



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, NIGERIA

ISCEST NEWS

is produced quarterly.

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ISCEST NEWS

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ISCEST Convenes Its 6th International Conference!



First Lady of Bayelsa State, Dr Rachel Dickson flanked by ISCEST President Professor Jason Osai (left) and Keynote Speaker Professor David Turner (right).

The 6th Annual Conference of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST), Nigeria, was convened from 3rd – 6th December 2019, at the Green-Minds Hotel Conference Hall, Utako, Abuja. ***Harnessing Nigeria's Entrepreneurial Spirit Through Education, Science and Technology*** was a timely and appropriate theme that fits into the academic international discourses on the importance of entrepreneurship for national and sustainable development. The keynote addresses highlighted the contributions that entrepreneurship can make to the improvement of a country's economic position, exports, people development, skill development and the general standard of living. All the presentations emphasized the crucial role that science, education and technology in the helping Nigeria to make progressive strides in meeting the challenges of the twenty first century. Some highlights from the conference are shown on pp. 4 & 5.

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/>.

The Guardian Nigeria Reports on the 6th ISCEST Conference

Why Nigeria must embrace e-voting, by ex-minister

By Kanayo Umeh and Sodiq Omolaoye, Abuja

05 December 2019 | 3:08 am

Former Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Turner Isoun, has warned that violence during the election period may persist if the nation refuses to deploy electronic voting (e-voting).



Prof. Turner Isoun

He gave the submission yesterday at the 6th yearly international conference of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST) in Abuja. Isoun, who served as minister from 2000 to 2007 under Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, said the country was capable of deploying technology throughout its electoral process if only political leaders could be a bit more committed.

While delivering a lecture on 'Science, Technology and Innovation as the Driver of Development and Job Creation', the Bayelsa State-born scholar noted that technology could not be a threat to the voting process; rather it would improve it.

He said: "It is our own democracy; we are not doing anybody a favour in trying to improve it, but ourselves. We are doing it for our strategic interest. We don't need to kill or destroy ourselves.

"We have the technology to transmit result from the 119,000 polling stations direct to a data centre. What we are doing now does not have a future. The future is that democracy must evolve and electronic voting and digital transmission is the way to go."

According to him, technology is not a threat to our electoral system, but an advantage to the system. "This is because most of the problems are at the collation; that is from the voting point to collation, then to the announcement of results. If you get results from the voting station straight to the data centre, there would be no opportunity to tamper with it. Nigeria has the capability to do that. We have a responsibility to make that happen," he added.

Isoun stressed the need for science and technology to be the driver of the nation's development, saying that any country that failed to do go that way would not make progress.

The Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, emphasised the need for youths to embrace entrepreneurship for economic and social development. Represented by the Deputy Director, Technology and Science Education Department in the Ministry, Mr Olu Osinaike, the Minister decried the decreasing interest of youths in technical and vocational education and training.

"This is due to the preference for white-collar jobs against technical and vocational jobs. In addition to this, is the lack of sensitisation of the public on the importance of technical and vocational education," Adamu stated.

The National News Has Its Say

Fed Gov't Calls for Collective Effort in Harnessing Science and Technology Industry

5 December 2019 [National News](https://kapital929.fm/category/local-news/)

<https://kapital929.fm/category/local-news/>

By, Georgina Humphrey/Abuja



Professor David Turner

The Ministry of Science and Technology, has called on emerging entrepreneurs to key into the vast opportunities in the new world of science and technology to grow their businesses.

Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu made the call at the 6th International Society of Comparative Education Science and Technology, ISCEST, conference in Abuja.

The minister represented by the Director of information and communications in the ministry, Idowu Afe said with the emerging trend in innovations, science and Technology, young entrepreneurs could harness the opportunities to grow their businesses.

Minister of science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnay Onu, In his Lecture, the Former Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner Isoun explained that with more concerted efforts from the federal government science and Technology would be leveraged as a way of life to attain food security and also grow small and medium enterprises.

President ISCEST Nigeria, Professor Jason Osai explained that the move was to improve educational system in the country.

In a keynote address, Emeritus professor of education University of south Wales, Cardiff, UK, David Turner stressed that as the 21st Century speeds along, it is imperative for curriculum developers, policymakers, education officials and all concerned citizens to consider best practices that would allow the broad spectrum of educational activities to contribute to Nigeria and Africa's development.

The International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology Nigeria is a scholarly association dedicated to promoting comparative education, science and technology, and as well as enhancing the academic status of these fields.

Highlights of the event were the investiture of Fellows of ISCEST to Ministers counterpart from education Adamu Adamu, among others.

