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Dr. Mrs. Ada Uzoamaka Azodo  
ISA President

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Ada U. Azodo

**N**di be anyi, ekenekwaa m unu o! Ekenekwaa m unu o! Ekenezue m unu o!

Dear ISA Members, All!

I have this golden opportunity, privilege and special honor to start my term as president of the Igbo Studies Association (ISA), by penning this address to all members of our esteemed Igbo Studies Association. Our able and immediate past president, Dr. Chima Korieh, deserves our immense gratitude for everything that he did to move our association forward during his tenure. We also owe profound gratitude to all the other past presidents before him who, in their turn, during their tenure, exhibited drive, dedication and devotion that have nurtured our association since its inception at the African Studies Association conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 8, 1999. And, I hold a special place in my heart for ISA, having been present at that moment of its birth, attended most of the annual meetings and conferences to date, and served it as treasurer for two terms.

As I embark on my new role as president, I keep in mind the trust and belief I have in the Executive Management Team and the Board

of Directors, small in number, yes, but constituted of powerful colleagues with exceptional sense of service, duty, and aptitude. I look forward to working with them to accomplish the set objectives and envisaged goals to help us accomplish the overall ISA mission.

In our current situation, the Igbo world at home and in the diaspora faces many difficulties and uncertainties in a volatile world of climate change, evolving new emigration and immigration patterns, and economic and political instability. The Igbo language, culture, and tradition's engagement in quotidian struggles to ward off extinction are now proverbial. Fortunately, our scholars have risen up to the challenge. They gather together whenever possible in search of possible solutions, proffering ideas that can get us out of the ditch and up to the next salutary level. It is an arduous task. Yet, must we not lose sight of the fact that we owe it to ourselves and our legacy to do the utmost possible not to turn back, but rather to press on.

Indeed, in the face of the current difficulties and challenges, the founding principles of our association reverberate anew, hold sway, and are eloquently apt: "to promote and encourage research and scholarship on Igbo history, culture, social movements, linguistic, literary, and artistic expressions, science and technology; to forge intellectual links and network with scholars, policy makers, and activists inside and outside NIGERIA; to participate actively and collaboratively in continental and global debates with interested organizations in Nigeria, the U.S.A. and other countries on issues specially relevant and correlated to Igbo studies,

and to work proactively for the promotion of Igbo language with interested organizations and/or institutions in diverse regions of the world.

Our vision, then, is to empower the collective ability of our membership to negotiate the troubled waters unscathed, and to endure. We can accomplish these dreams only by continuing to exercise prudence (*ako na uche*) and restraint (*ndidi*) in oral and written language use, and through strengthening our mutual efforts with all interested parties and stakeholders around the world.

That said, ISA will never fail to represent our members' interests and present a united front and common voice in denouncing events around the world deemed inimical to the best interests and survival of Igboland, its peoples and cultures.

What is more, ISA intends to incorporate prospective members, engaging those that will bring in a wealth of knowledge into the Association. Therefore, new and old members are hereby enjoined, even encouraged to share their expertise, opinions, and experiences, through submitting quality articles to the ISA Newsletter and Igbo Studies Review, and contributing enlightening ideas, views, and information to fellow members through the ISA Google Group.

Recall that our annual meetings and conferences are at the center of our efforts at ISA to bring together our members and other participants and attendees at the forefront of Igbo studies. The next gathering will be in

Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria, June 8-10, 2017. Our Conference Chairperson, the indefatigable Dr. Ogechi Anyanwu, who currently is into his second term as ISA Secretary, has already started working diligently with his committee to ensure a fulfilling, hitch-free, and enjoyable conference and meeting next year. We envisage an educational experience and opportunity to network with colleagues, and grow professionally.

Lastly, again, I thank you all for the honor and opportunity to serve as ISA president for the next two years. I will work tirelessly with the Executive Management Team for academic cooperation between the Igbo Studies Association and Dominican University, River Forest, USA. We will iron out the nature and intentions for the cooperation between the two institutions and for their mutual benefit. I vow to hold true to the mission of ISA.

Please do not fail to contact me from time to time on issues and concerns that may come up. I continue to count on your goodwill exhibited at my election unopposed and with acclamation last May in Chicago.

See you all in Owerri for a fulfilling and fruitful conference and meeting next year.

