

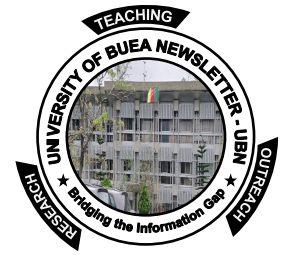


UNIVERSITY OF BUEA NEWSLETTER

UBN

Motto: Information Sharing for Empowerment

A Quarterly Publication on latest Developments in UB



Dec. 2023, No. 6

UB Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga Addresses the University Community through UBN



**Prof. Ngomo
Horace Manga,
Vice-Chancellor**

I am delighted once more to welcome readers to the sixth edition of the University of Buea Newsletter (UBN) coming to testify its worth as a news forum covering the last quarter of 2023. Since inception, the UBN has successfully published all its editions .

To this effect therefore, I use this opportunity to thank the entire editorial team for their fervent interest in putting the news package quarterly irrespective of the technical difficulties at times. On this note, I want to thank the Acting DVC/RCB, Professor Rosemary Shafack for quickly adapting to the new environment and ensuring that things evolve as prescribed.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I use this forum to thank all staff and students of this institution, each in their sphere, for their efforts in making this year a successful one. Teaching and mentoring of other institutions by UB was very effective. Glaring evidence is the quality of students we graduated during the December 2023 Convocation and an increasing number of requests from PHEIs for mentorship.

Our research strength is expanding to include both our students and staff involving in research activities. The evidences are glaring and we must be determined more than ever to achieve more in the days ahead. This will keep UB's name high in teaching, research and outreach.

Dear students, I will like to remind you all, especially the freshmen and women, of the necessity to make good use

of this brief holiday not only limited to joyous moments, but to start preparing for the 2023/24 first semester examinations coming in January.

Dear readers, on behalf of the university community, I wish to congratulate a good number of academic staff who were successful during the last CCIU meeting in Yaoundé. Some Assistant Lecturers were promoted to Lecturers, some Lecturers to Associate Professors and Associate Professors to Professors. With this new quality of staff, we are sure to be more productive in teaching, research, and outreach.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are already into the year. We have to change the rhythm of our commitment to ensure improvement where we were limited last year. I call on the university community to continue to be vigilant to check infiltrators who may be coming to perturb the serene atmosphere of our institution. To achieve this, we must work in total collaboration with security guards who are always available.

To staff and students, I call on you all to exercise a maximum level of patience when the security guards are executing their functions.

On this note, I wish all a Happy New Year 2024.

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UBN No. 6

University of Buea 2nd International Research Conference Unveils Research Prowess of the Institution



The November 8, 2023 University of Buea International Research Conference which took place in the Dorothy Limunga Amphitheatre, was organized as a follow-up to the first conference of October 25 2022. The conference was organized on the theme, “International Conference on Social and Health Sciences”, under the auspices of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga. In his opening remarks, the VC recalled that since its creation, UB has been very involved in research activities as part of its statutory mission. He said the research conference is now an annual event, with this year’s focus on the interconnectedness between the social and health sciences.

The VC emphasized that the goal of the research conference is to bring together researchers - far and near, to share research ideas for growth and development. He also said it is important to track emerging trends and see how researchers could collaborate to create impact along these new dimensions. Professor Ngomo thanked all those who put hands on deck for a smooth organisation of the conference; the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in Charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World (DVC/RCB), the research office, moderators, presenters, and participants. He urged participants to create networks during and after the conference. The VC also advised that the conference should serve as an incubator to support research and development, and that in the end, all participants should leave with enriched minds.

After the opening remarks, Professor Asongalem mounted the rostrum where he presented the keynote address. He based his presentation on, “The Social and Health Sciences Interconnectivity”. Throughout his presentation, he explained how interdependent the social and health sciences are. He illustrated that all disciplines are linked to health and that a good state of the body, mind, and social environment determines quality health for individuals, groups, and society. He also showed how a good combination of social and health sciences will lead to the physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing of persons.

