

TITLE: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS

(<http://icons2010.xnfoundation.org>)

THEME: NETWORKING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 17TH AND 18TH OF APRIL, 2010

VENUE: Conference Centre, University of Kent, United Kingdom.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

The aim of this initiative is to foster:

- **National Development:** To urge Nigerian Youths Abroad to remember their fatherland and endeavour to contribute to national development.
- **Unity in Diaspora:** Networking Nigerian Youths to foster unity abroad and at home. Strengthening the Nigerian International Students Agenda (NISA), the umbrella forum for Nigerian International students.
- **Nigeria's Image Abroad:** To challenge them to project Nigeria's Image Abroad positively in everything they do.
- **Empowerment:** To enlighten them about Job opportunities in Nigeria as well as help them secure choice jobs in Nigeria through a partnership with corporate bodies.
- To give Nigerian Youths in Diaspora a true sense of belonging even away from home.
- To recognise the outstanding achievements of distinguished Nigerian International Students.
- To show case the work of some distinguished Nigerian youths and International Students.
- To enable Nigerian students officially register with the Nigerian High Commission, UK and other Nigerian Embassies in other countries for documentation purposes and for easy access in future.
- To share awareness on ways to cope with the British Education, while making an impact in their places of study.

ABOUT X^N FOUNDATION – www.xnfoundation.org

The Nigerian youth is very talented and energetic; unfortunately these talents are sometimes either latent or expressed negatively. It is imperative to create a veritable platform for the Nigerian youth to express energies positively for the common good.

The Xn Foundation was founded in May, 2006. Since then, it has undergone growth, implementing projects in the UK, Nigerian and Canada. In the UK, it is a registered company limited by guarantee, and in Canada, it is a registered charity. It will soon be registered in Nigeria.

The individuals who run XN Foundation constitute the International Executive Governing Board and they include the following:

- Dr. Ifeolu Akintunde – Executive Secretary
- Dr. Akanimo Odon – Country Director, United Kingdom
- Dr. Justice Akpan – Country Director, Canada
- Benedict Okhumale – Acting Country Director, Nigeria
- Dr. Bamidele Adebisi – Finance Director

XN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

DR Ifeolu Omoniyi Akintunde



Ifeolu Omoniyi Akintunde was born in Ibadan Nigeria on 10 November 1967. Having completed his primary school at the Pacelli school for blind children in Lagos, he went to King’s College Lagos and the University of Lagos, where he completed his law degree in 1988. From there, he went to the Nigerian law school and was called to the bar in 1989.

Since 1990, Ifeolu has been in Lancaster. He has completed his masters and doctorate studies in international relations at the University of Lancaster, and has spent the rest of the time pursuing his three main areas of interest, disability awareness, international students and international relations. His interest in disability stems from his visual impairment. In 1989, he was vice president of the Old Students’ Association of the Pacelli school for the blind, (OSAPS) a forerunner to the disability campaign in Nigeria. He first learned to use the computer in 1992, relying mainly on his touchtyping skills. At that time, he was on a disability awareness course at Lancaster and Morecambe College. Within a year, he was teaching other visually impaired people. He has since also done an access audit course, and has spent a lot of his time teaching visual awareness to both impaired people and those who work or deal with them. He has also written and presented papers, both in the UK and in Nigeria. He is a consultant to the Nigerian Association of the Blind and has assisted them in their campaign for disability legislation. He also drafted the disability policy of the Overseas Fellowship of Nigerian Christians, (OFNC).

His interest in international students stems from his experiences since 1990, and his understanding of the difficulties that such students face. He has helped formulate a policy for international students for the OFNC. He is also executive secretary of XN Foundation, a charitable company set up for youth empowerment of Nigerians, both within and outside their country. On March 8 2010, he received an award for exemplary conduct from the Nigerian Students’ Association of the University of Greenwich.

He still maintains a close interest in the Middle East, following his doctoral thesis on the implementation of UN imposed restrictions on Iraq’s nuclear weapons. He is CEO of IOA Consults, a company which was set up in 2007 to work with disabled people and international students.

