

THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ADO-EKITI

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning was established in September 2005 along with other two departments, Estate Management and Architectural Technology, within the School of Environmental Studies. As the Programme was not advertised in the JAMB Brochure for admission of students that year, a few students who could not get admitted to their first and second choice in other programme but who qualified for Urban and Regional Planning were admitted as the pioneer students of the programme. This expectedly brought in the initial problem of convincing the students that it was worth trying as many of them were hearing of the profession and programme in any institution of higher learning for the first time. Also, there was the problem of inadequate staff, space and other facilities that usually confront beginner departments, some of which still persist till today.

STAFFING POSITION

The Department started with only four academic staff at its inception in October 2005 in the persons of Tpl Kehinde Alao (Head of Department), Tpl Taiwo D.O. Tpl Olamide E.V., Tpl Adeoti I. It was with these staff that the Department operated until 2011 when one additional registered town planner was added to the stock in the person of Mr Akintunde T.B.. This was very inadequate and the few lecturers were stressed and stretched beyond limit for a department that offered both ND and HND programmes. Towards the end of 2013, four additional registered town planners, and two technologists were employed (one of whom is a registered town planner).

The summary of the academic staff position is as follows:

Chief lecturer	nil
Principal lecturer	1
Senior lecturer	3
Lecturer I	1
Lecturer II	5
Lecturer III	nil
Technologist I	2

PROSPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Nigerian cities are growing rapidly and faced with problems associated with unplanned and haphazard growth. The need for planning and adequate planning tools to adequately service communities in our institutions cannot be over emphasized. This is because hitherto, planning has been cumbersome and plans made without reliable or adequate information.

Hence, there is need for methodologies that will enable rapid and responsive planning training based on informed planning decisions. Computer Aided Design and Drafting (cad) and Geographic information systems (GIS) are such tools that facilitate sustainability, plan preparation and monitoring so as to familiarize the students with the technology and be in tandem with NITP and other institution on the application and benefit to planning.

The dwindling capital votes for the running of Higher Institutions of Learning in Nigeria has called for various initiatives from stakeholders in order to revamp the economy of the various Institutions and to look both inward and outwards to generate revenue. This in essence is to complement the money that will accrue to our Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and a host of others.

It should be observed that, the professionals in most of the Departments are not utilized to the maximum in areas of revenue generation and other services that Consultants and Contractors are being hired from outside the campus. The record should be put straight that most of the students being turned out yearly as diplomats both at ND and HND could be utilized and thereby contributing to the development of our Institutions of Learning.

In essence, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning have crops of seasoned professional Town Planners who are capable of handling multi-million naira projects in areas of consultancy and services.

It is high time we utilized and cherished what we have in the various departments in order to improve our economic base and create a high sense of responsiveness to the yearning and aspirations of the society. However, in order to generate revenue to the Institution through the Department, there should be a Planning Consultancy Unit, domicile in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and responsible directly to the Deputy Rector (Special Duties and Revenue Generation). The following areas have been identified where services can be rendered both within and outside the Federal Polytechnic Community: campus design; urban master plans: town, cities; digitalized base maps: towns, cities, villages.

MASTER PLANS

A master plan is a guide to orderly city development to promote the healthy, safety, and the general well being, convenient of the people of a community. It

organizes and coordinates the complex relationship between Urban Land Uses and its environs. This entails the plan for land uses and plan for circulation. The Consultancy Unit if initiated is capable of producing master plans for towns and cities in any part of the country. This will increase the revenue base of the Institution and will become a rallying point for others to emulate.

CAMPUS DESIGN

The administrations of many tertiary institutions are considerably ignorant of the professional responsibilities of town planners and architects in campus planning. If the Consultancy Unit is established, this professional body will prepare:

Campus master plans/layout plans for various co-operatives that are interested in mortgages and real estate.

The Site Plans of Campus buildings

The Master Plan of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti can be reviewed by the Consultancy Unit and thereby showcasing it in other tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Digitalized base maps: The Consultancy Unit with adequate support will produce up to date township maps and street guides for towns and cities which will enhance safety of the public and fetch the School substantial revenue.

