

## ADDRESSES

### ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR TEKENA N. TAMUNO VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

Your Excellencies, Learned Participants, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy to join you at this opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Africa Regional Seminar on Technical Education, and I extend to you all a warm welcome to the University of Ibadan. I greet all of you gathered here this morning under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat to exchange ideas and to consider how best to achieve fruitful partnerships between technical education (particularly technician education) and industry. This, I understand, is the main theme of this seminar, and an appropriate one at that, especially for those of us in developing countries.

As you know, our technicians and engineers are severely criticized for their inadequate integration of theory and practice. I am gratified to note that this aspect of the problem will be tackled at this seminar and that full use will be made of the international composition of the participants here to exchange notes and collate material on measures, activities, schemes and arrangements which have proved effective in some countries. Surely, most of these measures will involve innovations in the educational system which will in turn necessitate a process of curriculum development.

Actions already taken by the Federal Ministry of Education and the relevant state ministries show that the governments of our federation area aware of these problems and have been trying to find solutions to them. The recently introduced one-tier system for our polytechnics is a case in point. The Federal Government's new National Policy on Education provides further testimony of its efforts to integrate theory with practice.

Here at the University of Ibadan, the need to integrate theory with practice is fully appreciated; hence, industrial work experience is one of the course requirements in our Faculty of Technology. Your seminar is a very important one especially for countries that are still technologically backward. I hope that, at the end of this seminar, there will emerge concrete proposals to ensure a considerable improvement of the existing situation.

It is a mark of honour that this important seminar in Commonwealth Africa is taking place at our University. I also applaud the other signal honour in inviting me to serve as chairman at the opening session. We appreciate both these aspects of honour and thank the organizers for recognizing our humble efforts in the field of higher education in Nigeria.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me once more bid you welcome to the University. I hope you will find time in spite of your busy schedule to see as much of our campus as you possibly can. It now remains for me to wish your seminar every success.