discipline, redirecting public expenditure, tax reform, financial liberalization, adoption of a single, competitive exchange rate and trade liberalization.

Other tools of the "consensus" are, elimination of barriers to foreign direct investment, privatization of state-owned

enterprises, deregulation of market entry and secure property rights, pointing out that the theoretical foundation underlying these policy recommendations were nothing else but neoclassical economics espousing a firm belief in the market's invisible hand.

Professor Tsauni argued that this model, which emphasizes free market principles and minimal government intervention, is ill-suited to many of the developing nations in general and Nigeria's unique socio-economic and political context in particular. "The reason is that the conventional wisdom (Washington Consensus) has not been successful across developing countries over the years.

He regretted that while Nigeria adheres to the dosages of the Washington Consensus through numerous reforms for decades to no avail, many countries like China, India, Malaysia and Singapore often departed from the consensus and have been successful in the implementation of their market-system adjusted reforms.

According to him the "Washington Consensus" has failed to deliver the promised economic growth and development in Nigeria and therefore, as a remedy, the country must throw away the theory as was the case by the Asian and other countries.

The erudite scholar went on to identify other variables that have contributed to Nigeria's economic stagnation. These include rent-seeking behaviour, compromised political economy, knowledge gap, macroeconomic instability, and flawed rule of law, weak institutions, infrastructure deficit, defective restructuring and reforms as well as the greatest monster of corruption, inconsistent policies, and a lack of adherence to the rule of law.

He further revealed that the aforementioned factors have created a toxic environment that discourages investment, stifles innovation, and perpetuates poverty in the land.

Despite the bleak picture painted by Professor Tsauni, however, he offered a message of hope and optimism. He opined that Nigeria can break free from the shackles of underdevelopment by changing its approach, tactics, and economic model in line with the country's peculiarity.

According to him, this requires a fundamental shift in mindset and a willingness to experiment with new and innovative solutions which can be achieved through enhancing capital formation, boosting infrastructure, promoting more export of manufactured goods, pursuing economic reforms with caveat, broadening access to and quality of education, fostering entrepreneurship in semi-urban and rural areas as well as strengthening the informal sector for job creation, uplifting real wage for productivity, addressing energy crisis and ensuring policy stability among many others.

Professor Tsauni's lecture was replete with insightful analysis and practical recommendations. He emphasized the need for Nigeria to develop a homegrown economic model that takes into account its unique cultural, social, and economic context. He also stressed the importance of investing in human capital, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.

"No economic therapy, whatsoever, can be effective in ensuring meaningful progress with indiscipline, corruption, vested interest, economic sabotage, distortions, leakages and lack of patriotism," he posited. He lamented that regrettably these attitudes have characterized bunch of those at the helm of affairs of the country.

Earlier speaking, the Vice Chancellor Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas who is the chairman of the occasion said the Management had attached greater premium to intellectual discuss such as professorial lecture which are avenues where solutions to societal problems could be found.

He charge professors who are yet to deliver their inaugural lecture to hasten on that saying the University had budgeted for that.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Professorial Inaugural Lecture Committee, Professor Ibrahim Sani explained the reason why inaugural lectures have been stalled for nearly three years. He said there were over 300 professors, who are yet to deliver their inaugural lecture.



Cross section of the staff

Transforming the *Almajiri* System of Education: A Call for Collective Responsibility

By Suleiman Salihu

The Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in reviving and formalizing the Al-Majiri system of education in Northern Nigeria. He made this statement during the 2nd Symposium on Tsangaya System of Education, themed “Let Us Revive Our Tsangaya System of Education” (Tarihin Tsangaya da Kalubalen Bara a Arewacin Nigeria), held on Sunday, 15th December 2024, at Mahmoud Tukur Theatre, Old Campus.

Prof. Abbas highlighted the historical significance of the Tsangaya system, which had been instrumental in promoting Islamic education and literacy in Northern Nigeria even before colonial influences. He noted that the system enabled students to read, write, memorize, and interpret the Qur'an and its teachings.

However, he identified several challenges facing the system, including the lack of formal organization, absence of standardized certification, undefined study durations, and unclear entry requirements. He called on parents and society to support the system by addressing issues such as feeding, accommodation, and healthcare to prevent students from resorting to begging.

“All stakeholders must contribute to financing the system to address its challenges and ensure its sustainability,” he urged.

The Chairman of the occasion, Khalifa Nafiu Khalifa Ishaq Rabi'u, represented by Barrister Sheikh Habibu Dan *Almajiri*, commended the university for organizing the symposium and addressing critical issues in Qur'anic education.