TRAFFIC STUDIES

Traffic Studies: This includes traffic management of urban roads such as signage, channelization and junction improvement. Traffic counts will be done on both inter and intra roads to know the average daily traffic (ADT) on roads to determine the viability of any road for rehabilitation, expansion and carriage capacity to meet the demand of the clients. The Consultancy Unit will serve as data bank needed to road development to be carried out by the agencies saddled with the responsibility. Parking is done indiscriminately within the urban area; design of parking facilities could be done by the Consultancy Unit for government agencies.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND PLANNING

The indiscriminate dumping of refuse and the environmental effect on the populace call for urgent attention. The Consultancy Unit will be able to carry out studies on the generation, collection and disposal. Recycling of the waste to produce fertilizer and other products.

LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Planning of trees and beautification of the environment is one of the major works of a planner. A huge amount of income can come from planting of trees and flowers as a project for government in the cities. Not that alone, the

Consultancy Unit can also be involved in this type of service for housing estates for both government and private housing estate.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Urban renewal (rehabilitation, infrastructural development), layout development (residential commercial and industrial)

The rapid rate of uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization in Nigeria has brought with it complex urban problems in form of competition for land, poor transportation facilities acute housing shortage, rapid growth of slums and the accompanying health hazards and high incidence of crime of all types. Overcrowding has become characteristics of most urban centres and coupled with this the inadequacy of life support systems such as water, medical facilities and infrastructures such as sewers, road, electricity and communication facilities. Where such a life support system does exist, they are already congested and polluted, indicating poor environmental quality. On this note the Consultancy Unit can conduct research on the following areas to: collect general revenue through the provision of urban renewal services, implement urban renewal in the areas receiving the services, serve as on-the-job practical experience for students on SIWES.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS REPORT

At present in Nigeria many projects in form of commercial use need to be accompanied with environmental impact analysis report. this report must be written and sealed by qualified town planners, which the Consultancy Unit will carry out and it will generate income.

EROSION CONTROL (FLOODING, CHANNELIZATION, ETC.)

The rate at which cities are degenerating through erosion is becoming devastating and this need urgent attention. Flooding and run-off water due to climate change has seriously affected infrastructure facilities and the environment. There is need for proper channelization and alignment of streets and rivers in the towns and villages. The Consultancy Unit will contribute in carrying out the mapping of areas in the cities where channelization can be carried out.

ADVOCACY PLANNING

The Consultancy Unit can act as advocate to individuals, corporate bodies or communities whose properties are affected by government decision to press home their rights as a citizen of Nigeria.

MODEL MAKING

Planners are trained to make models for projects. The Consultancy Unit will liaise with firms in building industry to make models for their projects.

AUTOCAD LAB

AutoCAD is CAD software application for two dimensions: design and drafting use as replacement for traditional drafting. With CAD, work can be designed, developed and save for future use. GIS, on the other hand is a powerful set of tools for collecting, storing and retrieving of, transforming and displaying spatial data.. Both are computer-based tools for planners to operate in a spatial domain so as to avoid the looming wide digital planners and analogue planners. They perform the following functions or tasks: data acquisition, data management, data analysis, and product generation. These are the process of identifying and gathering data and the sources of this includes maps, photograph satellite imagery, field observation and survey. The laboratory will require physical infrastructure (Hardware and software) to operate. These include: computers, data input devices such as scanners, digitizers and GPS as well as data output devices such as printers, plotters and software.

ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMMES

All our programmes are due for accreditation and re-accreditation. The ND programme is supposed to have been re-accredited in the year, 2016. The HND Programme continues to lean on its resource accreditation for survival. We are pleading with Management to do all in its power to stop this breach of the NBTE regulations. In accomplishing this feat a lot of improvements need to be done in the area of provision of physical facilities, especially space and equipment. Lists containing this needed equipment, space and other facilities have severally been submitted to relevant sections of the institution and could be found in relevant files in the department.

CONCLUSION

The Department is blessed with human resources in association with relevant Department within the School. The Planning Consultancy Unit must be given adequate advertisement in radio, television and daily newspaper. There is no doubt about it, if the aforementioned services are looked into and the Consultancy Unit formed, there is going to be substantial improvement in the internally generated revenue of this institution.

