

ISCEST NEWS

is produced quarterly.

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ISCEST NEWS

Issue 3

September 2019

A National Conference for ISCEST!



Centre: Professor Jason Osai with distinguished guests at the opening ceremony of ISCEST 2019 National Conference

The National Conference of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST) was convened on 20-22 August, 2019, at The New Lecture Theatre, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana-Afikpo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. The theme of the Conference was: Education and Administration, A Catalyst for Development in Science and Technology. The Conference was chaired by the President of ISCEST, Professor O. Jason Osai. Dr Lucky Eleanya, the Vice President of ISCEST, who supervised the paper presentations, was ably assisted by Evangelist Azubuike Nnali. The keynoters for the conference were: (1) Professor Fidelis Okpata, Former Dean, Faculty of Management Science, Ebonyi State University and Deputy Chief of Staff Ebonyi State Govt. House Abakaliki; (2) Professor Ogbonnaya Ogbu, a Professor of Virilology, and Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Science, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki; and (3) Professor Jonathan A. Ogwuche, Professor of Environmental Management, Dean, Faculty of Environmental Science, Benue State University, Markurdi, Benue State. See pages 4 & 5 for some highlights.

Publish Your Research Paper in CSCEST!



Current Studies in Comparative Education, Science and Technology (CSCEST) is ISCEST's Official Journal. The journal promotes interdisciplinary studies in education, science and technology. It publishes original research and papers that discuss, analyse or evaluate policies, or those that disclose relevant gaps in existing research. For more information on paper submission please visit <http://www.journal.iscest.org/>.

ISCEST Welcomes Special Guest of Honour, Mr Saakashvili Mikheil



Mr. Saakashvili Mikheil, Former President of the Republic of Georgia

Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by John McCain and Hilary Clinton, Mikheil Saakashvili was the President of Georgia from 2004 to 2013. After the peaceful Rose Revolution of 2003, he became Europe's youngest head of state—and set out charting a new course for Georgia. During his time as President of Georgia, Saakashvili was vilified by Vladimir Putin and won the admiration of the West. Commenting upon Saakashvili leaving office, President Obama said, “You are leaving a great legacy of democracy and a reformed Georgia.”

President Saakashvili quickly gained global recognition for his historic anti-corruption initiatives that transformed Georgia, leading the World Bank to name the country the top reformer in the world. Before Saakashvili's presidency, Georgia ranked 100th on the authoritative “Doing Business” report. By 2006, Georgia ranked 37th, and soon moved up to the top 20.

Georgia's path to the West drew the ire of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has always viewed Georgia and other former Soviet republics as Russia's exclusive zone of influence. In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia, and Saakashvili emerged as Putin's enemy number one.

Despite the unimaginable damage done by the war—and the Russian occupation of 20 percent of Georgian territory—Saakashvili continued to drive reforms that spurred economic growth. Ultimately, he dismantled the Soviet legacy in Georgia, and built in its place a pro-Western democracy.

Since leaving office at the end of his second term in 2013, President Saakashvili has remained a leading advocate for closer ties between Eastern Europe and the West. He participated in Ukraine's Maidan Revolution and invited John McCain to address the protests alongside him in December 2013. In 2014, President Saakashvili served as the first Senior Statesman in Residence at the prestigious Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. In this role, President Saakashvili conducted major addresses and lectures on European governance and other contemporary international and regional issues.

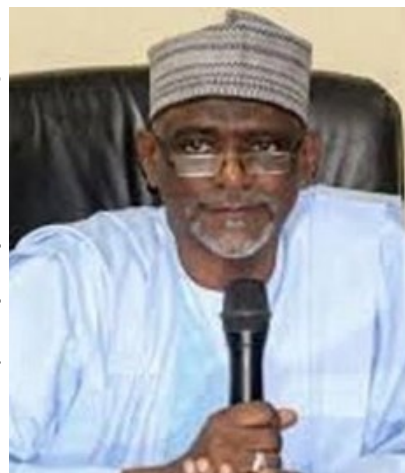
After the revolution in Ukraine, President Saakashvili was invited to advise the new Ukrainian government as Ukraine sought closer ties with the West. From 2015 to 2016, President Saakashvili served as the Governor of Ukraine's Odessa region, where he led ambitious efforts to reform the customs system and combat organized crime.

