

2009 IFSA NORTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING. AKURE, NIGERIA

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This year we had the first Northern African Regional Meeting, you can imagine the mix of joy and anxiety when participants from the region arrive at the venue. We had 23 participants from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Benin republic. This was an event that attract attention on the participants as new faces begin to fall in. the event took place in Akure city in Ondo state of Nigeria from the 21st to 23rd of April 2009. Even though the event was the first of its kind you wouldn't believe the output of the meeting. Our central point of discussion was to talk about forestry education in Africa generally, thereby considering the inception of forestry education in the region, it present state, and future prospect. In throwing light to this we invite some guest lecturers to expantiate and educate us on the theme, the seminar later turn to discussion and interactive session where every individual give there view on the state of forestry education in Africa.

Summary of the meeting

On the 20th was the arrival, registration and time to get to know each other, participants where still timid and holding back from each other before they all settled in there hotel rooms. The program start proper the second day, participants where conveyed to the auditorium after breakfast where we had different presentations on the theme (FORESTRY EDUCATION IN AFRICA). During the interactive session participants

where already getting to know each other better. After all the presentations, we went on site seeing, and later settled back to our rooms, it was time for fun and beer after dinner.

Wednesday the 22nd and second day of the program was time for an excursion and visitation to the Nigeria Former president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo teak plantation, the trip was a very long one, we moved round the plantation and had a warm reception with the former president where he was able to discuss with us the the role of his organization in promoting forestry education in Nigeria. It was a great moment with him and this also give the participants the opportunity to meet the icon for the first time. The last day was another moments for education, we visit the Queens Forest, Idanre hills, Erinjesha water falls. The night was the international night this was a night every one will never forget; it was a mix of joy and fun.

Output

This meeting was the first in the region and we are glad we could achieve the aim of gathering forestry students from the Northern Africa to come together and talk about our forestry educational future. The accolade the local organizers received at the completion of the meeting showed how impactful the program was. This has initiated the IFSA fire in these participants. We hope to have some of them at the next IFSS in Indonesia. On this note the organizers thank the participants for there presence and the IFSA7 2008-09 for their support.