The theme of this year's conference is "***Harnessing Nigeria's entrepreneurial spirit through education, science and Technology***"

Some Photo Highlights from the 6th ISCEST Conference



Founding President, International Society of Comparative Education, Science & Technology Nigeria, Hon. Prof. Steve Azaiki (OON) hosts conference delegates at the House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria. Immediate left of Professor Azaiki (middle): Dr. Joan Osa Oviawe, Special Adviser on Basic Education to the Edo State Government and ISCEST Secretary General, Chief Noble Akenge. Immediate right: President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies, Prof. Therese N'Dri Assie-Lumumba and ISCEST President Professor Jason Osai.



Left: Professor James Ogunleye turns his attention to a message bearer.



Right: Dr Rachel Dickson delivers her presentation on *Taking a Special Interest in Girl-Child Education*

Below: ISCEST's Local Organising Committee in Session



Cont'd from p.4



L-R: Keynote Speaker, Professor David Turner

ISCEST President Professor Jason Osai

ISCEST Secretary general, Chief Nobel Akenge

L-R: ISCEST President Professor Jason Osai

Radio Nigeria correspondent Georgina Humphrey

Former Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner Isoun

Keynote Speaker, Professor David Turner



Some conference delegates in conversation after the Opening Ceremony



Well Done to The Universities and Colleges!

ISCEST acknowledges, with thanks, the presence of the universities and colleges who were present at its 6th Annual International Conference. Here are some pictorial reminders:



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today—Malcolm X.



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If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much—
Jim Rohn.



If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a life-time, educate people—
Chinese Proverb.

N.B. Professor Obire RIVSU's 54th Inaugural Lecture To be continued in the next issue of ISCEST News.

Dr. Rachel Dickson Assures Project Sustenance, Launches Book Soon

Scholars Weigh Solutions To Nigeria's Education Problems

By ISCEST- Nigeria, Correspondence, Abuja



Dr Rachel Dickson

Outgoing First Lady of Bayelsa State, Dr. Rachel Dickson, has said the Girl-Child Education project will continue even after the end of her husband's tenure. She gave the assurance at the just concluded annual conference of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST), held in Abuja, Nigeria's Capital.

Dr. Rachael who was responding to a question from a participant, stated that the girl-child education project was her pet, thus would outlive Governor Seriake Dickson's administration in the state. She further stated that the project was in her area of passion, adding that it was conceived even before her husband became governor hence she would not give up in continuing to encourage education of the girl-child in Bayelsa State, with the support of her foundation and others.

Dr. Rachel who presented a paper on Girl-Child Education in Bayelsa State, narrated that her project, under Friday Konyefa Foundation, was to immortalise her late father who valued education of the girl-child, as well as to create awareness for education of the female folk to provide equal opportunities with the male counterpart. She enumerated the strides of the Friday Konyefa Foundation, to include grassroots advocacy campaigns and sponsorship of girls, efforts she said, have so far led to big increase in enrolment of girls in schools, more than before in the state.

According to her, statistics show that in 2017 alone, more girls enrolled in schools, and more than the number of boys, especially in Yenagoa, Sagbama and Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State.

In addition, she said her foundation was sponsoring over 500 girls in the state-owned Niger Delta University (NDU), besides over 100 in the University of Africa in Toru-Orua, and many others in vocational training programmes to empower the girl-child to contribute to their personal development, families and society at large.

The outgoing First Lady identified factors that slowed down girl-child education in the past, in Bayelsa State, chiefly as ignorance among parents, inauspicious cultures and religious beliefs, poverty and early marriage. She therefore called on parents and organisations to support education of girls in contemporary society.

Dr. Rachel, as disclosed at the event, has put her experiences in a comprehensive book, titled, Girl-Child Education in Bayelsa State. The book would soon be launched.

Selected Excerpt from 'Scholars Weigh Solutions To Nigeria's Education Problems'

By ISCEST- Nigeria, Correspondence, Abuja

Despite the problems in Nigeria's and Africa's educational systems, Prof. N'Dri Therese Assie-Lumumba says hope was not lost. A professor of African Diaspora Studies at Cornell University in America, Prof. N'Dri recalled that world civilization started in Egypt, Africa, where evidences of ancient science and technology are depicted, for instance, by the Egyptian Pyramid, beautiful streets constructed centuries ago and the Cairo University which has existed over a century now and still the delight of tourists.

Prof. N'Dri, also President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), headquartered in America, urged Nigeria and Africa to think inwards and develop local technologies suitable for their context and needs, while also adapting foreign ones so as to enhance development.

She noted that science and technology were parts of culture, thus every society has its blessings in those regards. The erudite scholar however cautioned that for best results, the continent must inculcate the attitudes of critical thinking and invention spirit in the youths in order to achieve national and continental development, and even contribute to global development.

"Vision 20-20, 20-40 as the case may be, usually set by African countries, to improve education and other sectors as well as standard of living are hardly achieved. Japan has no natural resources, yet it is where it is today in the world economy because of science and technology. Thus, science and technology must be deep-rooted in the people as part of culture, to really achieve national development goals", Prof. N'Dri stressed to the audience in her keynote address.

