

***Welcome Address by the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University –  
Prof. Aize Obayan At the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on NEW  
TRENDS IN THE MATHEMATICAL & COMPUTER  
SCIENCES WITH APPLICATION TO REAL WORLD  
PROBLEMS Holding at Covenant University, Canaan Land Ota,  
Ogun State, Nigeria, 19th June 2006.***

*The Chancellor and Chairman Board of Regents of Covenant University,  
- Dr David Oyedepo,  
Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents, Covenant University,  
Our Royal Fathers here present,  
The Honourable Minister of Education,  
The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission,  
Vice- Chancellors from Sister Universities,  
President, International Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science,  
All Principal Officers of Covenant University,  
Members of the Senate of the University,  
Heads of Computer Organizations and other Parastatals,  
Distinguished Conference Participants,  
Faculty and Staff of Covenant University,  
Kings and Queens of Hebron, our own dear Students,  
Representatives from other Universities  
Special and Invited Guest,  
Members of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*All other protocols observed*

It is with very real pleasure that I on behalf of the Chancellor, Board of Regents, Management and Staff of Covenant University welcome all participants to this the first ever International Conference on

**NEW TRENDS IN THE MATHEMATICAL &  
COMPUTER SCIENCES WITH APPLICATION TO  
REAL WORLD PROBLEMS** sponsored by Covenant

University in Collaboration with the International Centre for

Mathematics and with the active support of the Nigerian University Commission. At Covenant University we are excited by this conference because in many ways it represents the very things which epitomise our vision and our determination to address the fundamental issues of human advancement. Our mandate as a University is to revolutionize the educational landscape of Africa. Ours is indeed a rescue mission in education, driven on the platform of Christian ethos and life transforming values. The integration of the fundamental requirements stipulated by academic and professional quality assurance bodies, a global-outlook and impact driven learning emphasis, provides a powerful synergy for empowerment in enabling the inculcation of intellectual and creative abilities via a platform of a solid commitment to self-discovery.

In the words of the Chancellor of Covenant University.

*“The core emphasis and goal of the mission of Covenant University is the provision of an alternative to existing regimented training programme of the Nigerian educational system, by promoting integrated education which is life applicable and life promoting.” (Oyedepo, 2002).*

Let me start therefore by acknowledging publicly the commitment of The Chancellor and Visioner of this University Dr. David Oyedepo, ably supported by the Board of Regents, to the fulfilment of this mandate; a fulfilment that has been manifested in a willingness to support with resources, our dreams of securing the future we desire

for Africa today, of one of which has been manifested in the hosting of International Conferences and intellectual activities here at Covenant University. In this regard, you may wish to note that this is the fourth International conference to be sponsored and hosted by Covenant University within the last 18 months. Each of these conferences has been designed to address matters on the cutting edge of Human development within our immediate environment and beyond. In the process, we have been privileged to play host to the International academic community with participants coming from all over the world, all with a common objective to address problems of the real world in the same way as this conference theme indicates. In the process for example, we were able to host the very first International workshop on Bioinformatics which held a little over a year ago on this same grounds with full sponsorship by the University where over 30 participants from different African Countries were trained on the procedures and principles for using computational biological techniques to address human problems by the Process of Pattern Discovery with its obvious implications for addressing the issues relating to dealing with the human genome. In hosting and sponsoring these Conferences, we are driving to become a leading assembly point for the gathering of the international community of academics for the purpose of teasing out solutions to the many challenges that our world faces and seizing the many opportunities at the learning edge for addressing these challenges. In this respect we are glad to note that this conference has maintained

this tradition as we have facilitators and participants from around the World including the United States, Sweden, Poland, Austria and Nigeria to name a few. We are truly amazed and gratified to acknowledge the zeal with which the international community has embraced every one of these international Conferences making them international not just in name but in deed and fully encouraging us in our drive to be major contributors in maintaining Africa's presence in the International Community of scholars.

This Conference is unique in many respects because it combines the interactive processes of a conference with the Human capacity building exercise of a workshop with internationally acclaimed experts and academics who have kindly consented to be part of this programme making their expertise available to our world in such a manner that we believe will lead to the further impartation of skills for the modern times to many of our participants especially those from Nigeria and its environs. We believe this to be a pragmatic and cost saving approach to expose all participants to advancements in the modern world, to new questions, expanding the discourse and advancing the knowledge base. We therefore hope that all participants will make full use of the opportunity.

