

Nigeria International Book Fair

...bringing books closer to the people for better education and self-improvement



REPORT ON THE NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2006

The fifth edition of the Nigeria International Book Fair, NIBF 2006 took place at the Multi-purpose halls of the University of Lagos from Monday 8th to Saturday 13th May, 2006.

The six-day events featured two days of international conference, three days of children's programme, workshop by Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria on: International Copyrights, World Bank seminar on: Trends in the African Publishing Industry, workshop by the National Library of Nigeria on: International Standard for Book Publishing and Bibliographic Control as well as a Round-Table Talk by the Nigerian Library Association on: Book Policy, HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development. All these programmes held simultaneously with the book trade and exhibition.

There were a total of 107(One hundred and seven) exhibitors comprising 93 Nigerian exhibitors, 10 Indian firms, one each from Senegal and Cameroon, one individual exhibitor and a collective stand from Ghana. The total breakdown shows 93 local and 14 foreign exhibitors. This is 82.24% increase on the 88 exhibitors that we had in 2005.

A total number of 10,323 people comprising, exhibitors, students, journalists and visitors participated at this year's book fair given us an average of 1,721 participants per day. This is however, a shortfall on the average of 2,500 participants recorded in 2005.

The Nigerian Book Fair Trust thus, sharing global view is creating a forum where all the stakeholders, relevant agencies, government ministries, and local and international organisations working on education, curriculum development, health (HIV/AIDS), and publishing will meet to fashion out a formidable collaborative approach to attain sustainable development.

PROGRAMMES

1. International Conference

There were 2 days of international conferences. The day one international conference heralded the annual Nigeria International Book Fair. The theme: National Book Policy, HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development was sub-divided into two and discussed on Monday, 8th and Tuesday 9th, May 2006 under the following sub-themes:

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

Day one: National Book Policy and Sustainable Development
Day-two: HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development

Resource persons were drawn from within and outside the publishing sector to ensure a meaningful and result oriented conference. In all, two foreign speakers from Norway and Israel respectively joined the crew of experts made up of government functionaries, professionals in the publishing sector, and academics as well as HIV/AIDS specialists.

The concept of creating a forum where all the stakeholders, relevant agencies, government ministries, and local and international organisations working on education, curriculum development, health (HIV/AIDS), and publishing led to a total of nine papers being presented. Day one of the international conference on:

National Book Policy and Sustainable Development took place under the chairperson of Professor Grace Allele-Williams.

Otunba Yinka Lawal-Solarin, Chairman, Nigerian Book Fair Trust in his welcome address reiterated the mission of the NBFT in organising the book to include; bringing books closer to the people, improving the reading culture and tackling some of the current problems bedevilling the education sector of the economy, and capacity building in the book industry in Nigeria.

Otunba Lawal-Solarin informed the audience that the two themes were carefully chosen to reflect the problems the nation is facing. Citing the case of education, he quoted the Nigerian National Policy on Education (1981), which “envisages the integration of the individual into a sound and effective citizen through educational opportunities within and outside the formal school system. It has been projected that by the year 2000 A.D. every Nigerian should be literate. It was recognised at the same time that there was a critical shortage of textbooks and library materials at all levels of education.” He however pointed out that 25 years on, we are still very far from the set goals.

On HIV/AIDS the NBFT chairman said it is now becoming increasingly imperative that all available expertise must be put together to combat the HIV/AIDS scourge and there is no better way to do this than to give emphasis to publication for HIV/AIDS education.

After reading out the various programmes lined up for NIBF 2006, Otunba Lawal-Solarin welcomed all present and wished them a memorable time at NIBF 2006.

In her speech, the Chairperson, Professor Grace Allele-Williams said the theme, which focus on the two areas of education and health, are germane and most topical in Sub Saharan Africa today. She pointed out that they affect vitally our capacity for growth and improvement.

Professor Allele-Williams was however optimistic that going by the caliber of people present at the conference it would not be difficult to produce a communiqué that would make important recommendations and give advice to effect changes in our policy and

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

practice in the area of book development, literature and of developing good habits of reading. Adding that 'hopefully too the Lawmakers at every level in our government will take appropriate note of this and assist to influence authors, publishers, librarians, men in the book industry, professionals and bureaucrats especially those in the Ministries of Education to introduce needed changes'.