In his spare time, Ife enjoys reading novels, listening to music, current affairs, quizzes and the outdoor. His friends however think his greatest love is his phones, because he can usually be seen pacing and talking on the phone.

Dr. Akanimo Odon



Dr. Akanimo Odon is the CEO of Envirofly Consulting UK Limited. He is also a business and strategy development expert who has gained experience working in several capacities to several global and international bodies. He was an Adviser to the British Government on developing international education policies, International Ambassador for Lancaster University for two years (2005 – 2007), Education Partnership Consultant for British Council, Nigeria for two years, Management Consultant for Stanford University under the Round-table for Entrepreneurship Education (2007), Business Development Consultant for the Grow Creative Scheme under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for two years, and currently, an Education Strategy Development Consultant for some UK and Nigerian Universities.

For sixteen months, Dr. Akanimo Odon was the National Content Adviser for one of the world largest Oil and Gas firms (BG Group, UK) and provided strategy and policy development for their Nigerian operations. With a doctorate degree in Environmental Management, he was appointed as a Business Development and Partnership Consultant for the National Centre for Energy and Environment under the Energy Commission of the Presidency.

A multi award winner, including the British Council International Student in the whole of UK for 2006, he is well groomed entrepreneur with enterprise development certifications from Judge Business School of Cambridge University, UK and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and an International Fellowship Award from Stanford University Business School, he thrives on delivering business excellence.

Dr. Akanimo Odon is a seasoned poet, novelist and international award winning author, who has published two outstanding literary works in London. The first being a book of poetry titled 'Rhymes from the Heart' (www.amazon.co.uk) where he bagged the Editor's Choice Award from the International Library of Poetry and the second being a fiction novel titled 'A Parallel trail' (www.amazon.co.uk), with best seller reviews including full features in all National Nigerian Newspapers.

He is married to Ifeyinwa and they both have a daughter, Elkaela. He plays the bongo drums and football.

Dr. Justice Akpan



Justice Akpan, the country director of XN Foundation, Canada, is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Decision Sciences. He graduated with a PhD from Lancaster University Management School in 2006, and a Master's degree in Software Development from School of Informations and Engineering Systems, Leeds Metropolitan University in 2001. He also holds a BSc degree from University of Calabar. He worked as Graduate Assistant at Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (now University of Ado-Ekiti) before he proceeded to further his education in the United Kingdom. His research interests include three-dimensional (3D) visualization and decision-support systems, application of virtual reality in discrete-event simulation, web-based simulation, usability engineering, e-business operations and business process re-engineering. Justice has also worked as IT specialist in the USA, United Kingdom and Canada.

Socially, he enjoys playing and watching soccer, and an 'emotional supporter' of the Super Eagles, a football team that breaks his heart most of the time. Other personal details are available at: <http://akpan.vrsim.org/>

Benedict Okhumale

He was secretary, Advisory Board for the Pat Utomi N1, 000, 000 Book Prize.

Benedict holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in ZOOLOGY from the University of Benin and a Masters of Science Degree in Marine Sciences from the University of Lagos. He worked as Project Officer at the Centre for Values in Leadership (CVL) a project of the Pat Utomi Legacy Foundation Lagos. He is Member/Secretary of the Advisory Board of the Pat Utomi Annual Book Prize and Associate Coordinator of LEAD AFRICA, a youth development NGO also based in Lagos. In the past 5 years, he consistently organized youth based Leadership and Entrepreneurship development seminars and workshops especially targeted at Students. He is the CEO of Ideasmill Nigeria Limited, a research and innovation development company based in Lagos, Nigeria. He is also the Program Manager for the Centre for Values and Leadership, Lagos.

Benedict is self motivated and very passionate about youth empowerment impacting society positively in every possible way.

