



AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

(Le Forum d'Afrique d'Enseigner Régulateur Autorités)

HEADQUARTERS: Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria

(Federal Ministry of Education)

12 Oda Crescent, off Aminu Kano Crescent Wuse 2,

PMB 567 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

e-mail: infoaftra@trcn.gov.ng



REPORT

OF THE AFTRA SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE 6TH AFTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD AT SACE, SOUTH AFRICA, APRIL 2, 2014

The following are highlights of developments since the 5th Meeting of the AFTRA Executive Board Meeting held at Accra Ghana, October 16, 2013.

1. PUBLICITY OF AFTRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ROUNDTABLE

The Secretary General's Office following the tradition of AFTRA sent out letters of publicity to all Ministers of Education in Africa, Universities, Teaching Regulatory Authorities, Teachers Union and other relevant bodies. Letters were also written to the hosts and partners of the AFTRA events in Ghana such as the Minister of Education, Ghana Education Service, Ghana Teaching Council, Ghana National Association of Teachers, University of Cape Coast and the University of Education Winneba. Only the University of Cape Coast (letter attached) has replied formally. However, the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) has assured us that they equally reached out to all of them. However, GNAT advises that AFTRA should get in touch with the Minister of Education because the Minister requested for more information about AFTRA.

2. PROPOSED VISIT TO THE AFRICAN UNION

The Secretary General's Office wrote the African Union to pay a courtesy call. The letter was positively acknowledged by the African Union Head of Education who promised to secure a date and get back to us. But she never did. We suppose it is due to the tight schedule of the African Union Commissioner of Education who we sought to meet.

3. PRESENTATION OF PAPER BY THE AFTRA PRESIDENT AT THE APRIL 21, 2014 AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE IN CAMEROON

The Secretary General's Office wrote the African Union to secure opportunity for the AFTRA President to address the African Union Conference of Ministers in April 2014 at Cameroon and this was granted. A copy of the letter of request is attached.

4. AFTRA MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON TEACHERS FOR EFA

Following the earlier contacts made with UNESCO at the highest level and the African Union, AFTRA was in 2013 at the Democratic Republic of Congo admitted as a member of the UN International Task Force on Teachers for EFA based in Paris, France. The Task Force is a high level UN body comprising all relevant international organisations and countries dedicated to the facilitation of teachers for EFA in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The AFTRA

Executive Director has since been working with the Task Force on day to day basis. Executive Board members will be notified about future meetings of the Task Force so they can attend.

5. AFTRA COMMISSIONED TO DO UNESCO RESEARCH ON TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN NIGERIA AND THE GAMBIA

As part of the African Union objectives, the UNESCO Dakar Senegal commissioned AFTRA to conduct a research on Teacher Professional Development and Qualification Framework in Nigeria and The Gambia. The outcome of the research is expected to guide the development of Teacher Qualification Framework for West Africa and later Africa by the African Union. The research was conducted by the AFTRA Executive Director and has just been completed. UNESCO Dakar offered to subsidize the research with the sum of 14, 000 USD while AFTRA will equally assist the research team. So far, the UNESCO Dakar paid 8,700 leaving a balance of 5,300 USD. The research involved assembling a research team led by Professor Angela Okatahi, Dean Faculty of Education, University of Abuja and other professors and research experts including one from the United Kingdom, Dr. Stella Adagri. The data gathering took place in Nigeria as well as The Gambia in which the AFTRA Executive Director spent a week in The Gambia to supervise the collection of data. A complete copy of the Research Report which is more than 140 pages is attached. It is now being processed to UNESCO and will be one of the key presentations at the African Union Conference in Cameroon this April.

6. AFTRA JOURNAL

The necessary international editors of the journal have been received by Secretary General's Office from Ghana, TSC Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. The dummy of the journal is therefore ready to go to press. The journal is in two volumes, one for 2012 AFTRAConference papers and the other for 2013 AFTRA Conference papers. Sample of the cover is attached.

7. DELEGATES TO AFTRA CONFERENCE FROM TESSA

The AFTRA President received a request from the Open University of the UK to send about 15-20 delegates from the Teachers Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA) Project to AFTRA Conference. The President forwarded the request to the Secretary General and we have since been corresponding with the Open University on the issue. The University intends to send a comprehensive list of the delegates soon.

8. CONFERENCE AND ROUNDTABLE PROGRESS

So far about 61 names have sent completed registration forms to attend the AFTRA Conference and Roundtable while about 26 papers have been received and more are still coming in.

9. PLANNED VISIT TO GHANA FOR PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

Since the last meeting in Ghana, there has been no other visit to Ghana and no payment has been made to concretise arrangements for Conference and Roundtable venue. It is imperative that AFTRA should visit Ghana as soon as possible to make some payments, improve logistic arrangements and also pay courtesy call on the Minister of Education and other critical stakeholders to strengthen arrangement for the events.

10. INVITATION LETTERS AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONFERENCE PAPERS

Beginning this April, we shall start sending out formal invitation letters to the Conference and Roundtable to all those who have sent completed registration forms. The papers will also be assessed and the authors of acceptable papers will be also issued with letters of acceptance.

11. FINANCE

There has been serious financial constraint on the part of AFTRA to keep all these activities enumerated above going. However, TRCN has been funding as much as it could. The advance payments to be made in Ghana for the Conference and Roundtable, the assessment of conference papers, printing of AFTRA journals, providing counterpart funds for the UNESCO/AU Research on Teacher Qualification Framework, participation in the UN International Task Team on EFA, production of materials for the 2014 AFTRA events, etc are all lacking. The meeting therefore may see how AFTRA deal with the issue of finance.

Professor Addison Mark Wokocha
AFTRA Secretary General