Professor Allele-Williams bemoans falling reading habit saying 'we have become a non-reading society' adding that we cannot grow and develop without a mass of people who can read, understand and appreciate those ideas that make a country great. She praised the efforts of the Indian Government at producing low cost textbooks and other educational materials.

The chairperson pointed out that the task of creating an awareness for the generality of our peoples may seem enormous but with the firm endorsement of the Federal Government as was the case in India we can now have also the cooperation of schools, publishers and a large number of adults who read and enjoy reading to tackle the task. We may be able to reduce costs of books and thereby make it possible for schools and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) alike to introduce reading centres.

Professor Allele-Williams thanked the organisers for their foresight and interest to build a mass of Nigerians who would read and understand the different cultures in our society as well as understand the massive changes taking place in the world at large.

The Hhonourable Minister of Education at that time Dr (Mrs.) Nora Obaji was in attendance to represent President Olusegun Obasanjo, while the Honourable Minister of Health was represented by Dr (Mrs) Annette Akinsete of National AIDS Programme, Public Health Services, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja.

In the President's address to the conference, he commended the organisers of the event for their efforts at promoting excellent and relevant education and health programmes, which he described as basic requirements for national sustainable development. President Obasanjo added that as part of government's believe in national well-being of the people of Nigeria, programmes like: National Book Policy and National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) have been put in place.

While pledging the federal government's support, Mr President said plan and programmes that would facilitate real development would be intensified. He then assured that inconsistencies in the tariff and financial guidelines for 2006 fiscal year especially the imposition of 20% import duty on imported paper would be addressed.

The keynote address came from Professor Sam. O. Ayodele of the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan. The paper was highly informative, lucid and filled with statistics. He set the pace by defining what a book should be which he described after examining various definitions and roles '... as the most effective means for liberating man from the shackles of ignorance, and therefore the ultimate weapon for mass

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

development'

The keynote speaker did an in-depth analysis of the Nigerian educational climate and the book industry. He also did a comparative analysis between Nigeria and Britain on one hand, and Nigeria and India on the other and concluded that there are still more to be done in the educational sector in Nigeria to compete favourably with other countries of the world.

Professor Ayodele, while commending the Nigerian government at various levels for supporting education at the primary levels, enjoined government to extend similar support to the tertiary levels of education. He however, underscores the significance of the publishing industry and publishers to national growth and development.

The university don also, identified some steps to be taken to ensure an effective, all round national educational development in Nigeria. These he listed to include: to ensure availability of books, identify and encourage potential writers of academic books as well as stimulate readership by instituting prizes for reading.

Other speakers at the plenary session, which ended deliberations on the first day of the NIBF 2006 international conference, lent their voices to the significance of knowledge transfer and acquisition as well as the role of government and other stakeholders within and outside the publishing sector. These speakers include:

- Mr Trond Andreassen, President, European Writers Congress and Secretary General, Norwegian Non Fiction Writers. He spoke on National Book Policy and Sustainable Development- the Norwegian Experience
- Professor Godswill Obioma, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) talked about National Book Policy in the Context of Globalisation
- Professor Sola Ehindero of Faculty of Education, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife delivered his paper on Appraising the Secondary Educational Curriculum
- Mr Kolade Mosuro, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Mosuro the Booksellers Limited, looked at Book Development, Production and Distribution; and
- Chief Felix A. Iwerebon, immediate past Chairman of Longman Nigeria Plc (represented by Mr Dan Obidiegwu, Managing Director, Longman Nigeria Plc) delivered his paper on Academic Book Development in Nigeria

Dr (Mrs) Annette Akinsete of National AIDS Programme, Public Health Services, Federal Ministry of Health, Lagos, stood in for the Minister of Health, Professor Eytayo Lambo, on the day two of the NIBF 2006 international conference on: HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development, under the chairmanship of Professor Anaeze Okoro, Provost College of Medicine, Eboyin State University.

Professor Okoro in his opening remark gave a human face to the dreaded HIV/AIDS scourge saying it is not different from any other microorganism that has at one time or another plagued humanity. He said the fate that befell Small Pox, Poliomyelitis, Syphilis, Leprosy and Tuberculosis would befall HIV/AIDS with time, no matter how menacing it may sound now.

The Minister of Health, Professor Eytayo Lambo commended the organisers of the Nigeria International Book Fair for making the campaign against HIV/AIDS a focus of the international conference. He pointed out that, the effort is in line with that of the government, which has devoted a huge sum of money to fight against the scourge so as to ensure a healthy citizenry.

