



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, NIGERIA**

## ISCEST NEWS

is produced quarterly.

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Issue 1

March 2023

# ISCEST NEWS

## Dr Elizabeth Eta Scales Up Her Education Activities!

ISCEST Nordic coordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Eta and her colleagues at the Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning (GINTL), University of Helsinki, and Tampere University, Finland, recently concluded a ten-day working visit to Rwanda in the spirit of partnership development for quality education advancement with Rwandan higher education institutions. GINTL is a network of 20 Finnish higher education institutions (universities and universities of applied sciences) funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland in which Finnish higher education institutions, together with partners from India, China, and Africa, co-create research-based solutions to global educational challenges and collaborate in research and education. Enhancing mutually beneficial, responsible, and sustainable partnerships with India, China, and African countries is also a key objective of GINTL.

The trip to Rwanda aimed to deepen ongoing partnership development efforts between Finnish and Rwandan higher education institutions.

(Cont'd on Page 8)



Dr Eta and University Colleagues  
2nd from right: Dr Elizabeth Eta

### 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/>.



## Thoughts on our National Trauma

*This piece is written by Professor Steve Azaiki OON. It was first posted on 15th March 2023.*



Professor Steve Azaiki

For Nigerians, these are not the easiest of times. Happy faces are rare, because the mood is indignant. Adults – male and female – have stripped naked inside banking halls, demanding their cash. Fights break out routinely on queues before ATMs that dispense only miserly amounts. Small businesses have quietly folded up, at least in the meantime, because of low patronage occasioned by the cash crunch. Fuel queues disappear for only a few days, and then the filling stations run dry for weeks amid official explanations that don't quite make sense to anyone any more. Nor do citizens feel safe and secure in cities, on the farm, or on the highways. Add the epileptic public power supply and the excruciatingly high cost of living, and it is easy to read the nation's mood. But there was hope on the horizon with the 2023 general elections around the corner. Eligible citizens had been mobilized to get their permanent voter's card, because their votes would count, as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had promised. Frustration mingled with disappointment, because what ordinarily should have been a stroll-in to collect your PVC often turned into a search for a needle in a haystack with allegations of many PVCs missing or lost, raising fears of calculated disenfranchisement of certain groups in the country. Still, messages went viral that whatever anger anyone felt should be taken to the polling booth and expressed as a vote.

A Third Force had also arisen to give the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) a good run. Nigerian youths, in their millions, were ready to make a statement with their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), rather than vote with their feet across the Sahara and through the Mediterranean Sea. The presidential and National Assembly elections were held on 25 February. While there have been much less complaints about the parliamentary polls, on the contrary, both local and international observers, ordinary folks, and the dispassionate, have given a thumbs-down to the presidential election. It has been a big let-down, a disappointment that has no doubt aggravated our national trauma. There are some triggers of a nation's collective trauma. A catastrophic natural or man-made disaster is one; so is bad news that shakes the foundation of a nation and leaves the citizens reeling. Epic disappointment such as badly conducted elections, which had earlier been hyped as the ultimate game-changer in election management, can rattle citizens, as indeed Nigerians have been. This isn't just the whining of sore losers, but widespread disenchantment with a mismanaged presidential election, a position echoed by citizens and foreigners alike. (Cont'd on page 3).

## Cont'd from Page 2

When a nation is traumatized, it slips into a state of agitation, of despair, faithlessness, agony, and irritation. These reactions are compounded by pre-existing conditions which the citizens had been coping with in the hope that somehow, they would prevail over relentless adversity. I am aware of the legendary Nigerian spirit of resilience of which it is often said, in praise of the uniqueness of Nigerians, that there are few, if any, nations on earth whose citizens are battered by trauma after trauma, without suffering a national meltdown. Nigerians have a thick skin; our endurance in the face of adversity is rare on earth. Indeed, Nigerians exemplify the dictum that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going.

Yet, the point is inescapable that when a people suffer from repeated or prolonged trauma, it becomes difficult at some point in the future to rally the same traumatized citizens to a collective, national cause. In that circumstance, government may proceed with its programmes and projects, but it doesn't have the citizens fully backing the agenda. Citizens who have been traumatized feel alienated and abandoned. They become cynical, which itself is a national mood that fails to acknowledge even the best efforts of government. One of the tasks of a government is to offer hope to its citizens. Hope is a motivator upon which many more laudable ideas can be erected. But to raise hopes is to create expectations and simultaneous duties. The government expects the citizens to act in a certain way, and the citizens equally expect the government to act in a certain, complementary way. When citizens are frequently let down by their government – institutions and persons—the cut is deep, the pain enduring, and the trauma leaves a scar. Traumatized citizens have limitations in creativity and productivity. They might trudge along, under the weight of their trauma, and post the appearance of resilience; but they labour under the constraints of their collective trauma. The cost is often expressed as a loss of faith in systems and the recourse to self-help and shortcuts which in the end undermine the whole system, since shortcuts often imply non-compliance with rules and the concomitant lawlessness that pervades the land.