In his keynote address, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission of Al-Majiri and Out-of-School Children, Dr. Sani Idris, underscored the uniqueness of Qur'anic education, rooted in prophetic teachings. He advocated for pedagogical improvements and

urged parents to provide essential support for their children. He condemned begging, describing it as contrary to Islamic teachings, and cited successful models from countries like Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

Senator Sulaiman Abdurrahman Kawu Sumaila stressed the need for collaboration among parents, teachers, and the government to revive and develop the *Almajiri* system.

Historical insights were provided by Gwani Yahuza Gwani



Director, Centre for Qur'anic Studies, Prof. Ahmad Murtala (left) and VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas (right) displaying their Qur'anic Slates Award while Prof. Muhammad B. Muhammad looks on



VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas (left) presenting Qur'anic slate award to Senator Suleiman Abdurrahman Kawu Sumaila (right)

Danzarga, who traced the origins of the Tsangaya system to the Caliph Umar's era and its development through various Islamic empires.

During a stakeholder discussion, prominent figures such as Gwani Shuaibu Ringim and Gwani Umar Yusuf Jalingo acknowledged shortcomings in the system, including inadequate agreements with parents and lack of alternative revenue sources for teachers.

The Director of the Centre for Qur'anic Studies, Prof. Ahmad Murtala, highlighted the Centre's achievements

NUC Accreditation Teams Evaluate Eight Additional Programmes

By Suleiman Salihu

Bayero University, Kano (BUK), welcomed five accreditation teams from the National Universities Commission (NUC) on Monday, 16th December 2024, to evaluate eight academic programmes, bringing the total number of accredited programmes in the university to 52. The teams were received at the Senate Chamber.



Members of NUC accreditation team in a group photograph with Management of Bayero University, Kano

The team lead for the BSc Library and Information Sciences programme, Professor Emmanuel M.K. Dawba from the University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID), spoke on behalf of the five teams. He explained that their mission was to assess the university's resources and capabilities, interact with the departments, and provide

since its establishment in 2014, including training programmes, Qur'anic competitions, and special initiatives for students with disabilities. He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to promoting Qur'anic education and organizing impactful symposiums like this year's event.

The symposium concluded with a question-and-answer session, the presentation of a communiqué, and the awarding of posthumous honors to notable Qur'anic scholars.

recommendations for the advancement of the programmes.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, expressed gratitude to the teams on behalf of the university's management. He noted that accreditation exercises are routine in universities worldwide and emphasized BUK's willingness to learn and implement the teams' recommendations.

"We are open to learning from your observations and hope you may also find some best practices here to take back to your institutions," Professor Abbas stated.

He further assured the teams that the university is committed to adopting their recommendations to improve the quality of its programmes and ensure the production of competent graduates.

The Dean of Education, Dr. Abubakar Ibrahim Hassan, also expressed his appreciation to the NUC teams for their efforts and wished them a successful exercise.

The programmes under review include:

- B.Sc. Library and Information Sciences
- B.Sc. Ed. Physical Education
- B.A. Ed. French
- B.Ed. Metalwork Technology
- B.Ed. Tech. Automobile Technology
- B.Ed. Tech. Building Technology
- B.Ed. Tech. Electrical Electronics Technology
- B.Eng. Mechanical Engineering

BUK Scholar Dr. Abdullahi Shehu Wins Prestigious African Dissertation Award in the USA

By Nura Garba

Dr. Abdullahi Hamisu Shehu, a distinguished scholar from Bayero University, Kano (BUK), has been awarded the prestigious **2023 African Studies Review/Cambridge University Press Award for Best Africa-Based Doctoral Dissertation**. The honor was conferred during the 67th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA) held in Chicago, USA, from December 12 to 14, 2024.

Dr. Shehu, a faculty member in BUK's **Department of History**, earned his PhD from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. His award-winning dissertation, titled "*Procession, Pilgrimage, and Protest: A Historical Study of the Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya and Islamic Movement in*

Nigeria Public Religiosity in Northern Nigeria, 1952–2021," explores the intricate relationships between public religiosity and identity formation in northern Nigeria.

Focusing on two significant movements—the Qadiriyya-Nasiriyya, a reformed Sufi order, and the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), a Shia revivalist group—Dr. Shehu's research delves into the historical, social, and religious dynamics of public demonstrations, including Sufi processions (Maukibi) and Shia protests and symbolic journeys (Muzahara and Tattaki). His work highlights how these practices contest public space and visibility,

reflecting the sociopolitical and religious complexities of post-colonial northern Nigeria.

