

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR B.O. KER
DIRECTOR CENTRE FOR RESEARCH MANAGEMENT, BSU, MAKURDI
AT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON PROPOSAL WRITING AND
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT FOR PROJECTS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY
PRODUCTIONS 15TH NOVEMBER 2011**

PROTOCOLS

It gives me much pleasure to welcome you all to this historic workshop on “Proposal writing and research management for projects and other scholarly productions” for scholars in Benue State.

Whether we like it or not, we are in a knowledge driven globalized world and our universities, research centres and training institutions are the engine rooms of this new order. Consequently, writing proposals for dissertations, to attract funding, the identification of funding agencies, and the training of our students to be globally competitive is a peculiar facet of our academic culture.

Our prestige as scholars and academics stems not just from our ability to impart effective knowledge alone, it also depends, to a large extent, on our capability to generate ideas and to inspire and nurture our students to imbibe the habit of critical thinking.

Proposal writing is not only a veritable instrument for the nurturing of young academics; it is a necessary barometer for restating the research competencies of even established scholars. In the United States, for example, the promotion of senior academics from one rank to the other is dependent on one’s ability to attract handsome grants to undertake substantial research projects; it also enhances an institution’s ability to attract quality students and faculty.

It is therefore not surprising that universities all over the world take the issue of writing successful proposals for council grants seriously and provide appropriate legal, policy, financial and administrative frame works to promote it.

Here at Benue State University, the current Vice-Chancellor Professor Charity Angya has taken very seriously the issue of proposal writing, grant information search,

research management and the establishment of linkages between our university and other sister institutions at home and abroad. Since her assumption of office in November last year, she has sent a number of key staff in the Research Management Centre and in the Directorate of Development and Linkages to attend high profile national and international conferences to expose them to some of these policies and to seek ways of sharing the benefit of their experiences with colleagues. It is hoped that such efforts will provide a synergy that will engage our university with other sister institutions at the local, national and international levels.

One of the immediate results of the Vice Chancellor's efforts is the stepping down of knowledge gained at such fora for the benefit of BSU staff including the staff of other Higher Educational institutions in Benue State. Since knowledge and creativity are not bound by borders, it is hoped that the sharing of experiences in the various facets of our research engagement will provide the necessary springboard by which we could internationalize our faculty and students.

There is a race for the acquisition of talents in the global arena, and the university of the future must position itself to contribute to the global market by drawing on intellectual resources from far and near so that its faculty can become the source of new ideas that serve the nation and the world at large.

We need to look at mechanisms/strategies by which we can begin to encourage faculty and students in our institutions on the best manner in which we can improve our curriculum, conduct research, teach in a new and innovative manner, and encourage our students to become competent research officers and managers.

We need to also look at some of the challenges that inhibit our ability in terms of winning research grants from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) and the other funding agencies both locally and internationally. It is our determination to mobilize active local and statewide discussion on this issue, and to introduce a globalized dimension into teaching, research and by so doing enhance our public service function. It is in pursuant

of the above stated objectives that the Centre for Research Management and the Directorate of Development and Linkages have organized this workshop.

It is designed to accomplish these additional objectives.

- ✓ The formation of a statewide network of research scholars to serve as a forum for the improvement of quality research in our tertiary institutions.
- ✓ Promote Capacity building and skills development for competent research personnel engaged in Higher Education development in Benue State.
- ✓ To create avenues for collaborative research projects among BSU staff and those of other Higher Educational Institutions in Benue State.
- ✓ To promote and encourage quality research proposals and to explore the possibility of research management opportunities in our Higher Educational Institutions
- ✓ Awareness creation and focus in quality educational research delivery
- ✓ Best practices and experience sharing

There are many issues that will need to be addressed and experiences to share with colleagues at this gathering. The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with an understanding of the strategic importance of proposal writing and research management as a critical component of our scholarly production. We have assembled here, as resource persons, eminent senior academics that have experience in the various aspects of research engagement at the tertiary level.

It is our expectation that this workshop will provide opportunity for the establishment of a network of research scholars anxious to deepen the research capability of our faculty and students.

So, once again, I warmly welcome you to this workshop and I wish all of us a very productive time here at Benue State University.

Thank You