Dr. Bamidele Adebisi



Bamidele Adebisi received his MSc in Advanced Mobile Communication Engineering and PhD in Broadband Communications from Lancaster University, UK in 2003 and 2009 respectively. Before that, he obtained a bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1999. He worked briefly at United Bank of Africa (UBA), Nigeria before joining Fidelity Bank PLC, Nigeria in 2000. After his masters degree, he worked for HW Communications Ltd, Lancaster as Research and Development Engineer until 2005. He is currently a Research Associate in the Department of Communication Systems, Lancaster University, position he has held since 2005. He was a delegate at the 2007 Enterprisers Programme organised by the MIT, USA and University of Cambridge, UK. From June 2007 to Dec 2008, he was a Business Development Consultant for the Grow Creative Scheme under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). He has over 11 publications and a patent in the research area of high-rate data communications over power-line network. He is a member of IET and IEEE. Bamidele is also the National Financial Secretary of the Overseas Fellowship of Nigerian Christians (OFNC), UK. He plays percussions and love reading autobiographies of great minds. Bamidele is married to Yetunde and they are blessed with two children- Opeyemi and Modupeoluwa.

ICONS2010 Conference Steering Committee

- **Dr. Bamidele Adebisi** (Chairman), Lancaster.
- **Dr. Akanimo Odon**, Lancaster.
- **Ugwushi Bellema Ihua**, University of Kent.
- **Prince Adewale Adeola**, University of Kent.
- **Sue Hopkinson**, Senior International Officer, University of Kent.
- **Kim Tritton**, International Officer, University of Kent.
- **Godwin Olugbenga Odusami**, University of East London.
- **Foluke Ifejola Ipinoyomi**, Lancaster University.
- **Obinna Okeke**, University of Hull.
- **Chidinma Hannah Ogbonnaya**, University of Greenwich.
- **Adanna Lilian Ohakim**, University of East Anglia.
- **Suleiman Ahmed Isa**, UWIC, Cardiff
- **Oo Nwoye**, Coventry.
- **Dayo Akenroye**, Mercyside.
- **Barnabas Suleiman**, Nigeria.
- **Olugbenga Ogunbode**, The International Education Council, Cambridge.
- **Olugbenga Ogunmodimu**, Lancaster University.

- **Ifeoluwa Bello**, (Nigerian Law School Abuja)
- **Yinka Alli Balogun**, Worcester.
- **Sorbarikor Lebura**, Leicester.
- **Alim Abubakar**, Leicester.
- **Damilola Akinnagbe**, University of Leeds.
- **Obinna Ajuruchi**, Lancaster.
- **Idrees Oyebisi Oloyede**, Lancaster University.
- **Ikoru N.A. Ikoru, Kent**
- **ODUGBOYE Emmanuel O**, Kent
- **Wumi Siyanbola, Kent**
- **Dr. Justice Ikpe Akpan**, Canada.
- **Dr. Ifeolu Omoniyi Akintunde** (Secretary), Lancaster.

Local Organising Committee [Kent University]

- **Bell Ihua – Chairman, LOC**
- **Emmanuel O. Odugboye – Head, of Programme & Events Committee**
- **Ikoru N. A. Ikoru – Head, of Accommodation & Logistics Committee**
- **Jumoke Adegbonmire – Sub-Head, Registration Committee**
- **Martins Atoyebi – Head, Advert & Publicity Committee**
- **Mrs Wumi Siyanbola – Head, Welfare Committee**

Event Overview

- Delegates can start arriving on the 16th of April, 2010 (Friday)
- Registration starts at 9am
- The programme of speeches and small group sessions will commence at 10am until 5pm on the 17th of April, 2010 (Saturday). Several distinguished speakers will address such topics as studying, seeking employment, immigration, investment etc. (see programme for details)
- The ICONS Nigerian dinner starts at 8pm to end at midnight on the 17th of April. This would be a buffet style dinner of Nigerian delicacies.
- The ICONS awards will be presented during the dinner ceremony to recognise the outstanding achievements of Nigerian International students in academics, community life, creativity etc.
- There will also be musical performances, dancing and comedy, courtesy of our hosts.
- At 9am on the 18th of April, 2010 (Sunday) The NISA Forum Commences. This is a forum for discussing issues relating to studying and working in the UK as well as other National development issues. This is an all student affair, an opportunity for students to present their research, discuss issues at the heart of study in the UK and share knowledge.
- The conference will conclude at noon with closing remarks and vote of thanks.
- At 1pm, lunch will be served, after which participants can engage in informal networking.

