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Prof. G.O. Olusanya delivering his address at the launch of *International Affairs*



L-R: Chatham House Delegates: Jessica Delaney, Tom Cargill, Alex Vines and Caroline Soper

NIIA AND CHATHAM HOUSE RENEWED PARTNERSHIP



Professor U. Joy Ogwu (OFR),
Director-General, NIIA



Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas (OBE)
Director, Chatham House

The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos, was established as a 'think tank' on international affairs in 1961. It has over the years promoted the understanding of international affairs by organising workshops, seminars, conferences, lectures and the publication of books and journals.

The history of its establishment was revisited when a delegation from the Royal Institute of International Affairs, (Chatham House), London, came calling from April 11-14, 2005.

Mr. Alex Vines, head of Africa Programme, Chatham House, and leader of the delegation, recounted the assistance Chatham House gave towards the establishment of the NIIA, which is modeled after it. The assistance, which was in the form of supporting letters to British government officials in the build up to NIIA's birth in December 1961, was driven by Charles Carrington, the then Professor of Commonwealth Relations at Chatham House. Mr. Vines added that the Commonwealth Conference held at the NIIA in 1962, was an important landmark, as it gave the NIIA the much

needed international legitimacy and attention.

During the visit a unique event occurred. For the first time outside of Britain, Chatham House launched its flagship journal '*International Affairs*' - an edition specifically dedicated to African issues.

While launching the journal, Prof U. Joy Ogwu, OFR, remarked that the delegation's visit was an opportunity to reactivate the partnership between NIIA and Chatham House, which had become dormant for a long time. She added that this renewed partnership would, through joint research efforts and publications, give rise to the development of closer ties between these two great Institutes.

In his response, Mr. Vines endorsed the idea that Chatham House and NIIA should develop a practical relationship of jointly conducting quality research analysis of international affairs.

Two roundtable conferences were held as part of the intellectual engagement between the Institutes on issues of concern to Britain, Nigeria and the world. One was on *Niger-Delta Today* and the other was on *Corporate Social Responsibility*.

Renewed Partnership

The Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), founded in 1920 and now commonly referred to as Chatham House is a world renowned Institute of international relations based in the heart of London.

In 1961, NIIA was established and modeled after Chatham House, but it has functioned for over four decades without any working relationship with its London-based sister organisation.

However, the recent joint events organized by both Institutes from April 11-14, 2005 in Lagos point to a renewed interest in partnership. Both Institutes now aim at charting a joint course for excellence in scholarship as they consolidate their historic ties.

This edition of **niianews** reports this new beginning of a working relationship between NIIA and Chatham House.

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Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman, Roundtable on Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria,

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the expectation of society that corporate organisations would use their economic strength for broader social and economic goals and would demonstrate good conduct by being environmentally responsible and in providing support to communities.

Corporate Social Responsibility has long been in global pactise, but is relatively new within the Nigerian social milieu. However, in this era that is characterised by the increased divestment by government from various social and economic responsibilities and the enhancement of the role of the private sector, "the idea and practice of CSR is becoming more salient", according to Professor Ogwu. It is expected that corporate organisations will operate their businesses in a socially responsible way that would be complemented by investments in communities. When this is done, CSR becomes an integral part of the wealth creation process of a country.

She further argued that CSR also includes support for research activities by the leading lights of corporate Nigeria. For, "in an increasingly globalised world, characterised by mutually interrelated interests, such corporate support for the efforts of NIIA and other research and academic establishments would be a socially beneficial endeavour".

Though it is commonly accepted that CSR deals with how companies manage their business processes in order to produce an overall positive impact on society, its structure varies from the one company to the other remarked Mr. Goodie Ibru, the President of African Business Roundtable.

The following observations flowed from the Rountable discussions:

- There is inadequate knowledge, information and poor advocacy on CSR in Nigeria;

- Concentration on the oil sector has shifted attention from other sectors whose operations make large profits and yet show no interest in ethical issues, eg the banks;
- There is a weak legal system which emboldens disregard to CSR by corporations that produce harmful products in Nigeria.



Prof. U Joy Ogwu, (OFR) delivering her welcome address

The roundtable made the following recommendations:

- CSR should be more widely promoted;
- CSR should be people-oriented;
- A review of the legal and institutional frameworks for CSR in Nigeria is needed;
- Enlightenment of all stakeholders: private and public sector, government, that CSR is for all sectors.

The occasion was chaired by Professor Bolaji Akinyemi former Minister of Foreign Affairs. The lead paper was presented by Mr. Goodie Ibru, Chairman NEPAD Business Group in Nigeria. Other presenters are Caroline Soper of the Chatham House and Dan Ayao Dussey of British American Tobacco.

Visit www.niianet.org for full text of the papers presented.



Mr Goodie Ibru, Chairman, Ikeja Hotels Plc and NEPAD Business Group, Nigeria, presenting his paper on Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria

NIGER-DELTA TODAY

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS



L-R: Ambassador Akporode Clark, Chief Arthur Mbanefo, a guest, and Dr. A. Ogwu (far right)



L-R: Amb. Hamzat Ahmadu, Prof. G.O. Olusanya, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu and a guest at the Launch of International Affairs



Mr. Ayao Dussey of BAT Ltd. delivering his address at the Roundtable on CSR



L-R: Dr. Charles Dokubo and Dr. Dan Omoweh, Research fellows with the NIIA at the Roundtable on Niger-Delta Today

The Niger-Delta consists of the following states: Ondo, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom and Cross River. This region occupies prime position as far as Nigeria's political economy is concerned largely because it is the source of the nation's oil and gas resources.