So long! *Ndeewo nu o!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Mrs. Ada Uzoamaka Azodo  
(alias Ezenwanyii)  
ISA President

# Let's go home this time!

The 15th annual conference of the Igbo Studies Association will be held in Owerri at Greatwood Hotels, Plot 12, G Port Harcourt-Owerri Road, Federal Secretariat on June 8-10, 2017. Abstracts for the conference have started to trickle in. We expect more submissions in the weeks and months ahead. Please do not wait till the deadline before submitting yours. To hold a successful conference in Nigeria, we need your help in identifying potential co-sponsors. If you know any university, college of education, polytechnic, ministry, church, company, or institution that could co-sponsor the conference, please contact me or any of the co-chairs of the local organizing committee: Dr. Francis Nnamdi Ikwuegbu, Director of the Center for Igbo Studies, Imo State University, Owerri, at [ikwuegbunnamdi@yahoo.com](mailto:ikwuegbunnamdi@yahoo.com), and/or Dr. Lucy Apakama, lecturer, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, at [apakamalucy@yahoo.com](mailto:apakamalucy@yahoo.com). Join us to make the 2017 ISA conference a memorable one.

Professor Ogechi Anyanwu  
ISA Conference Chair.



# OWERRI (NIGERIA) 2017

## THE 15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IGBO STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Theme: *NtoAla Igbo: Retelling Our Story, Rekindling Our Values*

Greatwood Hotels, Plot 12, G Port Harcourt-Owerri Road, Fed. Secretariat Owerri, Imo State,  
Nigeria

The Igbo Studies Association (ISA) specially invites scholars, professionals, organizations, and students working on all aspects of studies on the Igbo at home and its diaspora to attend its 15th annual international conference to be held on June 8-10, 2017 at Greatwood Hotels, Owerri, Nigeria.

To deliberate on the conference's timely theme, NtoAla Igbo: Retelling Our Story, Rekindling Our Values, we welcome presenters in the humanities, social sciences, legal studies, business administration, physical and natural sciences, agriculture, cultural studies, political science, and cultural studies.

No race, nation, ethnic group, or country can survive much less thrive if it abandons the shared customs, values, beliefs and worldviews that unite its members in a collective consciousness. In recent years, domestic and global forces have brought about the need for the Igbo to reexamine and reevaluate their Igbo identity and retell their story as a people. These compelling forces include modernity, globalization, immigration, emigration, materialism, environmental and climatic changes, economic uncertainty, and sociopolitical unrests, among others.

The 15th annual conference provides an opportunity to 'retell the Igbo story and rekindle its values' in order to facilitate social, political and economic transformation of Igboland while at the same time contributing to the advancement of neighboring societies in Nigeria and host communities abroad. Conversely, the impact of neighboring states and other ethnicities on renascent Igbo, their values and identity will be explored.

Local and international specialists, intellectuals, and students are encouraged to join the association in an interdisciplinary dialogue that explores the influence of the changing world on the Igbo world. Panels and individual proposals will engage with a variety of topics including:

### SUB-THEMES

- Negotiating Igbo Identity, Emigration, and Immigration
- Ahomeful: Restoring Pride and Meaning to Igbo Names
- Igbo Missionaries and the Inculcation of Igbo Cultures
- Omenala Igbo in Marriage and Burial Ceremonies
- Mother Tongue and Cultural Revival
- Literature and the Visual Arts
- Climatic Change and Environmental Issues
- Trade, Investment and Work Ethic in a Globalized World
- Women, Family and Society
- Perspectives on Nollywood and Igbo Representations
- Materialism and the Syndrome of Wealth Without Work
- Igwebuikwe: Town Unions and Community Development
- Pentecostalism, 'Miracle' and 'Prosperity' Gospel
- Native Doctors, Health, Healing, and Traditional Medicine
- Politics Without Bitterness and Politics of Inclusion
- Reevaluating Law, Order, and Policing
- Rethinking Taboos, Abominations, and Punishment
- Learning to Live Together: Intra and Inter-Ethnic Relations
- Farming, Crops, Culture, and Food Security
- Chieftaincy Affairs, Titles, and Community Development
- Indigenous Igbo Religious Beliefs
- Youth Unrest, Violence, and Conflict Resolution
- Nkeiruka: When is The Best Time to Plant a Tree?
- Igbo History and Values in School Curriculum

## GUIDELINES

Submit an abstract of not more than 300 words with your paper/poster/roundtable title, name, current position and institutional affiliation, mailing addresses, email, and phone number. Your abstracts must discuss the scope of the paper, the research methodology, possible sources, and tentative thesis or hypothesis. Those whose abstracts are accepted will have to pay a \$50 non-refundable part payment for conference registration. You can pay via PayPal through ISA website. If you are paying in Naira, please pay 15,000 naira to this account (Account Name: Professor Uchenna Mariestella Nzewi; Bank: Fidelity Bank PLC and Account No: 6052163125). Please make sure you forward an electronic copy of confirmation to Dr. Ogechi Emmanuel Anyanwu, [isaconference@yahoo.com](mailto:isaconference@yahoo.com) and Dr. Christine Ohale, [cohale@csu.edu](mailto:cohale@csu.edu).