In the area of Social Science, Professor Asongalem said social science involves human endeavours. He detailed the various branches of social science and how they are connected to health. In this direction, emphasis was made on anthropology (medical and social/cultural), sociology (study of individuals, fam-

ily, social groups, social class, gender, child development practices, etc.), economics, psychology, political science (health politics depends on a country’s socialistic model, welfare model, capitalistic model, as well as international commitments and agreements), geography (population and healthcare distribution), law and Ethics, Communication (Health Communication), Education, and History. The conference featured two panel presentations; Health Sciences, moderated by Professor Nsagha Dickson Shey and Social Science moderated by Professor Fossung Michael.

The first presentation in the domain of Health Sciences was done by Veshe-Teh ZemohNinying Sylvia on the topic “Nutritional Composition, Phytochemical and Functional properties of Six (06) Soya bean Varieties (TGX 1835, TGX 2001-8DM, MAK SOY 1N, MAK SOY 3N, MAK SOY 4N and SOUNG PUNGUNG 2400) Cultivated in Cameroon”.

The presentation stressed that soya bean is the most cultivated legume worldwide with outstanding nutritional properties. The presenter said there is increase in demand for soya bean, requiring equal volume in supply. The significance of the study dwelled on the notion that knowing the varieties of soya bean with good nutritional, phytochemical and functional properties will be of good interest for the population and the industry. This will contribute in maximising the use of those varieties for local consumption, oil extraction, and the formulation of new foods.

The second presenter, Professor Stephen Ghogomu in his work titled: “Detection and Identification of Genetically Modified Events in Commercial Food and Food Products in Cameroon” explained that there is a looming world food crisis in the future owing to continuous population increase. This requires a corresponding increase in food supply. He also explained how challenges faced by traditional agriculture (decrease in cultivable area due to urbanization, drought as a result of climate change, increase input cost, poor food quality, low farm yield, fresh product post-harvest losses, competition of plants with weed, insect pest and diseases) can be mitigated in order to guarantee food sufficiency.

University of Buea 2nd International Research Conference Cont..

The first presentation in the domain of Social Sciences was done by Asonge Pride Tabifor. In his topic titled: "The Nature of Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion of the Potentially Disabled in Peter Singer's Practical Ethics as an Impact on Health and the Society", he pointed out that human life has always been considered to be of vital importance throughout history by bringing out ethical issues behind the practise of selective abortion and killing of the disabled, for reasons such as to reduce the number of persons born and those living with disabilities.

The presentation also made the forceful argument that it is practically impossible to have a "perfect society" or a society where everyone has "something to offer," economically. It concluded that all human life should be dignified.

While drilling the participants, Dr. Forka Leypey Mathew Fomine in his discussion on: "The Fundamentals of Genetic History", examined key concepts of genetic history like sex determinant genes XX and XY, strictly paternally inherited genes, Mitochondria DNA, mutation (with sources including inherited and acquired).

The presentation also x-rayed types of mutations, including hereditary mutations or germline mutations; De novo mutation (eggs & sperms cells); somatic mutation (liver, heart, lungs etc); and induced mutations (cigarette smoke, pesticides, drugs, X-rays, Ultraviolet light). Effects of mutations were also examined: Polymorphism, DNA sequence variation common in a population, some are harmful - causing genetic disorder and chromosomal abnormalities; some lead to hereditary diseases like sickle cell anemia, some are beneficial - new versions of proteins adaptable to new environments, ingredient of evolution. The presentation also featured genetic diversity, factors that influence gene diversity, and advantages of genetic diversity such as species resistance to diseases and pandemics. Genetic

diversity also allows species to adapt to future environmental changes. The conclusion dwelled on the importance of DNA research.

The last presenter in this series was Ms. Atianjoh Marie-Claire in her subject titled "Women See, Women Do: Body Image Construct and Social Media Amongst Female Gender in Buea, Cameroon" where she classified body image as a multidimensional concept which involves people's positive and negative perception, thoughts, attitude, and behaviour about their body and appearance. The study used the social cognitive theory which asserts that people (women and young girls in this case) learn through observation and modeling, and the tripartite model of social influence which states that perceived appearance, pressure from family, friends and the media through indirect messages of praise and promotion of what an ideal body should be, lead to body dissatisfaction.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in Charge of Internal Control and Evaluation (DVC/ICE), Professor Peter Sakwe Masumbe gave the closing remarks. He thanked the conference organizers, presenters, moderators, and participants who answered present and stayed from start to finish.