The agitation of the people of the Niger-Delta for improved allocation of resources and infrastructure occupies the front burner in any discourse of Nigeria's political economy. As the source of crude oil and gas which are the main foreign exchange earners for the nation, the Niger-Delta has suffered the ravages and repercussions of uncontrolled exploitation of crude oil and gas.

Consequently, the economic activities of the people of Niger-Delta, have been negatively impacted by environmental degradation, mass unemployment, youth restiveness and several other social ills.

In her opening remarks at the roundtable on *Niger-Delta Today*, the DG NIIA stressed the need for the discussion to draw attention to the problems of the area and government's efforts to address them.



Mr. Michael Peel

Various papers were presented and discussions held by distinguished scholars and guests.

The papers and discussions portrayed:

- the paradox that is the Niger-Delta, the goose that lays the golden egg for the Nigerian state, is mired in excruciating poverty;
- the lack of transparency and accountability of the multinational oil firms which has become the bane of development issues in Niger-Delta;
- the marginalisation of the indigenous people which has engendered restiveness of the youth in the region as a result of the environmental pollution, degradation and unemployment;
- the emergence of various militant youth groups engaged in the despoliation of oil installations;
- the proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the Niger-Delta region;
- the need for urgent action with due regard to the endangered flora and fauna of the Niger-Delta;

Paper presenters at the roundtable were Michael Peel, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, London, Dr. Charles Dokubo, Senior Research Fellow, NIIA and Dr. Daniel Omoweh, Senior Research Fellow, NIIA.

CHATHAM HOUSE OFFICIALS ON FAMILIARISATION TOUR:

- Visit Covenant University and African Leadership Forum in Ota

On the first day of the joint events, the NIIA officials led by the Director-General, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu (OFR) conducted the Chatham House delegates on a familiarisation tour of Covenant University and African Leadership Forum (ALF) in Ota.

The officials of both Institutes were warmly received by the



Prof. P. F. Izedonmi, Bishop David Oyedepo, Chancellor, Covenant University, Ota and Prof. U Joy Ogwu, (OFR) making her remarks

Chancellor, Covenant University, Ota, Bishop David Oyedepo and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Aize Obayan. The University lecturers and students also had an interactive session with the visiting officials.

At the African Leadership Forum, Mr. Ayodele Aderinwale, executive Director, ALF, briefed the visiting officials on the activities of the ALF.



L-R: Caroline Soper, Alex Vines, Mr M. Osawemen (behind), Prof. U. Joy Ogwu, OFR, Prof. W.O. Alli and Mr Ayodele Aderinwale at the ALF, Ota

NIIA Publications

Nigerian Journal of International Affairs (NJIA) - Special Edition



Articles Inside

The Maritime Sector, Ocean Law and Policy in Nigeria - *Wonotanzokan Nzada Tagowa*.

International Terrorism: What Policy Options for Its Control - *D. Aondoakaa Utume*

Ethnic Differences and Perceived Marginalization as Psychological Issues of Conflict in Nigeria - *Benjamin Osayawe Ehigie*

The UN System of Economic Agencies and the Assault on State Assisted Capitalism in the Third World - *Abolade Adeniji*

Africa and the World in the 21st Century - *James N. Obiegbo*

Briefing Note: Civil Wars and the Modern Laws of Armed Conflicts - *Fred Aja Agwu*

Nigerian Journal of International Affairs, Vol.31, No1, 2005. **Price: N500.00**

On-going Book Projects

- Debt Relief in Nigeria's Diplomacy;
- South Atlantic and the Gulf of Guinea;
- Foreign Policy in the Emerging Nigerian Democracy: Forty Years After;
- The Southern Heartland Thesis;
- The ECOWAS Agenda: Promoting Good Governance, Peace, Stability and Development.

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L-R. Prof. G. O. Olusanya, Amb. David Angell, Canadian High Commissioner, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu, (OFR) and Amb. Hamzat Ahmadu at the official opening of the NIIA Exhibition in Lagos.

The Nigerian Forum. **Price: N250.00**
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Vol.26, Nos.3-4, Mar.-April, 2005

For further information on NIIA publications, please visit the Free download centre page of the Institute's official website www.niiinet.org.



Nigerian Forum

An Opinion Publication of the NIIA

Launching of Special Edition of International Affairs

The Special Edition of *International Affairs* was launched in Lagos on April, 12 2005. *International Affairs* is the flagship journal of the NIIA (Chatham House), London. Prof. Ogwu, during her presentation at the launching of the Special Edition of the Journal gave a brief highlight of the articles contained in the journal.

Articles in the Special Edition examined current issues in African affairs, the policies of the British government towards sub-Saharan Africa and the problems they encounter. The journal also focuses upon the seemingly interminable problems associated with the possession of strategic minerals and



resources, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the imperative of enhancing Africa's capacity to establish peace and security. Some articles also analyse the relative constancy of Africa's economic giant, South Africa.



L-R: Prof. W.O. Alli, Mr. M. Osawemen, Mr. Alex Vines and Mrs. Q.F. Coker

Upcoming Events:

- Colloquium on United Nations (UN) Reforms and Nigeria's role in the UN
- Ambassadors Forum to sensitize the public on the AU Summit in July, 2005.
- Seminar on the International Political economy of Oil and Gas and Nigeria's National and Regional Imperatives.
- Roundtable on ECOWAS.

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