As a scholar affiliated with Bayero University, Kano, Dr. Shehu's recognition is a testament to the University's contribution to global scholarship. His academic journey is marked by accolades, including his roles as a Fellow of the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (Social Science Research Council, New York) and a Lisa Maskell Fellow (Gerda Henkel Foundation, Germany). Dr. Shehu has also presented his research at numerous international academic conferences and workshops.

This groundbreaking achievement not only underscores Dr. Shehu's academic excellence but also reinforces Bayero University, Kano's position as a hub for intellectual and scholarly contributions from Africa. His work provides fresh perspectives on the sociopolitical dynamics of northern Nigeria and exemplifies the transformative

impact of African scholarship on global academic discourse.



Dr. Abdullahi Shehu (left) receiving an award

Congregation: VC Commends Staff Loyalty Amidst Challenges ...Applauds Appointments of Dr. Suwaiba, Salisu Shehu, Haruna Aliyu – Hails Election of Prof. Abbas as Chair CVCFU

By Nura Garba

The Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano (BUK), Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, has commended members of staff for their unwavering support and commitment to the university's growth and development despite the numerous challenges.

Professor Abbas made the commendation at the university's 59th congregation meeting, held on Saturday 14th December, 2024 at the Convocation Arena which



VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas presenting his address

brought together stakeholders to discuss issues affecting the university.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the difficulties faced by staff, including inadequate funding, inadequate infrastructure, and other logistical challenges. However, he expressed his appreciation for the staff's resilience and dedication to their duties, which he said had helped to sustain the university's academic programs and research activities. Professor Abbas also pledged to continue working tirelessly to address the challenges facing the university and to improve the welfare of staff.

The congregation meeting provided a platform for staff to interact with the university's management and to share their concerns and suggestions on how to move the university forward. The meeting was attended by deans of faculties, directors of centers and institutes, and other senior staff members who hold a minimum qualification of first degrees and above. The Vice Chancellor's commendation was seen as a morale booster for staff, who have been working under challenging conditions to maintain the university's academic standards.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, who chaired the meeting, addressed Academic Activities, Administrative Matters, and Project Completion and Execution.

On the 2025 world ranking by the Times Higher Education (THE) the Vice Chancellor said, the performance of African universities in the 2025 WUR's where the University of Cape Town, South Africa emerged as the leading institution in the continent whilst Covenant University of Nigeria maintains its lead among the institutions that participated in the current rankings. Starting from 2019, Bayero University had been benchmarking with six institutions in Africa: University of Ghana, University of Nairobi, University of Cape Town, University of Ibadan, University of Lagos and Covenant University.

Prof Abbas stated the University's effort in capacity building for teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as specialized training all in an effort to ensure that the manpower is adequately empowered to provide efficient and effective service to the system. He also spoke on a number of the University Management's welfare packages for staff, which he said would continue. He said the shuttling of staff from the town to the University campuses

and the purchase of bicycles to distribute to junior staff would continue.

The Congregation also applauded the appointments of Dr Suwaiba Sid Ahamd as the Minister of state for education, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas as the Chairman of Committee of Vice Chancellors of Federal Universities, Haruna Aliyu as the 7th substantive Registrar of Bayero University, Kano and Professor Salisu Shehu as the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Educational Research and

Development Council.

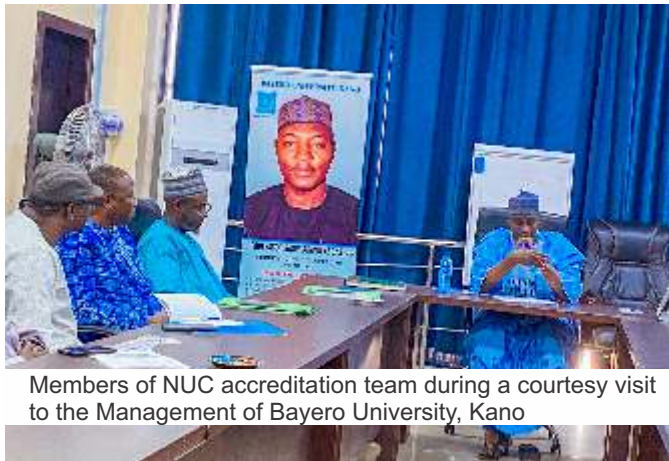
The Congregation equally acknowledged Professor Hadiza Galadanchi, the Director Africa Centre for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) for making the University proud over her centre's E-MOTIVE research breakthrough, which led to the global change of policy by the World Health Organization (WHO). The research significantly reduces the maternal mortality during birth.