Currently, he is a political opposition leader and anti-corruption advocate. President Saakashvili is frequently invited to discuss Russia, Putin, and other timely political issues on U.S. and international television, including MSNBC, France 24, Al Jazeera, and BBC. Because of his close friendship with John McCain, President Saakashvili was recently invited to comment on McCain's legacy for CNN, NPR, Fox News, and other outlets.

President Saakashvili studied law at Columbia University, George Washington University, and the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. He is fluent in English, Russian, French, Ukrainian, and Georgian.

ISCEST Welcomes Special Guest of Honour, Professor Adamu

Professor Mallam Adamu Adamu is the current Minister of Education in Nigeria. Initially seated in Bauchi State, he was inducted into the position of a Minister of Education by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015. During his academic years, the reigning Minister studied at the Ahmadu Bello University. He majored in Accountancy, thus mastering his skills in math and money-handling. Such traits are surely valuable for a man responsible for a ministry, where budget allocation has always been a serious problem. Upon receiving his university degree, Adamu Adamu was hired as an accountant at CCP, and then continued to work at the CNL in Bauchi State, before joining the local government in the same position.



Professor Adamu Adamu
Hon. Minister of Education
Federal Ministry of Education

Feeling that he needed a new challenge, Mallam Adamu decided to begin a career as a writer and a public analyst. He took his first newspaper editor job in 1984 but made a name for himself as a columnist for Daily Trust. During those years, he became known as an active commentator on the events that transpired in Nigeria. Native to Bauchi State, Adamu Adamu demonstrated an educated and brave approach, publicly expressing his opinions, and criticizing the rule of Adamu Mu'azy. However, the current Minister of Education didn't limit himself to one State. He also published several articles covering troubling issues that had taken place all around Nigeria. For a couple of years, the Minister of Education served as a Personal Assistant to Solomon Lar, one of the original supporters of the PDP and its first National chairman.

The Minister of Education had been a loyal follower of Buhari for years before the latter was elected the President of Nigeria. Adamu Adamu was one of the men that accompanied Buhari to Bauchi State in 2007 to promote the candidacy of Isa Yuguda, a representative of the ANPP. Adamu's consistent support of the current President of Nigeria led him to being marked as anti-PDP. Prior to his appointment as the Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu has worked as the Secretary of Muhammadu Buhari's Transition Committee. As a result, his years of loyal service were rewarded with one of the most important positions in the government of Nigeria.

Some Highlights from ISCEST National Conference (Cont'd from p.1)



If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people – Chinese Proverb.

Attend seminars, forums, conferences, summits and sessions where interesting topics about dream fulfilment and personal branding are prioritized themes and topics. Get exposed to better ways of doing things – Israelmore Ayivor.



The most important function of education at any level is to develop the personality of the individual and the significance of his life to himself and to others – Grayson Kirk.



Some Highlights from ISCEST National Conference (Cont'd from p.1)



*Alone
we can
do so
little;
together
we can
do so
much –
Helen*



*Coming to-
gether is a
beginning.
Keeping to-
gether is pro-
gress. Work-
ing together
is success -
Henry Ford*



In order to have a winner, the team must have a feeling of unity; every player must put the team first-ahead of personal glory – Paul William ‘Bear’ Bryant.

Professor Obire RIVSU's 54th Inaugural Lecture Cont'd

Hydrothermal vent communities

In 1977 a new and unusual source of nutrients, the basis of a spectacular undersea community, was discovered in the deep ocean. Geologists exploring the Galapagos Rifts (an area in the Pacific floor where the plates that form the Earth's crust are separating) found vents emitting super-heated water, black with sulfur and minerals. Surrounding these vents



Professor Obire

was a rich community of pink fish, blind white crabs, enormous mussels, giant white clams, sea anemones, and giant tube worms (Audesirk *et al.*, 2005). Scientists have now identified vent communities in many deep-sea areas where tectonic plates are spreading apart and material from the Earth's interior is spewing forth to form new crust.

In this unique ecosystem, sulfur bacteria serve as the primary producers. They harvest energy from an unlikely source that is deadly to most other forms of life—hydrogen sulfide discharged from the cracks in the Earth's crust. This process, called chemosynthesis, replaces photosynthesis in the vent communities, which flourish more than a mile below the ocean surface. The growth rate of bacteria is equal to that found in productive, sunlit coastal waters. Both bacteria and archaea proliferate in the hot water surrounding the vents, covering nearby rocks with thick, mat-like colonies. These colonies provide the food on which the animals of the vent community thrive. Many vent animals consume the microorganisms directly (Audesirk *et al.*, 2005).