## DEADLINE

All proposals must be submitted online and the deadline for submission is November 30, 2016. Completed papers are due by April 30, 2017. To submit your proposal, click on this link:

## NOTIFICATION

You will be notified on the status of your submission and other program details by email. Selected papers will be considered for publication and inclusion in either the Igbo Studies Review or a post-conference edited book. You should, therefore, write your papers as if they are being prepared for publication. Presentations can be made in English or Igbo. Participants are responsible for the conference fee and their travel and lodging costs. For more information on the Igbo Studies Association, including membership and other matters, please visit us at [www.igbostudiesassociation.org](http://www.igbostudiesassociation.org).

For more inquiries, please contact:

Ogechi Emmanuel Anyanwu, Ph.D.  
Conference Chair  
Professor of History & African Studies  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Cell Phone: 859-248-1394  
Office Phone: 859-622-1375  
Email: [isaconference@yahoo.com](mailto:isaconference@yahoo.com)



# STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION 2016

Presidential address by Professor Chima J Korieh, PhD  
at the 2016 annual conference of the Igbo Studies Association  
Dominican University, Chicago, USA



Dear Friends:

**A**s we gather for yet another annual meeting of our dear association and my second annual report as your president, I would want to begin by saying that I have stood on the shoulders of our founding fathers and mother not to make history, which I and many others helped shape over the last 15 years, but to say that collectively we are “moving higher, looking farther, and leading the way forward”

As many of you are aware, we have continued to grow in numbers over the last two years. I am particularly proud of our outreach in Nigeria. My appointment as professor at the University of Nigeria Nsukka in the last one year and half was an opportunity to reach out to the scholarly community especially at Nsukka, Imo State University, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education among others. We can continue to build on these connections to strengthen our numbers and also to bring younger scholars into the fold. Today, our active membership is about 300.

I am particularly proud of the efforts we have made in the

executive committee to increase our visibility online as well as continuously keep our members informed about the activities and other information about the association. Thanks to the excellent work of Dr Chidi Igwe, our Public Relations officer, we have continued to keep the ISA Newsletter which we initiated when I took office two years ago. The ISA News remains a valuable tool in our effort to disseminate important information, research news, and members' publications.

We worked to have a new and functional website. This is a much more befitting site home for the association. I think we are again proud of the work which Dr Chidi Igwe has done in not only maintaining the website but the effort we made to have our own independent link to the web. We are no longer an appendix to an individual's private domain name.

We inaugurated the ISA Book Award named in honor of Prof Don Ohadike, with my initial pledge of \$500 in support of the project. You may recall that Prof Ohadike, a preeminent Igbo

Scholars and former Director of the Center for African Studies, hosted the first meeting of Igbo scholars at Connell University. That meeting gave birth to the ISA. I am sure that Don and others such as Afigbo, Emmanuel Obiechina, Ogbu Kalu will be proud of what we have achieved collectively. The information on book award is on our website. Members are encouraged to submit books to that meet the criteria outlined on the website to the award committee.

The Igbo Studies Review is our most important outlet to the scholarly world. As editor of the journal, I have fulfilled my promise to ensure that the journal is published regularly and on schedule. As I mentioned in my address last year, I have initiated the process of listing the journal with Thompson Reuters by maintaining an ongoing subscription with them. The current issue will be our second submission to them. Hopefully we will have advanced in this process by next year. However, we cannot achieve this objective if we do not maintain or current tempo. I enjoin us to think of publishing in the journal. That is the only way we can raise its profile. I am glad to say that Stanford University, Northwestern University, Marquette University, and Michigan State University have found value on the journal and have requested subscription. Encourage your own university library to do so.