Notwithstanding, Professor Masumbe lamented that many individuals in the university community do not take research and conferences of this nature seriously. He said this is rather unfortunate, considering that the university environment is expected to be a place of knowledge production and knowledge sharing. He urged research enthusiasts never to be tired of research and breaking grounds in new knowledge.

The conference ended at 2:30pm with group photographs and lunch shared by all at the staff canteen. The conference participants stood at 352 registered.



Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) Runs the Maiden Industrial Forum/Open Day

The event which took place on 30 November 2023 at CUREF (Former Alliance-Franco) for the first time was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngo-mo Horace Manga, accompanied by top management officials. Also present were: staff and students of the faculty, representatives of industries, representatives of engineering orders and FET Alumni.

In his technical presentation of the Faculty, the Dean, Dr Agbor Dieudonne was proud to announce that FET UB was one of the five engineering schools and the first Anglo Saxon in the country. While casting a retrospective look, he pointed out that FET started with 4 Departments as follows: Power System, Telecommunications, Computer Software, and Computer Networking. He said currently the faculty is running the Department of Civil Engineering. Continuous applause, accompanied by jubilation, was the order of the day when he informed the audience that Chemical and Petroleum Engineering will run next academic year (2024/2025). By measuring the level of productivity and competence of the faculty, he highlighted that the students of FET in record have won 31 prizes in national competitions. Still in that direction, he indicated that the faculty has produced 800 highly skilled engineers with unbeatable reputation and has trained and graduated 10 PhDs.

With this massive success within its scope of existence, the Dean thanked the industries that were represented and appreciated their efforts for always willing to accept FET students for internship. He paid a special tribute to the former Dean, Professor Tanyi Emmanuel who, against all odds in its initial stage, was still able to paddle the faculty to higher heights. He described the former Dean as the person who laid the foundation of FET. In a telephone call with UBN, the former Dean confirmed that FET has trained many engineers, some of whom have started off something where young Cameroonians earn a living. He pointed out that this open day provides an opportunity for the public to have a firsthand evidence of what the faculty is capable of doing.

This event was an opportunity to educate the audience on the content and activities of CITAC, a project funded by the European Union housed in FET. The Principal Investigator, Dr Tsafack Pierre told the audience that the project was approved in 2021 and ensured that quality assurance is maintained. The Euro-

pean Union, through this project, is providing necessary services to raise the standard of engineering and training .

The Vice-Chancellor in his opening address described the event as the maiden edition and expressed the desire that it should become a continuous program. He opined that the occasion marked a milestone in the existence of FET. He thanked the Principals of Colleges who allowed their students to witness the activities of the event. He called on staff and students to visit the various stands and ask questions so as to learn what they do not know. In a special way to acknowledge the importance of the industries vis-a-vis FET, he pointed out clearly that new programs are drawn to reflect the need of the industries. To this effect, the VC noted that for the success of FET to be recognised within and out of UB, effective collaboration between UB and industries must be maintained.

The stands displayed different categories of competencies depicting solution to societal problems like the production of electricity hybrid induction cooker, smart traffic light system and major leading projects showing the faculty's prowess.

The event ended with a round table conference on the theme: "FET after 13 years: Time for feedback on employability, training approaches and expected skills". Those who participated did their best to show how far FET has gone to impact the community. The event was an in-depth evaluation of the extent to which the faculty has evolved within 13 years.



USAID-Cameroon Visits UB

On November 28, 2023, a high profile USAID-Cameroon delegation visited the University of Buea, precisely at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The delegation comprised of USAID Cameroon Country Representative, Mr Phillippe Acciline, Head of Health Division, Dr Jose Tchota and the Lead Global Health Security Agenda, Dr Donatien Ntakarutmana. These important personalities representing USAID-Cameroon during the visit were received by top management officials, students, and staff of the University of Buea.

After a brief courtesy visit to the chancellery where they were received by the Vice-Chancellor and his entourage, they proceeded to the Faculty of Health Sciences where the event took place. The purpose of the visit was to showcase the achievements of USAID-Cameroon since 2017. The Vice-Chancellor in his address welcomed the visitors and thanked them for taking time off their busy schedule to visit the University of Buea, 'The Place to Be'. He reminded the delegation that UB just celebrated its 30 years of existence during which her academic excellence and research were exposed. He mentioned that this success would not have been possible without the committed scientists, lecturers, and students. While giving a special attention to the visit, the VC noted that it was a privilege to host the USAID Country Representative.

