

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION

OMEP NIGERIA



40 YEARS OF OMEP

IN

NIGERIA

1980-2020



FIRST LOCATION WHERE OMEP WAS ESTABLISHED



Lagos City in Nigeria

Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, sprawls inland from the Gulf of Guinea across Lagos Lagoon. Victoria Island, the financial center of the metropolis, is known for its beach resorts, boutiques and nightlife. To the north, Lagos Island is home to the National Museum Lagos, displaying cultural artifacts and craftworks. Nearby is Freedom Park, once a colonial-era prison and now a major venue for concerts and public events.

Area: 385.9 mi²

HISTORY OF OMEP IN NIGERIA

Nigeria was first introduced to the activities of the World Organisation for Childhood Education, OMEP in 1968, when Mrs Ibiyemi Bright, attended a UNESCO- sponsored course in Denmark on the training of Pre-school and Infant School n Teachers. During this course, participants especially from Africa were advised to seek membership into OMEP so that their National Committees could take advantage of new developments in the area of Pre-School education through OMEP programme of activities.

OMEP NIGERIA NATIONAL PRESIDENTS: it is on record that 7 National Executive Committees had piloted the ship of OMEP in Nigeria from 1980 to date under the leadership of the following renowned dedicated, committed women.

1. 1981-1986 Prof Grace Alele Williams,
2. 1987-1993 Late Mrs Ibiyemi Bright
3. 1994-1999 Mrs. Victoria 'Bimpe Bilewu
4. 2000-2003 Late Chief (Mrs) Juliana Ajayi-Olufolaji
5. 2003- 2009 Chief (Mrs) Abimbola Are
6. 2010-2016 Lady Pat Okeke
7. 2017- Date Mrs. Tokunbo Doherty

ACTIVITIES - PERIOD: 2019- FEBRUARY 2020

2019

- ✚ **July 22-26, 2019: Participated in the 71st OMEP World Conference in Panama.**
 - **Theme : Identities and Cultures in Early Childhood Education.**
- ✚ **May 25th 2019: OMEP Children’s Day marked at various state chapters in Nigeria. Activities involved children’s match past, funfair, games, etc.**
- ✚ **August 2019: OMEP Lagos State Chapter Professional Development Programme for Education Practitioners & Continuation of Implementation of ”Low Cost No Cost Project”**
 - **Training Focus: Pedagogy, Approaches to Learning, Designing creative Learning resources for teaching, Developing stimulating learning Environment, Introduction to Activity-Based, creative lesson planning & delivery.**
- ✚ **October 23rd – 25th, 2019: 30th Annual OMEP Nigeria National Conference in Ondo State, Nigeria.**
- ✚ **October 15th, 2019: Global Hand washing Day in OMEP Member schools. Theme: Clean Hands for All.**
- ✚ **November 20, 2019: Universal children’s Day celebrated in OMEP member schools.**
- ✚ **December 12th, 2019: Submission of registration for OMEP Nigeria participation in the ‘International Day of Peace, 2020**
- ✚ **December 2019: CSR/ OMEP Elders’ Support. OMEP Lagos state chapter members went round to pay season’s greetings to all OMEP Elders (from ages 70 years and above). The elders were presented with Christmas gift items.**

2020

- ✚ **January 2nd, 2020: Submission online for participation in the ESD Rating Scale.**
 - **4 schools indicated interest in participation.**
 - **January 23rd, 2020: First level training for the lead persons and assistants. Introduction of the project and how to use the rating scale. Observation and report writing.**
- ✚ **January 31st 2020: Submission of proposal on Low Cost, No cost ESD project to coordinators in Sweden.**
- ✚ **February 5th, 2020: World Read Aloud Day celebrated in some OMEP member schools in Oyo state.**

MEMBERSHIP & CHALLENGES

- ✚ Members are mainly owners of private nursery and primary schools, teachers in private schools and few education consultants, researchers and trainers.
- ✚ All members are private individuals who are self sponsored.

ECONOMIC DOWN TURN AFFECTING MEMBERSHIP, PROJECT DELIVERY & PARTICIPATION

MEMBERS INABILITY TO PAY DUES:

- ✚ As OMEP is a nongovernmental organization sustained by individual members' contributions and commitment, payment of the token dues has become a challenge and this has affected successful implementation of projects initiated in time past.

LOW ENROLMENT RESULTING IN LOW INCOME REDUCES INVESTMENT IN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF:

- ✚ With the economic down turn in Nigeria, reduction in school enrolment;
 - Parents move their children to public schools with low school fees (some parents lost their jobs, businesses folding up etc),
 - School management not having enough funds to engage education consultant & trainers in empowerment of their staff, membership in OMEP at different state chapters have dwindled.

REDUCTION IN PARTICIPATION AT INTERNAL AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS:

- ✚ Lack of funds has caused a reduction in attendance of international and regional conferences as inflation has gone up, incomes have reduced and there has never been any support through sponsorship.
- ✚ State chapter participation has also dwindled as individuals first have to struggle to survive before thinking of participating in organization's activities.
- ✚ In the 36 states of Nigeria as at 2019, participation at state levels had reduced to 9 state chapters.

