

ICAN@UK Newsletter

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Synopsis of September Seminar: Pre-Independence Anniversary & Prelude to Annual Accountants' Conference

by Yetunde Odimayo

Theme: Accountability & Good Governance: Pathway to Nation Building

The Speakers had various approaches to the theme.

Mr Sevi Obakin - Who are you?

Centred around the core values, focussing on four values of *Fairness, Self-Discipline, Tolerance and Humility*.

He explained these and gave examples of same in leadership roles around the world.

Self-discipline could be demonstrated in delayed gratification, but humility as the last of these values explained was demonstrated with the phrase - "Watch your thoughts, as this leads to your words, watch your words as this leads to your actions, watch your actions as this leads to your habits and watch your habits as this leads to your character, finally watch your character as this leads to your destiny".

He focused on humility in his discussion and gave examples of several leaders who demonstrated humility in action, finally concluding that humility is how you treat others who are of no use to you.

Mr Olaitan Eyiowuawi – Accountants & Accountability in a disruptive and post-truth world

The speaker started with the statement that it is tough in Nigeria at the moment, and there is a mismatch between uncontrolled population growth and the attendant productivity. This was followed by a review of the stages of political maturity in Nigeria on the path to nation building.

The Speakers and Our District Chair



We were given examples of changes in export commodities over the years and how the interest of the western world in Nigeria is increasing, with the latest development in an understanding of the Pidgin English as demonstrated by the launch of the new BBC Pidgin station.

He then went on to challenge ICAN UK members to get more involved in the Nigerian Banks with UK subsidiaries and that Accountants are in the unique position to shape policies and find their own relevancy for bringing change in Nigeria.

He concluded by stating that Accountants are at the forefront of change, using the phrase "learn, unlearn and relearn".

Mrs Morenike Ajayi- Future proofing your career

The speaker's area of focus was in providing opportunities for the younger generation in career development.

She gave a personal example and described how she got to a position of influence.

She explained that black representation in the work force needs to be improved, she asked what are we each doing to take our positions in the work place and made a comparison of how the Asian communities future proof career opportunities for their next generations.

She also emphasised that moving upwards on the career ladder is more than just qualifications and involves how you relate on a social level, she asked that we become better at networking outside our ethnic and national communities and begin to think of the next generation.

She also asked us to start to plan our careers and constantly upskill and understand the trends.

She concluded by inviting all of us to get involved in career mentoring events.

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District's Report on our Participation at 47th Annual Accountants' Conference

The 47th Annual Accountants' Conference held in Abuja between 16th and 20th October 2017 was attended by a strong number of delegates from the District - (30 in all - including 2 spouses).

Day 1 was for registration and check-in, which was very smooth for our delegates, thanks to the influence and organisation of our Chair – Bim Osunsami ensuring that we all were registered, had conference materials, and accommodation sorted in a timely manner. The day ended with a night out at Blake restaurant where members had a good time! Some of us won't forget the fish on offer in a hurry!!

Day 2 was the Conference Opening - where the ICAN President emphasised the need to put Nigeria "First" as per the conference theme. He also enjoined all Accountants to embrace the newly adopted International Ethics Standard Board for Accountants' (IESBA) Code on Responding to Non-Compliance with laws and Regulation (NOCLAR) signed up to by ICAN; in which all Accountants have a duty to report any act of omission or commission, intentional or unintentional committed by client or employer which are contrary to prevailing laws or regulations. The launch of the Accountability Index for the public sector for assessing public finance management and public finance practices of Nigeria's public-sector institutions was also announced.

The special guest of honour President Muhammadu Buhari represented by the Accountant-General of the Federation Alhaji Ahmed Idris, FCNA, also enjoined Accountants and ICAN to lead the fight against corruption in Nigeria. We took group photographs with the ICAN President, and the ICAN Vice President (our Coordinator). The day ended with the District Societies' Parade competition but unfortunately, we did not participate as we were not prepared. I must say we need to be well prepared for this competition in future – we need costumes, a story line and rehearsals well before arriving Abuja. A sub-group should be set up for this purpose.



Day 3 had three plenary sessions and 2 workshops. Feedback from attendees indicate that these were very enriching with one session particular interesting as it dealt with practical issues relating to farming; the resource person – "Africanfarmer Mogaji" who the District Chair, and General Secretary happened to have met the day before. Though we missed the session due to our visit to the Senate and House of Representatives, we had early notice of what was to come. Africanfarmer Mogaji has provided us some DVDs of his work which we would make available to members. Day 3 for ICAN UK members was spent at the House of Representatives and Senate offices where we paid courtesy visits to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Local Content.