Going historically, the VC recalled that UB joined the USAID funded One Health Workforce project of Africa One Health University Network in 2017 through the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. He expressed profound happiness that the students and staff of the university are continuously benefiting from opportunities offered by the United States and particularly the USAID mission. These benefits, he pointed out, include direct support to improve academic offerings and innovative curricula or revision of existing programs to integrate One Health core-competencies.

The VC drew the attention of the Country Representative of the current funding difficulties plaguing African Universities of which UB is not an exception. This funding difficulty has hindered effective surveillance of zoonotic disease which requires a dedicated laboratory. With this financial shortcoming, the VC expressed the hope that USAID-Cameroon, using its high office, could link UB to more universities and organizations based in the United States of

America to strengthen such strategic partnership for mutual benefit. During the visit, highlights of the achievements of USAID-Cameroon were enumerated as follows:

- ◆ Promotion of the One health (OH) concept and its implementation;
- ◆ Promotion of Biosafety and Biosecurity;
- ◆ Contribution to fighting against antimicrobial resistance;
- ◆ Training of teaching staff in problem-based instructional design;
- ◆ Creation of a UB Student One Health Innovation Club (SOHIC);
- ◆ One Health research grants to students;
- ◆ eLearning capacity building;
- ◆ Development and launching of two innovative One Health-oriented PG programs and short CPD courses in UB; and
- ◆ MR Training (MSc and Short CPD courses) at FHS.

This achievement is glaring indication of USAID-Cameroon's commitment to the University of Buea. Still in the course of the visit, several posters were visited showing different levels of engagement in USAID activities in UB.



Vice-Chancellor installs 28 Newly Appointed Staff of the University of Buea



On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, in the Amphitheatre 750, was a mammoth crowd that forwent other things to personally witness the installation ceremony of some newly appointed staff of the University of Buea. The ceremony which started at 3:30pm was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga, assisted by his Deputies and Registrar. Also, were the massive presence of staff, friends and families of the newly appointed officials.

This installation was in response to the Ministerial Circular No. 23/0017/MINESUP of 29 September appointing 28 officials to various positions of the institution. The various positions to which these 28 newly appointed officials fitted are Vice-Dean, Heads of Department, Heads of Services, and Coordinators of Programs. The list of those who were appointed was read to enable the Vice-Chancellor perform the installation rituals.

The VC mounted the rostrum to officially install to functions the newly appointed officials. He commenced by heartily congratulating the new officials for their hard work and commitment necessitating their elevation into various positions. With this, the VC went further to declare that given the powers bestowed on him, the newly appointed officials were now installed. This ritual was immediately followed by the presentation of bouquet of flowers to the deserving persons, starting with the Vice-Dean for Research and Cooperation in the Faculty of Science, Professor Beatrice Fonge. The peak of happiness reigned in the hall following the presentation of bouquet by family members and friends to the appointed officials as one could witness the joy on the faces of all.

The Vice-Chancellor in his closing remarks acknowledged the presence of top management officials, the Divisional Officer of Eyumujock and Dr Victor Mbome Njie, former Regional Delegate of Public Health for the South West Region. With this, the VC used the opportunity once more and congratulated the new officials appointed to paddle the affairs of the institution to a safer coastline which he saw as a collective responsibility.

The VC called on them to ensure that the objectives assigned to their various posts of responsibility are attained in the process of executing their functions. He reminded them that they have automatically become part and parcel of the strategic human resource of UB, a forever place to be. He also thanked families and friends of the appointed officials who supported

until this moment in their careers. The last but not the least point the VC mentioned was discipline. He cautioned them that as prerequisite to guarantee a successful end as civil servants, they should use their discretion correctly and respect hierarchy.

Some important issues worth noting characterized the ministerial appointment: civil servants not within the Higher Education core were appointed and with the exception of HTTC Kumba and Faculty of Health Sciences, all other establishments felt the impact of the 29th September Ministerial Circular. Interestingly again, Professor Nwahanye Emmanuel gained the ministerial favour in two capacities; Head of Department, Management at the University of Buea, and Vice-Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Bertoua.



