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*Prof. U. Joy Ogwu, OFR
Director-General, NIIA*

The NIIA "Founders' Day" refers to the day the Institute was officially commissioned, that is, December 13, 1961. However, the 2005 Founders' Day was marked on December 6, 2005. A number of events and activities marked the day, among them was the Founders' Day Lecture and an exhibition.

DG's Welcome Address

In her welcome address, the DG Professor U. J. Ogwu (OFR) observed that the Solid Mineral sector is another source of immense foreign exchange earning for the country. She commended the Honourable Minister for the laudable job she is doing at the Ministry particularly the restructuring of the Ministry and the enhancement of professionalism and technical competence among others.

FOUNDERS' DAY 2005



*Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili
Hon. Minister of Solid Minerals Development*

Founders' Day Lecture

This year's Founders' Day Lecture titled "Solid Minerals: As a Strategic Asset for National Development" was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr. (Mrs) Obiageli Ezekwesili. In the well attended lecture, she stressed the point that Nigeria's future lies not on its endowment of mineral resources, but on the application of the benefits of exploitation of these resources towards the growth and development of the present and future generations. The development of solid minerals she argued should be viewed as an opportunity to diversify the economy.

According to Mrs. Ezekwesili, solid minerals are the naturally occurring substances derived from the earth's crust and upper mantle, which are of value to man, and include all minerals aside from crude oil, gas and mineral water. The Minister noted that, Nigeria is endowed with at least 34 mineral types occurring in more than 450 locations all over the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

Generally minerals are natural resources that contribute to economic and technological growth of countries and Nigeria is not an exception. Solid minerals contributed immensely to the economic development of the country in the pre-independence years. During that period, Nigeria produced a range of minerals from coal, tin, columbite,

lead, to zinc for local energy use and for export. Prior to the discovery of oil, solid minerals exports served as a major foreign exchange earner.

However, Dr. (Mrs) Ezekwesili noted that in the years after independence, the solid mineral sector declined due to the Nigerian Civil War which led to mass exodus of expatriates involved in mining activities and the collapse of the price of tin at the world market. The decline in the sector led to the abandonment of the mines, which allowed the ingress of illegal and artisanal miners who brought chaos and disorder to the mining sector.

The Minister pointed out that over the years successive governments have tried to revive the fortunes of the sector. Significantly, the establishment of the Ministry of Solid Minerals by the government of Late General Sani Abacha was meant to ensure the rapid and beneficial development of solid minerals. This objective is still being pursued by the Ministry which has taken the following steps to reposition the sector:

- Develop a new National Policy on Solid Minerals;
- Redraft the Minerals and Mining Act 1999 to replace the one in use since 1946;
- Carry out a techno-economic appraisal of the Nigeria's solid mineral sector, through Mineral Appraisal and Monetization Programme (NIMAMOP); and
- Take over and emphasize the importance of the bitumen project.



L-R: Prof. U. Joy Ogwu, Dr. (Mrs) Oby Ezekwesili, Chief Ernest Shonekan, Chairman, 2005 Founders' Day programme

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Ministry, the contribution of the sector to the economy is still very paltry. In 1999 the sector contributed N80.9 million, which grew to N309.2 million in 2002, and N298.5 million in 2004. The Minister explained that this limited contribution was also largely due to corruption, lack of qualitative and reliable baseline data, weak capacity to enforce regulations, lack of transparency in granting of access to mineral titles, structural and administrative lapses amongst many others.

However, in spite of these challenges, the Minister explained that there is a vision for solid minerals development, which is essentially focused on:

1. The quest to understand the earth around us through conscious attempts to expand the boundaries of knowledge of our mineral potentials and the possibilities existing therein; and
2. The quest to promote the exploitation of the mineral endowments spread across the nation for the wealth and peace of Nigeria.

This vision according to the Minister is not only driven by the need for economic diversification, but also to address the more fundamental issues of social inequities. Since mining operations as distinct from the enclave economies of oil and gas are conducted in rural communities, an orderly development of the sector in a way that guarantee benefits to both the investors and the host communities is a palliative for employment generation and poverty reduction.

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Founders' Day Exhibition

The Institute staged an art exhibition as part of the events marking the Founders' Day Celebration 2005. The Exhibition had as its theme: **"NIIA in Nigeria's Foreign Relations"** with the sub-theme: **"Nigeria's Foreign Relations Through the Years"**. It featured NIIA publications, press clippings and important pictorials. Also on display were press clippings and information on Nigeria's solid mineral endowments. This served to complement the theme of the Founders' Day Lecture on "Solid Minerals: As a Strategic Asset for National Development" presented by the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development. The Exhibition was well received by participants particularly students from some secondary schools around Lagos and other guests who found it informative and enlightening.