Professor Lambo explained that there can be no meaningful development in a society ravaged by disease, hunger and squalor, therefore all hands must be on deck to ensure a cohesive fight against the challenge of the pandemic.

The keynote address on Publishers, HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development: A Fire Fighter's Dilemma was delivered by Dr Inon Schenker, Senior HIV/AIDS Prevention Specialist, Israel. His presentation dwelt on the current dimension of the AIDS epidemic, the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and International concerns, the challenges of HIV/AIDS to the education sector, the role of publishers, barriers in implementing effective education for HIV/AIDS prevention as well as the way forward. Concluding his presentation, Dr Schenker, informed the participants that, HIV/AIDS is a sustainable development issue and the largest single management challenge facing education, which will impact on every aspect of management, teaching and learning for decades to come. He pointed out that the sustainability of education system is at risk with managers and educators up to 70% more at risk than the general population.

To the publishers, the Senior HIV/AIDS Prevention Specialist said, publishing on HIV/AIDS will make people literate about the epidemic hence it should be taken as a social responsibility project. He pointed out that it is a solid contract that requires innovation, creativity and dynamic thinking.

Dr Schenker's presentation was backed by statistics and visuals

Honourable Dr Wale Okediran also speaking at the forum on An Assessment of the HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign in Nigeria premised his paper on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, Consequences of the scourge, the National Response, Public, Private and the Civil

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone: 234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

Society Sectors Response, Factors Contributing to the Spread and the Challenges.

Dr Okediran described HIV/AIDS as a social problem for which a multicultural approach must be devised to combat. He said in the absence of curative drugs and preventive vaccine, the only way currently available for dealing on a large scale with HIV/AIDS is through public education. The processes through which according to him, relevant information can be communicated to the people in order to effect appropriate behavioural changes.

On the intervention, Dr Okediran posited that since 1986 when the first case of AIDS was detected in Nigeria, the country has mounted a National Response with the sole goal of reversing the trend of the epidemic by 25% in 2009 and subsequently eradicating the epidemic. He added that though the effort had yielded a drop from 5% in 2003 to 4.4% in 2005 there is still a long way to go in the fight against the scourge.

The Chief Executive Officer of Spectrum Books Ltd., Chief Joop Berkhout, OON, also delivered a paper on Publishing and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. His paper focused on socio-cultural and educational imperatives of the campaign against HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. He expressed dismay at the disposition of people towards the reality of HIV/AIDS existence.

Chief Joop Berkhout backed his paper with statistics which showed that as at 2004 six million Nigerians were HIV positive while known cases of recorded deaths from AIDS was 600,000 and 2,000,000 were orphaned by the death of their parents. He then opined that efforts must be intensified especially through education and information to prevent the escalation of the scourge.

The Spectrum Books Ltd CEO then called on publishers to carry the great responsibility of educating and informing the populace by creating and publishing books that deliver the HIV/AIDS prevention message in a strong, unequivocal, convincing and effective manner. Adding that, publishers have to be at the vanguard of any movement to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic by publishing and providing information that will positively influence the behaviour and social life of the people.

The two-day international conference enjoyed impressive attendance with a total number of 1,524 participants at the two-day events. The plenary session was quite stimulating and well attended. Communiqués were issued at the end of each day. Please find attached, a copy of the communiqué.

2. Children's Programme

The 3-day Children's Programme aimed at building and sharpening the creative ability of primary and secondary school children in Nigeria took place as usual. The winners of the NBFT/ETF Essay Writing Exercise which took place on the 4th of March, 2006 in five zones across the country and their parents/guardians were also part of this year's

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone: 234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

Children's Programme.

In line with the Nigerian Book Fair Trust's mission of promoting literacy at all levels, the theme of this year's conference was also woven into the children's programme. Earlier in the year, secondary schools students in the senior and junior classes from across the country had participated in a sit-in essay writing exercise on the following subjects:

- How To Prevent The Spread of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (JSS)
- The Social Economic Implications of HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Nigeria (SSS)

Thus, during the three days events for children at NIBF 2006, primary and secondary schools students from Lagos and its environ were not only exposed to reading appreciation and writing skills acquisition, but also had encounter with People Living With HIV/AIDS and specialists in the sector who helped in their visual and mental appreciation of HIV/AIDS. In addition, the students also had the opportunity of using specially designed books that contained all relevant information about HIV/AIDS. Spectrum Books Limited made the book package available.

