



# **ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS & PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA**

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## **2018 Annual Report**

1. ACSPN) launched the ACSPN Eminent Persons Strategy Series (AEPSS) on January 29, 2018 to feature local and international professionals, experts and scholars who are either not core communication and media professionals, or marginally so. It would harness current thinking on issues germane to the future of the disciplines of communication and media, and is part of the evolving ideas revolution which should drive a 21st Century positioning, as the world moves rapidly during a critical phase in its Fourth Industrial Revolution.
2. Maiden edition of the ACSPN Eminent Persons Strategy Series featuring Mr Yao Ydo, UNESCO Regional Director for West Africa, as Guest Speaker on “The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth and the Future of Communication Education in Africa”, held on February 6, 2018. It was hosted by Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, and was the first major activity of ACSPN in the university which has hosted its Secretariat since inception in 2013. Caleb University donated N100, 000 (one hundred thousand naira) to ACSPN which was received by Dr Bashir Ajijola of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin and Mr Jide Adelaja who represented the Rosabel/Mediaseal Group, and gifts to the Guest Speaker, while ACSPN donated books to the Guest Speaker through Dr Bisi Olawumi of Bowen University, Iwo
3. ACSPN 2017 Annual Report released on February 13, 2018

4. Post-field Report Experts Meeting to discuss the draft on the Understanding Elections through the Media Project, held on March 20, 2018 at Adna Hotel , Ikeja. Participants included Prof Nnanyelugo Okoro, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Prof Stella Chinyere Okunna, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Prof Lai Oso, Lagos State University, Prof Umaru Pate, Bayero University, Kano, Prof Abigail Ogwezzy-Ndisika, University of Lagos, Lanre Arogundade, International Press Centre, Lagos, Emmanuel Richard, Prof Nosa Owens-Ibie, Prof Rotimi Olatunji, Lagos State University, and Ayo Oluwatosin, Rosabel Group, Joint Project Team Lead, Nosa Ademola, Bytesize Ltd, and Chibuzor Obodo, Mediaseal Ltd, Ifedolapo Ademosu, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos
5. Fifth edition of ACSPN History Series on April 10, 2018, featuring Mr Yomi Badejo-Okusanya, President, African Public Relations Association, Board Member, International Public Relations Association, and Managing Director, CMC Connect (Perception Managers), at Mountain Top University, Ibafo, with Vice-Chancellor, Prof Elijah Ayolabi chairing. Those in attendance included the Dean, College of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, Prof Joshua Ojo, Dean, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Prof Amos Akinwande, and Dr (Mrs) Gloria Okome, University of Houston. Mr Badejo-Okusanya offered employment to the best graduating student from the Department of Mass Communication when the school produces its first set of graduates. The University presented gifts to all ACSPN members in attendance, and the Guest Speaker and his team. ACSPN’s gift to the university was presented by the Provost, Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Mr Gbemiga Ogunleye. One of the highlights of the facility tour was the Vice-Chancellor who anchored an interview of the guests in the impressive radio studio
6. Submission on April 30, 2018, of the final narrative and financial report (with a detailed accompanying spreadsheet) to Ford Foundation through the Institute of International Education, to mark the official completion of the “Understanding Nigerian Media and Elections through

Research: Analysis of the 2015 Presidential Election Campaign Messages”. An updated version of the final report was submitted to Ford Foundation on May 29, 2018. The dedicated Project microsite was created on May 8, 2018 and the Executive Summary of the report uploaded on May 30, 2018. The release of the report for free download via the microsite was made public by the ACSPN Secretariat on June 18, 2018.