Microorganisms as decomposers

Another process that helps keep the earth in balance is the process of **biological decomposition** and nutrient recycling. Decomposition involves the breakdown of dead matter and wastes into simple compounds that can be directed back into the natural cycles of living things. The decomposers are primarily fungi and bacteria that digest food outside their bodies by secreting enzymes into the environment. They absorb the nutrients they need and release the remaining nutrients.

Through the activities of decomposers, the bodies and wastes of living organisms are reduced to simple molecules such as carbon dioxide, water, minerals, and organic molecules that return to the atmosphere, soil and water. If it were not for multitudes of bacteria and fungi, many chemical elements would become locked up and unavailable to organisms. By liberating nutrients for reuse, decomposers form a vital link in nutrient cycles of ecosystems.

The carbon cycle (Figure 5) depends on photosynthesis and respiration; the Nitrogen cycle (Figure 6) relies heavily on bacteria while the Phosphorus cycle (Figure 7) depends on the weathering of rocks (Campbell *et al.*, 2000). In the long term scheme of things, microorganisms are the main forces that drive the structure and content of the soil, water and atmosphere.

Professor Obire RIVSU's 54th Inaugural Lecture Cont'd

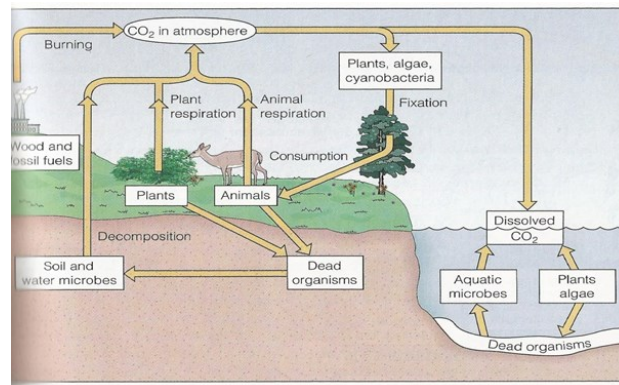


Fig. 5: The Carbon Cycle (Source: Campbell et al, 2000)

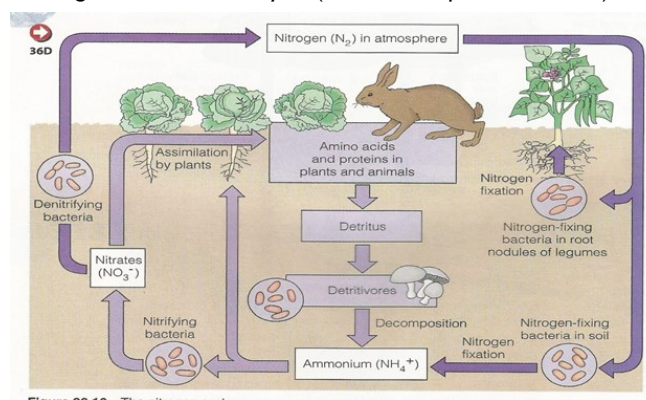


Fig. 6: The Nitrogen Cycle (Source: Campbell et al, 2000)

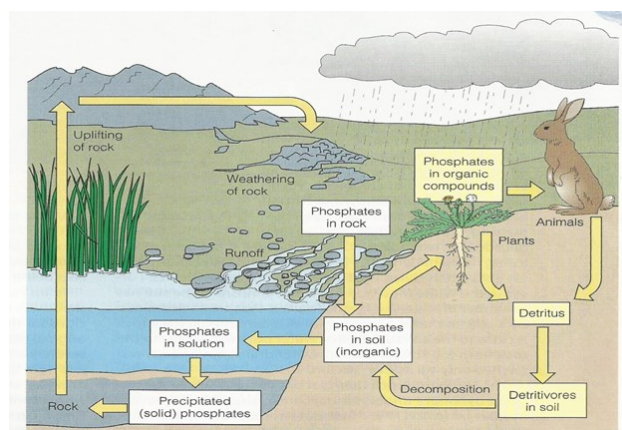


Fig. 7: The Phosphorous Cycle (Source: Campbell et al, 2000)

To be continued in the next issue of ISCEST News.

Meet the Keynoters for the 2019 ISCEST Conference!



