

## COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SECOND UNIVERSITY OF UYO AND GWANGJU INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (GIST) JOINT PROGRAMME WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH LANCASTER ENVIRONMENT CENTRE, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY, UNITED KINGDOM

A 4-day international workshop on: **Waste Management and Land Contamination** was held at Le Meridien Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State from June 13 – 16, 2016. The event was a collaborative programme between the Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Research (CEESR), University of Uyo and Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Gwangju, South Korea as part of activities implemented under the Memorandum of Understanding.

The workshop was attended by international collaborators including Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Research (CEESR), University of Uyo, Nigeria, International Environmental Research Centre (IERC), Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea, Lancaster Environmental Centre, Lancaster University, United Kingdom, United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The workshop was also attended by representatives of Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja, Akwa Ibom State Ministries of Environment and Mineral Resources, Science and Technology, Representatives from Universities (UNIUYO, UNIJOS, MOUAU, UNN), Environmental Civil Societies and NGOs.

This communiqué issued today, Wednesday, June 15, 2016, captures the highlights and key recommendations of the various presentations and resolutions of the workshop as follows:

- ❖ The need for the development/enactment of environmental laws and regulatory policies on wastes management and land contamination at National and State levels.
- ❖ Practical steps should be taken by governments and stakeholders on the remediation of all contaminated sites.
- ❖ To arrest various waste challenges, the workshop called for education-based research and network across the globe on waste management issues.
- ❖ Envision more collaborations and engagement of partners (UNEP, UNIDO, National and International Civil Society groups, financial and banking institutions, and relevant industries, etc.) for awareness creation, information management, and the prioritization of waste management challenges.
- ❖ Restoration of the environment deserves a serious place in the development plans of Nigeria and its component states.
- ❖ Co-location of the government, industry and the academia for collaborative action and support to contend with the twin challenges of waste management and land contamination.
- ❖ Nigeria, as a Party to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions should take immediate step to domesticate these Conventions to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Conventions in the quest for effective management of environmental issues as it relate to adverse effects of chemicals and wastes on environment and human health.
- ❖ Bridging the gap between the academia / universities and their immediate environment on environmental issues.
- ❖ The need to move from total concentration measure of harm to alternative methods of measuring risk through bioavailability of contaminants to save humanity from environmental hazards.
- ❖ The Akwa Ibom State government should as a matter of urgency pass the State Environmental Law.
- ❖ State Ministry of Environment should convene **Akwa Ibom Summit on Environment**.
- ❖ CEESR should coordinate with academia and other institutions to offer sound advice on environmental policy issues such as Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).
- ❖ The conference unequivocally advocated that people should think globally and act local on environmental issues to save our environment



Prof. Joseph Essien  
Chairman – Communiqué Committee



Dr. Valerie Solomon  
Secretary, Communiqué Committ

