

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE OF DEANS
UNIVERSITY OF JOS PROFESSOR JOSEPH O. KOLAWOLE TO
DECLARE OPEN THE CONFERENCE ON “ICT TRENDS IN
NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES” UNIVERSITY OF JOS COMPUTER
CENTRE**

Director of Computer Centre, University of Jos,

Fellow Deans,

Our International Resource Person,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with pleasure that I stand, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, to welcome you to the University of Jos for this singular opportunity to discuss trends in the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Nigerian universities.

In a period when it had become difficult to communicate with the outside world, purchase textbooks and journals, and register with foreign professional bodies due to financial constraints, the availability of a technology that overcomes this is most welcome. The theme of this

conference is therefore very appropriate, as no effort should be spared in accessing and utilizing resources of the new ICT.

I therefore hope that you will discuss such issues as access to the Internet by staff and students, the education of academics in the use of resources of the World Wide Web, subscription to electronic academic journals by staff, students and the library, and the funding of ICT especially in academic departments. I also hope that by the end of the day, you would have come up with a guideline on the choice of vendors for various ICT projects on our campuses.

It is perhaps interesting to note that the Federal Government of Nigeria is increasingly going technological. The new Distance Learning project is to be enhanced by the use of ICT. The National Virtual Library Project for Nigerian universities portends a revolution in academic communication and collaboration among Nigerian scholars.

Globally, knowledge has become more or less boundless, and data is now abounding, largely because of the versatility of human actors in the World Wide Web. But the Nigerian community is yet to benefit meaningfully from these enormous resources.

The other area of concern is the abysmally low level of Nigerian content on the World Wide Web. This conference should be able to address the issue.

With the caliber of presenters in today's conference, I believe that you will have very good deliberations and practicable suggestions on the integration of the new Information and Communication Technology with our curricula and, as a way of life on our campuses.

It is my pleasure, therefore to declare this conference on ***“ICT Trends in Nigerian Universities”*** opened. Happy deliberations.

Thank you.