Professor N'Dri Assié-Lumumba

N'Dri Thérèse Assié-Lumumba, who is the President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) and served in 2015-2016 as President of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), is a Professor of African and Diaspora education, comparative and international education, social institutions, African social history, and the study of gender in the Africana Studies and Research Centre at Cornell University. She joined Cornell in 1991 as a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow and Ford Foundation/Africana Studies Fellow. She is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. She served as Director of the Cornell Program on Gender and Global Change (GGC) and as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) of the Africana Studies.

Assié-Lumumba earned her Ph. D. in Comparative Education (Economics and Sociology of Education with Pi Lambda Theta Honours) from the University of Chicago in 1982, two Masters and two BAs (Licence) in Sociology and History, respectively, from Université Lyon II, Lyon (France) between 1973 and 1975.

She has been Visiting Professor in the Centre for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE) at Hiroshima University (Japan) and Distinguished Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo (Egypt). She is Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), Extraordinary Professor in the Education Policy Studies at the Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Diasporan Fellow in the department of Sociology (UG-Carnegie Diaspora Programme) at the University of Ghana, Chercheur Associé at Centre de Recherches Architecturales et Urbaines (CRAU) at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), and Research Affiliate of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance of the University of Houston, Houston (Texas). She is co-founder and Associate Director of the Pan-African Studies and Research Centre in International Relations and Education for Development (CEPARRED), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). Prior to coming to Cornell, she was a Resident Fellow in the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in Paris (France), held teaching and administrative positions in the Lomé (Togo) CIRSSSED doctoral program for researchers and administrators in education for francophone countries, the Ministry of National Education Mali (planning unit), Bard College and Vassar College (New York, USA).

Assié-Lumumba has published extensively articles in refereed journals, chapters in books and peer-reviewed reports. Her article "Educational and Economic Reforms, Gender Equity, and Access to Schooling in Africa" published in the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, received the 2001 Joyce Cain Award for Distinguished Research on African Descendants offered by the Comparative and International Education Society. She serves on editorial committees of prestigious journals.

Meet the Keynoters for the 2019 ISCEST Conference! (Cont'd)

Professor David Turner has wide-ranging interests in the field of Education Studies. His book, *Theory of Education*, presented a novel approach to viewing education as a complex system, which is shaped by the choices that individuals within the system make. The book was very well received and won the World Education Fellowship Book Award in 2005/6. That book was followed by *Theory and Practice of Education*, published in 2007.

Professor Turner believes that the role of theory in education is to provide a coherent and stringent critique of policy, and by that means to provide a framework for improving educational institutions. He is critical of much current policy in education, including the desire to see institutions ranked in league tables. He is committed to the view that the education system needs to accommodate diversity in all its expressions. His work on university league tables is an effort to implement an approach that allows for diversity of mission in higher education.

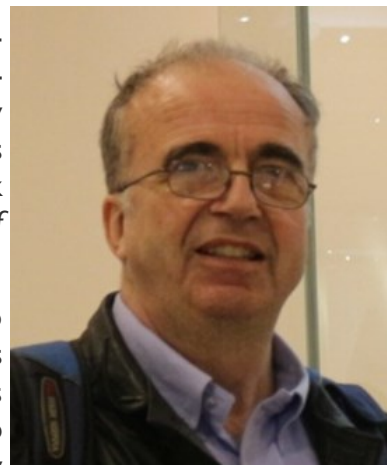
He is currently working on a book which critiques the use of medical models in education which will be published in 2009. He is also preparing a volume on quality in higher education.

After graduating in engineering, Professor Turner became a science teacher in secondary schools for nine years, before moving into teaching in higher education. He has taught in a variety of higher education institutions, teaching comparative education at the University of London Institute of Education before moving to the School for Independent Study at the North East London Polytechnic. It was in the latter institution that he encountered a range of methods for engaging students in their own learning, and became interested in higher education pedagogy.

He took up his post at the University of Glamorgan in 1998, and has since had responsibility for a range of educational activities, including managing the MA in Educational Development, supporting curriculum development in the Learning and Teaching Office, and coordinating doctoral studies in the area of education.

Professor Turner is responsible for leadership in the field of education with particular reference to developing research in the subject, teaching on undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in education, administration of the doctorate in education, membership of committees with responsibility for quality assurance in research and also in the development of distance education and e-learning across the University.

Professor Turner has published extensively over the years and has key membership positions in several international scholarly organisations including comparative education societies in the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe. He has acted as a consultant to a number of government bodies, including the Secretaria de Educacion Publica in Mexico, the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Slovak Republic, and the Government of Madrid. He has been an invited lecturer in universities in the USA, Japan, Mexico, Australia and the Netherlands.



