



NEWSLETTER-Nr. 4 of 2017 Special Issue – Annum 7

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Report of the Local Organising Committee of the 26th Colloquium of African Geology and the 16th Congress of the Geological Society of Africa Held From 23rd - 27th November, 2016 at the University of Ibadan International Conference Centre, Ibadan, Nigeria

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26TH COLLOQUIUM OF AFRICAN GEOLOGY (CAG 26)

Unlocking Earth Science Potentials for Sustainable Development of Africa

Ibadan, Nigeria. | www.cag26.org.ng

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NMGS Ibadan Chapter
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Report of the Local Organising Committee of the 26th Colloquium of African Geology and the 16th Congress of the Geological Society of Africa Held From 23rd - 27th November, 2016 at the University of Ibadan International Conference Centre, Ibadan, Nigeria

Background

The hosting right for the 26th CAG was granted to Nigeria by the General Assembly of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) at the 25th Colloquium held on 14th August, 2014 at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Geological Society of Africa with NMGS then put in place a Local Organising Committee charged with the organisation of the 26th CAG and 16th Congress of the GSAf at Ibadan in November, 2016.

Organizational Structure

Sequel to the approval of the hosting right, an International Scientific Committee, a Local Organising Committee and a Local Task Team Committee were put together. This was to ensure a smooth organisation and hosting of the Conference.

Three circulars were issued for the Colloquium in all. The first contained information on various sessions and various committee. The second circular contained much more detailed information on the venue, Technical Sessions, Excursions, Social Events, Hotels Lists and General information needed for the hosting and organisation of an international event. The third Circular contained details of the Presentations Schedules and Venues for all accepted Abstracts.

The Conference website www.26cag.org was successfully used to disseminate information on the conference and also served as platform for receiving online registration and submission of Abstracts. All NMGS functions was also used to disseminate the conference information to members nationally while the conference information was also made available to international audiences at various scientific conferences the UK, Germany, Czech Republic and South Africa.

The Council of the NMGS approved the Sum of Six Million Naira to the Local Organising Committee as loan for the organisation and hosting of the Conference.

Summary of the Conference

Conference Theme and Venue:

The Conference theme as approved by the GSAf was “Unlocking Earth Science Potentials for Sustainable Development of Africa” while the conference venue was the University of Ibadan International Conference Center, Ibadan.

Arrival and Registration of Delegates:

Delegates started arriving for the 26CAG on Monday 21st November 2017 with the arrival of the President of the Geological Society of Africa, Professor Aberra Mogessie. Registration commenced on Tuesday 22nd November, 2016 and lasted throughout the conference. Registration was segmented to cover the Foreign delegates, the national delegates who had pre- registered and those who were registering at the venue. Those who had pre-registered had all registration materials ready for collection at the Desk on arrival.

In summary, close to 60 International Participants from 15 Countries and 231 Nigerians Participants registered for the Conference.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 26CAG was held on Wednesday 23rd November, 2016. The programme was well attended with the Deputy Governor of Oyo State representing the Executive Governor of Oyo State at the Event. The ceremony also included the conferment of the Fellowship of the Geological Society of Africa on Professor M.O. Oyawoye, FNMGS, CON, in recognition of

his pioneering role in establishing the GS Af. The ceremony was made more colourful by the performance of the Oyo State, Nigeria Cultural Troupe with their traditional dance interlude.

Technical Sessions

The Technical Sessions were preceded by Plenary Lectures delivered by eminent Geoscientists. The first was delivered by the President of the GS Af, Prof. Aberra Mogessie on a topic titled '*Domesticating the African mining vision: challenges and prospects*' on Wednesday 23rd November, 2017. The Second Plenary Talk was delivered on Thursday 24th November, 2016 by Professor Chris King, Emeritus Professor of Earth Science Education on '*Earth Science Education, The African Perspective*' the third was delivered on Friday 25th November, 2016 by Professor Davies Theophilus on '*Environmental and Health Impacts of Mining in Africa*'.

The Oral presentations were held simultaneously in our parallel sessions covering the various themes of the conference. The various sessions were chaired and facilitated by eminent Geoscientists within the various fields. In all 218 papers were presented at the sessions.

A workshop on geochronology was held on Saturday 26th November, 2016. This was well attended.

Initiative Meetings

The United Nation Development Mineral Session was held on Thursday 24th November, 2016. The Geoscience Information Network for Africa (GIRAF) held its meeting on Friday 25th November, 2016 while the African Network for Earth Science Institutions (ANESI) anchored by UNESCO also had its meeting on Saturday 26th November, 2016. The Colloquium also provided platform for those researching in Medical Geology on the continent to meet and deliberate on the way forward after the conclusion of the session on Medical Geology.

