



MY NAMIBIA EXPERIENCE

PRINCE OLUSEGUN MICHAEL ADENIYI

Arts Education seminar under the patronage of the International Society of Education through Arts (InSEA), the Society for Arts Education in Namibia (SAEN) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture held between 29th October and 2nd November, 2018 in Walvis Bay, Namibia.

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On October 27, 2018 I left Nigeria to attend the InSEA SEMINAR hosted by the Society for Arts Education in Namibia (SAEN) at Walvis Bay, Erongo Region, Namibia. It was aimed at promoting InSEA in African countries and to foster dialogue and sharing of praxis and research about education through art. The theme was building social cohesion through Arts Education. By and large, the conference was a great success as it has open up opportunities for the art teachers, reignite passion and reawakening in art education. And this international experience is invaluable for teachers and their students.



(My first night in Namibia with the International InSEA family)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to God for this opportunity, and not taken for granted everyone that have supported me all along. Many thanks to my boss cum mentor, Dr. Ola Adebogun for giving me time and spaces for creative expression; Ms. Colette, for her support and encouragement; Dr. Christiana for providing the platform and covering my expenses; Dr. Teresa, for bringing all of us to the big family of InSEA; Dr. Samia for opening the door of my international engagement in InSEA; Dr. Angela for her support; Mrs. Peters, for her creative inputs; Olori Oyenike, for her great sacrifice; and my colleagues at CBIS, for covering up for my classes; we have all made great investment towards promoting peace through art and preserving the future of ART in Africa.



I have ventured into art education two decades ago with the intention of making a difference, raise the standard of art education and advance the learning field of Art in Nigeria. Attending the InSEA Seminar have earned me a rare opportunity to be part of the group to improve on the access to quality art education and increase African participation in InSEA.

The InSEA conference in Namibia also birthed the InSEA Sub-Sahara Africa group. In the future, the InSEA Sub-Sahara Africa group championed by Dr. Christiana Afrikaner will be creating meaningful and stimulating art projects to improve creativity, art appreciation and awareness in the learning field of art in Sub-Sahara Africa region.



(The InSEA Sub – Sahara Africa Committee)

At the conference, for the second time, I submitted my students' textile paintings from Caleb British International School, Lagos Nigeria to the InSEA Vice President, Prof. Samia ElShaik for the Arts for Peace in Africa project. I also submitted students' works of the following Art teachers from Nigeria: Mr. Aregbesola Akinola, Molipa High School (Junior), Ijebu Ode; Mr. Olusoji Sunday, Macjob Grammar School, Abeokuta; and Mrs. Koya, AGGS, Abeokuta.

The Connecting Africa project: Promoting Education for Peace through Art is a collaborative project between NEPAD and InSEA which is aimed at advocating for Peace in Africa through art. The idea is to ask the art students to produce textile artwork based on the theme Promoting Education for Peace through Art on A3 fabric/cloth using artistic techniques such as printing, dying, weaving, embroidery, applique and painting. The submitted pieces are later developed into patchworks. The first set of the patchwork was executed at the 3rd African and Middle East InSEA (International Society of Education through Art) Regional Congress/Amesea 2nd International Conference held at the October 6 University Campus, Cairo, Egypt in April, 2018.



(Prince Olusegun holding piece created by Jessica Ose of CBIS, Nigeria; Prof. Samia ElShaik working on the patchwork)

Another contribution from Nigeria to the Arts for Peace in Africa project is the Africa Peace project collage globe created from Adire textiles made by my art students at Caleb British International School, Nigeria (Tie and Dye; resist technique method of designing fabric. ‘Adi’, meaning ‘to tie’ and ‘re’ which means to dye’ using a variety of resist-dye techniques that reflect the culture, language and art tradition of the Yoruba people from Nigeria). In Africa, clothing influences us, and defines our identity, tribal and cultural orientation, and helps to uphold our cultural values.

Textile is an integral part of our culture, and the fabric is a flexible material consisting of a network of natural or artificial fibers (yarn or thread). What make up the whole is an extension of different yarns. The message there for all of us is, if we can see other people as an extension of us despite their cultural differences and races, this continent will be a better place for all of us. The Africa Peace project collage globe is about promoting peace and preserving the African cultural heritage through ART.



I plan to create a life size Africa Peace project collage globe at the 8th world alliance for arts education in luxor, Egypt and at the InSEA conference in Canada next year. And hopefully be part of the Hexagon project next year.





That moment at the closing ceremony of the InSEA Seminar in Namibia, when I lifted the Africa Peace project collage globe with the InSEA President, Dr. Teresa, I felt an intense sense of commitment to the peace project in Africa... We were later joined by Dr. Samia and Dr. Christiana lifting the Africa Peace project collage globe campaigning for the peace in Africa through Art. This is symbolic... One day, we shall take the message of peace through art to the entire countries of the world...



On Wednesday 31st of October, I made a presentation on the topic: Art for sustainability and empowerment; A case of wearable art from Nigeria. Empowering artistic skills through economic emancipation and wealth creation.



Wearable art is a fusion of art and fashion composed of the Adire background with the infusion of artistic hand-printed designs and patterns inspired by the African traditional cultural elements. It is a metamorphosis of the old tradition of tie and dye into a ready-to-wear outfits. The presentation was to inform the Namibian Teachers about the lucrative business of wearable art. Hopefully I will be back again to offer them hands-on training, and with the support of the government, their works can be exported to other part of the world with the trade mark made in Namibia.



During my stay in Namibia, I visited the Snake Museum, Dune 7 and other interesting places. Dune 7 is the highest sand dune in Namibia. It was an unforgettable experience for me and others.



Conclusively, the goal of the Art Education Seminar, building social cohesion through Arts Education was greatly achieved. The Cultural exchange night offered the participants a great opportunity for bonding, networking and showcase of cultural diversity at the conference. Many thanks to the Society for Arts Education in Namibia (SAEN) for the hospitality and awesome experience.









Certificate presentation by the InSEA President, Prof. Teresa Torres de Eça

I invite you to join InSEA (International Society of Education through Art) at www.insea.org. InSEA is a worldwide society of art educators concerned with education through Art. Members work together to share experience, improve practice and strengthen the position of art in all areas of education.



During the InSEA Seminar in Namibia, God blessed my family with a beautiful baby girl on Wednesday 31st October, 2018.

Princess Adesewa Esther Isa-Khoes, Adeniyi.