

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NERDC), PROF. ISMAIL JUNAIDU, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ORGANIZED BY THE ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (ASURI, NERDC) HELD AT THE NERDC CONFERENCE CENTRE, LAGOS ON 25TH JUNE, 2019

Protocol

I am delighted to have the singular honour to address this very important occasion as the Chief Host and ironically the Special Guest in my capacity as the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC). Indeed, I feel more gladdened that the 2019 National Conference on Research and Development is second in the series to be held and hosted in NERDC premises and under my stewardship. Glory is unto God Almighty that allowed the 2018 Conference to take place at NERDC National Headquarters in Sheda, Abuja and it is now holding at the NERDC South-West Zonal Office, Agidingbi, Ikeja – Lagos.

I am very much emboldened to state that the large turnout of researchers and experts during the 2018 Conference and evidently the 2019 Conference clearly indicates that the ASURI, NERDC Chapter is on the right course. They have created forum for experts and scholars to rub minds, ventilate their intellect, address issues, draw evidenced

based conclusions and make recommendations that would advance knowledge and influence policy decisions. It is for these and other reasons that I support and will continue to support this and other similar efforts within the limit of the Council resources.

As many of you are aware, the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) was established in 1988 by an enabling Act No. 5. The Act, amongst many other things, specifically mandates the Council to:

- Encourage, promote and coordinate educational research programme carried out in Nigeria;
- Identify educational problems in Nigeria in which research is needed, and establish the order of priority thereof;
- Encourage research into educational problems and for the purpose, undertake, commission, incorporate and finance such research projects as the Council deems fit;
- Periodically compile and publish a list of research projects;
- Compile, publish and sponsor the publication of the results of educational research particularly in relation to Nigerian educational problems and the popularization of such results where their recognition is in the council's opinion of national importance;

- Assess, survey or investigate educational matter considered necessary, either independently or in co-operation with individuals, organizations and agencies;
- Support hosting of national and international educational conferences as may be relevant to the function of the Council.

The Council has left no stone unturned in the pursuit of the stated mandates. Our commitment towards research in education is borne out of our conviction that research begets real development. This has thus led us into the formulation of policies and programme aimed at building and sustaining a culture of strategic educational research and development that will inform the formulation and effective implementation of policies in education as well as in other related sectors of the economy.

One of the things we have been able to achieve in this direction is the creation of strategic paths that will enhance the linkage of research activities to quality education provision both in terms of public policy formulation and curriculum development. These efforts are already yielding results both in terms of what we do as a Council and the way we are perceived by international bodies.

It is no news that NERDC has earned herself and the nation a pride of place in the global educational arena. In 2012 the Universal Basic Education curriculum was revised. Between 2014 and 2016 this Council led the International Bureau of Education (IBE) as its President (IBE is the United Nation Institution for curriculum innovation). The Council is also UNESCO's focal point for curriculum development and innovation in the West Africa sub-region. We did not attain these heights by chance but by our commitment to using research in the evolution of new techniques and strategies in curriculum development and implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this conference for which you are here today is ***“Educational Research for Sustainable National Development”***. As scholars and researchers in the education sector, you will agree with me that this theme is fitting as all developmental programmes in this world stemmed up from research findings. Again, for any programme or activity to be sustained, there is also a need for research.

The general overview of the curriculum of tertiary institutions in Nigeria and the whole world put research design as concluding part of certificate year. Every student is expected to carry out

compulsory research study in specific area of interest. Research is an indispensable part of life, as evolution of human to the present stage of our development is born out of research endeavours.

Distinguished participants, this conference is therefore organized to offer us opportunity for the betterment of our lives by moving us to the next level of development that can be sustained by all and sundry through research.

Esteemed scholars, while I congratulate you for being here today, let me seize this opportunity to inform you that apart from the organization and sponsorship of conferences like this one, we are also thinking of creating a research network that will give global visibility to results of well-researched studies in Nigeria. Our intention is to ensure that the findings of research in education are not left to rot on shelves but effectively utilized nationally and internationally for the improvement of education. I urge the organizers of this conference to ensure that contributions at this conference will not be for the consumption of only the people present at this workshop but for everybody that will read and use AJORAD journal for educational purposes.

I implore you to feel free and make the best input of your research work in this conference so that it shall be counted as our collective efforts to make our country great. Thank you all for your participation. I wish you a very rewarding and successful conference.

At this juncture, it is my pleasure to formally declare this conference open.

Thanks and God bless Nigeria.

PROF. ISMAIL JUNAIDU
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NERDC