We can do more to take ISA higher. I think one unfinished business in the establishment of a Center for Igbo Studies here in the United State. Of course we had one which did not properly take off at Howard University. I just had a meeting with the Provost of Dominican University to explore the

possibilities of having a home here that can also serve as a secretariat. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm that Dominical has shown and the supporting community where in Chicago will make this a very viable initiative.

The financial health of the association is good. As the Treasure's report shows. We have made net gains in the last two years in terms of our income and maintaining financial integrity.

An important philosophy in the African world view is the concept of Ubuntu. I am because we. Otu osisi anaghi eme ohia. A single tree does not make a forest. I see my role as a messenger. A humble one. I resist often to use the "I". "WE" is more embracing and recognizing of the roles and contributions of others. So I could not have shepherded the affairs of this organization I the last two years with the contributions of the executive committee which includes: The Vice President, Professor Nzewi, who also handled our conference finances in Nigeria in the last two years with great integrity. The Secretary Dr Ogechi Anywanwu who also double as the Conference chair for this years and who has done a great job of getting us all to Dominican this year. The Treasurer, Dr Ada Azodo. She is not only one of our most senior colleagues today but she has meticulously protected the integrity of our finance. We are very proud of the work she has done as Treasurer. Dr Chidi Igwe, our PRO is not here today. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. Chidi makes things happen. Our website and newsletter have been professionally done and maintained thanks to his generosity—his time. I must also

recognize the counsel of two ex-officio members, the immediate past president, Dr Nwauwa and Austine Duru, the immediate past secretary. We should thank all of them for their service to the association.

The advisory board has a three year term. They still have one year in office as per the constitution. We thank them for their continued service.

Amid the myriad challenges facing us as individual as a result of the economic downturn, the ISA continues to move forward powerfully. I am bold to say that the ISA is perhaps the only Igbo organization that has survived this long without a major crisis in its leadership, with a reputation and integrity that our financial report has never been questioned and that individuals have collectively put the association's interest beyond individual desires.



*Professor Chima J. Korieh, PhD*





Moments from the 2016 Annual Conference of the Igbo Studies Association  
Dominican University, Chicago, USA

# OGELE

I can hear the sound of war, loud and louder,  
The battle has just begun  
With no one asking the cause,  
A great battle with great casualties  
We are all so involved without being aware.

No war like this ever,  
A look at the mirror a stranger we see  
We no longer know who we were and are  
We are lost neither ourselves nor another,  
Everybody is so involved  
Both the carrier and the carried are tired.

Will this war ever end?  
All your great deeds have been forgotten  
This battle has made us strangers in our land,  
We are now captives being held by forces that are no other than ourselves.

We no longer know our roots  
Our past we have forgotten,  
Can we continue living without knowing who we are?  
Our children are now without a past.

Their lives are nothing but a mirage  
Nothing is sacred any longer in our land.  
Can we ever recover?  
My *Ogele!* You were burnt for no cause of yours  
By those who saw you as the cause of their problems  
And now you are no more.