Nigeria-Russia Dialogue and Dinner

A two-day Nigeria-Russia Dialogue was held at the NIIA from 29 to 30 November 2005. The Dialogue was a continuation of the cooperation between the NIIA and the Institute for African Studies (IAS) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The theme of the Dialogue was: *The Globalization Process: Views from Moscow and Lagos*. Five issue areas under the theme were identified for evaluation by the scholars from both institutions as follows:

- i. Perspectives on Globalization.
- ii. Globalization and Economic Reforms in Nigeria and Russia.
- iii. The Impact of Globalization on Conflict and Security in Africa and the World.
- iv. Globalization and Culture.
- v. The Governance System in the Age of Globalization.



Prof. Alexey Vassiliev, Director, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

The Nigerian delegation was led by the Director General of the NIIA, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu (OFR), while the Russian delegation was headed by the Director of the Institute for African Studies, Prof. Alexey Vassiliev. Also in the Russian delegation were: the Russian Deputy Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Vladimir Fedotov, Prof. Dmitry Bondarenko, Prof.



L-R: Dr. Lev Rytov, Prof. A. Ogundowole, Alexey Vassiliev, W.O. Alli, U. Joy Ogwu, A. Ogunsanwo, G. Alele-Williams at NIIA, Lagos.

Mikhail Vishnevsky, Dr. Lev Rytov and Dr. Nina Grishina. In the Nigerian delegation were Professor W. O. Alli, Ambassador Hassan Adamu (CON), Prof. Thomas Imobighe, Prof. (Ambassador) Alaba Ogunsanwo and Mr Bulus Lolo (Special Assistant, Office of the Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations). Other participants in the Dialogue were Professor Adele Jinadu, (CASS) Professor A. Ogundowole, and Professor A. Akinyeye of University of Lagos and Professor Charles Alade and Mr. Jamiu Oluwatoki of the Lagos State University.

Observations:

During the course of the deliberation participants made the following observations:

- The process of globalization is not new. It is a process that began in antiquity and involves the accelerated integration of the world in its economic, political, social and cultural spheres. The consolidation of democracy worldwide has aided the spread of globalization.
- Globalization has brought all the regions of the world together and the globalization of the world economy offers great opportunities for the highly developed post-industrial countries, but it has increasingly marginalized developing countries such as Nigeria.
- The two dominant trends in the globalization process are from America and Europe and as such the process has very heavy Western cultural content. Thus cultural globalization is synonymous with the global spread of Western material and non-material forms of culture.
- Globalization has failed to enhance security across the continent of Africa and in Russia. Both at the level of the individual (human security) and at the level of the nation-state, globalization has introduced new forms of threats (e.g. HIV-AIDS) and intensified or transformed pre-existing one (e.g. conflicts and transnational crime).
- Globalization has involved the imposition of western backed economic reform programmes that have resulted in the loss of control by small developing African states over their economies. The material advancement of the developed countries and their control of capital and the media has given them the power of global

agenda-setting with which they establish dominance over the rest of the world.

Recommendations:

After extensive deliberations, participants adopted the following recommendations:

- Nigeria and Russia need to strengthen their respective economies in order to withstand the negative impacts of globalization and derive gains where possible.
- Nigeria and Russia should adopt measures that will help to reduce the various threats to human and national security that have been brought about by globalization.
- Africa should effectively key into the globalization process just as the Asian region has done, in order to derive its beneficial impacts.
- Efforts should be made towards the revival of local cultures and languages in order to ensure their preservation in the face of the globalization of western culture. This is in view of the fact that cultural pluralism and divergence are the essence of human civilization.
- Cultural pluralism should be encouraged through cross-cultural understanding, which would counter the inherently conflictual forces of globalization.
- Efforts should be made towards the enhancement of the position of women in governance.
- The Ajaokuta Steel Complex is not only monumental in terms of its size and potential steel production capacity it is also a powerful symbol of Nigeria-Russia relations and cooperation. As such, it is imperative that the project must not be allowed to be impeded by the forces of globalization and should be completed by the federal Government of Nigeria.



Prof. U. Joy Ogwu presenting a parcel of NIIA publications to Prof. Alexey Vassiliev.

Chatham House Officials' Visit to NIIA

Officials of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (popularly known as Chatham House) visited the NIIA between 14 and 18 November 2005. This was the second visit of Chatham House to NIIA in 2005. The Chatham House team which included Tom Cargill, Caroline Soper, Katy Taylor and Mary Bone, was received by the Director General.

Discussions between the NIIA officials and the visiting Chatham House team focused on a number of areas among which are:

- Prospects for joint projects between the NIIA and the RIIA.
- The collaboration in the area of publications with particular reference to the Nigerian Journal of International Affairs.
- Cooperation between the libraries of NIIA and RIIA.
- Computerization of the NIIA Press Library.
- Transformation from manual documentation to computerization.
- Exchange of current publications.