We were hosted by the Chairman of PAC Honourable O.K. Chinda representing Obio – Akpor Federal Constituency, Rivers State. We had a very interesting and interactive session with questions by almost all members in attendance. All questions were well responded to by the Chair of PAC and his team. We offered to be a bank of resource for PAC and also invited the Chair and members of PAC to our Zonal Conference in March. They also challenged us to seek ways in which we can engage with the Executive arm of Government to ensure that Accounts are prepared and Auditor General’s office is able to audit; without those, PAC really cannot function. They highlighted the need for electronic filling and archiving to make their job easier and achievable.

We also visited the Senate where we were hosted by Senator Solomon Adeola representing Lagos West, Chair of the Local Content Committee of the Senate. He enlightened us on the purpose of his committee which is relatively new – initially focussed on ensuring local content in activities of the Petroleum sector i.e. up to 30% local content; and slowly looking to do the same in all areas of Government. He challenged us to pass on message to ICAN to engage more with its members in the National Assembly and use them as gateway to shaping legislative agenda that The Institute would like to pursue as well as those that will enshrine Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance in Nigeria.

The third day also saw us visit our Coordinator – the ICAN Vice President - as well as the ICAN President, before members retired to a very engaging and engrossing President’s Disco in which some of our members were real Dance Artists!!!



Day 4 was the closing and rapporteur which saw the faces of young Nigerian Entrepreneurs in the plenary session – including Jelani Aliyu (the Nigerian who designed GM’s First Electric Car) and Chinedu Echeruo the brain behind HopStop.com - HopStop App (now acquired by Apple). Both gave very inspiring speeches on their journey and experiences; Jelani sought to encourage Nigerians to focus on what individuals can do rather than their certificates, whilst Chinedu sought to encourage us all to find insights on day to day problems that require solutions - pointing out that solving a problem based on thought-through insight may be our Goldmine!

We also visited the Auditor General and attended the District Societies’ meeting. Day four ended with a Gala night during which we celebrated the Birthday of our Chairman – Bim Osunsami; we were called to the stage and we appreciated her.

The job to harness gains from this Conference, in which we engaged extensively with people in government, needs to start in earnest.



Jelani Aliyu



Chinedu Echeruo



Happy Birthday - Bim Osunsami

District Calendar of Activities

| | Oct-17 | Nov-17 | Dec-17 | Jan-18 | Feb-18 | Mar-18 | Apr-18 | May-18 |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| 9 | | | ADD | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 5th ICAN UK Accountants Conference | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Annual Accountants Conference Abuja | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | Gen Mtg | | | |
| 24 | | Gen Mtg | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | AGM | |
| 26 | | | | Gen Mtg | | | | |
| 27 | Gen Mtg | | | | | | Gen Mtg | |
| 28 | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | Gen Mtg | | |

NOTABLE & UPCOMING EVENTS



ICAN UK & DISTRICT SOCIETY
Cordially invites you to its
ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE
Cocktail & Canapés/3 Course Dinner/
Entertainment/Music & Dance

| Date: |
9th December 2017

| Time: |
5pm to 11pm

| Venue: |
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL- THE 02
1 Waterview Drive, Greenwich Peninsula
SE10 0TW
Nearest Station: North Greenwich
(Parking: Pay & Display)

"IN SUPPORT OF ICAN UK & DISTRICT BENEVOLENT FUND"

Ticket → £50

PARKING CHARGES
Hotel Parking costs
0-2hrs £6 | 2-4hrs £8 | 4-6hrs £11
6-10hrs £12 (Discount rate) | 10-24hrs £25 (Discount rate)

For info, Tables & Sponsorship Package:
www.ican-uk.org/events

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Happy Birthday to
OCTOBER
Celebrants!

- Cosmas Chukwuma
- Chibuzor Okpala
- Kike Olanrewaju
- Bim Osunsami
- Temi Okutugbo
- Funso Martins
- Titus Abayomi

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR DONATING TOWARDS THE BURIAL OF OUR COLLEAGUE – AKEEM ADEBAYO AJAYI

May His Soul Rest In Peace! Amen!!



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T H E M E

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Venue: EXCEL LONDON
CentrEd.
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KEY AREAS:

- Unlocking economic potential in Agriculture, Mining & Tourism
- Youth as change tool for tomorrow's Africa
- Women as catalyst for economic development
- Efficient monetary policies & tax revolution

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20TH WCA

WORLD CONGRESS OF ACCOUNTANTS 2018
GLOBAL CHALLENGES | GLOBAL LEADERS

November 5-8, 2018

International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia.

For registration details, please visit the ICAN website www.icanig.org
You can also reach Bimpe on 07066122759, afolugbile@ican.org.ng

John I. Evbodaghe FCA
Registrar/Chief Executive