

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
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**WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE 1ST PUBLIC LECTURE
CENTRE FOR ARABIC AND ISLAMIC RESEARCH,
TRANSLATION AND IMMERSION PROGRAMMES**

FOUNTAIN UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO

7TH MAY, 2025/ 7 DHU AL-QIDAH 1446 AH

Bismillāhi-r-Raḥmāni-r-Raḥīm

As-salāmu ‘alaykum wa raḥmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.

It is with immense gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) and a deep sense of honour that I welcome you all to this landmark occasion—the 1st Public Lecture organized by the Centre for Arabic and Islamic Research, Translation and Immersion Programmes, here at Fountain University, Osogbo.

As the Chief Host and Vice Chancellor of this esteemed Islamic faith-based institution, I am truly delighted to stand before a gathering of distinguished scholars, respected leaders, devoted educators, and passionate learners, all unified by a shared reverence for knowledge, faith, and cultural preservation.

Let me begin by commending the unwavering dedication and visionary leadership of the Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Ahmad Abubakar Agbaje, whose passion for advancing the frontiers of Arabic and Islamic scholarship is both inspiring and impactful. This marks the first public lecture organized by the Centre—a milestone achievement that reflects his commitment to excellence. The University is immensely pleased with the strides made under his leadership, which continues to position the Centre as a beacon of intellectual depth and spiritual enrichment within our institution and beyond.

We are privileged to host two renowned scholars as Guest Lecturers:

- Professor Adam Adebayo Sirajudeen of the Federal University of Lafia, and

- Professor Taofiq Adedayo Alabi, former Director, Linguistic Immersion Centre, University of Ilorin.

Your presence here today reflects your steadfast support for the growth and modernization of Arabic and Islamic scholarship within and beyond our borders.

I also express our warm appreciation to our distinguished Guests of Honour:

- Professor Yusuf Abdulrasheed Musa, Former Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Abuja;
- Professor Elkhidir Abdulbaqi Mohammad, Executive Director, Nigeria Centre of Arabic Research;
- Engineer Professor Luqman Adekilekun Jimoda, Special Adviser to the Osun State Governor on Mining and Mineral Matters.

Your presence is deeply valued and underscores your collective dedication to intellectual excellence, linguistic advancement, and Islamic cultural identity.

The theme of today’s lecture, “Arabic Islamic Scholarship in a Globalized World: Language Immersion, Digital Translation, and Knowledge Democratization,” is both timely and thought-provoking. In an age shaped by globalization and technological innovation, Arabic and Islamic scholarship must be revitalized through immersion, digitization, and accessibility—without losing its spiritual essence.

As an Islamic faith-based institution, Fountain University is proudly rooted in the timeless traditions of Islamic knowledge, values, and practice. Our academic and communal life is thoughtfully interwoven with spiritual enrichment initiatives

designed to nurture the mind, body, and soul of every member of our university community. Among the hallmark spiritual and religious activities, we uphold are:

- i. Daily congregational Ṣalāt (prayers) across the campus
- ii. Compulsory Jumu‘ah (Friday) prayers for all students and staff
- iii. Ramadān Tafsīr sessions
- iv. Annual Itikāf programmes and proactive Dawah campaigns
- v. Arabic and Fiqh courses
- vi. Walīmat al-Qur’ān ceremonies, celebrating students' proficiency in Qur’anic recitation
- vii. A vibrant Muslim Students’ Society, which organizes a broad spectrum of faith-driven and developmental activities
- viii. Commemoration of International Arabic Day, promoting linguistic and cultural pride
- ix. Collaboration with the NASFAT Missionary Institute, including impactful Train-the-Trainer programmes for our final-year students and joint conference.
- x. A dedicated Committee on University Key Virtues and Morals
- xi. The recently established Centre for Academic Excellence and Spiritual Development.
- xii. Initiated the Consortium of Islamic Faith-based universities in South-West and Kwara State, Nigeria... first conference is coming up on the 3rd to 4th July.

Through these initiatives, we continue to uphold our mission of producing graduates who are intellectually sound, spiritually grounded, and socially responsible.

These activities are not merely rituals; they are foundational to our philosophy of harmonizing faith with learning, spiritual depth with academic excellence, and moral leadership with societal relevance.

The Centre for Arabic and Islamic Research, Translation and Immersion Programmes is a strategic instrument in realizing this mission. Through immersive language learning, cutting-edge translation efforts, and deep research into Islamic sciences, the Centre serves both as a preserver of heritage and a catalyst for contemporary relevance.

To our students and young scholars, I encourage you to use this opportunity. This public lecture is not just an academic event—it is an invitation to participate in the global discourse on Islamic scholarship, to bridge tradition with innovation, and to become torchbearers of knowledge, ambassadors of faith, and architects of a just and enlightened society.

In conclusion, I pray that this lecture sets a strong precedent for future scholarly gatherings and strengthens our collective resolve to uphold the ideals of Islam through academic excellence and research. May Allah (SWT) bless our distinguished lecturers, guide the leadership of this noble Centre, and crown our efforts with divine success.

Thank you all for honouring our invitation.

Wa-s-salāmu ‘alaykum wa raḥmatullāhi wa barakātuhu.

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