L-R: Tom Cargill, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu during the Chatham House officials' visit

Chatham House Librarian Interacts with NIIA Library Staff

During the visit of the Chatham House officials, Mrs. Mary Bone, Deputy Librarian of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) held several interactive and training sessions with the senior staff of the NIIA Library. The interactions, apart from providing Mrs. Bone the opportunity to see the facilities and working of the NIIA Library also allowed exchange of ideas and discussions on recent developments and future trends in library and documentation services especially the effective use of computers in libraries. Some of the areas of focus include:

- The need for the clippings in the Press Library to be computerized.
- Staff developments to enhance performance.
- Migration of the Library from the manual to computerized data.

- The enhancement of general cooperation with the RIIA Library.

During the visit Mrs. Bone stressed the necessity for cooperation between RIIA and NIIA, since the NIIA and Chatham House are sister institutions performing the same functions for their respective countries.



L-R: Mrs. Q. F. Coker, Mr. P. A. Egom, Caroline Soper, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu, Mary Bone and Katy Taylor during the visit of the Chatham House officials

NIIA Team Visits the United Nations

The Director General of NIIA, Prof. U. Joy Ogwu accompanied by the Director of Research and Studies, Prof. W.O. Alli and Dr. Fred Agwu also of the Department of Research and Studies visited the UN Headquarters in New York from 12 to 22 December 2005. The visit was specifically to participate and provide support for Nigeria team to the 60th General Assembly of the UN. The visit afforded the officials the opportunity to monitor on-going discussions on the proposed UN Reforms, and other crucial issues before the world body.

During the visit the NIIA team held meetings with officials of the Nigerian Permanent Mission to the UN. In addition the team participated as observers at several sessions and deliberations of various committees of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), including those committees concerned with human rights and economic matters among others.

Dinner

As part of the activities of the Nigeria-Russia Dialogue 2005, a dinner was hosted on 29 November 2002 by the Russian Ambassador in honour of the participants. The dinner provided avenue for the delegations and participants to interact and socialize. It was well attended and served to complement the understanding engendered in the course of the Dialogue.



L-R: Mrs. A. Dada, H.E. Mr. Haris Dafaranos, Mrs. Q.F. Coker, Prof. W.O. Alli during the Greek Ambassador's visit

The Greek Ambassador to Nigeria Visits the NIIA

The Greek Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Haris Dafaranos paid a courtesy visit to the NIIA on Thursday, 29 December 2005. The Ambassador was received by the Director of Research and Studies, Prof. W.O. Alli, Director of Library and Documentation Services, Mrs. Q. F. Coker and the Deputy Director of Library and Documentation Services, Mrs. A. Dada.

During the visit the Ambassador noted that Nigeria and Greece have enjoyed very cordial relationship since diplomatic relations were established and particularly since 2000 when the Nigerian Embassy was reopened in Athens.

According to the Ambassador, Greece is a world leader in shipping and would like to contribute to the development of shipping in Nigeria. The Ambassador further said that he would like to improve this aspect of Nigeria-Greece relations before the end of his tenure.

In their response, the NIIA officials on behalf of the Director-General thanked the Ambassador for his interest in the NIIA and for being enthusiastic about broadening the areas of cooperation between Greece and Nigeria. They also explained the mandate and operational framework of the Institute. The Ambassador was invited to take part in the Institute's Ambassador's Forum.



H.E. Mr. Haris Dafaranos, The Greek Ambassador to Nigeria, during the NIIA Ambassador's Forum, Lagos

The Canadian High Commissioner participates in NIIA Ambassador's Forum

The Ambassador's Forum of the NIIA is one of several traditional activities of the Institute. It provides a platform for heads of diplomatic missions to brief the research staff and a select group of people from the academia, government agencies, diplomatic community etc., on the domestic and foreign policies of their countries.

In line with this tradition the Institute invited the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, H.E. Mr. David Angell to give a briefing on Friday 9 December 2005.

The High Commissioner's remarks and the discussions that followed focused on Canadian foreign policy towards Africa. The forum was very interactive and rewarding. In attendance were research fellows of the Institute, scholars from universities and other institutions, officials from the diplomatic community and dignitaries including, Alhaji Hassan Adamu "Wakilin Adamawa" former Nigerian Ambassador to the United States.

Upcoming Events

Conference

Topic: Federalism and Ethnicity
Date: February 19-24, 2006
Participants: Participants from all over Africa

Seminars

Topic: Importance of Technology in International Relations
Speaker: Engineer C.J. Adiele
Date: Wednesday, 1st March, 2006
Participants: Open

Topic: The Rise of China and India: What is in it for Africa?
Speaker: Andrea Goldstein, Chief Economist, OECD, Paris.
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2006

On-going Book Projects

- Debt Relief in Nigeria's Diplomacy
- South Atlantic and the Gulf of Guinea
- The Southern Heartland Thesis.

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