

PROFESSOR ABEL IDOWU OLAYINKA: ABRIDGED CITATION

Prof Abel Idowu OLAYINKA obtained BSc (Geology) University of Ibadan in 1981; MSc (Geophysics) from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London in 1984. He proceeded to the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom with sponsorship from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of United Kingdom Universities (now Universities UK) and earned a PhD Applied Geophysics in 1988. He had postdoctoral experience at Technical University Braunschweig as a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Visiting Scholar in 1996 and at Technical University Berlin as Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow (1997-1999; 2003; 2023). He joined the Faculty at the University of Ibadan in April 1988 as Lecturer Grade II. He was promoted Lecturer Grade I in 1991, Senior Lecturer in 1994 and Professor in October 1999.

He has successfully supervised 18 Ph.D theses and has served as Visiting Professor, External Examiner and External Assessor for professorial candidates in many universities.

He was appointed Chairman, Senate Curriculum Committee, 2007-2011. As Head Department of Geology (2001/2002; 2006 to 2010), he was involved in fund generation from alumni, corporate institutions and friends. The fund mobilised during such campaigns was used to upgrade teaching, learning and research facilities and the environment.

As Dean of the Postgraduate School (2002 to 2006), he established a Scholarship Scheme and a Teaching and Research Assistantship Scheme for Postgraduate Students; established the Overseas Conference Grants for Postgraduate Teachers; he facilitated a Workshop on Globalisation of Scholarly Journals; encouraged inter- and trans-disciplinary research through the Interdisciplinary Research Discourse Series; organised Workshops on Methodology of Basic and Applied Research; organised Workshops on Writing Grant Proposals for Academic Staff; facilitated a Workshop on Writing PhD Thesis for Research Students; and led in the publication of 36 academic titles.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) from 2010 to 2014, he assisted in implementing the University's Strategic Plan. His primary responsibility was to establish enduring structures to deepen good governance, encourage scholarship and research, as well as improve staff welfare.

As Vice-Chancellor he provided transformational leadership that resulted in UI being in the 401-500 in the Times Higher Education Ranking. There was an expansion of the academic programmes with the establishment of four new Faculties including the first Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies in West Africa, and 22 new academic Departments. He strengthened the admission process into the undergraduate programmes with many of the students winning laurels in internal and external examinations.

He convened the First International Conference in Research and Innovation Management in West Africa in November 2006 and subsequently served as the Foundation President of the West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA), 2006-2015. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), with headquarters in South Africa. He was on the Council of Association of Commonwealth Universities, London.

He has received significant accolades in his professional career including multiple Fellowship of learned societies. These include:

- Honorary Fellow, Nigerian Association of Educational Planning & Administration
- Fellow, Science Association of Nigeria
- Honorary Fellow, Chemical Society of Nigeria
- Fellow, Nigerian Association for Engineering Geologists and the Environment
- Fellow, Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists
- Fellow, Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists
- Fellow, Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society
- Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Science
- Fellow, European Federation of Geologists
- Chartered Geologist, Geological Society of London
- Chartered European Geologist
- Fellow, Geological Society of London

He received the Osun State Merit Award in 2024.

He has remained research-active and since completing his tenure as Vice-Chancellor he has been engaged with teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as mentoring of early career researchers. He has held Visiting appointments at the Federal University of Technology Akure, Mountain Top University, Redeemer's University Ede Nigeria and Technical University Braunschweig Germany.

He is regularly invited to present public lectures, both within and outside Nigeria, including the Convocation Lecture of several Universities. He has been appointed Technical Resource Person for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor in a number of Federal, State and Private Universities.

He is currently the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of West Midlands Open University and a member of the Council of Adeleke University. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Multi-Verse Mining and Exploration Nigeria PLC.

He is happily married to Dr Eyiwumi Bolutito Olayinka, a Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Ibadan and the union is blessed with a daughter and a son.

