

# NATCOM-UNESCO Organise Sensitisation Workshop on achieving Sustainable Development Goals

The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM-UNESCO) under the auspices of the 2022/2023 UNESCO Participation Programme put together a two-day sensitization and training workshop for UNESCO Youth Clubs, Associations and Centres, The Sensitization workshop which was largely attended by UNESCO Youth Clubs and other several Community organisations which was aimed towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was held at Joseord Hotel-Masaka in Nasarawa State from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.

In his opening address the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education Mr. David Adejo who was ably represented by Mr. Adeoye Adeleye who is the Director Educational Planning, Research and Development welcomed all the participants and stakeholders to the sensitization workshop which is aimed at revitalizing the UNESCO Clubs, Associations and Centres across Nigeria and sensitizing them on their various involvement towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as a nation. He said that the workshop is targeted at increasing the involvement of youths in UNESCO activities by creating awareness on how to harness more UNESCO opportunities that are available to Nigerian Youths through UNESCO Clubs ,Association



and Centers as well as creating awareness on how youths can contribute to the actualization of the SDGs in their local and global society. According to him, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 is the international community's ambitious response to today's most global pressing development challenge and will guide our development priorities for an entire generation and young people are expected to play key roles in shaping this agenda and experiencing first hand many issues it seeks to address'

The Permanent Secretary appreciated the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO for putting the programme together at a time like this as we wind down to 2030 with the hope that the United Nations SDGs will be fully attained by Nigeria as not just a nation but as a giant of Africa.

Day one of the Technical session witnessed the presentation of the first paper titled **Understanding UNESCO Clubs, Associations and Centres** by Mrs Udoji Uchenna a Deputy Director, Education Support Service of the Federal Ministry of Education. She spoke extensively on UNESCO ideals and overarching objectives. According to her presentation' The main purpose of UNESCO Clubs and Association is to promote understanding of the support for UNESCO's mission, priorities and programmes at the







Prize in Education for Sustainable funded by the government of Japan with a reward of US\$50,000 for three winners annually; The UNESCO Prize for Girls and Women Education- outstanding and innovative contribution made by individuals, institutions and organizations to advance the cause of Girls and Women Education with a reward of US \$50,000. For two annual winners to help them in further research work. Dr. Olagunju also mentioned other opportunities, like the Science Research Prizes, Social and human science Prizes, Culture Prizes, Communication and Information Prizes as well as the UNESCO Fellowship programme which is accessible to Nigerians. According to his presentation these opportunities can be accessed through the following websites; For UNESCO Fellowships;

[www.unesco.org-fellowshps](http://www.unesco.org-fellowshps). UNESCO Prizes; [www.unesco.org.prizes](http://www.unesco.org.prizes). The Secretary General NATCOM-UNESCO further said that 'Access to relevant and accurate information is critical to making informed decision and achieving our goals in life. This capacity building workshop is therefore an eye opener for UNESCO Youth Clubs and ASPNET Coordinators'.

The second and final day of the workshop witnessed the presentation of a paper titled '**The Sustainable Development Goals-How can the Youth work towards its Actualisation?** By Mrs Nendi Ohah. This was followed by Questions and Answers Session and a Roundtable discussion. The comments and Observations from the Roundtables heralded the presentation of the draft Communique.

grassroots level thus contributing to the promotion of UNESCO 's values, messages and actions for the realization of their objectives and goals. She said that the three main function of UNESCO is training, dissemination of information and Action while UNESCO Clubs value lies in the training and education it is able to offer those within its vicinity. There is no doubt that the Club can undertake self-education of its members through their participation in its activities and provide training for its members.

In the second presentation on the topic '**Harnessing the available opportunities with UNESCO for the Nigerian Youth**' by Dr. Olagunju Idowu Lateef who is the Secretary - General of NATCOM-UNESCO spoke on the role of UNESCO as a strong voice in youth empowerment. He said that UNESCO believes that involving the youth and young population in the decision-making process of a community is very important pointing out that every nation must realize that the youth has a voice that should be listened to. This is why according to him that UNESCO has provided many opportunities for the youth of Member States to be responsible citizens and agents of change in their various communities. He reeled out some of the opportunities available for youths under the auspices of UNESCO. Some of these are; Literacy Prize- the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize which has a reward of \$20,000, a medal and a diploma; The UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy with a reward of US\$30,000. A diploma and a medal; The UNESCO-Japan