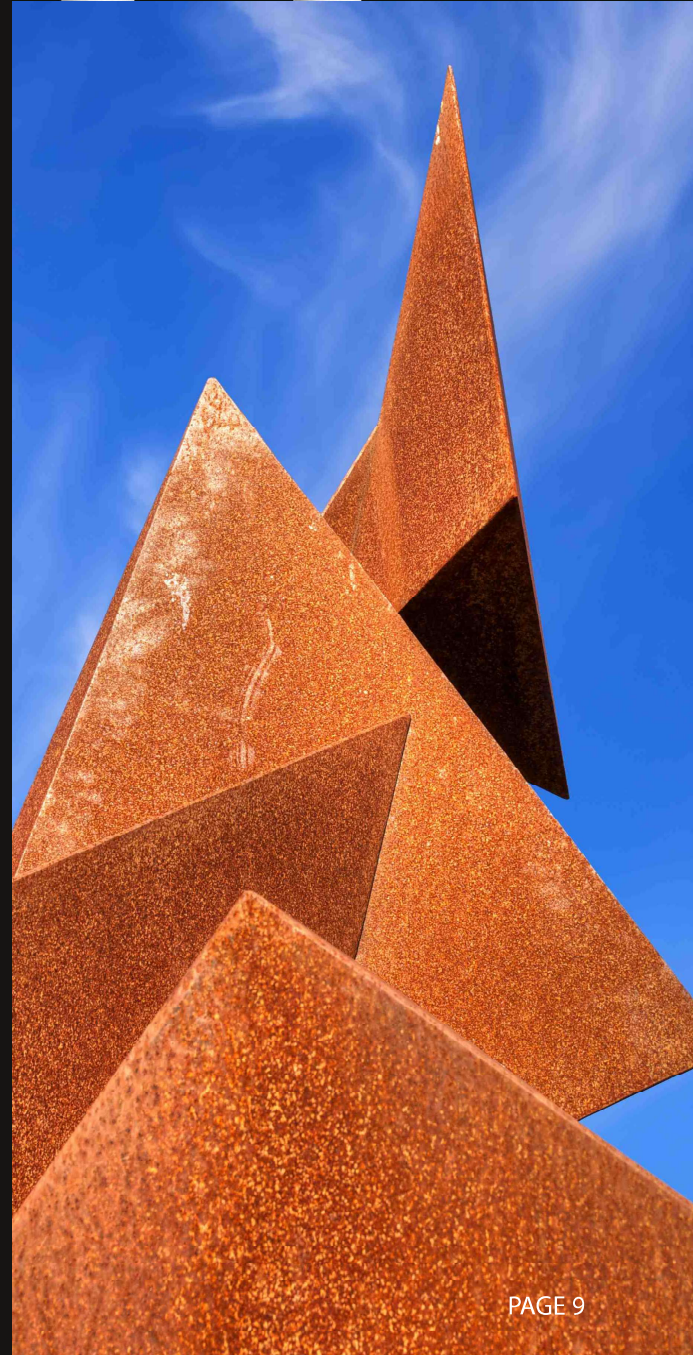
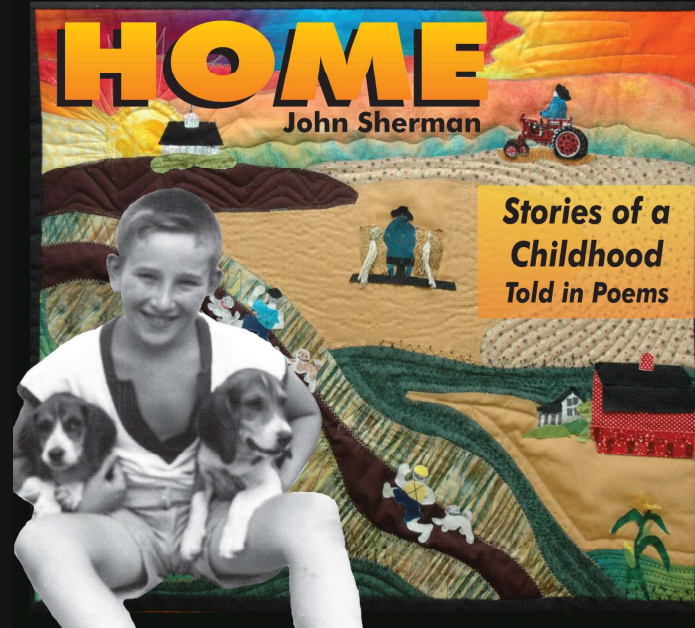
What do I show to generations yet unborn?  
You were the soul of our moonlight dance.  
Your sweet melody was the main attraction.  
How I wish you were used in their own way.  
At least I would have had something to show my children  
You have gone like others before you. Who knows the next?

Things are no longer what they used to be  
when you were here with me  
Nobody cares enough to notice or to ask what the problem is  
Have I lost you forever my treasured *Ogele?*

The Battle between Tradition and Christianity.

*Written by Atuonwu, C.I.-c 2003.*

## MEMBER PUBLICATION



**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY THE IGBO STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ISA) AT THE END OF ITS  
14TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, RIVER  
FOREST, ILLINOIS, USA  
MAY 12-14, 2016**

The 14th International Conference of the Igbo Studies Association was held at Dominican University River Forest, Illinois, USA on the theme: Ndi Igbo in the Global Context on May 12-14, 2016. The participants included scholars from over 74 tertiary institutions, leaders of community organizations, independent scholars, clergy/religious, and professionals from the United States, Canada, and Nigeria.

The three-day conference addressed different aspects of the Igbo experience within the context of the conference theme. It also witnessed over 100 paper presentations, four round tables/plenary sessions, a town hall meeting, and a keynote address entitled "The Future of Ndi Igbo: Osondu Agwu Ike" delivered by Professor Thomas Onuoha Chukwujike Ndubizu, Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and Vice-Chancellor, Imo State University, Owerri.

