



**September 23, 2010**

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**COMMUNIQUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS” ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (IERD) IN COLLABORATION WITH COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, BELLS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA BETWEEN SEPTEMBER, 21-23, 2010**

An International Conference on “Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection: Strategies and Procedures for Developing Nations” organized by the Institute For Environment Research and Development (IERD) in Collaboration with College of Environmental Sciences, Bells University of Technology, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, was held between September 21-23, 2010.

The opening address was made by Professor Isaac Adeyemi, the Vice Chancellor of Bells University of Technology, Ota. Goodwill messages came from the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Architect Namadi Sambo and the Honourable Minister of Environment of Nigeria, Mr. John Ogar Odey. Professor A. Osuntogun gave the Keynote address while Professor Jagadeesh (India) presented a lead paper at the first plenary session. Other notable presenters were Professor Bola Ayeni, Professor Fagbenle, Professor Florence Soriano (Australia), Prof. Francis Idike, Dr. Ajoy Kumar Mandal (India), Dr. Moukhtar Mai (Malaysia) and Dr. S. R. Akinola among other eminent presenters.

The conference participants also included erudite scholars such like Prof. Akin Mabogunje, Prof. Akin Akindoyeni and Prof. Musibau Sofoluwe (USA).

The opening ceremony of the Conference was attended by not less than 300 participants from various higher institutions and companies in five continents across the globe.

Within the three days, a total number of fifty two (52) papers from engineering, sciences, social sciences and humanities cutting across twelve (12) sub-themes were presented in the conference. The sub-themes are: Conceptual Issues, the Natural Environment, the Built Environment, Socio- Economic Environment, Environmental Policy/Law, Environmental Accounting, Environmental Health, Environmental Impact Assessment/Audit, Environmental Governance and Corporate Responsibility, Legal Aspects of Environment, Oil Environment & Bioremediation, Disaster/Crisis Management and Environmental Pollution.

During the three day conference, participants engaged in intense intellectual contestation on the state of environment and sustainability in developing economy. The multidisciplinary, recurrent and cross-cutting nature of the conference papers made the debate intense, intellectually stimulating and rewarding. The wide variety of papers exploring various subjects ensured a rich atmosphere that helped participants not only to improve their papers but also exposed them to vital information and knowledge that were not directly related to their own work. Every paper presented at the Conference was 'unique', bringing diverse perspectives and experiences that greatly enriched participants' knowledge about sustainable environment in developing nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

At the end of the conference, a Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Network (BISESN) was formed having Prof. J. Ogunji as Chairman, M.B. Yerima as Secretary and Dr. S.A. Daramola as facilitator.

After exhaustive deliberations on the theme of the conference, the following communiqué was issued:

1. Participants identified challenges on sustainable development and environmental protection which include: poor planning, monitoring and adaptation, poor coordination, failure to provide quantitative target and laid back attitude.

2. It was noted that policies on sustainable development and environmental protection are top-down in developing countries and do not involve primary stakeholders.
3. It was affirmed that any serious effort that will address problems of environmental degradation will require concerted effort from both private and public organizations.
4. In developing countries, poverty is identified as the root cause of poor environmental sustainability and therefore should be addressed.
5. It is essential that individual developing countries take the lead and initiatives in developing their own National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).
6. Greener technologies should be adopted by developing countries in ameliorating environmental deterioration due to pollution. This will ensure conservation of biodiversity.
7. It was affirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time which needs strong political will to urgently combat with the principle of common but differential responsibilities and respective capabilities.
8. It was also posited that at Mexico the developing nations will need to emphasize that adaptation to climate change must be given equal importance as mitigation.
9. It was emphasised that developing nations at the next coming UNFCCC 16<sup>th</sup> COP in Mexico need to cite their lower historical responsibility for emissions and capacity for actions as grounds for requesting financial support of their adaptation, technology deployment & forestry efforts.
10. The Networking Session enables participants to interact and establish linkages that would eventually culminate into practical application of innovative ideas that were generated during the conference.

In conclusion, it is hoped that some of the discourse and outcomes of this conference will become a suitable resource option for engaging a meaningful deliberation at the UNFCCC 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of parties at Mexico 2010.