7. ACSPN participated in the stakeholders meeting to validate the revised Nigerian Media Code of Election Coverage from May 22 – 23, 2018. The Association endorsed the new Code which updated the 2014//2015 version on June 8, 2018, and made the endorsement public on June 15, 2018. According to Lanre Arogundade, Director, the International Press Centre (IPC), which coordinated the review process, some 80 stakeholders, including ACSPN, professional associations, media organisations and media support groups, have so far endorsed the Code. These include "Newspapers Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN), Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria (BON), Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Radio Television and Theatre Arts Workers Union (RATTAWU) and Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP)".
8. The Call for Papers for the ACSPN 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2018 was circulated through the platform of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) on June 13, 2018. It is the first time the CFP would be circulated to an international community of scholars
9. Launching of ACSPN Research Report on Understanding Media and Elections through Research: Analysis of the 2015 Presidential Election Campaign Messages, by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Lagos State University (LASU), Prof Oyindamola Oke on July 5, 2018 . The report was presented by the joint research team leaders, Prof Rotimi Olatunji, Dean, School of Communication, LASU, and Ayo Oluwatosin, Group Managing Director, Rosabel/Media Seal Ltd. The event held at LASU, was chaired by the ACSPN President, Prof Lai Oso. Participants included academics,

professionals and students who commended the quality of the report, the aesthetic appeal of its published version and the lucidity of the presentation by the joint research team leaders. The launch and free electronic copy downloads was circulated on the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) platform on July 16, 2018.

10. ACSPN announced the uploading and free access to the revised Nigerian Media Code of Election Coverage on its website, on July 17, 2018. This follows an endorsement of the Code, along with other stakeholders
11. 2017 ACSPN audited Statement of Account released to members on the website and communicated on July 19, 2018
12. UNESCO communicated its financial support to the ACSPN 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Media Narratives: Hate Speech, Fake News and Political Stability in Africa, on July 24, 2018 - to support the ACSPN Book Series project
13. The 5<sup>th</sup> ACSPN Book of Abstract is released on August 14, 2018
14. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the ACSPN Newsletter was launched on August 16, 2018
15. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) redeemed its financial support pledge for the 5<sup>th</sup> ACSPN Conference on August 17, 2018
16. The Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) communicated its support of N1 million to the hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ACSPN on August 20, 2018
17. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ACSPN on “Media Narratives: Hate Speech, Fake News and Political Stability in Africa”, at Best Western Plus Elomaz Hotel, Asaba with former Information Minister, Prof Sam Oyovbaire, as chairman of the opening, and the Chief Host, Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa, Executive Governor of Delta State, was represented by the Chief Press Secretary, Mr Ehiedu Aniagwu. Other special guests at the opening included Dr Tom Adaba, pioneer Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission, Mr Dapo Olorunyomi, Publisher, Premium Times, Prof Cecil

Blake, chairman, Special Panel, Prof Chinyere Okunna, member, Board of Trustees, and representatives of National Broadcasting Commission, Malam Mujtuba Sada, Mrs Ijedi Iyoha, Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), Mrs Pauline Igbanor, Zonal Director, Nigerian Television Authority, Benin, Mr Jonas Emecheta, Zonal Director, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Mrs Stella Jibrin, Director, Nigerian Press Council (NPC), and Mrs Halima Oyedele, Director, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The research report on “Understanding Nigerian Media and Elections through Research: Analysis of the 2015 Presidential Election Campaign Messages”, was presented by Prof Rotimi Olatunji; Prof Oyovbaire presented the ACSPN Book Series 3 titled “Media Reflections on Governance and Development in Nigeria” edited by Prof Umaru Pate, with foreword by Emmanuel Ngwainbi and Ijeoma Onyeator. The lead presentation by Dapo Olorunyomi, was on “Facts, truth and knowledge: Journalism and the ethical community”; The Special Panel on “Media Narratives as Bridges” chaired by Prof Cecil Blake, emeritus Professor, University of Pittsburgh and former Minister of Information, Sierra Leone, featured Dapo Olorunyomi, Publisher, Premium Times, Prof Chinyere Okunna, Prof Dayo Alao, Vice-Chancellor, Adeleke University, Ede, Mrs Halima Oyedele, National Human Rights Commission, and Prof Umaru Pate, Bayero University; The Annual General Meeting/Elections witnessed the retention of most members of the executive, while new officers included Dr Ruqqayah Aliyu, of Bayero University, Kano as Vice-President, North West Zone, Dr. Shamsuddeen Mohammed, Zonal Mobilization Officer, North West Zone, Paul Bebenimibo, Zonal Mobilization Officer, South South Zone, Dahiru Hassan Kera, Zonal Mobilization Officer, North East Zone, Kabir Alabi Garba, Zonal Mobilization Officer, South West Zone,

