



**LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN, OYO STATE NIGERIA**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**GODMIJT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS, LAGOS, STATE, NIGERIA.**

**REPORT OF**

***Roundtable Conference on Gifted Education and Talent Development***

**THEME: POSITIONING GIFTED EDUCATION IN NIGERIA**

**Venue: Lead City University, Ibadan.**

**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2009**

**1) SUB- THEMES**

- . Conceptual Issues in Gifted Education
- . Gifted Education and National Development
- . Psychological and Educational Assessment of the Gifted Child
- . Talent Search and Development
- . Management of the Gifted Child
- . Prospects and Challenges of Gifted Education
- . Funding of Gifted Education
- . Curriculum Development and Gifted Education in Nigeria

**2) PARTICIPANTS**

- Officers of States and Federal Ministries of Education
- Academic Staff: Lecturers and Researchers
- Officers of Universal Basic Education Commission
- Proprietors of primary and secondary schools
- .Representatives of Non-Governmental organizations
- Teacher's Associations
- . Legislators
- . Parents
- University Students studying for degree in Education.
- . Other interested stakeholders.

**Address:**

3, Abiola Segun-Ajayi Street V/Island, Lagos. P.O. Box 75116 V/Island, Lagos – Nigera Tel: 01 - 7944298, 8162394, 8785002 **Cell Phone:** 08033292622, 08025331320  
E-mail: info@godmijteduservices.com; godmijt2003@yahoo.com website: www.godmijteduservices.com

Fifty-seven participants registered for the two day- conference, in addition to 124 people ( including students) who attended the Opening Ceremony Session.

### **3) OPENING CEREMONY.**

The opening Ceremony of the Conference was well attended with about 181 people.

Those present included:

- The Honourable Commissioner of Education, Oyo State: Professor Tahoeed Adedoja
- The Vice-Chancellor, Lead City University, Ibadan: Professor Johnson Aladekomo
- The Chief Executive Officer, Godmijt Educational Consultants, Chief (Mrs) Gladys Oyewole-Makele
- Key-Note Speaker; Former, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Lagos: Professor Duro Ajeyalemi
- Chairman, Universal Basic Education Commission, Lagos State: Mrs Gbolahan Daodu
- Chairman, Universal Basic Education, Oyo State: Dr Soji Adejumo
- Representative of Federal College of Education, Oyo: Dr. Abiodun Gesinde
- Registrar, Lead City University, Ibadan: Dr (Mrs) Bola Ayeni
- Dean, Faculty of Management, Lead City University: Professor Muyiwa Sanda.

All those listed above gave remarks or delivered papers.

Others present:

- Faculty Staff : Lecturers and Researchers
- The Press and Television staff
- Students
- Registered Participants
- Parents
- Bank Staff
- Non- Governmental Organizations' officers
- Teachers' Associations.

The organizing and administrative support were given by:

Dr. (Mrs) Ope Okunola

Dr. Akeem Amodu

Other members of the Planning Committee;

Dr. Oye Oyelami

Dr. Donald Odeleye.

Mrs Damilola Essien

Mr Ayo Owolabi—Moderator/ MC

### **4) PAPER PRESENTATION SESSIONS**

Papers were grouped as related to special areas. Each session was chaired by a Professor in Humanities field.

Discussions, Comments and Questions were taken after the presentations of papers.

It is important to note that the conference was the first of its type in Nigeria. We, therefore, invited papers from multiple- stakeholders so as to get wide range of views and also encourage interplay of theory, practice and policy on the theme. This approach is very relevant learning from the past experience of Nigeria in the project of establishing a Secondary School for Gifted Children about thirty years ago. The project failed because the multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholders requirement of the project was not considered.

The Conference announcement was made in two national Newspapers so as to reach all states in the Federation. In addition Posters and Letters were sent to Institutions, organizations and Government agencies. Visits were made to key Government officials to encourage them to present papers.

## 5) COMMUNIQUE

After the paper-presentation sessions, the Communiqué committee presented a draft report which was considered and amended by the Participants.

### DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

A Roundtable Conference tagged “Positioning Gifted Education in Nigeria” was held at Lead City University, Ibadan, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. The conference was facilitated by Lead City University in conjunction with Godmijt Educational Consultants. During this conference, it was agreed that:

- a. The identification and nurturing of gifted and talented minds is a veritable platform for socio-economic and technological development of Nigeria, because Gifted citizens are usually the initiators of change and innovations for the transformation of the society.
- b. Gifted and talented children are present in all socio-economic and cultural groups; therefore effort at identification should not be restricted to the elites.
- c. The procedure for identifying gifted children should be planned, involving not only the student and his teacher, but his family and all other stake-holders.
- d. The Legislative arm of all tiers of government in Nigeria should provide special legislation for gifted education.
- e. There should be decentralisation of the gifted education programme; the Federal Government should concern itself with policy formulation and provision of an enabling environment while States and Local Governments should establish and run their own Gifted Education Centres.
- f. The re-branding phenomenon going on in Nigeria today should include the gifted education programme. This re-branding should not, as usual, be a mere change of nomenclature; rather it should be a sincere and far-sighted repositioning strongly backed by appropriate political will.
- g. Community participation in the identification of gifted and talented children should be re-visited and embraced. The power to identify gifted children should not be the prerogative of the elites.
- h. Gifted education should be all-inclusive; parents, teachers, policy-makers, community members and all other stakeholders in development circle should be involved. The procedure and process for identifying Gifted and Talented children must acknowledge the multidisciplinary -based and multiple stakeholders involvement required for a successful planning and implementation of the programme.
- i. Governments, NGOs and Education Service providers should sponsor the development of psycho-educational assessment tests that are culturally relevant and devoid of ceiling effects.
- j. Universities and Colleges of Education are enjoined to establish Research Centers to promote research on Gifted Education and Talent Development. Such Institutions should also develop academic courses, degree programs and also provide Outreach Services to train Teachers on how to identify and nurture Gifted Children
- k. Teachers, parents, peers, community members and all other stakeholders should adopt a positive attitude towards gifted children and their education

- l. . A pilot project should be started in order not to let the energy generated at the conference pass away.
- m. An Association of Gifted Education and Talent development was formed, with the participants at the conference as pioneer members.  
The Association appealed to the Federal Government of Nigeria, through its agencies such as, the Education Tax Fund and the Universal Basic Education Commission, to earmark a percentage of their funds, yearly, to fund projects, research and training programmes in Gifted Education.

## **6) ACTIONS AFTER THE CONFERENCE**

- i. The Nigerian Association of Gifted Education and Talent Development was formed, with the interim officers and secretariat in Lead City University, Ibadan. The officers will agree on the final name and will register the Association with the Nigeria Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. An interactive email was opened: giftedinnigeria@yahoogroup.
- iii. Paper presenters were given two months to edit their papers for publication in the new Journal of Gifted Education and Talent Development.
- iv. The papers (15 papers and 5 Speeches/Remarks) as presented at the conference were bound into Volumes 1 and 2 of Conference proceedings.
- v. The draft Communiqué was sent to registered participants for amendments and comments.
- vi. The Final Communiqué will be sent to the Federal Minister of Education, States' Commissioners of Education, Executive Chairman, Universal Basic Education, Deans/ Provosts of Faculties/ Colleges of Education, Teachers' Associations, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Newspapers companies.

## **7) FUTURE PLANS**

- i. Publish the Communiqué in at least two major national Newspapers.
- ii. Lobbying of Government to support Gifted Education programme, backing it up with Legislation, facilities and funds.
- iii. Organise Seminars and training programmes for Primary and Secondary School Teachers
- iv. Link up with companies who can fund 'A Foundation for Gifted Education and Talent Development'
- v. .Promote the establishment and management of Gifted Education Research Centre at Lead City University, Ibadan and any other University where similar interest is shown.
- vi. Publish a Journal of Gifted Education and Talent Development.
- vii. Keep the Association active and members in regular communication. The secretariat of the association will be in Lead City University, Ibadan.

A copy of the Conference Proceedings publication will be sent to you by post.

**SUMMARY REPORT BY:  
GLADYS O OYEWOLE-MAKELE  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA,  
BELIN-BLANK CENTER, TEMPLETON INTERNATIONAL FELLOW 2008.  
MAY 2009**