



Indian Council of World Affairs  
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

June 6, 2013

**Press Release**

on

**Round Table Discussion on  
“Revitalization of India-Nigeria Relations”**

A Round Table discussion was organized on June 4, 2013 by the Indian Council of World Affairs with a fourteen-member delegation from Nigeria’s apex policy think-tank and training institute, namely the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), representing the high echelons of the Nigerian Defence Services, Police, State Administration, Customs, and the Foreign Affairs Ministry, etc.



*Ms. Shamma Jain, Joint Secretary, ICWA commencing the Round Table*

In line with the NIPSS theme for the current training course – “Strengthening Institutional Framework and the Transformation Agenda in Nigeria”- the leader of the Nigerian delegation, Professor Olu Obafemi, a prolific playwright, novelist, and author of several books and novels, expressed keen interest in learning more about India’s vast experience of socio-economic development, particularly its achievements in the economic, academic, scientific, technological and IT arenas.

Ms. Shamma Jain, Joint Secretary, ICWA, in her welcoming remarks, provided an overview of the burgeoning India-Africa partnership, and mentioned that the bilateral ties between India-Nigeria had expanded and deepened substantially during the last few years; making India, Nigeria’s second largest trading partner with a bilateral trade turnover of US \$ 17.3 bn in 2011-2012. She invited Ambassador H.H.S. Vishwanathan, former High Commissioner to Nigeria, to chair the discussion. Amb. Vishwanathan, recalling his stint in

Nigeria in the mid-2000, highlighted India's historical ties with Africa, which have been strengthened over the years with India's contribution to the human resource development, skill development and capacity building in Africa, along with the Indian private sector's growing presence, across the continent in multi-sectors, such as power, energy, hydro-carbons and telecommunication, etc.

The other Indian discussants, which included former ambassadors and academics, covered various themes, such as UN peacekeeping, security issues in Africa, global governance and the need to reform the political and financial global architecture, as also the security challenges in Nigeria, including the activities and ideological leanings of Boko Haram.

The Nigerian delegates raised several queries about India's development strategy, transformation of its economy, institution-building, education system, women development and housing programmes, etc.

The vibrant discussion concluded on a congruent note that India and Nigeria, leading regional players, should harness the potential fully for a more engaging partnership on bilateral as well as regional and global issues.



*(L-R) Dr Abubakar Tanimu, Permanent Secretary, Katsina State Government, Mr. Amin Ikioda, Rear Admiral, Nigerian Navy and Prof. Olu Obafemi, Director of Research, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Nigeria*

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