Nigerian International Student Agenda (NISA)

NISA is an acronym for the Nigerian International Students Agenda, which is an initiative of the Xn Foundation. It will act as the umbrella forum for the Nigerian International Student community on several developmental projects. NISA is a student led forum, which means that its programmes will be directed solely by its members, principally through the NISA forum. It was inaugurated during the International Conference of Nigerian Students (ICONS) 2007.

The aim is that the forum will be governed by an administrative board, an advisory board and an editorial board selected from the Nigerian international student community. Volunteers are welcome to join the board.

NISA is an acronym for the **Nigerian International Students Agenda**, which is an initiative of the **Xn Foundation**. It is aimed at projecting the ambitions of Nigerian students worldwide and representing their interests. It will act as the umbrella forum for the **Nigerian International Student community** on several developmental projects. It was inaugurated during the First International Conference of Nigerian Students (ICONS 2007) at Lancaster University. This year, we intend to continue the process of strengthening the forum.

Principal amongst the projects of **NISA** is a comprehensive **web based chat room** facility where Nigerian students can log in from any location in the world to chat with other professionals/students.

The aim is that

- ✓ It will act as a web based medium of career development, job placements and acquisition for Nigerian current and potential graduates.
- ✓ It will be an information source for courses(whether short or long term, professional or accreditation courses) available in different institutions of the world, entry qualifications, scholarship advertisements etc.
- ✓ It will have a forum where ideas, proposals and creative skills (poetry, musical, scripting, art work, academic papers etc), are displayed online by interested Nigerian students.
- ✓ It will be home for academic competitions, talks about various aspects of the lives of Nigerian International Students.
- ✓ It will be an advisory network on academic report writing, thesis and dissertation proposal development, professional consultations on different course areas, help and support for the Nigerian International Student.

The structure will be largely determined by students. It will however be under the general oversight of XN Foundation.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Mark Abani

Dr. Mark Abani is the head of the Executive Committee of the Central Association of Nigerians in the United Kingdom (CANUK), an umbrella body of all Nigerian Associations in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. It currently represents about 45 different associations and 18 other affiliate/associate members with a take-off membership of 28,000. Its potential membership will embrace the entire estimated 1.5 Million Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom.

Dr Abani was a founding member of Abia State Union UK (1991 –1997) and founding President (1999 – 2005) of Ebonyi State Union UK & Ireland. He has successfully delivered strategic guidance and leadership to embryonic groups and more stable community organisations. He is CEO of a charitable company.

In his day job Dr Mark Abani is currently a Senior Civil Servant in HM Revenue and Customs where he has worked in various roles. He is also a Non-Executive Director and Board Member of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) of Nigeria.

Before that he was a University lecturer, agricultural consultant and research scientist. A multiple graduate of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, he holds a PhD in Biometrical Genetics and Plant Breeding. As an award-winning mentor in the National Mentoring Consortium he has helped develop many students over the years.

Married with 5 children (2 adopted). Mark, when he has a chance, plays golf.

Dr. Abel Adegoke

Dr Abel Kehinde Adegoke was born in Igbajo, Osun-State, Nigeria. Having studied locally at primary and secondary level, he attended the Ibadan polytechnic for A Levels between 1981 and 1983. From here, he proceeded to the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan where he graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). He completed his House- Officer's job at the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho, Oyo-State, but after a year at the Baptist Mission Hospital in Ileoluji, Ondo state, he returned to the Baptist Medical centre in 1990 for his Postgraduate training in General Practice (under the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria).

He completed the training in December, 1995. While in training, he won the British Council scholarship award as the best candidate in the Part 1 of GP exams in 1994. He came to the UK on this award in 1996 to train in General Practice. He has been working as a GP since he completed his training in 2000. In April 2003, he was appointed a GP Principal and Partner at the Gladstone Medical Centre, Birkenhead, Wirral, and Merseyside.

Dr Adegoke is also a GP undergraduate Tutor for Medical Students from the Liverpool University and as a GP Trainer; he supervises the training of doctors in postgraduate training in General Practice.

In 1993, he married Mrs Grace Aderonke Adegoke in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. They are blessed with 2 daughters – Victoria and Deborah.

