



Address by the Chairman of the Award Committee

Protocol

On behalf of the Trustees of the Inoyo Toro Foundation I welcome you to this second Award Ceremony. The Award Inaugural Ceremony took place last year on Friday, November 28, 2008 at this venue. His Excellency, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Chief Godswill Akpabio and some members of the State Executive Council were here. We also had our sponsors and notable invitees from Lagos and within.

For the sake of those who are here for the first time, this Award is for Teachers who excelled in their teaching in Akwa Ibom State public schools last year. Through this annual celebration of excellence, the Foundation hopes to encourage teachers of Science, Mathematics and English language, create awareness for the study of science and related professional courses in our secondary schools, promote healthy and positive competition for excellence among teachers and help teachers to be committed to their school work. Through this project, the Foundation is also supplementing Government's effort in educational development in our State.

The award is in 5 subjects: Mathematics, English language, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each subject will have three winners. The First prize winner will receive N250,000, the second, N150,000 and the third, N100,000.

Selection Process

This process will continue to be of interest to the general public and the Teachers, in particular. The following procedure was adopted:

1. WASC 2008 results print out for Akwa Ibom State was obtained from WAEC, Lagos and sent to the Selection Committee in March 2009 by the Foundation.



2. As the award is for basic Science and English Teachers, results for English language, Mathematics, Biology Chemistry and Physics were extracted for the schools into an easy format that showed the total number of students that took the subject, the number that scored grades C and above, (1-6) and the percentage of such passes per subject. 95 Public schools that had 90-100% scores in any of the five subjects were selected for screening visits from May to June, 2009. An advertisement was placed in the Pioneer Newspaper for the information of Principals of public schools in particular and the Akwa Ibom public, in general.
3. The schools' screening team of three was again made up of a Senior Science Officer in the State Secondary Education Board, a reputable Vice-Principal and the Programmes and Administrative Officer of the Foundation. The learning environment, availability of laboratories and libraries formed part of the school assessment for the genuiness of the high scoring schools.
4. Students' input was made through our student questionnaires which were administered to senior science classes for students' opinion about the selected science and English teachers. Teachers from the screened schools were generally scored high by their students on such items as appearance, honesty, friendliness with students, knowledge of subject matter, communication in class, punctuality to class, availability and kindness. Only three teachers scored below 80% and were dropped leaving 98 teachers who qualified for the final screening test which took place on August 21, 2009 at Cornelia Cornelly College, Uyo.
5. The final screening test was in two parts. The first part was an aptitude test based on the WAEC syllabus but needed speed and accuracy for just 40 minutes. 77 teachers (English: 15, Math's: 17, Biology: 10, Chemistry: 19 and Physics: 16) were able to come for the test. This was more than double last year's number.



The second part of the test was an oral examination meant for those (about 50%) who passed reasonably the written test. Only about seven per subject were examined orally and from the total score, the five excellent teachers for each of the five subjects emerged. They were duly invited to this ceremony and should be here with us. The first three award winners in each subject will be announced in this great assembly today. As in 2008, the expert examiners were two per subject and were from the Universities of Uyo and Calabar.

Our Appreciation

On behalf of the Award Committee, I thank our visionary couple, Mr. and Mrs. Udom Inoyo, who had a dream, the Inoyo Toro Foundation, which is now a reality. They have put in their time, talent and made funding possible again for the selection process, the prizes and this great assembly today. We also thank their friends and sponsor organizations for their support.

Your Excellency, we are grateful that again you are here with us inspite of pressing state and national matters. In September, one year of your free education project in the State was celebrated. "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time" to use the words of Abraham Lincoln. The careless world around us may not fully fathom the empowerment you are giving today to the children of Akwa Ibom State for their future. The successful and powerful economies are knowledge-driven through education and research. We thank the Hon. Commissioner of Education, the Chairman of the State Secondary Education Board, the Directors and Principals of schools for their support which helped our selection process.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to recognize and thank the Examiners from the Universities of Uyo and Calabar for setting, administering and marking the aptitude test in situ. Finally, we also thank our Science/English language teachers for teaching and mentoring our youths, the future leaders of this nation. To the winners and our excellent teachers, I say



like the unknown author “there is plenty of room at the top but no place to sit down”.
Keep up your good services in the schools; do not rest on your oars.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof Ebong W. Mbipom

Chairman, Award Committee