UB American Corner Organizes Discussion on Women’s Protection

Within the context of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the American Corner under the auspices of the Director of Library, Professor Rosemary Shafack, organized a discussion on women’s protection. During this 16 days of activism, people all over the world came together to raise awareness against gender-based violence and discriminatory attitudes. They requested for improved laws and services to stop violence against women. This 16 days call started in 1991 by activists at the inauguration of the Women’s Global Leadership institute. Based on this, the American Corner of the University of Buea decided to create awareness against gender-based violence by putting together a package to its audience on Friday 8th December 2023.

The occasion which took place in the American Corner auditorium of UB was anchored by Ms Nenapa Christelle, a Jurist. She was assisted by Dr Achancho Pauline, Senior Court Registrar (High Court Fako) and Ms Louanga Claire Stephane, a Jurist in the Court of First Instance, Buea. Present to listen to these key speakers on the discussion on protecting women’s rights and limiting gender-based violence were both students of the institution and secondary schools. Taking the lead in drilling the participants, Ms Nenapa defined gender-based violence to mean violence directed against a person because of that person’s gender.

In her opinion, she grouped gender-based violence into four categories; physical involving the scuffle between husband and wife or between girlfriend and boyfriend, sexual violence involving rape or using job to lure women especially young girls to sexual activity, socioeconomic violence involving the inequality access to wealth and source of income and finally mental violence involving hate speech and abuse. She pointed out during her presentation that there were several general and specific conventions to fight for the rights of women. Referring to the context of Cameroon, the speaker mentioned that Cameroon has no law specifically against gender-based violence. Instead, the constitution provides for equality before the law; meaning that it sees both men and women as equal.

Mounting the rostrum in the second position, Dr Achancho presented on the techniques of identifying early signs of gender-based violence. This topic was essentially necessary because the early signs of gender-based violence are difficult to identify and

if not identified, the victim could piecemeal and silently go through psychological trauma. She noted categorically that the early signs of gender-based violence are difficult to be noticed because most often, the victims are shy to open up to someone who could be of help. The fear of being stigmatized she said, was the greatest challenge for victims to report cases. To this effect and as an attempt to identify early signs of gender-based violence without necessarily getting a report from the victims, she listed a number of things to be considered: keeping distance to many things, always lonely, poor academic results, less concentration on daily activities, frightened with the least noise, and the presence of bruises on the body. The speaker called on the participants to report cases of gender-based violence without fear and failing to report is directly protecting the perpetrator.

The last presenter, Ms Louanga Claire Stephane spoke on the methods of curbing gender-based violence. She maintained that the organization of the seminar in itself is a way of curbing the violence through sensitization and creating awareness. Based on this, she said those who were present at the seminar should endeavour to sensitize others on the knowledge obtained from the seminar. In the next vein, she pointed out that empowering the victim could be an important method to curb gender-based violence especially when the violence was tied to hardship like the process of going through a series of sexual scenes to gain employment.

In the discussions that followed, participants displayed a good understanding of the subject evident by the kind of questions that were asked. It was also an opportunity to identify what could be done in case of gender-based violence. It was announced during the discussion that the process is on the way to create a trauma centre. Meanwhile, it was brought to notice that Reach-out, a non-governmental organization is currently running a free home for victims of gender-based violence. The enriching programme ended with a group photographs.



Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine celebrates 'World Soil Day'

The Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAVM) on the 5th December 2023 joined their counterparts the world over to celebrate World soil Day, a day set by the United Nations in special recognition of soil especially in agriculture which is the backbone of human survival. The event which took place at the FAVM Amphitheatre 300 was spearheaded by the Department of Agronomic and Applied Molecular Sciences and was chaired by the Dean Professor Mvodo Awono Jean Pierre, and in attendance were Vice-Deans, staff, and students of the faculty. The 2023 World Soil day was celebrated on the theme "Soil and water: a source of life."

In choosing the theme of the celebration, a special attention was paid to soil and water which are essential resources for sustaining life on earth. The inter-connectivity of water and soil makes integrated management very necessary to make maximum use of the resources. The main objective of the event therefore was to put science and technology at the service of sustainable soil and water management.