NUC Accreditation Team Praises BUK's Excellence in Staff-Student Ratio and Library Resources

By Nura Garba

The National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Team has commended Bayero University, Kano (BUK) for its exceptional contributions to research and training, particularly its impressive staff-to-student ratio of 1:7, far surpassing the NUC's standard of 1:30.

The team, led by Professor Abdulhamid Auwal from the Federal University, Kashere during an exit visit to the Vice-Chancellor on Friday, 20th December 2024. highlighted several achievements of the university, including having



Members of NUC accreditation team during a courtesy visit to the Management of Bayero University, Kano

33% of its academic staff as professors, 50% as senior lecturers, and an impressive 94% of staff holding PhDs, significantly exceeding the NUC's benchmark of 70%.

“We visited the libraries, including the main University Library, and observed remarkable milestones,” he noted. “The library is well-resourced, with up-to-date texts and journals from 2024 editions. Additionally, the university

has invested heavily in solar power as a backup for potential power failures. With over 10 subscribed databases, BUK far exceeds the NUC's requirement of two databases, providing open access for staff and students to enhance their research endeavors.”

Professor Auwal also commended BUK's substantial investments in practical training facilities such as orchards and screen houses. These initiatives, he stated, prepare students to be self-reliant job creators rather than job seekers after graduation.

In response, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Professor Sani Muhammad Gumel, expressed gratitude for the team's thorough and comprehensive report. He emphasized that the 2024 accreditation exercises had concluded successfully, with the report on the BSc Ed Agricultural Science Programme marking a significant milestone.

“We are pleased with your robust and detailed report,” the Vice-Chancellor remarked. “The university will ensure the full implementation of all recommendations made.”

The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Abubakar Ibrahim, represented by the Deputy Dean, Dr. Isa Ado Abubakar, thanked the university management for its unwavering support, which was instrumental in the success of the accreditation exercise. Similarly, the Director of Academic Planning, Professor Yusuf Garba, commended the university leadership for facilitating the process and acknowledged the contributions of his deputies and staff in ensuring a smooth exercise.

Appreciation from Amina Umar Abdullahi on the Death of her Husband

I, Hajiya Amina Umar Abdullahi, former Acting Registrar, on behalf of myself and members of my family wish to express our profound appreciation to the entire members of the University community who commiserated with us over the death of my husband, Malam Aminu Ja'afar who died on Monday, 2nd December 2024.

Our particular appreciation goes to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, all the Principal Officers, members of UMC, heads of Department and Units, the leadership of SSANU, ASUU, NASU and NAAT and the entire staff too numerous to mention. We pray Almighty Allah to grant the deceased aljannatil Firdausi. May Allah reward you all abundantly.

The NUC team included Professor Adebayo Oni from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and Bashir Ibrahim Kunya, a representative of the NUC. They were accompanied by the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Isa Ado Abubakar, and the Head of the Department of Science and Technology Education, Dr. Murtala Haruna Harbau.

The Vice-Chancellor received the team's report alongside key university officials, including the University Librarian, Dr. Kabir Dahiru Abbas; the Director of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Malam Sheriff Ahmed; the Director of Academic Planning, Professor Yusuf Garba; and Deputy Directors in the Directorate, including Professor M.S. Abubakar, Dr. Mustapha Mohammed Bello, and Dr. Amina Lawan.

Student Affairs Deanery Forges Strategic Partnerships

By Ibrahim Ado Saleh

The Dean of Student Affairs at Bayero University, Kano, Professor Shamsuddeen Umar, has initiated partnerships with the Centre for Gender Studies and the Centre for Career Services to enhance student welfare and success. Visits to these centres were conducted on Monday, 16th December, and Wednesday, 18th December 2024, respectively.

During his discussions with the Directors of both centres, Professor Umar identified areas of mutual interest and collaboration aimed at advancing the university's strategic goals in student welfare, academic support, and career development.

“Our students are the heart of the university, and these centres address critical areas affecting their well-being and growth,” he remarked.

He emphasized the need to integrate the centres' activities into the student handbook and proposed allocating time during the annual orientation programme for the Career Services Centre to present on career opportunities and guidance.

The Directors of the Centre for Gender Studies, Professor Safiya Nuhu Ahmad, and the Centre for Career Services, Professor Ahmed Iliyasu, expressed their enthusiasm for the collaboration. Professor Safiya highlighted her centre's initiatives in addressing gender-based violence and fostering a safe environment for students, while Professor Iliyasu discussed plans for career mentoring and skill-building workshops.