Lanre Arogundade, Publicity Officer 1, Dr Abiodun Ogidan, Publicity Officer 2, The new ACSPN journal – “Communication Cultures in Africa”, an open access journal and collaboration with the University of Winchester, UK was presented with an announcement of the forthcoming release of its maiden edition. Plenary discussion of ACSPN Research Report on the 2015 election and the lead presentation by Dapo Olorunyomi, chaired by Prof Chinyere Okunna, featured, among others, Profs Rotimi Olatunji, Cecil Blake, Dapo Olorunyomi, and Dr Tom Adaba. The session also featured the Commissioner for Information, Delta State, Mr Patrick Ukah, who used the occasion to launch the ACSPN Book Series 3 with N500, 000. The masterclass was anchored by Dapo Olorunyomi and Joshua Olufemi of Premium Times. Mr Olorunyomi’s presentation was on “Fact-checking Journalism”, while Mr Olufemi’s presentation was titled “Fact Checking: Skills and Steps”; Conference participants were presented with certificates, while copies of the 2015 elections research report and ACSPN Book Series 3 were given to all participants, and through them, their institutions and organizations. Copies were also given freely to other institutions within and outside Nigeria; Sessions of the conference were streamed live on Facebook; Participants hosted to an evening reception by the Commissioner for Information, Mr Patrick Ukah who launched the book with N500, 000 and redeemed the donation same day.

18. UNESCO redeemed the final part of its partnership pledge on September 21, 2018
19. The first Call for Papers for the 6th Annual Conference of the Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) on “National Interest, Freedom of Expression and Governance in Africa" holding from September 4-5, 2019, at Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State, circulated on October 5, 2018. The theme of the

Special Panel is: "Media Sustainability and the Consolidation of Democracy".

20. ACSPN is represented by Prof Nosa Owens-Ibie, General Secretary, and Prof Victor Ayedun-Aluma, Treasurer, at the 20<sup>th</sup> African Council for Communication Education (ACCE, Nigeria Chapter) National Conference and AGM, with the theme "Communication, Migration and Inclusion", Pan-Atlantic University (Lagos Business School), Lekki. Both featured at the opening ceremony and were each presented with a set of three ACCE books. Prof Chinyere Okunna., member, BOT, ACSPN, and one of the founders of ACCE, Nigeria, chaired the opening ceremony, which also featured the ACSPN representatives who each chaired a syndicate session.
21. The Call for Papers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ACSPN on "National Interest, Freedom of Expression and Governance in Africa" circulated on the email platform of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) on December 2, 2018
22. Consultative meeting at the headquarters of the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), Iganmu, Lagos, of ACSPN and APCON Management held on December 6, 2018 to discuss collaborations. The ACSPN Team was led by President, Prof Lai Oso, and APCON Team led by the acting Registrar, Mrs Ijedi Iyoha
23. Maiden edition of Communication Cultures in Africa (CCA) – a journal of the Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) launched on December 10, as an open-access journal through the Winchester University Press, UK, with Dr Oluyinka Esan, Reader, School of Media and Film, University of Winchester, UK, as General Editor, and Dr Adebayo Fayoyin, Regional Communications Advisor, UNFPA, East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Johannesburg, as Deputy General Editor.
24. The launching of Communication Cultures in Africa Journal through the Winchester University Press (UK) announced through email on the International Association for

Communication and Media Research listserv on December 27,  
2018