In an introductory phase of the event, the VD/RC, Professor Tening Aaron drilled the audience on the topic, "World Soil Day." To this end, he presented the types of soil and described its formation and composition. In his presentation, the VD/RC enumerated the role of soil in varying capacities as follows: habitat for micro organisms and provision of nutrients for plants. He cautioned that the moment soils are destroyed, a series of lives too are destroyed. The presenter highlighted some elements of soil degradation mechanisms to include soil erosion, desertification, and contamination with heavy metals.

In the keynote address presented by the Dean, he thanked the Head of Department Professor Christopher Ngosong for his ingenuity in making the event a success and welcomed all those who took time off to join in the celebration of the World Soil Day. In a special way, the Dean acknowledged the presence of Dr Sama Lang Patrick, a staff from SOWEDA and thanked him for honouring the invitation. In his keynote address, he pointed out that 75% of land has been degraded through human actions like poor method of farming, burning of soils, building and construction and improper disposition of waste materials. All these, he said has negative impact on the soil formation which is a threat to agriculture and future generation.

To understand the implications of soil and water to the existence of human beings, the event featured discussions which centred on Soil and Water interactions, Soil and water Outreach and Soil and Water

Measurement technologies coordinated by Prof Christopher Ngosong, Dr Sama Lang Patrick and Prof Akoachere respectively. Apart from creating awareness within the university community on issues related to soil and water, the event demonstrated the use of technology for data collection in relation to soil and water management.

In his closing remarks, the Dean thanked everybody for witnessing the event to an end as well as the organizers for making it possible for the presentations and discussions to be done.



University of Buea extends scope of Mentorship to Rousseau Higher Institute of Technology (RHIT)

Barely few weeks after the resumption of the 2023/2024 academic year, the Rousseau Higher Institute of Technology in Douala came on 05 October knocking on the door of the University of Buea seeking for mentorship. At the end of it, framework and specific agreements were authenticated between the two institutions. The ceremony which took place in the boardroom of the Central Administrative Building presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngo-mo Horace Manga, was attended by top management officials, a team from the RHIT, the Deans of the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences and Faculty of Engineering and Technology and some staff.

While presiding over the signing ceremony, the VC in his opening speech reminded the audience on the previous activities that had been carried out before the ratification of the two agreements. In line with this, he mentioned that the structures accommodating the RHIT was visited and confirmed to have met the standard of training students under the mentorship of UB. Secondly, the VC announced that UB in its normal procedure to effect the mentorship agreement between the institutions studied the curriculum of RHIT ensuring that the content was adequately articulated to meet contemporary standard.

In his welcoming speech, the VC thanked the team from RHIT for taking the responsibility to train young Cameroonians, noting that the government cannot be able to do effective training alone. In his statement to amplify the responsibility on RHIT, the VC requested that the mentee institution should adhere strictly to terms of the agreement which would entail the training of her students to the same level as UB students.

After the brief introduction by members of both institutions, the Promoter of the RHIT, Mr. Kengne Fidele was called upon to talk on behalf of his institution. He expressed his gladness to be present and witnessing the signing ceremony between his institution and UB. He happily announced that the RHIT preferred UB to any other institution for mentorship because of her rigorous policy. He promised that all the necessary precautions will be taken to keep in line with the rules and regulations governing the partnership agreement. Still speaking to the audience, he expressed the wish that his institution should be like UB in training and skills acquired.

The signing proper then followed after which the VC closed the brief but enriching ceremony. In his closing remarks, he appreciated the RHIT for selecting UB as

a choice amongst other state universities. He reminded that UB has many institutions under its mentorship programme and has not failed them in executing the task and consequently, UB will not fail RHIT.

In boosting the moral of the mentee institution, the VC pointed out that the best universities abroad are not state owned. To this effect, the VC made known to the RHIT team that they have a chance to grow and become like the private universities abroad. This occasion marked the very first for the new academic year, 2023/2024.



University of Buea Releases 25th Batch of Graduates

The convocation breeze that blew slowly but steadily within the Buea environs finally settled in the University of Buea on 19th and 20th of December in the presence of high dignitaries, including the Minister of Transport, the Ambassador of the United States to Cameroon, UB top management officials, staff and graduating students. The event which showcases the institution's commitment to academic excellence took place at the Herbert Nganjo Endeley Amphitheatre. On the first day of the convocation, students of the College of Technology, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Laws and Political Science and Faculty of Science were on board. Day two brought students from Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Social and Management Sciences together to receive their degree awards.

