

CONCEPT NOTE

Conference Title: A Code for Geoscientific Fieldwork in Africa: Guidelines on Health and Safety Issues in Mapping, Mineral Exploration and Geocological Research

SHERATON HOTEL AND TOWERS, ABUJA, NIGERIA, 24 - 29 JUNE, 2018

The need to reinforce health and safety management issues in geoscientific fieldwork in Africa is urgent. This is exemplified from the recurrent reports of missing participants, unsavory accounts of encounters with village heads, municipal authorities or section chiefs, motor vehicle accidents, hunting accidents, kidnappings, armed robberies, attacks by herdsmen, 'vigilante groups' or wild animals, unethical field procedures, common law duty of care, litigation, insurance considerations, and so on. It is surely not good publicity for any university if a student undertaking fieldwork is attacked, killed by wild animals, hijacked, injured by landmine, catches malaria, or, worst, shot by a hunter and dies in the field.

The latest of such tragic incidents just a few weeks ago (at the time of writing) in the Lake Chad Basin is still very fresh on our minds.

The theme of the Conference: 'A Code for geoscientific fieldwork in Africa' could never have been more apposite at this time, as we continue to record more and more of these tragic incidents. **The aim is to demonstrate unequivocally that most of the risk encountered during geoscientific fieldwork in Africa can be reduced, or, in some instances, be obviated altogether, by knowledge, experience, adequate preparation and observance of appropriate health and safety precautions.**

The Conference will bring to light the virtual absence of regulatory guidelines in conducting geological fieldwork by many geoscience departments in Africa and some mineral exploration and mining establishments, and would highlight the importance of mitigating health and safety challenges identified from the ethical, legal, economic and other dimensions.

Invited veterans in African field geology would incorporate in their keynote addresses, a rich and diverse set of fieldwork experiences, insights and reflections on conducting geoscientific fieldwork in Africa, the problems that emerge, the solutions that were developed, and the realities of being 'in the field'. The focus will be on provision of hands-on approaches to conducting geoscientific fieldwork safely in a range of African settings, exploring the methodological considerations that engender risks and safety aspects, and offering strategies to mitigate these, and provide guidelines for maintaining geodiversity and geoheritage.

The Conference is a "must attend", for it will provide an essential guide to health and safety for geology undergraduates and postgraduate students in tertiary geoscience institutions, academics, mineral explorationists, researchers and geotourists in Africa and from abroad embarking on research in this field. **The Project can be considered from a more generic perspective as well, as many African fieldwork experiences in the geosciences can be compared with those encountered in other scientific fieldwork endeavours, such as in the life sciences and in ecology.**

Supporting roles on articulating health and safety policy guidelines and ergonomics would be provided by invited professionals in the medical, legal, insurance and geological hardware and equipment supply fields.

A number of short training courses will be organised on topics related to the Conference theme, such as: “Medical Geology Curriculum and Appropriate Field Project Selection”, ‘Safety Requirements in Well Logging’ and “Administering First Aid and Emergency Care in the Field”.

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

- The Uniqueness of African Geoscientific Fieldwork
- Roles and Responsibilities of Fieldwork Participants
- Geoethics in the Geosciences Including Gender and Fieldwork Relations
- Fieldwork Planning, Emergency Preparedness and Response
- The Risk Management Process
- Hazardous, Mountainous, and Remote Areas (Including Landmines, Nuclear Sites, Landfill Sites, Deserts)
- Fitness and Medical Considerations
- Malaria: Endemic Areas of Africa and New Approaches to Control and Elimination
- Diarrhoeal Diseases: Sanitation Facilities and Hygiene Behaviour
- Students With Special Educational Needs and Disability
- First Aid Training and Emergency Response Capacity
- Cliffs, Slopes and Quarries
- Working in Coastal Locations
- Surface and Underground Mines, Adits and Caves
- Attacks by Wild Animals
- Poisonous Plants
- Insurgencies in Africa
- Safe Use of Field Equipment
- Geoconservation, Geodiversity and Geoheritage: Threats to our Geological and Geomorphological Heritage by Uncontrolled Geological Fieldwork
- Geotourism: Health and Safety Guidelines for Visiting Geosites
- Legal Considerations: Legislations, Duty of Care, Indemnity
- Insurance Portfolios
- Fieldwork Monitoring and Review
- Case Studies

Approximate Total Number of Expected Delegates/Participants/Students/Guests = 250

THE VENUE

The Sheraton Abuja Hotel is a 5-Star Hotel in an integral part of Nigeria’s Federal Capital of Abuja. It is located 40 km from the newly refurbished Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport which receives flights from most parts of the world. Abuja also hosts the International Conference Center and the Federal Secretariat. Nigeria is arguably Africa’s most dynamic economy and boasts of the fastest growing technological sector.

Other Conference Details

Through the medium of a dedicated and customised Conference Website (under construction), all other Conference information including dates for manuscript submission for a possible ‘Book Project’ would soon be communicated. Stay tuned!