CHALLENGE IN PROJECT DELIVERY- “ACTIVITY-BASED, LOW COST, NO COST INITIATIVE; FROM WASTE TO SUSTAINABLE EXPERIENTIAL PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT”

- ✦ The speed at which the “*Low Cost, No Cost*” 6 phase project initiated by the OMEP Nigeria National president, Oyindamola Sonola is being delivered is also slowed down by lack of fund. The proposal has been submitted for the ESD Award competition and I hope it is given due consideration.
- ✦ This project emphasizes a major dimension of waste to Sustainable education through;
 - Cleaner, safer environment,
 - quality education through empowerment of practitioners and exposure to 21st century knowledge & skills,
 - Access to affordable teaching and learning by all children especially those from poor families
 - Improvement in quality of teaching and learning.
 - improvement in quality of play, creativity and non-cognitive skills

CHALLENGES IN PAYMENT OF DUES.

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION/SPONSORSHIP

- ✦ In 2018 in Prague we wrote in our report about the difficulty we are experiencing in paying our world dues.
- ✦ The president, Tokunbo Doherty and secretary, Oyindamola Sonola also met with the OMEP world treasurer about to request for reduction in payment of dues as we always have to task ourselves despite our financial situation and the crashed value of our currency to pay our international dues.
- ✦ We had to solicit for contributions from OMEP Nigeria members present in Prague and Panama to pay the sum of \$200.00 in 2018 & 2019.
- ✦ The issue of financial challenges faced by OMEP African countries was also presented at the Regional Assembly meeting in Panama.
- ✦ **We will like due consideration to be given to Nigeria as an active member of OMEP despite the fact that we are a third world country. We will like our dues reduced to One hundred dollars (\$100.00) or request for one of the more buoyant countries assist in paying our dues.**

CHALLENGES WITH ATTENDANCE AT WORLD ASSEMBLY & CONGRESSES TIMING & EXPENSES

- ✦ **Over the years, several appeals have been made to *change the timing of OMEP World Assembly & Congresses from the ‘high season’ when air tickets are very high to months between April & June.***
- ✦ **We shall appreciate it if due consideration is given to this to still encourage attendance from Africa region.**
- ✦ **The requirement for visa to Greece is quite impossible and we are looking at possibility of a Shenghen visa.**
- ✦ **With the value of the naira which has depreciated , We have to buy € 1.00 for N420.00.**
- ✦ **The cost of participating in the congress in Athens is over One million five hundred thousand naira (N1,500,000. 00) very high for many of us.**

OMISSION OF HOSTING OF WORLD CONFERENCES BY NIGERIA -1990

Since establishment of OMEP Nigeria in 1980, the OMEP World Assembly and Congress has been hosted twice - 1990 and 2009 in Lagos State Nigeria.

- ✦ **We observe that the 1990 World Assembly & Congress hosted by Nigeria in 1990 is missing on the world platform list of year and countries that have hosted.**
- ✦ **We will like this to be corrected to reflect the 1990 congress in Lagos Nigeria.**

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF OMEP NIGERIA IN CONFERENCES

From **1983-to date**, OMEP Nigeria has been consistent in attendance at OMEP World Congresses.

1983 Geneva Congress: 12 members represented OMEP Nigeria following acceptance of OMEP Nigeria Preparatory Committee into the International body of the 16th World Congress of OMEP International in 1980 at Quebec.

1989 London Congress: 19 members led by the national president, Mrs Ibiyemi Bright were at the London congress.

2015 OMEP World Assembly and congress in USA, the current OMEP Nigeria national secretary, Oyinda Sonola presented the outcome of her study on “*Impact of Teacher Training on Teacher Competencies and Students’ learning Outcomes*”.

2016 OMEP World Assembly & congress in Korea

2017 OMEP World Assembly & Congress in Croatia

2018 OMEP World Assembly & Congress in Prague

2019 OMEP World Assembly & Congress in Panama

2020: Hopefully, some of us are praying that we shall be able to attend the 2020 OMEP World Assembly & Congress in this year although requirement for visa is tedious apart from the high cost of ticket, hotel etc.

ACTIVITIES OF OMEP NIGERIA- ADVOCACY FOR THE NIGERIAN CHILD

OUR AIMS

1. Promote study and research related to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)
2. Organize international Regional, National Conferences and Symposia on ECEC international best practices, child protect, safety, pedagogy etc.
3. Disseminate information about ECEC/policies through publication of the Journals and online resources.
4. Encourage the training of practitioners, stakeholders and personnel in ECEC
5. Encourage family education in connection with ECEC.
6. Encourage youths and students in the Universities to associate with OMEP Nigeria in order to increase membership and exchange of ideas.

PUBLICATIONS

OMEP Nigeria members have published books in various subject areas:

Christy Ade-Ajayi- Story books for pre-school children

Cynthia Falode- Nursery Rhymes

Elizabeth Fadahunsi - Creative Activities

Gbemi Rosiji – Teaching Traditional Number concept

Juliet Macaulay et al- English Grammar

Olabisi Solaru- Books on Literacy, Numbers, Reading and Creative Activities

Olomofe E. O. – French ‘Francais Quotidien

Omodele Karunmi – Collection of Yoruba traditional rhymes ‘Kulumbu Yeye’

Oto Lijadu- Alpha-Bits -Creativity

Peter Onaivi- Magic Pot and other Rhymes



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