Irrespective of the current traffic congestion, the graduating students, family members and friends were able to ferry themselves into the convocation ground on time.

After the inter-religious service, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga with so much enthusiasm to release the 25th batch of graduating students mounted the podium to address guests. He started by welcoming all those present despite the charged programs that always come with December. In his address, he recognized the contribution of the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Edward Oben Ako who apart from his position was representing the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndong. He appreciated the presence of the Minister of Transport and the United States Ambassador to Cameroon.

To the students who were present to be officially recognized in their new portfolios, the VC congratulated them for a job well done and hoped that the training they have received from the institution will be a gateway towards achieving unlimited success. The lists of graduating students were presented.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, the Pro-Chancellor thanked the Vice-Chancellor for ensuring that all the prescribed rules and regulations enshrined in higher education provisions were upheld to make the day's event possible. He invited guests present, especially the Minister of Transport and the US Ambassador to join him to congratulate the graduating students for their success and UB's collaborators (teaching and non teaching staff) for guiding the students to make it in record time.

Establishment	Bachelor	Masters	Doctor of Philosophy
ASTI	07	68	02
COT	41	34	02
FAVM	87	45	02
Arts	168	33	04
FED	462	162	13
FET	116	45	08
FLPS	1392	188	19
Science	337	202	12
FSMS	1374	109	12

Considering the increasing number of students, the Pro-Chancellor called on the UB Alumni to support the University in contributing to development. He thanked the government and the University of Buea administration for their continuous efforts in the provision of infrastructure. Particularly speaking to the graduating students, the Pro-Chancellor pointed out that the newly acquired degrees should serve as keys to open new doors for more opportunities. With keen interest to the Masters graduating students, he reminded them that they were taught entrepreneurial skills as a means to activate their technical knowhow as job creators and providers. In his conclusion, he called on the graduands to work hard so as to contribute their quota in the drive towards achieving the Head of State, President Paul Biya's vision of Cameroon becoming an emergent state by 2035.

For the 2023 December convocation season, the best overall student came from the Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry. The candidate, Malih Ezekiel Lah scored a GPA of 3.97, First Class Honours in Chemistry. After his valedictory address, the representative of the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Buea, Professor Edward Oben Ako, declared the convocation ceremony closed.



Research Office Visits ongoing UB-Funded Income-Generating Projects Sites under the Incubation Projects Scheme

The Research and Publications Division undertook a working visit on 17th November 2023 to the three ongoing incubation projects, first launched in 2022. The aim of the visit was to evaluate the extent to which the UB-funded income-generating projects have gone in the process of executing and operationalisation of the projects activities.

The visit which was led by the Head of Division, Dr Seraphine Esemu took the team first to Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine where they met the Principal Investigator, Dr Divine Ewane. In his income generating project, titled *Project to support a business Incubator Approach to the Teaching of Livestock Pro-*

duction at the University of Buea, he clearly displayed the extent to which he has gone with the project. The second stop was at the Faculty of Arts where the team met with principal Investigator, Dr Marcus Ngwa and the other team members. In their project titled, Sustainable Fabric Design and Textile Transformation, they explained with evidence the extent they had gone.

The last visit was at the Faculty of Science where the visiting team was opportune to meet the team leader, Dr Mbua Lyonga, of the UB-SPRINGS project. The project focuses on bottling of mineral water.



PVA Sawing Machine



Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory (MCBL), Biotechnology Unit, Faculty of Science Records Milestone Achievement after 10 years

The last event that went down in record during the activities of 2023 in the Faculty of Science was the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the MCBL and Biotechnology which took place on the 21st December 2023 at Amphitheatre 150C. The colourful ceremony whose organization was spearheaded by the Head of the MCBL, Professor Ghogomu Stephen was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Roland Ndip in the presence of the Registrar, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World, representatives of companies, external collaborators, staff, and students.