A time of national trauma calls for empathetic leadership whose words and reassurances can be a soothing balm. A time of national agony isn't one for partisan triumphalism. Rather, it is a time when true leadership reaches out with wide open arms to embrace all and declare that we are in pain together, we weep together, and together we shall pull ourselves up and overcome. It is also a time for family, friends, associates, and communities to offer one another psycho-socio support, so we can collectively pull out of the national trauma. Yes, we have been let down by our government's institutions; we cannot afford to let each other down. As Sharon Salzberg reminds us, "resilience is based on compassion for ourselves as well as compassion for others".



Cont'd on page 4

## Wedding Anniversary Blessings



Dr Alexander and Professor Nedie Akani celebrate 31 years of blissful marriage

***Dr Alexander & Professor Akani, Happy 31st Anniversary from ISCEST!***



***Cont'd from Page 2***

Beyond the healing gestures highlighted above, getting out of a national trauma also requires accountability. Whether man-made or natural catastrophe, pertinent questions must be raised and reasonable/cogent answers must be demanded. How prepared was the country for a disaster? What was the response as the disaster struck or unfolded? Lessons to prepare for the future, and sanctions for officials who were negligent or tardy, are the overriding considerations for such post-mortem evaluation. Such a process also gives citizens the feeling that they had not been taken for granted. It equally reassures them of preparations and fortifications against future occurrences.

In the aftermath of the election's fiasco of the 25 February, it is shocking that INEC has treated citizens with utmost disdain. As the polls unravelled, INEC was mute in its public communication, and when it chose to speak more than 48 hours later, with citizens already infuriated, the election management body hardly made sense with its incoherent explanations for its woeful logistics glitches and failure to upload, real-time, polling unit results to its INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal, as a check against result manipulation. INEC even now has not demonstrated the capacity for critical self-examination for the trauma it has inflicted on the citizens and the nation. How does a country fund a commission with N305 billion for election purposes and end up with a dismal outing? It is an unpleasant outcome for which INEC must be held accountable.

**Azaiki, OON, is a Member of the House of Representatives representing Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Okpokuma Federal Constituency of Bayelsa State.**

**Congratulations Are Certainly in Order!**



Dr Chidi Nduka Amadi-Ikpa, under the academic lineage of Prof. N.P Akani bagged a PhD degree in Public Health Microbiology in 2020



Dr Ogonna Ikechi Solomon PhD in public health microbiology from the Rivers State University, Nigeria

**Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.**

**Nothing can be done without hope and confidence - Helen Keller.**



Victor K Robinson Employed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology, Rivers State University, Nigeria



Meka Okpokiri Employed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology, Rivers State University, Nigeria



**Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning - Benjamin Franklin.**

## Well Done Professor Ilu Oghie Cosmas Adomeh!

### Resume

The lecture, defined the concepts, guidance and counselling, traced the historical development of guidance counselling in Nigeria, identified types of counselling services available in the school system and factors of counselling, stated the relevance/benefits of counselling in our educational system, dived into the arguments against counselling effectiveness, namely, that counselling is in no way superior to a situation where there is no counselling. In other words the disturbed child or maladjusted individual could recover from his problem in spite of counselling.

The counter arguments for counselling effectiveness were also raised, namely, that there are instances where counselling has been effective.

However, despite counselling's established usefulness and effectiveness, its overall importance is still being questioned, as put forward by Willems (1973).

Aspirin, Willems says, relieves a person of headaches. But the absence of aspirin does not cause headache.

Similarly, while counselling could help to resolve clients' specific concerns, it does not necessarily imply that all such concerns were caused by misguided counselling. It is therefore better to shun the circular argument that unexplained behaviour changes occur as a result of faulty counselling procedures. The lecture outlined my contributions/

positive resolution of the arguments:

- \*That Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy and Autogenic Therapy are effective in fostering emotional adjustment among adolescents.

- \*Autogenic therapy and Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy are effective in reducing the level of stress among students.

- \*Guidance counsellors were effective in carrying out their services in schools.

- \*Bibliotherapy fosters emotional adjustment of students in secondary schools.

- \*Bibliotherapy is an effective means of classroom management.

- \*Bibliotherapy reduces test anxiety.