The 16th Congress of the Geological Society of Africa

The 16th Congress of the Geological Society of Africa was held on Saturday 26th November, 2016 at the Conference venue. At the Congress, new executives and council of the GS Af was constituted resulting in the election of Prof. Olugbenga Okunlola, FNMGS as the President of the GS Af for the next four years. The other council members are as follows :

Post	Name	Title	email	telephone	institution
President	Olugbenga Okunlola	Prof.	gbengaokunlola@yahoo.co.uk	+2348033814070	Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Past President	Aberra Mogessie	Prof.	aberra.mogessie@uni-graz.at	+43316-3805523	Institute of Earth Sciences, Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria
Secretary General	Maideyi Meck	Dr.	maideyimeck@yahoo.com	+263772906612	Geology Department of Geology University of Zimbabwe
Honorary Treasurer	Asfawossen Asrat Kassaye	Prof.	asfawossena@gmail.com	+251-91-1407553	Addis Abbaba University, College of Natural Sciences, Ethiopia
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Vice President South	Wladyslaw Altermann	Prof.	wlady.altermann@up.ac.za	+27 12 4204137	Department of Geology, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Vice President Central	Léon Bora Uzima Bahavu	Mr.	bob20lk@gmail.com		Centre d'Expertise et d'Etudes Géologiques, DRC
Councillor East	Jean-Claude Ngaruye	Mr.	engaruye@minirena.gov.rw		Energy, Water and Sanitation Authority, Kigali, Rwanda
Councillor North	Tamer Abu-Alam	Dr.	tamerabualam@yahoo.com	+47 – 94732188	Norwegian Polar Institute, Fram Centre, Norway
Councillor South	Annah Karen Nguno	Ms.	annatjjeika@gmail.com	+264 61 284 8398	Geological Survey Of Namibia
Councillor Central	Vacant				
Councillor West	Vacant				

Social Events

The conference participants were entertained in a cocktail at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge on Friday 26th November, 2016 by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor Idowu Olayinka, FNMGS. At the ceremony, guests were welcomed to the University and were encouraged to take time out to visit do a tour of the University and the city of Ibadan.

A Conference Dinner was held on Saturday 26th November, 2016 at the Conference venue. The Dinner witnessed a conferment of Award of Recognition on the exiting President of the GSAf, Prof. Abera Mogessie by the Council of the GSAf. The event was fun-filled.

Field Excursion

The various excursions planned were unable to hold because of Security considerations and visa challenge for foreign participants, especially the West African Geo-Traversal. However, a one day Excursion starting with the geology of Ibadan area to Abeokuta with a major look at the Olumo rock and the sedimentary sequences of Dahomey basin was organised and participants who undertook the excursions were thrilled by the trip.



The newly elected council members of GSAf with the UNESCO Director of Earth Science Programme



The eminent African earth scientists visit the Olumo Rock. Below is Abeokuta town, centre of Egba Empire

Challenges and Acknowledgements

Several Challenges were faced during the planning and organisation of the Colloquium. The most challenging was finance. The LOC was constrained in soliciting for funds from the same sponsors and supporters of the NMGS. The LOC had to rely on the NMGS seed money for the success of the Colloquium for this, the LOC is eternally grateful. Also, some funding supports were received from individuals who are Council members. the NGSa supported with printing of the book of

Abstracts. These were all acknowledged in the Book of Abstracts. However, a mention of them will not be out of place in this report. These are the NGSa, NIHSA, MSSD, SKANGIX and GLDYNAMIC.

Another challenge was that of securing entry visa for our International Participants. This was particularly troubling in most of our African Embassies. However, this was eventually surmounted as approval for visa on arrival was obtained for those who eventually could not get their visas from the country of origin. The efforts of the Comptroller of Immigration and that of the Nigerian Immigration Service are also appreciated.

The LOC also would like to acknowledge the active presence and participation of eminent and senior colleagues at the Colloquium, The Presence and participation of the Council members are also appreciated and acknowledged.

Conclusion

The 26th CAG had produced for Nigeria Close to Forty International Ambassadors who came with trepidations but were encouraged at the receptions they received and at the organisation of the Colloquium. The LOC is positive that the 26th CAG would open better opportunities for hosting many more International geoscientific events in the future. Kindly note that the Loan from the NMGS had been paid back and the NMGS Council had decided that the entire left over (profit) (\$3,000.00) be transferred to the GSAf Account.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to serve the GSAf in organizing this Conference



Prof. Gbenga Okunlola

LOC chairman