At the end of its deliberations, and emerging from the discussions by the participants at the various panels and plenary sessions, the Igbo Studies Association:

1. Recognized that at no time in recent memory has threat to the lives, wellbeing, and values of the Igbo people been more pronounced than in the recent years.
2. Condemned opportunistic hostage-takers who indiscriminately victimize innocent people in Igboland, threaten Igbo cultural values, and undermine the confidence vital in attracting and retaining local and foreign investments.
3. Called on families in Igboland to cooperate with various law enforcement agencies by providing information on people with questionable characters in their communities or neighborhood for public good.
4. Decried the loss of lives and property of Igbo families, business class, workers, and visitors in northern Nigerian states due to the indiscriminate and bloody attacks directed against non-indigenes by the Boko Haram terrorists; and called on the federal government to see the safety of indigenes and non-indigenes in the north as a

high order political business.

5. Repudiated the unprovoked and senseless killings of innocent Igbo and other Nigerians by Fulani herdsmen, and strongly demanded that the federal government, including the affected state and local governments, see the protection of lives of people as an overriding governmental duty.
6. Acknowledged that without addressing the anger triggered by the recent attacks by Fulani herdsmen, potential retaliatory attacks could only result in uncontrolled ethnic clashes with disastrous implications for national unity.
7. Highlighted the contributions and sacrifices of Ndi-Igbo to the social, political, and economic transformation of Nigeria since the country's independence.
8. Resolved that Biafra, whether as a consciousness or political reality, remains an unfinished business, noting that despite the federal government's declaration of "No Victor, No Vanquished," the war time experience for the Igbo continues to evoke persistent psychological wounds among the people, especially in the face of perceived marginalization.
9. Believed in the rights of Igbo people to demand for greater inclusion in the Nigerian project but condemned the unproductive use of violence in any form or shape in calling attention to the perceived and real marginalization of Igbo people in Nigeria.
10. Denounced the disproportionate use of force by local, state, and federal security agencies in dealing with mostly peaceful protests by individuals associated with the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).
11. Challenged state governors in eastern Nigeria to be more responsive to the economic and social needs of people living in their states; and through sound policies to better manage the outbursts of youths who, traumatized by crime, unemployment, and economic anxiety, erroneously see the declaration of an independent Biafra as the solution to their worries.

12. Acknowledged efforts to understand the war time traumatic experience of Ndi-Igbo by establishing an intellectual movement and Igbo Schools of Thought dedicated to Biafra narrative in contemporary media and scholarship, examples of which include Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Chinua Achebe's *There was a Country*, *Girls at War*, Buchi Emecheta's *Destination Biafra*, Flora Nwapa's *Never Again*, and Tony Ubesie's *Isi Akwu Dara N'ala*.

13. Called on state governments in eastern Nigeria to partner with the federal government in erecting a national memorial site(s) to honor both Nigerian and Biafra soldiers who made invaluable sacrifices in Nigeria's nation-building project; and to embark on a mission to fully account for many families who lost relatives during the war through death or migration to neighboring countries.

14. Affirmed that the tireless struggle for survival by the Igbo nation (Osondu Agwu-ike), should not necessarily be a zero-sum game, noting that the Igbo nation has a lot to contribute to the social, economic and political advancement of Nigeria in particular and the world in general.

The ISA reaffirmed its commitment to:

- Strengthening Igbo language and cultural values.
- Encouraging Nka Na Uzu (science and technology).
- Women empowerment.
- Conflict resolution.
- Igbo entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
- Human capital development.

The association resolved to hold its 15th Annual Conference in Owerri, Nigeria in 2017 with the theme: *Nto-Ala Igbo: Retelling Our Story, Rekindling Our Values*.

SIGNED: Conference Planning Committee:

