

**OPENING REMARK BY THE DEPUTY VICE – CHANCELLOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS ( PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE, SAN) AT THE AFRICAN COMMUNICATION AWARD CEREMONY ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021**

It is an honour to be in your midst celebrating these young minds and Scholars. Today, the University of Ibadan celebrates you for your dedication and hard work to the course of research.

On behalf of the Vice – Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor Oyeboade Adebawale, I welcome you all to this year’s Science Communication Award Ceremony of the African Communication.

There is no gainsaying that science communication is at the heart of many of the 21st century’s most consequential issues. From climate change to artificial intelligence and biomedicine, science and technology are playing an important role in people’s lives. Science and technology are also considered important drivers for enhancing innovation. This important role of science and technology leads to questions such as: How do people make sense of scientific and technological developments? How can societal needs and concerns be included when developing science and technology? How should communication about science and technology be conducted? Science communication practice and research are therefore on the front line, helping both scientists and other researchers grapple with these questions.

I heartily congratulate all our researchers here today. This is indeed an occasion of joy for us all, as we celebrate our scholars for their diligence and hard work. As we all know, this award ceremony is amongst the most treasured occasions of this institution. Our institution truly believes that impacting the right knowledge and attitude into early/young researchers would go a long way in building our University’s desired research future.

The University of Ibadan is committed to providing an atmosphere where researchers can imbibe good values and learn the required skills. I am extremely glad that the University has been able to work successfully with the African Communication in training these great minds. On this important occasion, we get the chance to publicly celebrate this achievement.

I believe awards are a way to encourage good scholarly work, diligence, hard work and also to inculcate a competitive spirit. Our institution has always provided its students and staff with a healthy and fairly competitive environment to help them grow in every sphere of life, by giving them equal opportunities to realize their true potentials.

I express my gratitude to the Director of The Research Management Office and other staff for their support and collective efforts towards the growth of these young talents, grooming them to achieve something substantial in life. Whatever these young researchers have achieved so far would never have been possible without your constant help and support.

Also, I would like to address the distinguished awardees of today. Although, I have not had the pleasure of meeting all of you, yet I am already one of your biggest fans. Your commitment to research advancement, your excitement for what you can contribute to the society, and your motivation to excel against all odds are indeed shining examples to our institution and community at large.

The University is so proud of you and it has been a great privilege sharing such a wonderful moment with you. I sincerely and wholeheartedly wish you all, the very best in your endeavors.

I believe this is the start of an exceptional research career.

Thank you.