

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE 3RD EDITION OF PROFESSOR H.O.B OLOYEDE ANNUAL LECTURE

“UNDERWATER RESOURCES AS FACTORY FOR BENEFICIAL INGREDIENTS FOR WELLNESS”

Delivered on Monday, 17th November 2025/ 26 Jummada Al Awal 1445AH

As-Salamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

All praises and adorations are due to Allah (SWT), who has granted us the blessing of witnessing the 3rd edition of the Professor H.O.B. Oloyede Annual Lecture, held in honour of the distinguished pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Fountain University, Osogbo. It is a privilege to address this esteemed gathering as the fourth substantive Vice-Chancellor of our beloved institution.

Professor Hussein Oyelola Bukoye Oloyede laid the intellectual and moral foundation upon which Fountain University proudly stands today. His commitment to academic excellence, discipline, and the pursuit of knowledge continues to inspire generations. This annual lecture series is designed to celebrate his enduring legacy and to reinforce the values he instilled, such as scholarship, integrity, and the relentless quest for knowledge.

I congratulate the Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Hakeem Sanya Bolarinwa, and the entire planning committee for their dedication in putting together this year's event. I also extend a warm welcome to our esteemed guest lecturer, Professor Afolabi Israel Sunmola, a renowned scholar from the Department of Biochemistry, Covenant University. We are honoured to have you in our midst at Fountain University, Osogbo.

Permit me also to specially acknowledge all distinguished guests, scholars, researchers, and students gathered here today. Your presence enriches this academic engagement and reinforces the importance of our collective pursuit of knowledge.

The theme for this 3rd annual lecture, **“Underwater Resources as Factory for Beneficial Ingredients for Wellness,”** is profound and strategically aligned with contemporary global realities. As the world increasingly turns to nature, especially aquatic ecosystems, for novel bioactive compounds, the oceans and other water bodies are now widely acknowledged as vast reservoirs of ingredients with significant potential for nutrition, medicine, and overall wellness.

Marine organisms, algae, mineral-rich waters, and aquatic microbial communities have become central to cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and food security. This theme invites us to reflect on the intersection between science, sustainability, and human well-being. It opens a platform for exploring how underwater resources can be responsibly harnessed to advance human health while maintaining ecological balance.

This conversation is particularly relevant to our institutional vision. One of my key aspirations as Vice-Chancellor is the internationalization of Fountain University, positioning us as a key contributor in global academic dialogue, research, and innovation. Today's lecture exemplifies that aspiration by drawing our focus toward emerging scientific frontiers where interdisciplinary collaboration is essential.

As we engage with the knowledge to be shared today, let us remember that its impact transcends this hall. The insights we gain have the potential to influence research pathways, inspire academic collaborations, and contribute to global knowledge on sustainable resource utilization and wellness enhancement. The underwater world holds vast opportunities for breakthroughs that can shape nutrition, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

I urge all participants, including students, faculty, researchers, and professionals, to maximize the intellectual value of this gathering. Let today's discussions spark curiosity, innovation, and meaningful inquiry. May it inspire future research that elevates our university's presence in international academia.

In conclusion, I express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone present for making this 3rd Professor H.O.B. Oloyede Annual Lecture a significant milestone. Your participation shows your commitment to scholarship and the advancement of human knowledge. I pray that the reflections and insights from today's lecture will serve as catalysts for personal growth, professional development, and global impact.

Once again, I welcome all our distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, respected members of the academic community, and honoured participants. May this lecture continue to resonate within our institution and beyond, guiding us toward greater heights of excellence.

As we say always: **Fountain Leads, Others Follow.**

Thank you, and may Allah (SWT) bless us all.

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim

Vice-Chancellor