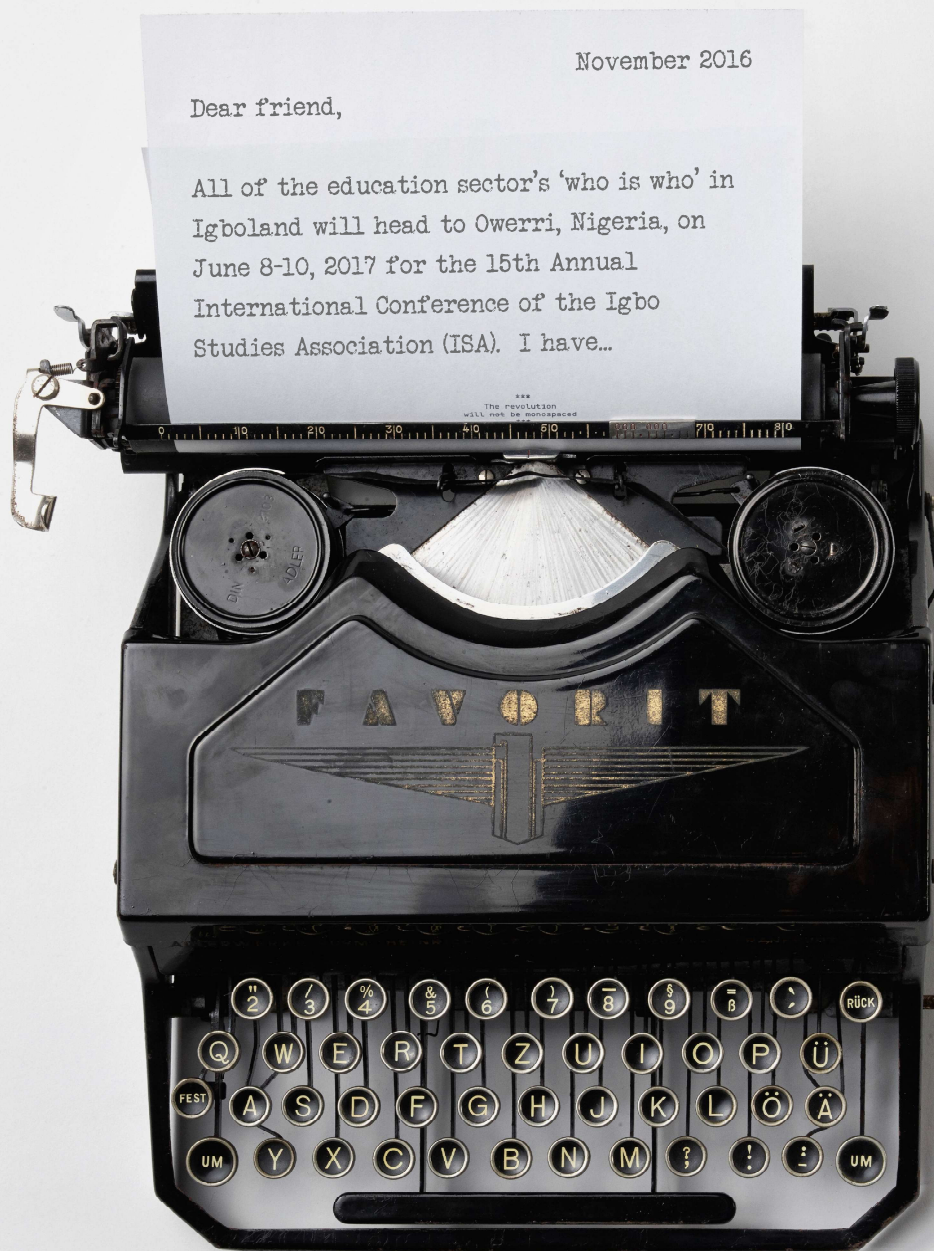
- Dr. Ada Azodo, ISA President  
 Dr. Ogechi E. Anyanwu, Conference Chair  
 Dr. Uchenna M. Nzewi, Member  
 Dr. Douglas Chambers, Member  
 Dr. Apollos Nwauwa, Member  
 Dr. Chima J. Korieh, Member  
 Dr. Ralph Njoku, Member  
 Dr. C.J.B.G. Okpalike, Member  
 Dr. Nkuzi Nnam, Member  
 Dr. Kanayo Odeluga, Member





*Moments from the 2016 Annual Conference of the Igbo Studies Association  
Dominican University, Chicago, USA*





November 2016

Dear friend,

All of the education sector's 'who is who' in Igboland will head to Owerri, Nigeria, on June 8-10, 2017 for the 15th Annual International Conference of the Igbo Studies Association (ISA). I have...

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The revolution  
will not be postponed

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**ISA NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Chidi Igwe, PhD  
PRO, Igbo Studies Association  
Chidi.Igwe@igwe.ca  
1.306.581.4493

**MAILING ADDRESS**

c/o Department of History, Sensenbrenner Hall,  
202A, 1103 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee  
WI 53201-1881 (USPS); 53233 (courier)