Secondly we are well aware of the many advances and opportunities presented to us by the rapid and continuing advancements in the world of the Mathematical and Computer Sciences, a field which is probably the fastest growing field in the world with applications in

almost every other field and providing the bedrock and foundation for nearly all manner of modern research.

Just for a moment let us imagine our world without the ubiquitous Personal Computer and we all begin to feel disenfranchised and deprived of one of the basic tools of performance and yet it is amazing that barely 30 years ago the possibility of a computer with such computational powers brought to the access of the Layman seemed at best a pipe dream. With the developments in this field we now emboldened in the words of star trek to go "*where no man has gone before*". Today all over the world by the tool of the PC the entire human race has found its existence affected and influenced until we have had to name this the INFORMATION AGE in honour of the capacity of these two Sciences to influence our activities.

In this respect one must note further that these and other even more outstanding developments such as the continuing development of computing power which has enabled us now compile the human Genome and so much else has come about by the free exchange of information which has characterised this field like no other; a characteristic which we are hopeful will continue to be evident in this conference.

Thirdly we are especially pleased that this conference is been held in collaboration with the International Centre for Mathematics and with

the active support of the NUC who even went ahead to mobilise participants from every Nigerian Universities as participants. This is important because it provides a vibrant model of the possibilities for collaboration and synergistic interaction between organisations working together to provide fora for the exchange of information and interactive process which is so essential to human development. Let me therefore seize this opportunity to publicly celebrate these two organisations whose contributions to this conference's success cannot be overemphasised.

As I welcome you to this epoch making conference permit me to share a few thoughts on the theme of this conference and its relevance to our World. Our World of today is indeed a world of paradoxes very similar in many respects to the World described by Charles Dickens in his famous book, *A Tale of two Cities* where he says "*it was the best of Times; It was the worst of times*" Human development continues to advance at an unprecedented pace side by side with many obvious inequalities and demonstrations of destruction in our time. Poverty continues to be an enemy that won't go away in a world with ever increasing access to plenty. Global inequalities continue to create a two speed world of the haves and have nots. We find that the more we know the less we really do as the potentials in front of us far exceed whatever we think we have achieved. It is in this context therefore that the theme of this conference becomes essential. With the tremendous capability and

potential of the Mathematical and Computer Sciences to affect our world it is essential that we sit back and take a look at the trends in these fields and ask ourselves the ever challenging question of how these things can help change a world that is ever needy of Change and solutions. One of the biggest challenge facing researchers and academics is the very real temptation to get so buried in our own activities that we fail to engage the connections that turn scientific brilliance and advancement to human good. This I believe is the overriding Challenge of this conference that as we share our thoughts, our advancements and our discoveries let us also walk at dreaming of a world affected by these things. For your field which is the crown prince of the Knowledge World cannot afford to do anything less and it is my hope that this conference will serve as a further stimulus to encourage this kind of activity and thought process so that together we might move our world closer to the best of Times and away from the worst of times.

In closing let me inform you that it is our continuing desire at Covenant University to welcome every one of you to be a partner in the actualisation of the Covenant University dream. This University opened its doors to its first set of students a little less than four years ago and we are humbled by the rapidity with which things have happened around not just in physical development but the way in which the academic and intellectual world has not only accepted our drive for world class contributions but actively supported us in our quest to become a citadel of excellence and an Oasis of Knowledge

and Learning in our environment. We are however aware that to fully actualize the Covenant University dream we would need to establish effective, strategic partnerships with relevant significant others who we believe have important roles to play in helping us achieve our goals.

We would therefore be open to any relationship which would be instrumental to help us achieve our objectives an objective which we are sure would be of mutual benefit to the relevant sectors of our world. We are pleased to note that we are already having meaningful partnerships in many areas, but as an organisation with very serious commitment to high growth and performance we will always remain open to any enriching partnership.

At this point in time we are about to release our first set of graduates in a Convocation which we have tagged “*the release of eagles*” indicating our ambitions to be a University whose products fly out into the world to affect their generation and their World. We therefore invite every one of you to be our guest at this groundbreaking event.

Once again I welcome you to this Conference. I look forward to results which will impact our World for a long time, we thank you all for coming and I wish you very stimulating workshop sessions and interesting deliberations during the plenary sessions as you

uncover depths and ascend new heights in the course of the next few days.

Thank you and God Bless.

*Prof Aize. Obayan .*

*Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University.*