Conference Chair: Professor Theophilus Clavell Davies, Department of Geology, University of Nigeria Nsukka, 410001 Nsukka, Nigeria theo.clavellpr3@gmail.com; +49-160-986-723-74; +234-90-66-11-71-89

SHERATON CONFERENCE EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Expenditure	Unit Cost in Naira	Estimated Sub-Total in Naira	Remarks
Return Air passages for 6 Keynote Speakers			
(i) 3 International	500,000 X 3	1,500,000	
(ii) 3 National	80,000 X 6	240,000	
Local Transportation	50,000	50,000	
Hotels for 6 Keynote Speakers	60,000 X 6 Nights X 6 Persons	2,100,000	
Hiring of Conference Hall (Including Lecture Theatres, Ballrooms and Exhibition Spaces and Poster Display Swing Cases)	Hiring of Conference Hall = 10 Million Naira	10,000,000	Booking Already Done; Awaiting Outcome of Sponsorship Applications for Payment
Creating and Maintaining Website (October 2017 to September 2018)	100,000 per month X 12 Months	1,200,000	
Advertisements	-	1,000,000	
Tea/Coffee Breaks	50,000 per Day X 5 Days	250,000	
Personnel Costs (Registration Desk, Ushers, etc.) – 12 Workers	5,000 per Day X 5 Days X 12 Workers	300,000	
Preparation and Printing of Programme Booklets, Abstract Volumes, Guide Maps and Other Conference Documents	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Conference Bags, Badges, Stationery	-	1,000,000	

TOTAL = Naira 18,640,000

TENTATIVE PARTICIPANT LIST: ABUJA, 24 - 29 June, 2018

*= Proposed Resource Persons/Keynote Speakers/Members of Organising Committee (These Colleagues are yet to be formally contacted for confirmation of consent and availability)

S/N	Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address(s)	Telephone Number(s)	Registration (Tentative)
1	*Prof. T.C. Davies	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	theo.clavellpr3@gmail.com	+234-906-611-7189	Chair, Local Organizing Committee
2	*Dr. Lambert Aikhiobare	Ehimade Nigeria Ltd.	dlamberta@aol.com	+234-802-778-9774	Pending
3	*Prof. Kalu Mosto Onuoha	President, Nigerian Academy of Science	mosto.onuoha@unn.edu.ng	+234-803-779-3601	"
4	*Dr. Solomon Onwuka	Head, Department of Geology, University of Nigeria, Nsuka	solomon.onwuka@unn.edu.ng	+234-807-410-7900	"
5	*Prof. M.P. Tole	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Pwani University, Kenya	mwakiotole@gmail.com; mwakiotole@yahoo.com; m.tole@pwaniuniversity.ac.ke; dpadmin@pwaniuniversity.ac.ke	+254-412-008-204; +254-733-812-799	"
6	*Prof. Henry Akinsola	University of Venda, South Africa	Henry.Akinsola@univen.ac.za	+27-781-113-792	"
7	*Prof. Aberra Mogessie	University of Graz, Austria	aberra.mogessie@uni-graz.at	+43-316-380-5523	"
8	*Prof. Gbenga Okunlola	University of Ibadan (President, Geological Society of Africa)	gbengaokunlola@yahoo.co.uk	+234-803-381-4070	"
9	Athumani Amiry Sabuni	Tanzania Geological Society	athsaabu@yahoo.com	N/A	"
10	Martin Bohle	European Commission Research and Innovation, Brussels, Belgium	martin.bohle@skynet.be; martin.bohle@ec.europa.eu	+32-229-581-11; +49-631/205-2769	"