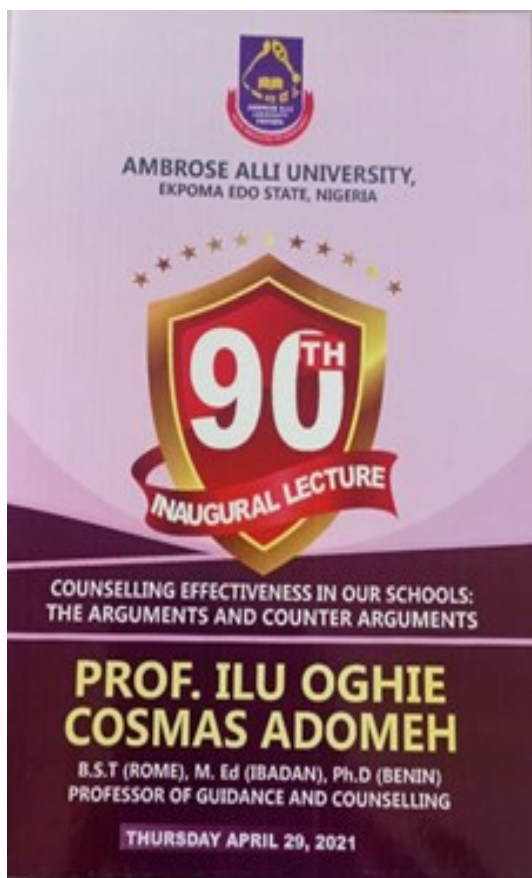
- \*Bibliocounselling and Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy foster emotional adjustment among in-school adolescents.

- \*Guidance counselling is effective in helping adolescents to experience successful adolescence.

With these successes achieved so far, the lecture recommended how to sustain counselling effectiveness in our schools.



Professor Ilu Oghie Cosmas Adomeh



## Wedding Well Wishes & Wedding Anniversary Blessings!

**#ADAOBI2023**

THE FAMILIES OF  
CHIEF & MRS JOHN IBE  
&  
LATE MR & MRS ABOH JOHN ADESHI

With All Pleasure, Request the  
Honour of your presence

at the

WEDDING SOLEMNIZATION/SWORD CROSSING  
Of their Children  
SUB-LIEUTENANT  
OBEDIENCE BESHIEUTU ADESHI  
&  
MISS IHUOMA NGOZI IBE  
which is schedule to hold as follows

**SATURDAY 8TH APRIL, 2023 || 11:00AM**  
@ Guiding Light Assembly - Mulberry Event Center,  
behind NTA/Startimes Area 11, Garki Abuja

Reception / Presentation of Sword  
follows immediately @

FCT Archives House, Opposite AGIS  
Area 11, Garki Abuja

COLOURS OF THE DAY:  
BURNT ORANGE,  
GOLD & NAVY BLUE

RSVP:  
08038615171, 07015159942



Dr. and Professor (Mrs) Alexander Bekweri Akani celebrated 31 years of marriage on 4th April, 2023.



Mr and Mrs. Benafegha Enaregha celebrated their 20th Wedding Anniversary on 5th April 2023,

**Congratulations to all from the IS-CEST Family!**

## Massive Congratulations Rexella!



Twelve-year-old **Rexella**, is the daughter of **Dr Elizabeth Eta**, the Nordic coordinator for ISCEST. After nearly a year of hard work and commitment to the writing process, Rexella has just published her first magical adventure book, 'Twin Switch Disaster'.

### **About the Book:**

When Milly accidentally meets Lily, her twin lookalike, her far-fetched fantasy of living as a princess becomes a reality. As the girls plot a scheme to switch places and experience each other's life, everything is perfect. That is, until the evil, power-hungry, Debrian turns up with his mystical powers and threatens to take over the Kingdom. Can the girls stop this nightmare from happening and what will happen when their plot to switch lives is discovered?

Find out in Twin Switch Disaster!

### **About Rexella, the author:**

Rexella is a 12-year-old upcoming writer. She is a 6th grader at the Turku International School, Finland, who likes dancing, gymnastics, and telling people to be appreciative of what they have, the people around them and to not always compare themselves to others.

## **Cont'd from Page 1**

The visit had two main activities:

- Understanding the local education system and structures through visits, presentations, and discussions at different Rwandan HEIs, including the University of Rwanda – College of Education, Rwanda Polytechnic, and the Rwanda Higher Education Council (HEC) in preparation for participating in an ongoing project call.
- Participation and contribution to the 1st International Conference on “Re-shaping Education for Sustainable Development”, organized by the University of Rwanda – College of Education through co-chairing sessions, presentations, and a keynote presentation.