In his welcome address to the audience, the Dean on behalf of the VC and entire university community welcomed all those who were present to join the 10th Anniversary celebration caravan. In a retrospect, the Dean recalled that the laboratory came into existence in 2011 to focus on some diseases which were predominant in low income countries. Reasons for this intervention to curb the reoccurrence of the diseases, the Dean pointed out that their presence most often result in discrimination, social stigma, and low productivity. In his closing remarks, the Dean enumerated the activities of the day marking the 10 Anniversary celebrations: speeches, genesis of the creation of Biotechnology Unit, and presentations. He thanked the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Vincent PK Titanji, for being in-

strumental towards the realization of the Biotechnology Unit.

In the course of presenting the MCBL to the audience, Professor Ghogomu highlighted the great achievement accomplished within the 10 years. The workforce of the laboratory includes some PhD students based in Buea and other seven PhD students on sandwich programme from Germany and Belgium. Top on the list of the achievements is the training of 41 MSc and 8 PhDs who are occupying good positions all over the world. The laboratory, over the years, with resources from external sources, has been able to develop new tools for the control of major tropical diseases as follows: onchocerciasis diagnostic; onchocerciasis multiepitope vaccine candidate; malaria treatment; aedes transmitted arboviral disease; and swine fever. Professor Ghogomu also painted the extent of involvement of the lab in providing service to the community to include clinical trials and nodulectomy on some patients. In rounding up his presentation, he pointed out some inherent difficulties mitigating the smooth function of the MCBL to include space, finances, late arrivals of reagents, long process of obtaining exoneration papers, power failure, and political instability.



Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory (MCBL), Biotechnology Unit, Faculty of Science Records Milestone Achievement after ten years, Cont.....

Using this opportunity, Professor Jacob Souopgui from Belgium informed the audience that underway is a program for the running of an MSc in Biotechnology in Rwanda in collaboration with UB. He appreciated the great achievements of the UB laboratory.

Then, was the turn of the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Vincent PK Titanji who took the floor to give the genesis of the Biotechnology Unit. As the pioneer appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science, cumulatively with his position as the then Coordinator of Biotechnology Centre in Yaounde, the creation of a Biotechnology Unit in UB was necessary. Speaking to the audience, the former VC recalled that Faculty of Science was first housed in the present office of the Director of Physical Plant and Development and consequently with no laboratory space. After a while, a room was given at the Commons to use as a laboratory which did not last long. Attempts to use a building in Public Works school in Buea failed. He pointed that funds initially located by French Cooperation to procure laboratory equipment were diverted. His attempt requesting for a grant from UB for laboratory failed. However, the former VC told the audience of his success in getting a grant from Germany which helped in purchasing equipment from abroad for the start-off of the Biotechnology Unit.

In her opening remarks of the ceremony, the Acting DVC/RCB, Professor Rosemary Shafack thanked the former VC for creating time to attend the ceremony. She traced the evolution of the laboratory and how it has been funded, what it has been doing; like training of postgraduate students and its role to enhance health.

Other activities marking the 10th Anniversary celebration were presentations from two related biotechnology companies; Inqaba-biotec with many branches in

Africa with the aim of promoting research in Africa. The second company Genescript with a history of twenty years in existence started in US imbued with the culture of innovation operating in more than 100 countries with over 200,000 customers. This company expressed her willingness to support research in UB. Next on the queue were testimonies given by representatives of the DMD Lab and PhD and M.Sc. students. Their testimonies revealed a deep insight into what the lab has made them to become. This was followed by the presentation of ongoing research work by Dr Shintou Carbiro on Onchocerciasis Diagnostic and Vaccine Development which he announced was in its advanced stage of development. Another ongoing work was presented by Dr Zeukeng on Understanding the Transmission Mechanism of Buruli Ulcer: Summary note and Research Perspectives. These two presentations received a lot of comments and proposals from the audience which were considered vital to the ongoing tasks. The last phase of the celebration ended with prize awards to deserving staff and students, some of which were Professors Titanji, Ghogomu, Souopgui and Ndip.

In his closing remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Science acknowledged the presence of the Registrar, Acting DVC/RCB, Professor Titanji and thanked them for respecting the rendez-vous. He congratulated the former VC for his input in realization of the Biotechnology Unit which has trained many, including himself. He used the opportunity to thank Professor Ghogomu for the huge sacrifices he is making to train MSc and PhD students. He finally closed his remarks by thanking all the collaborators especially Prof Souopgui from Belgium and the VC for always signing the request for exoneration within short notice.

