



FUTA NEWS

BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP, PRESSING FOR PROGRESS

The Centre for Gender Issues in Science and Technology (CEGIST) and the Third World Organization for Women in science (OWSD) Federal University of Technology Akure, FUTA joined the rest of the world to mark the 2018 International Women's Day in FUTA. Speaking on the theme: Pressing for progress: Bridging the gender gap, former Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Ekiti State University, Professor Mrs. Ibiyinka Ogunlade said the society has unrealistic expectations from women which have overtime become stereotypes and these create the gender gap of which women are the major victims. She said women must press for progress in every facet of life as that is the driving force behind societal development. Professor Ogunlade said that obstacles militating against this progress can be positively harnessed to generate desirable results through diligence, discipline, hardwork, perseverance, integrity and role modelling. She called for the public sensitization on the pivotal roles of women in the society and urged parents to break stereotypes by allowing the girl child to have a choice in the fulfillment of her potential.

In the same vein, mental health expert, Mrs. Evelyn Onibi said women will only give their best if they pay full attention to their mental wellbeing. Speaking on The Career Women and mental health, Mrs. Onibi said a career woman must balance her roles as professional woman, wife and mother. She disclosed that of all the mental cases recorded annually, women constitute 51% of them. According to her, women are predisposed to mental disorders because of the multiplicity of their roles in the home and workplace. She admonished women not to take their problems too personally and to seek for help whenever they are

stressed mentally. Earlier in her address, the Director, CEGIST , Professor Mrs. Tinuola Adebolu said over time, great improvements have been made with more women being given opportunity in the board room, having greater equality in legislative rights and increased visibility and serving as role models in every aspect of life. She said there is however the urgent need to address domestic violence and for more involvement in male dominated careers so that the female gender can contribute more to national development.

On his part, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape represented by the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, SAAT, Professor Taiwo Amos, said women critical in the scheme of things in the society. He said in FUTA, women have continued to hold their own creditably well making tremendous progress in academics, research and administration. Professor Fuwape said FUTA will continue to support women in their career progression. In her good will address, the commissioner for women affairs and social development, Princess Omowunmi Olatunji-Edet represented by Mrs. Olutope Fashuyi encouraged women to be strong, achieve great feats and rise above societal limitations.