11	Tsilavo Raharimahefa	Department of Geology, University of Regina, 3737 Wascana Parkway, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2, Canada	raharimt@uregina.ca; Tsilavo.Raharimahefa@uregina.c a	306-337-2124	"
12	*Prof. Obianuju Umeji	Department of Geology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Obianuju.umeji@unn.edu.ng	+234-803-698-9377	"
13	*Prof. Siyan Malomo	Department of Geology, Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA)	smalomo@gmail.com; smalomo@futa.edu.ng	+234-803-578-5434	"
14	*Prof. Mosto Onuoha	Department of Geology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Mosto.onuoha@unn.edu.ng	+234-803-779-3601	"
15	*Kehinde Ogunbowale	CMO-Universal RM, Union Bank, UNN Branch, Nsukka, Nigeria	kaogunbowale@unionbankng.co m	+234-706-111-2430	"
16...	Graduate and Undergraduate Geology Students and Staff of Nigerian Geoscience Institutions				
	University/Institution	Total Number of Delegates Expected	E-mail Contact	Telephone Number(s)	Registration
	Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU)	10	Professor M. A. Rahaman; mrahaman@oauife.edu.ng.	+234-803-337-7441	"
	University of Ibadan (UI)	10	Professor G.O. Adeyemi; go.adeyemi@mail.ui.edu.ng; ade dapodrngus@yahoo.com	+234-803-414-4351; +234-708-144-7822	"
	University of Jos (UNIJOS)	10	Professor U. Alexander Lar; laru@unijos.edu.ng; ualexanderlar@yahoo.co.uk	+234-803-703-9175	"
	University of Benin (UNIBEN)	10	Professor W.O. Emofurieta; wemofu@yahoo.com	+234-803-392-1310	"
	University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN)	10	Professor Smart C. Obiora; smart.obiora@unn.edu.ng	+234-803-533-3178	"
	University of Maiduguri (UNIMAD)	10	Professor Baba Ibrahim Goni; ibgoni@yahoo.com	+234-803-637-2676	"
	Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA)	10	Professor I.B. Odeyemi; ibodeye@futa.edu.ng	+234-806-098-1972	"
	Federal University of Technology Mina	10	Professor Edward A. Okosun; ea.okosun@futminna.edu.ng	N/A	"
	University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT)	10	Prof. M.N. Oti; miken_oti@yahoo.com	N/A	"
	University of Ilorin (UNIIORIN)	10	Prof. Samuel O. Akande; somoakande2004@yahoo.com	N/A	"
	Delta State University Abraka	10	Ohwoghere Asuma Oghenero; ohwoneroh@hotmail.com.	+234-705-140-3616	"
	University of Calabar (UNICAL)	10	Professor Aniekan Edet; aniekanedet@unical.edu.ng; aniekanedet25@gmail.com	+234-803-6667-216; +234-805-5248-322,	"
	Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE)	10	The Vice Chancellor; savic@fupre.edu.ng; info@fupre.edu.ng	+234-703-205-1208	"
	Ajayi Crowther University Oyo	10	Department of Earth Sciences; acuoyo@yahoo.com	+234-803-305-7628	"
	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State	10	Professor Nuhu Obaje; nobaje@ibbu.edu.ng	+234-815-1800-365	"
	Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT)	10	The Vice Chancellor; vice- chancellor@esut.edu.ng	+234 (0) 811-369-3800	"
	Nasarawa State University	10	Dr. Nghargbu K'tso nghargtbu@gmail.com	+234-803-606-3841	"

	Federal University of Technology, (FUTY) Yola, Adamawa State	10	Dr. A. Opeloye; adelayo2001@yahoo.com	N/A	"
	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	10	Prof. Peter M. Zaborski; peterzaborski@hotmail.com; vc@abu.edu.ng; Dr. Halidu Hamza, geology@abu.edu.ng	+234-803-350-3481	"
	Geoscience Institutions Around the World:				
	Southern Africa	40			
	West Africa	40			"
	East Africa	40			"
	North Africa	40			"
	Central Africa	10			"
	Europe	10			"
	North America	10			"
	Central America	5			"
	The Caribbean	5			"
	South America	5			"
	Asia & Pacific	5			"
	Others	10			"

Targeted total = ca. 400

SOME HUGE SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOPS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY PROFESSOR T.C. DAVIES FOR UNESCO, AS MAJOR SPONSOR:

1. East and Southern Africa Regional Workshop on Geomedicine, Nairobi, Kenya, 23 - 27 June, 1999. www.52.172.159.94/index.php/epi/article/download/62796/48995 (accessed 22.05.2017).
2. Geoenvironmental Hazards and Disasters in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 01 - 03 July, 2002. http://www.lgt.lt/geoin/doc.php?did=disasters_in_africa (accessed 22.05.2017).
3. The Inaugural Workshop of IGCP/SIDA/UNESCO Project 606, Johannesburg, South Africa, 10 -12 November, 2011. www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/.../IGCP-SIDA606_AR-2011.pdf (accessed 22.05.2017).
4. Quest for Pragmatic Solutions to Complex Environmental and Health Problems of Small Scale Mining (ASM): Second IGCP-SIDA/UNESCO Project 606 Report, 27-30 June, 2012, Kumasi, Ghana. Second IGCP/SIDA/UNESCO Project 606 Report. 27 - 30 June, 2012, Kumasi, Ghana. www.52.172.159.94/index.php/epi/article/download/59596/46599 (accessed 22.05.2017).
5. Addressing Environmental Health Impacts of Major and Abandoned Mines in Sub-Saharan Africa Through Improvements in Mitigation and Rehabilitation Techniques, Yaounde, Cameroon, 25-29 June, 2013 (UNESCO). www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/.../IGCP-SIDA606_AR-2012.pdf (accessed 22.05.2017).
6. Addressing Environmental and Health Impacts of Active and Abandoned Mines in Sub-Saharan Africa, Prague, Czech Republic, May 26 - 28, 2014 (UNESCO). www.geology.cz/igcp594/prague2014/closing_workshop_igcp_prague-2014.pdf (accessed 22.05.2017).