Four of the seven winners of the NBFT/ETF Essay Writing Exercise were present to present their winning scripts to the listening pleasure of other students. The winners were on Friday, 12th May, 2006 presented cash awards, certificates, the special book package on HIV/AIDS (for their respective schools) and various books for their own personal use. Students from other schools who excelled in their cell group exercises were also rewarded with books and souvenirs from the book fair.

It was impressive children's programme this year with a total of 1,890 students/pupils and their teachers from 87 schools from Ife, Abeokuta, Lagos and environ and Abuja.

The NIBF 2006 Children's Programme spanned three days from Wednesday 10th through Friday 12th May, 2006. The programme featured story telling, poetry recitation, songs rendition, reading by writers and students, drama presentation and quiz competitions. Each presentation was followed by discussion that served as appraisal. The programme helped to bring out the latent talents of writing and creativity in the children

3.The Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria

The Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria (REPRONIG) had a one-day workshop on Copyright on Wednesday 10th, May, 2006.

The workshop drew participants from the academic, government and publishing sectors of the country. Professor Jegede of the national Open University of Nigeria gave the keynote address, while the likes of the Director General of the Nigerian Copyrights Commission, Mr Adebambo Adewopo, Professor Kenneth Crews of the Copyright Management Center, Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA and Mr Ben Nyadzi, General Manager, Copyright Ghana presented papers.

There were 106 participants at this workshop.

4. Nigerian Library Association's "The Librarians Day"

The Nigerian Library Association under the leadership of its President, Mrs Victoria Okojie organised on Wednesday 10th May, 2006 a Round-Table Talk that revolved round the theme of NIBF 2006 i.e. NATIONAL BOOK POLICY, HIV/AIDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The programme featured talks and presentations and offered a forum for experiential knowledge transfer through questions and answers. Mr. Gboyega Banjo chaired the programme while the discussants included the National Treasurer of NLA Mr Toyin Dina and Mrs. Agbakoba.

Resource persons were:

- Mr. Henry Mendelson from the American Embassy in Nigeria
- Mr. Theo Ibadu of Spectrum Books
- Dr. Charles Omekwu.

The programme was well attended by librarians, booksellers and publishers from within and outside Lagos State. The Lagos State Chapter General Secretary, Mr. I. Olu Ajibola directed the affairs.

5. World Bank Seminar

The World Bank also organised a one-day seminar on: Trends in the Nigerian Publishing Industry on. The stimulating workshop put together to help appraise the publishing industry in Nigeria as well as identify how best donor funds and grants could be accessed and utilized drew resource persons and participants from the publishing sector locally and internationally.

Mr Gbenro Adegbola, President, Nigeria Publishers Association and Mr Richard Crabbe, of the Office of the Publisher, World Bank, Washington, DC gave opening remarks while Mr Ayo Ojeniyi, Managing Director, Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) Plc. delivered the lead paper on Trends in the Nigerian Publishing Industry. Other speakers at the seminar include; Mr Dayo Alabi, Managing Director, The Book Company Limited who delivered a paper on: Cross-Border Trade: Options and Challenges, Mr Banji Aladesuyi, Managing Director, Literamed Publications Nigeria Limited whose paper centred on: Partnership For Publishing Industry Organisation and Mr Richard Crabbe, Office of the Publisher, World Bank, Washington, DC who talked on the **Role of the World Bank**.

Analysis of the assessment form distributed during the seminar adjudged it worthwhile and seen as a move in the right direction for the publishing sector in Nigeria. Sixty

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

people participated at the seminar.

6. National Library of Nigeria Workshop

The National Library of Nigeria on Thursday, 11th May, 2006 organised a one day Sensitization workshop in support of NIBF 2006 with the theme: 'International Standards for Book Publishing and Bibliographic Control'.

The Director/CEO of the National Library of Nigeria, Dr. L. N. Ikpaahindi gave the welcome address after which Mr A. A. Ojo Director, Management Education and Training, Centre for Management Development, Shangisha, Lagos delivered the keynote address to a cross section of librarians and other stakeholders in the publishing and education sectors of Nigeria.

The Chairperson at the occasion was Chief (Mrs) G. A. Uche, Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer Glad Education Support Services. Mr Achike Okafor GM (Publications) Management Education and Training Daily Times of Nigeria Plc. Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos gave a goodwill message at the workshop.

