



COMMUNIQUÉ

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The Literacy Promotion Association, Nigeria (LiPAN), in collaboration with the Department of English and Communication Art, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE), Port Harcourt, successfully concluded its 19th Biennial Conference, held from October 6-10, 2024.

Conference Overview

The conference, themed "Literacy for Sustainable Development," brought together scholars, educators, and literacy advocates from various tertiary institutions across Rivers State and Nigeria, even from the northern regions of Nigeria. Professor Anthonia Omehia from the Department of Library and Information Science, IAUE, delivered an insightful keynote address.

Distinguished Attendance

The conference was graced by notable dignitaries including:

- Professor Obiajulu Emejulu, Chairman, Board of Trustees, LiPAN
- Representative of the Commissioner for Education, Rivers State.
- The Executive Director for Adult and Non-Formal Education, Rivers State Ministry of Education
- The President of LiPAN; Prof Solomon Makinde (LASU)
- Vice President of LiPAN; Prof Nkechi Christopher (University of Ibadan)
- LiPAN BoT member; Prof Chinwe Moudumogu (Benue State University)
- Representatives from the British Council and ELTAN
- The former Director of Membership LiPAN; Prof Preye Iyalla- Amadi
- Senior academics from various institutions

Strategic Partnership

The English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) and the Adult and Non-Formal Education arm of the Rivers State Ministry of Education partnered with LiPAN Rivers State Chapter for the conference. While their initial commitment was to sponsor 100 teachers, approximately 30 teachers were able to attend and benefitted from the specialised workshops. The Rivers State Ministry of Education, through its Adult and Non-Formal Education Department, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LiPAN Rivers State Chapter. This strategic partnership aims to facilitate comprehensive literacy training programmes for the adult population across Rivers State. The collaboration represents a significant step toward enhancing adult education and literacy development in Rivers State

Workshop Highlights

The conference featured specialized workshops including:

1. "Does Reading have to be Serious, Insular and Boring?" by Linda Ruas, British Council Consultant
2. "Teaching Reading to Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Learners" by Prof. Felicia Moh
3. "Programming, Automation: The New Reading Techniques" by HRH Professor Isaac Eyi Ngulube, Rivers State University
4. "ELTAN - Equipping Nigerian Educators Using British Council Resources" by Salome Ikokoyo Leadership Transition

The conference concluded with a Biennial General Meeting (BGM) where significant leadership changes occurred:

- A new President, Prof Nkechi Christopher, succeeded Prof. Solomon Makinde
- Prof. Ibiere Ken-Maduako was elected as Vice President
- Dr Scholastica Amadi (Rivers State Chapter) was elected as the Financial Secretary
- Dr. Annette Weje (Rivers State Chapter) assumed the role of Membership Director
- A new Secretary, Dr John Sunday Ereke, was elected from Ebonyi State

The Board of Trustees Chairman, Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu, presided over the election and transition ceremonies, sharing an inspiring historical account of LiPAN's past presidents. The new executive committee has been charged with advancing the Association's mission and building upon its distinguished legacy.

Outcomes

The conference achieved several key objectives:

1. Strengthened partnerships between educational institutions and literacy advocacy groups
2. Enhanced teacher training through specialized workshops
3. Facilitated knowledge exchange on modern literacy instruction methods
4. Established new leadership to guide future initiatives

Way Forward

Under its new leadership, LiPAN remains committed to advancing literacy development across Nigeria through innovative approaches and strategic partnerships.

(Issued on behalf of LiPAN by the Local Organizing Committee)