Dr Adegoke is the Chairman of RNK Wholistic Health Care Services Ltd. He is also a Director in 2 other companies and trustee of a number of charity organisations, including the Overseas Fellowship of Nigerian Christians (OFNC), British Isles. He was the National Secretary of the OFNC between 2003 and 2007 before taking over as national chairman.

Prof. John Durodola

Professor John Durodola is an Assistant Dean in the School of Technology at Oxford Brookes University where he is also the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. The Motorsport Engineering programmes in his Department are particularly well recognised internationally and are award winning. Professor Durodola completed his BSc in Mechanical Engineering in 1982 at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he obtained the prize for the best student in his class. His PhD research on "Continuous Boundary Elements for Potential Problems" was carried out at Imperial College, University of London between 1987 and 1990. He subsequently joined the Oxford Centre for Advanced Materials and Composites, University of Oxford, as a Post Doctoral Research Assistant until 1994. While at the centre, he worked on the modelling of the mechanical behaviour of metal matrix composite materials. Since then, he has had the privilege of working on research projects with a good number of major companies on advanced materials engineering and modelling for automotive, aerospace and power plant industry applications. He has supervised a number of research students and has led major multi-disciplinary research projects. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and has participated in international networks in his field.

Lord Mayor of Canterbury

The Lord Mayor of Canterbury for 2009/10 is Councillor Dr Harry Cragg Originally hailing from Cumbria, Cllr Cragg has lived in Canterbury since 1966 when he took up a post lecturing in chemistry at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He became Reader in inorganic chemistry and Dean of Natural Sciences before retiring in 1998. Cllr Cragg was Chairman of the Governors of Kent Institute of Art and Design for 14 years and a former member of St Stephen's Parochial Church Council. He was elected to Canterbury City Council in May 1999 and is ward councillor for St Stephen's ward. Cllr Cragg previously served as a County Councillor where he chaired the Further Education Sub-committee. He was Leader of the Council (2005-7) and for the last two years has been executive member for Culture and Sport. During his time at Canterbury City Council, Cllr Cragg has chaired the

Overview Committee and a number of Scrutiny Reviews such as flooding, street scene, pre-housing tenancy and museums and galleries. Married with two sons and two grandsons, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Canterbury and of the Lord Mayor of Canterbury's Christmas Gift Fund. On being elected to the position of Lord Mayor, Cllr Cragg said "To be Lord Mayor of Canterbury is a great honour and a privilege and at the same time one feels very humble. No amount of forethought can prepare one for the feeling of putting the robes on for the first time. I would like to thank both Cllr Rosemary Doyle and Cllr Peter Lee for their very kind words in support of my nomination. I hope I can live up to their expectations." The Lady Mayoress for this year will be Cllr Cragg's wife, Sheila. She has chosen to support two charities which are Age Concern (with centres in Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable), and The Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal, focusing on a project in the Bell Harry Tower.

Frances Williams

CEO, Interims for Development/Editor, ReConnect Africa.com

Frances.williams@interimsfd.com

Frances Williams is the Chief Executive of Interims for Development, an award-winning UK-based Human Resources, Careers and Training consultancy. Interims for Development has successfully assisted businesses and organisations across Africa, providing volunteer Interim Managers for skills and capacity building as well as HR consultancy services, Diaspora recruitment and in-house/open training programmes.

Mrs. Williams is the publisher and Editor of ReConnect Africa (www.reconnectafrica.com), an online magazine and website providing essential information on careers and business for African professionals in the Diaspora.

A graduate in French from the University of Reading and the Nouvelle Sorbonne, Paris, and the holder of a post-graduate Linguists' Diploma, Mrs. Williams has over 20 years' experience in HR, training, operational and consultancy roles within the Financial Services, Advertising, Energy and IT industries both in Europe and in Africa. She has successfully set up and managed corporate Human Resources functions and delivered training seminars and workshops in Africa and the UK. Based in London, Mrs. Williams writes on issues relating to skills development in Africa and harnessing the talents of the African Diaspora. She provides career coaching to senior level clients and MBA graduates as well as African professionals within the UK, assisting them with Career Management and outplacement strategies. She also develops and runs training programmes across a range of management and entrepreneurial skills.

