

**Welcome Address of the President of Social Studies Association of Nigeria at the
28th Annual National Conference held at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife,
26th - 29th November, 2012.**

Salutation

It gives me great delight to welcome you all to this year's conference of our great association. I appreciate God in your life particularly, for granting you journey mercies to Ile-Ife. I will like to congratulate the authorities and students of this great university for witnessing the 50th anniversary of Great Ife. I thank the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Education for granting us this unique opportunity of being part of the celebration. We wish the university greater heights and many years of meaningful service to humanity. I acknowledge the effort of the Local Organizing Committee for the successful hosting of this conference. We know what it takes to put man and materials together in preparing for the conference.

A.) Our Achievements

- i. Website design. We have now successfully designed a very functional and comprehensive website for the association. Our website address is www.SOSAN.org.ng. It has facility of e-mail address that everybody can use to reach SOSAN executive members. We also have NEWS section. We encourage members and non-members to make good use of this website.
- ii. Registration of the Association with the CAC. We have almost completed the registration formalities of our association. We would have come with the registration certificate but for the CAC's request to modify our registration name which they informed us very recently.
- iii. Nigerian Journal of Social Studies. I acknowledge and thank the Editor for his resilience and academic sagacity in making sure that this year's edition is out. We have two numbers in the volume. Every member of the association will get a copy each of each issue for 2011 and 2012.
- iv. Fellows of Social Studies of Association of Nigeria. Last year two of the founding fathers of SOSAN were accorded fellowship of SOSAN: Pa. M. A. Makinde, the first general secretary and one of the first teachers of social studies; and Prof. O. S. Okobiah, the second general secretary of the association. They expressed their joy in acknowledging their noble roles to

this association. There will be no award this year, but we request members to forward names to the secretary for consideration of award next year.

- v. Workshop for capacity building for members of SOSSAN. We have made capacity building of our members an integral part of this conference. This year's capacity building service is focusing on developing writing skills of members in academic publication. The resource persons are members of the association, and so there will be no special charges for this service from members. I thank our senior members who have accepted to offer us this service free of charge. It is our plan to continue this capacity building even at the zonal or state levels come next year.
- vi. Constitution. We have now settled with our constitution and it is available in one of the pages of our website.
- vii. Membership drive. We are renewing our effort in membership drive. The executive of the association has come up with a model of membership drive. This will be discussed extensively at the AGM.
- viii. Prof. O. S. Okobiah's drive for unification. Some of you might have received several SMS from Prof. Okobiah calling for a meeting of members from different parts of the country. The meeting eventually took place and Pa. M. A. Makinde was in attendance. We had a fruitful discussion and this will also be discussed at length at the AGM.
- ix. Tetfund sponsorship of Journal. We have completed necessary forms to secure ITF fund for our journal. We have also submitted copies of the last three years' editions. Hopefully and before long we shall hear from them.
- x. Affiliate membership of SOSAN with the National Council for the Social Studies. We have successfully completed our affiliate membership with the NCSS of United States of America. The authorities of NCSS are now requesting for information regarding our association and conference. In due course of time the officers of the NCSS will be attending our conferences and workshops. A reciprocal gesture will be extended to members of SOSAN.

B.)Our Challenges

- i. Office Secretariat for SOSAN. We need an office secretariat of our own and perhaps one or two officers to man the office.
- ii. Fund. Our level of funding is still very low.

- iii. Involvement of Primary and Secondary School teachers in the association.
- iv. The merging of social studies with other subjects in the Universal Basic Education.

Conclusion

The Vice Chancellor, the Dean, our Lead Paper Presenters, invited guests and the distinguished members of SOSAN, I thank you all for your presence. It is my hope that our academic interaction on this year's theme: the Unending Question of National Unity in Nigeria- In whose interest? will be our contribution to the National development in Nigeria this time. And so I wish you all meaningful deliberations.

Thank you.

Prof. S. F. Ogundare
National President, SOSAN