She noted that Africa had contributed to the development of developed countries through provision of raw materials forcefully acquired by the colonialists in the past, and others exported by post-independence nations, slave trade and currently supply of quality manpower who are turning foreign economies around. But the challenge, according to her, is that Africa could apply same talents in developing its own economy. This task she added, is most required in this era of information communication technologies (ICTs) which is the easiest pathway to development.

N'Dri further noted that science subjects were initially perceived as too complex for Africans, but the myth was disproved by many brilliant students who excelled. Notwithstanding, she has opined that science and technology curriculum should be redeveloped by African scholars from diverse disciplines, to produce more of the continent's scientists and technologists as well as meet local needs.



President of WCCES, Professor
N'Dri Assie-Lumumba

Honourable Professor Steve Azaiki OON, Founding ISCEST President Attends GOPAC Global Conference



Professor Steve Azaiki represents Nigeria

The 7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption was held 9-10 December 2019. It was hosted by the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, co-organized by the Global Organization Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). The theme “Integrity Matters” reflected GOPAC’s objectives to fight corruption and improve good governance throughout the world by strengthening cooperation between parliamentarians, governments and civil societies, in line with GOPAC’s commitment to promote its core values of integrity, accountability, collaboration, and diversity. All delegates agreed to adopt an outcome document called as “Doha Declaration” that urges Parliaments to enact a clear set of rules on conflict of interests, financial transparency, code of ethics and conducts, and public participation in inclusive policy making. At the end of the conference, GOPAC elect H.E. Ahmad bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council State of Qatar as the new GOPAC Chair. Under the leadership of the new chair, GOPAC will continue to initiate, innovate, and revolutionize global parliamentary efforts against corruption.

Leader of Nigerian Delegation Hon. Prof Steve Azaiki, Hon Umar Gama, Auwalu Namadina of the Nigerian Embassy Doha in a picture with the President of Inter-Parliamentary Union Gabriela Cuevas Barron at the GOPAC Conference.



Prof. Azaiki being interviewed



The **Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)** is an international alliance of legislators, working together to combat corruption, strengthen democracy, and uphold the rule of law. Its members work closely with a network of allied international institutions, including the United Nations, the UNDP, INTERPOL, the World Bank, and the Council of Europe, amongst others.

Plan to Attend: 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*



KIE Conference – 21-23 July 2020
Madrid, Spain
The World Education Fellowship
The Torrance Roundtable,
Kaufman Research Symposium

Reisman Diagnostic Creativity Assessment (RDCA) Special Interest Group

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Comparative Studies (IJMCS), Uni-
versity of Greenwich – 03 July 2020
London LSRN (formerly London and South East)
Teacher Education in Lifelong Learning (TELL)



British Association for International & Comparative Education
(BAICE) - 23/09/2020 – 25/09/2020 – University of Edinburgh

**THE INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY YENAGOA
(IST YENAGOA)**

ISCEST Secretariat
Plot 1 Gen.
Andrew Azazi Drive
Off Imgbi Road, Amara
Yenagoa
Bayelsa State
Nigeria

Phone: +234 (0) 815 762
8802

Email:
instituteofsciandtechyenagoa
@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Dr Gertrude Shotte

Check our website!
www.istyenagoa.ng



A BIG Thank you from the ISCEST President!

To **ALL** who contributed in making the 6th ISCEST Annual International Conference a success, I wish to extend sincerest thanks.



Professor J. Osai

Planning an international conference takes much effort, commitment, time and energy. I must offer special commendation to ISCEST Founding President, the Honourable Professor Steve Azaike OON for the sterling contributions that he has made to bring the conference to fruition.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) has worked tirelessly beyond the call of duty to pull things together and to ensure that all the delegates got the best out of a very informative conference. Special thanks are certainly due to you!

To the international delegates and keynote speakers, I give you thanks for responding to ISCEST's request to attend its 6th Annual Conference. Your presence and erudite deliveries have added a wealth of knowledge and information to the conference attendees' academic storehouses.

To all the universities and colleges who graced our presence with your colourful banners and exhibits, I say "thanks much". We welcome you to all of ISCEST's events.

To the caterers who ensured that we topped up when our energy levels were running low, I say "sincerest thanks". Thanks for preparing the nutritious meals.

To the management and staff of Green Minds Hotel, thanks for playing a vital role in making the 2019 ISCEST Conference possible.

President, ISCEST
Professor Jason Osai

More Expressions of Thanks for ISCEST's Partners, Supporters and Friends!!

The ISCEST Family takes delight giving more expressions of thanks to its partners, supporters and friends. From 2014 to present, these stalwart backers have never wavered in their commitment to serve and help the ISCEST Family to overcome many challenges and continue on the road that will help it to realise its purpose and achieve its various objectives. So once again ISCEST says:

