



20TH APRIL
2009

NIGERIAN SOCIETY, ICONS09 TRIP TO HULL.

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW...

CHIDINMA HANNAH
OGBONNAYA

Nigerian Society, ICONS09 Trip to Hull.

The start of something new...

This trip was mainly about networking and putting ourselves in the right place, the right event and at the right time. It involved interaction with other Nigerian Students about everything from relationship to tips on how we can live on the cheaper side. The programme served as a platform to instil core Nigerian Values and the reminder that although we are in England, we are still Nigerian. We can make a difference and make a positive contribution to whatever society we are in. We travelled, experienced something new and this trip was not only educative but it was also entertaining and worthwhile.

Main Aim



ICONS (International Conference of Nigerian Students in Diaspora). They are a company built by Nigerians, for Nigerians. And their main aim is building a new Nigeria with knowledge and skills. I thought that this was ideal for members of our Nigerian society for a number of reasons. These include:

- 1) Getting an awareness of what we are supposed to be doing as Nigerians
- 2) Seeing other Nigerian Students and trying to imitate their successes
- 3) Networking with the right people
- 4) Being Educated by Nigerians who have been through the system
- 5) Opening a forum to discuss day to day problems we face as Nigerian Students

6) *Exposure to possibilities and people in positions to guide and advise*



- 7) *Finding information about how other Nigerian Societies work*
- 8) *Brainstorming ideas on how we can make our society more attractive*
- 9) *Relaxation and Entertainment*

These were the main reasons we attended. It gave us a chance to see and look at ourselves in a different way. We gained ideas and valuable input into how we can better ourselves, received examples from top Nigerians who have made it. In one way, it felt as if we were going back to Nigeria for a weekend. Not only did we get educated, we also had fun.



Aims Explained!

1) Getting an awareness of what we are supposed to be doing as a Nigerians



The conference enabled us to see where we were failing. (Applicable to those not doing what we were supposed to be doing). For example, taking on extra courses to enhance our CVs or participating in Volunteering schemes for work experience. Doing our personal best to be the best that we can be so, the world sees that Nigerians are as



capable as anyone. We were exposed to things that should have been common knowledge and advised to be on the lookout for valuable opportunities that would enable and better our prospects. We were made aware of sites and businesses that will contribute to making us more useful to ourselves and others. We were shown techniques on how to present



yourself to an employer. Everybody present found this exciting.

2) Seeing other Nigerian Students and trying to imitate their successes

We had a workshop wherein fellow students were supposed to come up and display their various achievements. Some owned Businesses, specific IT sites, some had government bought ideas, and others had awards and certificates to prove they had made a difference. This was inspiring.





3) Networking with the right people

We met the right people, people who were able to train and provide us with volunteer opportunities that will lead us to paid internships. Professors, Governors, CEOs and a host of others are just a few of the people present.



4) Being Educated by Nigerians who have been through the system

People like Dr Abani spoke to us about being in the Diaspora but still being able to make a difference both at home and abroad. He spoke frankly about the difficulties that we may face,



and advised us on way in which we can overcome them.

5) Opening a forum to discuss day to day problems we face as Nigerian Students

We were able to freely discuss, in complete honesty about actual in-depth issues that affect us daily. This was awesome because we were receiving feedback from people like ourselves, who have experienced things and found ways to overcome their trials. We had open venues for example

lunch, where we could relax and discuss this in a friendly and comfortable manner.



6) Exposure to possible mentors and people in positions to guide and advise

We were introduced to a fantastic

selection of Employers based in both Nigeria and the UK. And people who would become mentors to people who took the opportunity. We were then able to network as we saw fit.



7) Finding information about how other Nigerian Societies work

We used this opportunity to find out how other Nigerian societies from other Universities form their group and how they attract members. We learnt techniques on how to advertise, recruit and tips about money that they use to entice and gather Nigerians. I also noticed that most of the Universities were in contact. This was the perfect chance to put Greenwich in the loop and hopefully remain in the communication circle. So we do not miss out on valuable information and opportunities in the very near future.



8) Brainstorming ideas on how we can make our society more attractive



Self explanatory.

9) Relaxation and Entertainment

After all was said and done. There was an after party where we could eat, drink, be entertained and be merry. And in the true Nigerian fashion we did just that.





Weekend Programme
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
NIGERIAN STUDENTS
(ICONS 2009)**
4TH and 5TH APRIL, 2009

University of Hull, Kingston upon
Hull, UK

PROGRAMME

**Sat 4th April 2009 - Hull University
Business School**

0830 Bus picks up From Thwaite Hall,
Cottingham to the Hull

University Business School

0845 - 1000 Arrival, Registration and Coffee
The Derwent Building, Hull University
Business School

1000 - 1010 Welcome to the City of Kingston
upon Hull by **Councillor**

John Robinson, of Hull City Council

1010 - 1020 Welcome to the University of
Hull by the Deputy Vice

Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Affairs),

Professor Bill Bruce

1020 - 1040 Opening Address by the
Nigerian High Commissioner to the
UK, His Excellency, **Dr. Dalhatu
Sarki TAFIDA, OFR,**

MBBS, MRCP, FNMCP, FWACP

1040 - 1110 First Guest Speaker, **Dr.**

Mark Abani, Chairman, Central
Association of Nigerians in the UK
(CANUK)

1110 - 1140 Second Guest Speaker **Dr.**

Alistair Soyode - CEO BEN TV
and Trustee NIDOE

1140 - 1200 Presentation by **Mr. Charles
Umoh** - CEO and Principal,
San Michael College, Birmingham, UK
- 'Education as a

*Business - 'An Account from a
Seasoned Educational*





Entrepreneur'
1200 - 1220
Presentation by **Matthew Hornshaw**,
Regional Manager
Africa, University of
Hull - The University
of Hull links
with Nigeria & the
Hull Nigerian
Students Society
1220 - 1240
Presentation by **James
Richardson**, Director
UoH
International Office,
"VISA UPDATE"
1240 - 1255 Award
Presentation to Special
Guests by **Dr. Akanimo
Odon**

Conference Chair and Miss Ife Bello, Manager of
Volunteering, X_n Foundation
1300 - 1400 Lunch Break - THE MYTON ROOM, STAFF HOUSE
1400 - 1420 Third Guest Speaker Mr. Roy Ovbiagele - Vice President,
OCEANIC CAPITAL, Nigeria - 'Impact of the Global Financial
Crises on Nigeria - The Reality and the Implications.
1420 - 1520 First Seminar Series -
Leadership. Citizenship and
Nation-
Development
• **Ambassador Yusuf Adamu**,
Director General,
Citizen and Leadership Training
Centre, Abuja,
Nigeria. - '*Citizenship and
Leadership training and
the challenges of youth
development*'.
• **Mr. Alex Akinusi**, Citizenship
and Leadership
Training Centre, Jos, Nigeria -
'*Networking
Nigerian Youth in Diaspora for
community
Development*'.





- **Pastor Isaac Olumide Aleshinloye**, Pastor of the RCCG, Amazing Grace Chapel, Hull - *'The Way Forward'*.
- **Q and A session**
1520 - 1530 Refreshments - **Derwent Cafe**
1530 - 1630 Second Seminar- **Nigerian Environmental Issues**
- **Dr. Lawrence Ezemonye** (Associate Professor of Environmental Science, University of Benin) - *The Nigerian Environmental Industry- the way forward*
- **Prof. Mike Elliott** - Director, Institute of

Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull - *'The Seven Tenets of Sustainability - The Nigerian Situation'*

• **Mr. Ade Lawal** - Retired Regional Business Executive, Inter-Continental Bank, Nigeria, Founder and Chairman of 8 Companies in Nigeria - *'Investment and Business Opportunities in Nigeria - A seasoned Businessman's Account'*.

• **Q and A session**
1630 - 1645 Award Presentation to Special Guests by Guests by **Akanimo Odon** Conference Chair and Co-Founder, X_n Foundation and **Olakunle David Fashina**, Director of Protocol, X_n Foundation
1645 - 1700 X_n Foundation Projects by **Benedict Okhumale** Co-Founder, X_n Foundation and Programme Manager, Centre for Values and Leadership, Lagos, Nigeria.
1700 - 1710 Vote of thanks by **Bamidele Adebisi**, The Director of Protocol and Logistics, X_n Foundation and Chairman, Organising Committee.





From 1710 Creativity showcase,
Display of works - academic,
business,
talent, discoveries
(inventions)/Poster
presentations,
Exhibitions, Networking.
1745 Bus pick up from
Management School to Thwaite
Hall
1900 Bus pick up from Thwaite
Hall to Myton Room, Staff House
**BUFFET
DINNER/SOCIAL/AWARD
NIGHT - MYTON ROOM, STAFF
HOUSE**
**Saturday 4th April, 2009 -
Ceremony and Buffet**
1915 - 1930 Opening Address by
Dr. Akanimo Odon
Co-Founder, X_n Foundation and
Ambassador, Lancaster
University
1930 - 1940 Chairman's Address
by Mr. Ade Lawal
1940 - 2015 Entertainment by

Hull University Students

2015 - 2115 Buffet Dinner alongside Musical Performances
2115 - 2145 Award Presentation to Student Delegates by Dr.
Valentine
Ururuka, Chair, Award Committee and Director of Special
Duties, X_n Foundation and , **Ambassador Yusuf Adamu**
Director General, Citizen and Leadership Training Centre,
Abuja, Nigeria
2145 - 2215 More Entertainment by Hull University Students
2215 - 2230 Closing Remarks, Vote of thanks and
Announcements
2230 - 0030 Night Party
0045 Bus pick up - from Staff House to Thwaite Hall
**PRESENTATIONS/NETWORKING - LINDSEY ROOM,
STAFF HOUSE**
Sunday 5th April, 2009
0900 Bus pick up from Thwaite Hall to Staff House
0900 - 1000 Tea / Coffee served in the conference room
1000 - 1015 Opening Speech by **Dr. Ife Akintunde**, Executive
Secretary,
X_n Foundation
1015 - 1100 Presentations by Student Delegates





1100 - 1230 NISA FORUM led by Dr. Akanimo Odon, Co-Founder, Xn Foundation and Bamidele Adebisi, Director of Protocols Logistics, Xn Foundation.
1230 - 1245 Closing Remarks by Dr. Ife Akintunde, Executive Secretary Xn Foundation and Updates on Future Events.
1245 Lunch and departure of delegates.

We had fun! We will do it again!