Frances Williams is a Steering Committee member of the Commonwealth Business Women's Network, a member of the National Black Women's Network and an affiliate of the UK Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development. Mrs. Williams also sits on the Finance and Human Resources Committee of AFFORD (African Foundation for Development), a UK-based African Diaspora charity.

Olanike Adebayo

Olanike Adebayo is a freelance writer, author and inspirational speaker who graduated from the University of Bradford in 2005 with a BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science. Her first book, published in 2009, titled THE REAL DEAL: The Journey of an International Student in the UK, is a memoir as well as a guide to other international students.

While at university, Olanike was involved in various student groups ranging from the University Badminton group to the Diaspora Association of Nigerian Students where she first served as the Publicity Secretary and later as the Vice-president of the society. In addition, she served as the President of the International Students' Society and was also a board member of the University International Students' Committee, the highest body that deals with international students' affairs.

She has been invited to various UK universities as a speaker. At present, she sits as an adviser on the NUS International Students' Committee while she works closely with the NUS International Students' Officer, Saima Yousaf.

She enjoys reading , researching as well as expressing her passion, writing.

Tobe E. Godson

Tobe E. Godson is an educator and an entrepreneur.

He is the founder and Creative Director of Fusion Consulting, part of the Fusion Development Group. It is an education and skills development initiative focussed on Africa's Social, Technological and Infrastructural development through training, seminars and skills acquisition programmes that are primarily aimed at Africa's next generation of leaders. He is a firm believer in education for economic empowerment, and travels to several countries speaking on the need for education and skills acquisition, especially for Africans at home and in diaspora.

With a Masters degree from the University of Westminster in England, and a PhD in view, he is also a lecturer in the Mathematics and Computer Science department of Benson Idahosa University, the first Privately owned Christian University in Nigeria, where he teaches Information Technology and mentors University students on the most up-to-date computer technologies, and has helped make learning more fun and acquisition of IT skills more practical and relevant.

Tobe gained his wealth of field experience after his studies in the UK by working as an IT Consultant for several SMEs in the city of London for many years before returning to Africa as a teacher and IT Consultant both academically and in the business field. His last role in the UK was as Senior IT Consultant for the Skye Group in Chelmsford, Essex.

He is currently the Business Development Manager of BIU Technologies in Benin City, Nigeria, from which he provides relevant and reliable IT solutions to current problems facing the local business and university communities. And he has been invited by several businesses, government establishments and non-governmental organisations to give lectures and training on IT and educational development for Africa.

He is an ordained minister with Church of God Mission International, where he functions as a travelling speaker and Teacher, and he is happily married and blessed with children

Victoria Oruwari

A singer, Teacher of singing, and a vocal workshop leader, Victoria is currently a teacher of singing and the Choir director at Acton high school, An associate music mentor with the Drake music charity, and a recitalist. After obtaining a BMUS honours at the Trinity College of music, Victoria completed a postgraduate Diploma in Voice where she passed with distinction. She has since pursued her singing career by giving recitals in venues including the Regent's hall, the Charlton house both of which are situated in London, and the musical society of Nigeria's Ajip recital hall Lagos Nigeria. Victoria sings a broad range of repertoire ranging from the early classical to the modern day musical theatre, traditional folk songs, and jazz. Her tutors include: Wendy Eathorne, Robert Aldwinkle, Linda Hirst, John Wakefield, Robert Purvis, and Mary King.

Future plans include: Producing albums, giving more recitals, and teaching singing and mentoring.

Awards include:

The Paul Simm Opera Prize,

The Elizabeth Eagle bott memorial scholarship award,

The Newman Thomas Commonwealth award for outstanding progress,

And the Eva Noreen student scholarship award. For more information, please visit

www.victoriaoruwari.com

Peter Olorunnisomo

He has worked in echelon of the Nigerian Civil Service of the Presidency, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Federal Capital Territory, and Finance for many years where he had responsibilities that were synonymous with policy formulation and public management as Personal/Special Assistant and Administrative cadre officer. As an ambassador of Nigeria, he was guest of the Prime Minister of Japan (1997) on a study tour of the Japanese administrative and public management structures.

