



An Address Presented by the President
**SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (SCCDR)**

At her Second Conference, held at the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture,
Umudike Nigeria,
August 13-16 2019

PROTOCOL

It is with much gratitude to the Almighty God that I welcome you all to this second conference of SCCDR. I am so delighted that you have shown much interest in coming and joining the society. Our first conference was in 2016 and the theme was 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Development'. We have not been able to hold another conference till now, due to disruptions in the academic calendar of our Universities and other challenges. For the benefit of those who are joining us for the first time, it will be good to share with you what SCCDR is all about.

SCCDR was founded in 2015 and was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2016. It is an interdisciplinary organization committed to the research and practice of communication and sustainable community development. It is a non-religious, non-profit, apolitical group, open to academicians, policy makers, as well as community and communication development practitioners. The goal of SCCDR is to see that communities are well informed and developing on a sustainable basis. We conduct research on all facets of community life, organize trainings and conferences to develop the capacities of rural community dwellers to design and carry out development projects, sourcing for funds externally when necessary.

SCCDR is an avenue to research into all the areas of community development; create opportunities to provide relevant and cost-effective means of communication that will engender sustainable development for the communities.

Our vision is to see well informed communities developing on a sustainable basis. And our mission is, a Society providing research and evidence-based solutions that ensure sustainable community development

OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct research in communication, education, health, agriculture, and the environment, that would promote sustainable development.
2. Publish research documents, journals and books that would aid policy formulation for community development.
3. Provide the platform for networking in community and communication development
4. Organize conferences, seminars and trainings for the promotion of sustainable development techniques.
5. Establish pilot community development projects as a test of sustainability.

CONFERENCE THEME

This year, we have chosen a topic that is threatening food security in Nigeria, that is, Rural Insecurity. We have invited eminent scholars with diverse background to come and throw more light on the theme and provide solutions for us. We have Prof. Ini Akpabio from the University of Uyo as the keynote speaker, and Prof Damian Asawalam from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike as the lead paper presenter. Also, we have assembled academicians,



scholars and researchers to come and share their knowledge in addressing this challenge. It is expected that about 150 papers will be presented and discussed at this conference.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the last two years since our last conference, the Society has recorded some remarkable achievements.

- a. Journal of Community and Communication Research (JCCR) is our flagship journal which has been making waves since 2016. We have consistently published at regular times. It is my pleasure to announce that the fourth edition of June, 2019 is here to be presented today by Prof Chiedozi Egesi of the National Root Crops Research Institute.
- b. Our conferences have provided avenues for researchers to present their findings to the public. This also provides opportunities for networking and collaboration.
- c. Mentorship. Through our various activities and contacts, we have been able to mentor some young academics. One of the Candidates we nominated just got a scholarship by *Sasakawa Foundation*, to do her Master's degree in China. Two Ph.D. students are benefiting from research grants that we were able to attract.
- d. Book publication. The Society's publishing arm was able to publish a book titled, *Sustainable Community Development*. The book is on sale and every participant is encouraged to get a copy.

OUTLOOK

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, we see a great future for us in this Society, yet we are just beginning. We do not have the financial resources yet, but what we have in abundance is the grace of God and intellectual capital. We have set ourselves to make Umudike the hub of Rural and Agricultural development studies in the South east and Nigeria as a whole. We have attracted more subscription in this conference than we did in 2016.

To my dear participants, I want to appeal that you bear with us in any shortcomings that you may have observed. We will definitely improve on our outing this year. I can assure you that you will listen to great minds during this conference. You will also make new friends that will enhance your professional career.

God bless you and thanks for listening.

Prof. Ike Nwachukwu

President & Chair Board of Trustees, SCCDR

