



# Active Spotlight

*A special International Women's Day Newsletter*

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## Celebrating Women Activists

March is women's month, hosting the International Women's Day on the 8th. For this year's celebration, the Yabatech UNEVOC Center spotlights a number of activists for women who are conscientiously pressing for progress of women in society. The Center seizes the moment to create a special edition of newsletter about the championing of gender issues for women activists in and around our community, highlighting their activities, challenges and their causes

for women. The Yabatech UNEVOC Center joins UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center to put the spotlight on issues related to gender

equality and empowerment. This year UNESCO- UNEVOC reaffirms its advocacy to empower women through TVET , highlighting the role and importance of change - agents pushing for greater inclusion of women in TVET. Yabatech UNEVOC Center for Research and Sustainable Development celebrates all women from all walks of life, irrespective of age in conjunction with WITED, Lonadek and Vital Voices by sharing their stories on how they are transforming women's lives through TVET and other breakthrough stories.

It has been extremely rewarding talking with so many women in the community about their challenges and how they face them head on, girding the Center on an informal needs assessment to heighten its activities concerning gender issues in the society. Some of the women activists featured are Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi T. Oyelola, the Deputy Rector, Academics, Yaba College of Technology, Dr. (Mrs.) Oluseun E. Popoola, the Chapter Coordinator, Women in Technical Education and Employment (WITED) at Yaba College of Technology, Dr. (Mrs.) Stella Awoh, the Vice Coordinator WITED, Dr. (Mrs.) Ibilola Amao, Principal Consultant, Lonadek Nigeria Limited, Mrs. Williams, Vital Voices, amongst others. The Center's hashtag for this year's International Women's Day was #SeizeTheMoment and the center is of the disposition that it is always time to press for progress for women.



## Odun Orimolade

*Coordinator*

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### Women's Mental Health in the Workplace

Women's mental health in the workplace came to the focus in a recent event organized by the Women in Technical Education and Employment (WITED), Yaba College of Technology. The event titled **Women's Mental Health in Workplace** had presentations from various speakers and experts on different viewpoints. The World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>1</sup> states that "Work is good for mental health but a negative working environment can lead to physical and mental health problems."



The key speakers were Dr. Funmi Akinola, Chief Consultant Psychiatrist, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital and Mrs Esther Adekoya, Emotional Health Therapist, President Heartrose Care Foundation. Both speakers effectively stressed on



the need for awareness of the pandemic of women's health in the workplace with statistics of what has happened in the past. They enlightened participants who were women on why they need to be aware of their mental health status and how they can go about.

The list of guest at the event includes Mrs. Folorunso Alakija, founder, Rose of Sharon Foundation, Dr. Olukemi T. Oyelola, the Acting Rector, Yaba College of Technology and other women in the College community.

<sup>1</sup> WHO (Sept. 2017). Mental health in the workplace [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/in\\_the\\_workplace/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/in_the_workplace/en/)

### IWD 2018 – Global Mentoring Walk

To commemorate the 2018 International Womens Day (IWD), Lonadek Nigeria Limited in conjunction with YCT UNEVOC Center and Women in Technical Education and Employment (WITED), Yaba College of Technology organized a global mentoring walk.

The walk which took place on March 10, 2018, had the women walk from the Lonadek office at Jibowu,



Lagos to and through the Yaba College of Technology campus. The walk facilitated by the Vital Voices Global Leadership Network is an annual event that brings together women entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students etc. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about women's



health through exercising. On the track for the walk include Dr Ibilola Amao, Principal Consultant, Lonadek Nigeria Limited, Mrs. Williams,

Vital Voices, Dr. Oluseun E. Popoola, Coordinator, WITED YCT Chapter and many others.

### WITED campaigns against Sexual Harassment of Female Students



## Olukemi Taiwo Oyelola, Educator par Excellence



Dr. Olukemi Taiwo Oyelola has transverse the confines of academia, especially linking gown to town through her researches and involvement. A committed educator, Olukemi grew through the ranks to the pinnacle of her profession with industry and diligence. A chemist by calling, she completed her first and secondary degrees at University of Lagos before heading to the University of Agriculture, Abeokua (now Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta) for her terminal degree in Environmental Management.