His literary skills were also developed alongside his scheduled responsibilities in the public service. He is a poet, playwright, actor/director, short-story writer, essayist whose works often centre on the intricacies of the human mind and experiences and the cumulating of these on the psyche of society.

As a poet, he has been nominated International Poet of the Year by the International Society of Poets for two consecutive years (2004, 2005), and has two volumes of poetry titled *A Snake in the Kings Palace* and *Miffed*. A third, *Poetosophy*, is a collection of didactic and paradoxical sayings borne out of his experiences and interpretation of life. He also contributed to *Poems for Chilubula* – a book dedicated to raising funds for children orphaned by AIDS in Zambia. He has performed poetry at the Streatham Arts Festival (2007), Portland Road Arts Festival now South Norwood Arts Festival (2007), Thurrock Council Diversity Week, (2004 & 5), Croydon Council Black History Month (2006) etc.

He has had his short stories published in magazines and journals. His compilation of short stories will soon be ready for publication. He very recently completed a compilation of short stories alongside 11 other UK writers facilitated the Croydon Council library to be released in hard copy and e-book to all UK libraries by May, 2010.

As a playwright, actor, director he has acted in television plays in Nigeria (*Play of the Week* series – NTA), *Kurunmi*, *Midnight Hotel*, *Jambitoast*, etc, directed *Man Talk*, *Woman Talk* – Prof. Ola Rotimi, *Jongbo* and written a few stage plays which have been performed. He co-ordinated the performance of

The Meeting (an imaginary meeting of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King & supporting acts) at the Warehouse Theatre, East Croydon, 2009. He is currently working with the Warehouse Theatre play writing clinic towards the production of his play *A Toss of the Coin*. He recently also wrote screenplay for the films *NAIJA GIRLS*, and *WHY ME* – a story set in Guinea.

He has also delved into music where he promotes and manages artistes from time to time. He was the Programmes Manager for Jazz 38, arguably the first resident Jazz band in Nigeria. He also has interests in the fine arts as a promoter, a lover, and collector.

He is the presenter of the programme *ODUA PLATFORM* which focuses on black Africa and blacks-in-diasporan nations on contemporary political, social, and economic themes broadcast on Sky Digital 593.

He has membership of the Poetsanon, the Artisan (a group of creative persons in fashion, film, publishing, electronic/print media, etc) UK, Steel Culture (Essex Art Policy proponents) among others.

As an art and management consultant, he has delivered papers on aviation, industrial management, administration, and creative writing to institutions. He has trained in such government establishments as NACCIMA (National Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Nigeria), FHA (Federal Housing Authority, Nigeria), FAAN (Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria), The Redeemed Christian Church of God – The Everlasting Arms Parish Centre, Abuja, etc

He enjoys mentorship roles and is also a motivational coach

Dr. Tanko Ishaya

Dr Tanko Ishaya is a lecturer at the University of Hull, Scarborough Campus. He is a computer scientist with a mathematics background and was Head of the Centre for Internet Computing. Dr Ishaya's areas of expertise include software engineering, information engineering and management, Security and CRM fields. He has provided consultancy services for a number of public and private organisations on Internet systems development. He is a Member of the University's Information Systems Committee and a Consultant to the University of Jos, Nigeria on ICT design and development.

Dr Anthony Ward

Dr Anthony Ward is senior lecturer in archaeology at the University of Kent where he has worked for approaching 25 years. He has been Director Continuing Education, sub-Dean of Humanities, Head of the School of European Culture and Languages, Dean of the University of Kent's Medway campus, Master of Darwin College and is currently Master of Keynes College and the University's senior master. The University of Kent has a collegiate structure and all students on its Canterbury campus are affiliated to one of its five colleges. The role of the college master is to manage student conduct and to assist in supporting students with their welfare and well-being.

Special Announcements:**Invitation To Host ICONS 2011**

XN Foundation is inviting offers from universities to host ICONS2011. Please contact:

The Executive Secretary
XN Foundation

26 Kilmaine Avenue

Manchester

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United Kingdom

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Mobile: +44(0)7817 734663

email: info@xnfoundation.org