The partnership is expected to provide comprehensive support services, career guidance, and personal development opportunities for students. It also aims to promote interdisciplinary research and innovation, aligning with BUK's vision of becoming a world-class institution.

Professor Umar affirmed that the collaboration would enhance the university's communication network with students and create an inclusive learning environment that prioritizes their success and well-being.



Dean Student Affairs Profesor Shamsudden with the Director Gender Studies



Dean Students Affairs with the Director Career Service Centre and Staff of the deanery

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has called on All Nigerian Universities to submit articles for publication in a newly introduced quarterly Magazine, which is focused on education development in Nigeria.

This was contained in a letter dated 4th December 2024, signed by the Ag Director Research, Innovation and information technology L.M. Farouk, stated that that the Commission received a letter from the National Association of Retired Directors of Federal Ministry of Education (ARED-FME), requesting the Commission to disseminate the information to Nigerian Universities on the above subject.

The Articles to be submitted will be assessed and accepted for publication in the magazine by the editorial board if they meet the following criteria:

Evidence Based analysis

A highlight of implementable policies

Strategies and actions for addressing a topical education development challenge in Nigeria

And not exceed four A4 pages in Times New Roman font style of 12 point size, single spacing.

In view of the above, the Vice Chancellor is calling on interested contributors to submit articles for publication. All submissions to NARED-FME should please be sent via e-mail at naredfme@gmail.com

NUC Concludes Accreditation Exercise, Setting New Benchmarks for Excellence

By Ibrahim Ado Saleh

The recently concluded accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission (NUC) has set new benchmarks for academic excellence and quality assurance in Nigeria's higher education landscape.

The NUC accreditation team for BSc ed Agricultural Education programme visited Bayero University, Kano (BUK), on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, and was warmly received by the university's management.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Management Services, Professor Mahmoud Umar Sani, expressed profound appreciation to the NUC and its peer review team for their meticulous evaluation. He emphasized the university's commitment to implementing the recommendations and fostering continuous improvement in academic standards.

Speaking on behalf of the NUC team, Professor Auwal Abdulhamid from the Federal University, Kashere, highlighted the purpose of the exercise as a periodic check to ensure programmes meet prescribed standards.

"We are here to observe and identify any issues that require attention. Our goal is to report back to the

management for necessary improvements, and we look forward to their utmost cooperation in completing this process efficiently," he stated.

This accreditation exercise reflects Bayero University's ongoing efforts to uphold academic integrity, improve learning environments, and ensure that graduates are well-equipped to meet global demands.



DVC MS, Prof. Mahmoud Umar Sani (left) receiving accreditation report from NUC team lead, Prof. Auwal Abdulhamid

Faculty of Engineering Organizes One-day Workshop On COREN Outcome-based Education (OBE) Accreditation

The Faculty of Engineering held a one-day training workshop on COREN Outcome-Based Education (OBE) accreditation on Thursday, 24th October 2024 at the Faculty Conference Room. The event, which focused on equipping departments with the knowledge and tools required for successful accreditation, brought together key



Cross-section of the participants during the workshop

stakeholders within the faculty. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Baba Jibril El Yakub, an esteemed expert in OBE and accreditation processes. In attendance were the Dean, Professor Mohammed Shu'aibu Abubakar FNSE, Deputy Dean, Heads of Departments, and two staff from each of the departments.

In his address, Professor El Yakub advised participants on the critical need to embrace Outcome-Based Education as a framework for delivering quality engineering programs. He emphasized that aligning with COREN's OBE standards ensures that engineering graduates are globally competitive and industry-ready. He guided participants on key aspects of OBE, including designing program educational objectives (PEOs), program learning outcomes (PLOs), and course learning outcomes (CLOs). Professor El Yakub provided practical insights into curriculum mapping, assessment techniques, and the preparation of self-study reports for accreditation.

The Dean in his closing remarks, expressed profound gratitude to Professor El Yakub for his expert facilitation and acknowledged the active participation of faculty members. He encouraged departments to adopt the OBE framework to strengthen their programs. He reiterated the faculty's commitment to achieving excellence in engineering education and maintaining compliance with COREN standards.

The workshop concluded with a collaborative discussion session, where participants exchanged ideas and outlined strategies for the effective implementation of OBE in their respective departments and ensure continuous quality improvement in teaching and learning. The event was widely regarded as a significant step toward strengthening the quality of engineering education within the faculty and ensuring that its programs remain at the forefront of academic and professional excellence.