Given that international academic partnerships take place not only between people and or institutions but also within intersecting societal contexts, the trip to Rwanda was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Rwandan education system, its development, and priority areas for partnerships aimed at improving the quality of education provision and its relevance. This contextual understanding is important in developing partnerships that are contextually relevant and contributes to ongoing developmental needs and priorities and for building mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gintl-global-innovation-network-for-teaching-and-learning/>; Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GINTL21>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gintl21>



## Profiling Professor Matthew Owhonda Wegwu

The Vice President of ISCEST, Professor Matthew Owhonda Wegwu is a specialist in Environmental Biochemistry, Nutrition and Toxicology. He was the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee (L.O.C) of ISCEST 3<sup>rd</sup> Virtual and 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference. His unflinching honesty and uncompromising support for the President and the leadership of ISCEST has contributed largely to the successes recorded by the Society in recent times. He has accepted to serve the Society again as Chairman of L.O.C. in this year's Virtual and 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference slated to hold from 29<sup>TH</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.



Professor Matthew Owhonda Wegwu BSc. (Hons), MSc., PhD (UniPort), FNSBMB, FIPMD, FAAN, JP

Professor Wegwu is a productive academic in the field, and the harvest has continued to be bountiful. In the last sixteen months, he has added seven articles to already published 98 research papers, majority of which are in high-impact, peer-reviewed international journals. Three of his research products are currently undergoing Patent Process. In less than 18 months, Wegwu has successfully supervised and graduated five (5) Ph.D. candidates, and this is in addition to seventeen (17) candidates he had previously graduated. Interestingly, two (2) of his supervisees are being assessed for promotion to the rank of Professor.

Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) and the Institute of Policy Management Development (IPMN), respectively, Professor Matthew Wegwu was recently inducted into the college of Fellows of African Academic Network (FAAN). Professor Wegwu is a Certified Accreditor, a status he earned having obtained a Distinction in the intensive practical course for higher education programme and institutional accreditors, organized by Global University Network for Innovation and African Quality Assurance Network on October 21, 2021.

As South-South Coordinator of NSBMB, Wegwu organized a Conference in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State of Nigeria from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 with the Theme, 'Soot and Public Health Concerns: The Current Realities and the way forward. In attendance were seasoned academics, Government Officials and Captains of the Oil and Gas industry. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, he played host to a webinar on 'Drug Discovery and Development: A multi-Dimensional Gig saw Puzzle'.

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The Vice-President's uncommon philanthropy touches indigent persons without discrimination and this is in pursuit of his firm belief that all humans, irrespective of their circumstances of birth or social status, deserve a better life. Most importantly, his resolve to finding creative solutions to

**Professor Wegwu, all ISCEST laud your achievements!**

## President Akani Gives Thanks



Prof. Nedie Akani and Chief Ayibanegiyefa Egba, member-elect, House of Assembly, Bayelsa State

SPECIAL INVITATION

The family of  
**DR. & PROF (MRS.) ALEXANDER B. AKANI**

Cordially Invites you to the

**Professorial  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

of  
**PROFESSOR NEDIE PATIENCE AKANI  
(NEE ENEZEGILE)**

**Date:** Sun. 16th April, 2023 | **Time:** 10.00am

**Venue:** Assemblies of God, Rumuosi / Rumuekini Central, East-West Road.

**Reception Venue:** No. 6 Unique Close, Rumuekini



O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever - Psalms 107:1

## Attend International Education Conferences!

# ICSE

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

5-7 July 2023 | Different Art Centre | Trivandrum  
Kerala , India

<https://www.conference.differentartcentre.com/>

XXI BCES Annual International Conference

Recovering Education: Using the Experiences and Learning Ac-  
quired to Build New and Better Education Systems

Sofia, Bulgaria

27 - 30 June 2023



13<sup>th</sup> Biannual Conference of the Comparative Education Society of Asia (CESA 2023)

Resilience and Rebuilding of Education: Aftermath of Social Crisis'

Hiroshima , hosted by Hiroshima University, Japan.

24 to 26 November 2023

Rafaei Hotel – Piramides, Madrid, Spain – 25 - 27 July 2023

The are six conference regular tracks or thematic sections:

Knowledge-Education (1), Creativity (2), Innovation (3), Entrepreneurship (4), General Business  
Management (5) and Big Data and Analytics – as applied to business and education fields (6).



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Check our website!  
[www.istyenagoo.ng](http://www.istyenagoo.ng)



## Another Virtual Conference!

The first ISCEST virtual international conference was held from 30th November to 1st December 2020. This year, ISCEST is offering participants and attendees a comparable virtual experience from 30th November to 1st December 2023. President of ISCES, Professor Nedie Akani is extending a warm invitation to students, teachers, lecturers, administrative staff, professionals and other interested persons to participate in this fourth virtual conference. The theme of the conference is: **Interpreting Teaching Learning Experiences in Science, Education and Technology via Comparative Processes**. The thematic sections are:

- Education
- Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
- Engineering Science and Technology



Professor Nedie Akani

**DON'T MISS ISCEST'S 4TH VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

## ISCEST Appreciates You!

We are using this tiny space to express  
Our sincere thanks and gratefulness  
To our supporters, too many to mention  
A heart full of appreciation

Gertrude Shotte