Dr. Oyelola joined Yaba College of Technology in 1993 as Lecturer I and rose to become Chief Lecturer in 2006. Her many input both in and out of the classroom became the springboard for her appointment as Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Yaba College of Technology. Upon completing her tenure in 2014, she took a sabbatical at Federal University of Technology, Akure where she also became the Associate Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship at the university.

On returning from sabbatical, Olukemi was nominated as the Deputy Rector (Academics) the office she currently hold.

In 2017, she acted in the office of the Rector, Yaba College of Technology for three months upon the completion of Dr. M. K. Ladipo's tenure..

As a dedicated researcher, Dr. Oyelola has over 50 local and international articles, journals and books published to her name.

Her professional affiliation Include: member Chemical Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Society for Environmental Management, Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria and American Society for

Nutrition where she has presented numerous conference researches. She is also a member of the Lagos State Government Waste Management Advisory Committee.

Olukemi Taiwo is an active member of WITED, YCT chapter and has contributed immensely to the growth of the association since joining the College. On her part, Olukemi's life is an open epistle and challenge for young people everywhere especially girls and women that there is no limit to you except the ones you set yourself.



### Women in STEM Event (pix)



### Women in STEM Event

As part of the International Women's Day 2018, the Cedar STEM and the Entrepreneurship Hub (CSEH) organized a "Women in STEM" event at Lonadek Nigeria Limited facility in Jibowu, Yaba, Lagos on March 8, 2018.

The objective of the event was to encourage and inspire young women seeking career paths in Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) industries as well as budding STEMpreneurs and TECHpreneurs.

A keynote was delivered by Dr. Ibilola Amao, Principal Consultant, Lonadek Nigeria Limited in which she challenged women and girls to become value creators while giving attention to details. An all-female panel session took place after the keynote. Drawn from STEM fields and career related firms, the panelist include: Adebeisi Olukayode, MainOne Service; Judith Okonkwo, Imisi 3d; Kokomma Williams, Idea Builders

Initiative; Onyeche Tifase, Siemens; Eytayo Alimi, Techy Girls Foundation; Efua Krakue, WEConnect Nigeria; Ibilola Amao, Lonadek Inc.; Folashade Braimoh, WTEC.

Notable amidst the participants were the incumbent and former YCT UNEVOC Center Coordinators - Odun Orimolade and Dr. Funmilayo Doherty respectively.

Titilayo Adeyeri, is a 21year old political science student, writer, gender activist and founder of the Gender Expression Exhibition. She has worked and volunteered with various NGOs working for the good of the society. Her passion for humanity fuels every project

### Meet Titilayo Adeyeri

Organizer of the Gender Expression Exhibition



public service and she embarks on.

She hopes to create awareness for gender equity in Nigerian and African societies, with the clear understanding that social development involves both male and female in the society. Through her passion, works and volunteer projects, she hopes to give Africa a new name.

## Ibilola, the Quintessential Model



**Dr. Ibilola Amao** is the Principal Consultant of Lonadek. She is an alumni of Manchester Business School, has a Ph. D. in Computer-Aided-Design and Draughting from Bradford University, UK and a First Class Honours degree in Civil and Structural Engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London.

A member of the Governing Council of the Energy Institute (EI), UK, Board of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) business group, PennWell Offshore West Africa Conference, Engineering Practice and Resource Development, Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and Chairperson of the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board – Industry Advisory Team. Ibilola is a Vital Voices VV GROW, VV 100 Fellow, VV Global Ambassador Programme (GAP) 2017 Mentee, WeConnect International Fellow, IWEC Awardee, Energy Institute Energy Champion 2016 and Access Bank “W” 100 Awardee.

Ibilola is very passionate about grooming young professionals and encouraging them to pursue routes to international chartership.

She is Committed to promoting Science, Technology, Engineering



and Mathematics (STEM) in Energy, Power, Infrastructure, Oil, Gas and High-Technology Industries. She established Lonadek Nigeria Limited in 1991 and Lonadek UK in 2007 to implement state-of - the-art Engineering/IT solutions and bridge technological gaps in emerging economies.

As a committed change agent she invests her time and effort in career counseling, industry

awareness and youth empowerment hence the formation of “The Vision 2020: Youth Empowerment & Restoration Initiative” in May 2006. To nurture the leaders of tomorrow, Ibilola set up a STEM hub to develop professionals and entrepreneurs. She is passionate about leaving a legacy of having touched the lives of at least 100,000 youths in a very significant manner

Ibilola is working hard to empower Youth, Women and Girls in STEM, IT, entrepreneurship.