The following papers were delivered in the course of the sensitization exercise:

- International Standards For Book And Serial Publishing - MR C. B. Nwosu (Deputy Director, National Library of Nigeria, Lagos)
- Legal Deposit Obligations: Issues, Benefits and Challenges - Mrs B. F. Shuaibu (Deputy Director, National Library of Nigeria, Lagos)
- International Standards Number Administration – Mr M. A. Aiyeyi (Senior Librarian, National Library of Nigeria, Lagos)
- National Bibliographic Control and National Bibliography of Nigeria (Mrs. J. Lasisi Deputy Director, National Library of Nigeria, Lagos).

7. Writers' Forum/Authors Groove

For the first time in the annals of Nigeria International Book Fair, renown and budding authors had the chance of interacting with the public especially literary minded audience

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate, Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

at NIBF 2006 Authors Groove. From Wednesday, 10th, through Friday, 12th May 2006 this group of literary giants read their works, held discussions on issues affecting the literary sector as well as contemporary issues.

The theme of this year's Authors Groove was 'Dialogue Across Generations' and it was chosen to bridge the gap that exists between the young and older generations of Nigerian writers. The Association of Nigerian Writers (ANA) coordinated the programme.

The first day of the event witnessed a discuss between Professor Akachi Ezeigbo a professor of English, author of literary and academic books and winners of several coveted prizes, and Akeem Lasisi a journalist who has also won awards and performed poetry within and outside the country. Uzor Maxim Uzoatu a foremost poet and journalist moderated the session.

The second day saw the young and restless dramatist, film producer, director, author and poet Ebereonwu interacting with self-styled wordsmith Mobolaji Adenubi the award winner of Christopher Okigbo prize in 1995 for her work 'Splendid'. Ropo Ewenla, the multi-talented artist and choreographer, moderated the session.

Araceli Aipoh, author of the book 'No Sense of Limits' paired the London based Dr Wilson Orhiunu. The uniqueness of this pair was that they both write in languages other than their own and far from home. Erudite Chike Ofili moderated this session.

The entire three-day programmes were very exciting as the audience actively participated in the interaction by asking questions and contributing their opinion regarding the person on the hot seat and their work. The Guest Speakers, apart from reading from their works also took time out to tell the story behind the scenes as regards their work, the joys and otherwise of writing, publishing, marketing /distribution, literary criticism, editorial interventions etc. It was in deed, a highly rewarding time for participants as they drew encouragement from each other's experiences.

8. Book Presentations

Like at NIBF2005, Literamed Publications Nigeria Limited made public presentation and re-launch of some of the titles on her stable. School children, teachers and parents were invited to the one-day event. It was really an exciting, educative and entertaining moments for the students and the organisers of the book presentation.

About 200 pupils and their teachers were treated to book reading session by authors of popular Lantern titles. The kids had the opportunity of telling their own stories and were taught ways by which such stories could actually be published. Other artistes and television actors were also part of the book presentation. They taught the children the rudiment and value of poetry and its relationship to drama and acting.

Kids went away with autographed copies of Lantern books and other promotional items. Another book entitled: Sexual Harassment in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions by Dr O.O. Ogunbameru of Obafemi Awolowo University also made a debut at NIBF 2006. Spectrum Books Limited published the book.

Nigeria International Book Fair, Literamed Building, Plot 45 Oregun Industrial Estate,
Alausa Bus-Stop, Ikeja. P.M.B. 21068 Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Phone:234-1-4823402, 4962512, 7780316, 7780340. Fax: 234-1-4935258, 7780340.
Email: info@nibf.org

9. NBFT Awards Presentation

The NIBF 2006 Awards Ceremony was held in Multi-Purpose Hall C, University of Lagos on Friday 12th May, 2006. The programme started at 7:00pm with cultural performances from the National Troupe. Mostly dignitaries from the publishing sector and the media graced the occasion. Mrs Oby Nwankwo was also present. Otunba Lawal-Solarin, the Chairman of NBFT, and Chief S. B. Bankole, the Awards Committee Chairman were the chief hosts at the presentation while Sir, Aigboje Higo was the centre of attraction as the recipient of the only NBFT 2006 Award.

Sir, Aigboje Higo was honoured with the NBFT Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of his various contributions to the growth and development of the publishing industry in Nigeria. The Award presentation was made amidst stimulating cultural performances and cocktail.

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Bose Adetunji
Executive Secretary