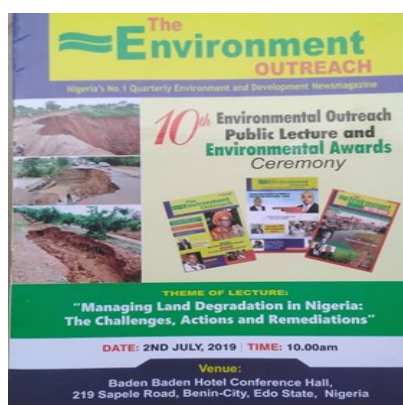
Professor David Turner

An Auspicious Landmark for Environmental Outreach!

The 10th Environmental Outreach Public Lecture and Environmental Awards Ceremony, was held on 2nd July 2019. The theme of the lecture was Managing Land Degradation in Nigeria: The Challenges, Actions and Remediation. The venue for the event was Baden Baden Hotel Conference Hall, 219 Sapele Road, Benin-City, Edo State, Nigeria.



Professor Steve Azaiki and Evangelist Azubuike Nnali share a handshake at the Environmental Outreach Awards Ceremony



It is not the Earth that has problems, it is us. We are like parasites on this planet - Mother Earth nurtures us, and we instead pollute her... We must all stand together and find the means to protect it. It is the planet that is the best for us to live in, so we must care for it – Tamuna Tsertsvadze.

Three 2020 Comparative Education Conferences

64th Annual Conference, 22-26 March 2020
CIES 2020 Miami
Education Beyond the Human



XVIII Annual International Conference, *Educational Reforms Worldwide*
Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES), Sofia, Bulgaria, 23 - 26 June 2020



XXIX Conference of CESE, May 26 - 29, 2020, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Comparative Education Society in Europe (CESE), *Communities and Education in an Era of Accountability and Control*



ISCEST Conference 2019: Who's Who

Chair of the Occasion: Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu , Hon. Minister of Science and Technology

Co-Chair: Professor Turner T. Isoun CFR, Former Minister of Science and Technology,

Chief Host: Alhaji Muhammad Musa Bello, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Federal Capital Territory

Host: Professor O. Jason Osai, President of ISCEST, Nigeria

Special Session, BIG DATA Analysis

Professor James Ogunleye, University of West Scotland, UK



Chair & Co-chair, Education:

Dr Gertrude Shotte, DProf Consultant, Middlesex University, London, UK

Dr Joan Oviawe, Chair, Edo State Universal Basic Education Board



Chair & Co-chair, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences:

Professor Valentine A. Aletor, Vice Chancellor, University of Africa, Toru-Orua, Sagbama LGA,

Professor Grace Esrom Jokthan, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, National Open University

Chair & Co-chair, Engineering, Science and Technology

Dr. Engr. Humphrey Edereka-Great FNSE, CEO, Derekson Limited and Team Leader (Africa),

Professor Samuel Ndueso John, Professor of Network Systems and Network Engineering

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An Open Invitation!

Harnessing Nigeria's Entrepreneurial Spirit Through Education, Science and Technology". This is the theme for ISCEST 2019 conference.



Professor J. Osai

I take great delight in inviting one and all to the 6th Annual Conference of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST), Nigeria, to be held in the Green-Minds Hotel Conference Hall, Utako, Abuja, from 3rd – 6th December, 2019.

ISCEST is a scholarly association dedicated to promoting comparative education, science and technology, as well as enhancing the academic status of these fields. ISCEST recorded an historic milestone in 2016 when the society was admitted to membership of the World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) – a membership that made Nigeria the third country in the Africa, after South Africa and Egypt to be admitted.

Participation is open to all who want to have an opportunity to present findings of their research work, those who want to share in the discussions that follow the keynote addresses and those who want to network with local, national, regional and international conference participants.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 6th ISCEST Conference in December 2019.

Professor Jason Osai
Chairman - ISCEST 2019

We Never Get Tired of Expressing Thanks to our Partners, Supporters and Friends!!

Dear ISCEST Partners & Friends,

The ISCEST Family is taking yet another opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all partners, supporters and friends, who have in some way or another contributed to ISCEST's growth and development. ISCEST would not have been able to reach a six-year landmark without your invaluable support, encouragement and assistance, in whatever form possible. The organisation is truly grateful to all. It looks forward to receiving your continued support in all its future undertakings.