Looking at non-conventional sources of Power with Junior Engineers, Technicians and

Scientists (JETS) clubs in the Yaba and Jibowu environs. She hopes to deploy IT solutions in animation, gaming, mobile apps, data analytics etc.

Ibilola is a Vital Voices fellow and WeConnect International certified member. She is involved in Women empowerment activities with WimBiz and a firm believer who pays it forward for national development and socio-economic transformation.



IWD  
 TimelsNow  
 Women  
 International Women's Day  
 WITED  
 UNESCO-UNEVOC  
 Girls Model  
 Press for Progress  
 Seize The Moment  
 MentoringWalk  
 Women In TVET

### WITED introduces women to Agripreneurship

The Women in Technical Education and Employment (WITED), Yaba College of Technology recently organized a program to introduce women of the College community to Agripreneurship. Agripreneurship refers to entrepreneurship in agriculture; hence, the women were empowered to become Agripreneurs. Some of the things they learned include market and investment opportunities in Agripreneurship, growing vegetables in green house and how to raise funds for investment.

The guest facilitator was Mr. Peter Kabue Theuri. The special guest of the occasion was Mrs. E.M. Akinwande, Chief Agric. Officer, Head, Dept. of Product Development and Commercial, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture.

The workshop participants were hosted to a free beauty spa, body massage, manicure and pedicure by Dr. Therapy Beauty Clinic. Free mental health treatment and counseling sessions were also afforded the participants.

### WITED Skills Acquisition programmes

As a way of building the capacity of women in the community, WITED, YCT has setup a series of skills acquisition training. As TVET practitioners, women possess several transferable skills and vocations; hence, an opportunity was created through the skills acquisition programme to develop women in the community.

Some of the training that has been facilitated include:

- Production of Toilet Cleaner by Dr. (Mrs.) Oluseun E. Popoola
- Event Planning and Decorations by Dr. (Mrs.) Stella Awon



The need to be lifelong learners through building skills and capacity in the 21st century especially for women has constantly been advocated by the association leaders. It is therefore the responsibility of members to key into such skills based programmes both by the association and beyond. Other members with various expertise were also encouraged to bring it forward and facilitate.



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## WITED, YCT opens a facility for women empowerment



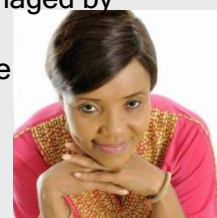
WITED's new building dedicated to host hands-on skills acquisition programmes for women and girls and other events to promote women causes

Former Rector & WITED Initiator passes on

Chief Mrs. Odugbesan, Rector, Yaba College of Technology from 1995 - 2001, died recently in the US. She was also the initiator of the WITED program and had been actively involved after retirement till her demise. Her legacy lives on.

## Empower Widows, Orphans; Sustain a Generation

Yaba College of Technology partners with Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) an initiative of Mrs. Folorunso Alakija to empower widows and orphans and help sustain their families to lift them out of poverty. Under this initiative, a skills acquisition center is setup to women in design, etc. The Dr. (Mrs.) Stella Awonuga who lectures at the School of Arts, Yaba College of Technology.



### RoSF Quick Facts

- The Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) is an NGO focused on alleviating the plight of widows and orphans.
- It started with 3 widows in 2008 and now have over 1000 widows in the program
- RoSF has empowered 970 widows - 11 of whom are in university, awarded scholarships to 1,366 widow's children and 72 orphans.
- RoSF programs include: RoSF Women Empowerment Program (WEP); Skills Acquisition & Vocational Scheme (SAVS); Small and Medium Enterprise (SAME); RoSF Live Support Scheme (RLSS); Agric-Business Scheme (ABS) etc.
- The initiative is founded by Mrs. Folorunso Alakija, a Nigerian business woman and philanthropist.

## WITED organizes educational tour for women



WITED, Yaba College of Technology recently organized an educational tour to South Africa

for women in the community. This is one of the laid out plans by the executive of the group to empower women and inspire them to aim higher and achieve more. The eight-day trip involved a visit and training at South Africa Agricultural Research Council. The tour also included a research visit to University of Pretoria and University of South Africa. Opportunities for networking and research collaborations were unveiled during the visit both for individual participants; for the association and the College.

