**Dr. Baylie’s Speech at Nigeria Day**

Dear Your Excellency Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo

Former President of Nigeria

Dear Your Excellency Mr. Tefera Waluwa

Former Deputy Prime Minster and Minster of Defence, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Dear Your Excellency Ambassador Osman Baraya

Ambassador of Nigeria to Ethiopia and permanent representative to African Union Commission.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Welcome to this annual Obasanjo’s lecture on Science, Technology and Innovation.

I want to thank our speaker Dr. Babfemi Olushehun Obasanjo for accepting our invitation in such as short notice.

It shows your commitment, like your father, for the advancement of science, Technology and innovation. Welcome and we are happy to have you here.

Last year we have the privilege to honor Olusegun Obasanjo for his outstanding leadership not only in Nigeria but also in Africa as whole.

Obasanjo is not only an influential politician with strong Pan Africanism.

He is also one of the intellectual giants of Africa who promotes Science, Technology and Innovation.

He has shown his commitment to development by exploiting the opportunities science and technology provide to us while he was president of Nigeria.

He has created several institutions in the area.

After the University Senate decided to have annual lecture that carries his name, I asked him to choose the theme of the lecture.

He replied me “Science Technology and Innovation” without waiting for a second.

This clearly shows his focused attention to the core cause of development in Africa.

He continued to make his point absolutely clear to me by raising specific issue as an example.

I am not sure if Mr. Obasanjo likes me to say it in public.

However, since it is powerful I want to take the risk and say it.

He said “Mr. President it is not the right time now for as to spend time and money to study Egyptology”.

I must add that the way he said it and his body language shoed his frustration on Africa’s slow progress on Science, Technology and Innovation.

I saw the challenge we will have in organizing annual lecture that carries Obasanjo’s name that can mimic his spirit and intentions on science, technology and innovation.

At the same time I knew that his commitment to the theme will make him to come and shape this lecture.

**Your Excellency, thanks for coming.**

This is the first Obasanjo’s annual lecture on Science, Technology and Innovation.

We have organized this first lecture while the University is working on a document that will outline the curriculum of Obasanjo’s lecture on science, technology and innovation.

The document will answer questions like who are the participants, the speakers and related activities like competition among African students on science and technology and innovation.

It will be a forum where students and teachers from many African countries get recognition for creating technology and innovations, which are applicable to Africa.

This year Obasanjo’s annual lecture lays down the foundations for the large and popular Science and Technology forum we have envisioned.

I am glad that our former Deputy Prime Minster, Ato Tefera Waluwa, another prominent person who promotes Science, Technology and Innovations in a manner similar to Mr. Obasanjo is also with us today.

I am sure that he will provide substantial contributions for today’s discussions as well as in the refinement of the Obasanjo’s future annual lecture series.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

The questions like why people at different place around the globe follow difference technological development are very common.

The reasonable and more scientific answer seems to be people’s environment not people’s biological difference.

If so what are the people’s environment that made us technologically backward?