

# SOLACE

**ISSUP** | INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SUBSTANCE USE  
PROFESSIONALS

NIGERIA chapter



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS

Vol. 9/2022

## COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

WORLD DRUG DAY |  
EXPERIENCE FROM ISSUP 2022 |  
GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI |  
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## **Editorial Team**

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**D**rug or substance abuse has become a global public health and socio-economic challenge. It places a huge burden on our healthcare system, presages grave consequences for the youth population and undermines the security of our communities.

The theme of this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; "Addressing Drug Challenges in Health and Humanitarian Crises" demonstrated the need to enhance understanding of the global drug problem and how higher awareness largely supports international cooperation in combating its effects. This is of special concern to Nigeria as we are in the throes of civil conflict and terrorism resulting in the displacement of large numbers of our population.

This year's World Drug Day witnessed an overwhelming participation by ISSUP Nigeria Chapter with a range of activities across the 36 states and the FCT, Abuja. Our members used their platforms to demonstrate their commitment to creating awareness and propagating an anti-drug culture in Nigeria.



*Dr. Martin O. Agwogie*

At the National level, ISSUP Nigeria Chapter partnered other stakeholders to commemorate the event. The President of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter, Dr. Martin O. Agwogie was the Guest Speaker at the grand finale of the commemoration held at the State House Conference Centre Abuja. The event witnessed the presence of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo who was the Special Guest of Honour, Ministers, members of the Armed Forces, Diplomatic Corps, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) among other heads of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.



*Dr. Martin O. Agwogie, Barr. Beatrice Jedy-Agba, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, Brig. General Mohammed Buba Marwa (Rtd) among other dignitaries*

In his paper, Dr. Agwogie who spoke on the topic “Addressing Drug Challenges in Health and Humanitarian Crises: Settings in Need of Care for a Comprehensive Drug Use Prevention” drew the nexus between humanitarian crisis and substance use/abuse. He highlighted areas that need urgent attention for a comprehensive substance use prevention in Nigeria. These include the family and school settings, insecurity, unemployment, economic setting, out of school youth population and mental health. All of which, he noted, are risk factors for substance use and development of disorders if left unattended to.

He concluded with a call on the government, international organizations, civil society, and stakeholders to protect and care for the vulnerable population, particularly children and youth and minimize conflict to help address the issue of substance use, abuse and disorders. Free copy of the presentation is available for download at [www.gisainitiative.org](http://www.gisainitiative.org)



## **ISSUP CROSS RIVERS STATE**

In a buildup to the World Drug Day Commemoration, ISSUP Cross Rivers State paid a courtesy visit to Cross River State emergency management agency (CR SEMA) on the 23rd of June 2022. CR SEMA works to provide quality management of humanitarian crisis, disaster and emergencies. In line with this year's theme, the ISSUP team solicited for a partnership with the agency.

On behalf of the agency, the Director General Mr. Ayim Princewill acknowledged having drug issues, depression and a case of reported suicide in the IDPs (Internally Displaced People's Camps), with the refugees and crisis victims under his watch. He welcomed the partnership with ISSUP and an extension of visit to the refugees and IDP's camps.



To commemorate the World Drug Day, ISSUP Cross River State team hosted a one-day event. The event was attended by over 100 participants drawn from various disciplines such as: the NDLEA, Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigerian Correctional Service, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Calabar, Nigeria Ports Authority, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Canaan City Fm (our media partners), Federal School of Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing Calabar, Neighbourhood Care-well Foundation (NCF), Nana Arts Initiative (Arts in Medicine) and Students (on Psychiatric Experience from EBSU and UNN).



Dr Theo Onyuku (Head of Clinical Services FNPH Calabar) delivered the keynote address. Other speakers include the State Coordinator, Mr. Asu Obasse and Zonal coordinator (South-south), Ms. Uchechi Chinyere Onukogu and Dr. Emmanuel Essien who shared his experience from the ISSUP Abu Dhabi Conference. There was a music presentation by Nana Arts Initiative. Other side attractions were drama, remarks from invited guests and registration of new members.





On its own part, ISSUP Kaduna State branch organised a seminar titled: “Bracing up to Health and Family Challenges of People with Substance Use Disorders.” The seminar was an eye opener to the participants who were drawn from community, religious leaders and civil society.



***Guest speaker and other dignitaries at the seminar***

The facilitators – Ms. Fatima Popoola who is also the Kaduna state branch coordinator and Dr. Hassan Salihu, a psychiatrist in the addiction unit of the Federal neuro-psychiatric hospital Kaduna, explained in extreme details that people suffering from substance use disorders need love and support. Dr. Yakassai in his opening remarks noted that they should be treated with respect, while helping them find treatment; they also need

to be encouraged during recovery.



*Mrs. Margaret K. Julius at the seminar*



*Dr. Bashir Yakasai making remarks*



*Participants at the seminar*



Activities carried out by ISSUP Lagos State Branch include an awareness programme on substance use/abuse: A threat to intergenerational solidarity. The event was anchored by Major Yomi Opeolu (Rtd.) at Lagos State University of Education (LASUED) Epe, Lagos.



Major Yomi Opeolu (Rtd.)



Mrs. Bilikis E. Sanni making a presentation

The sixth ISSUP Global Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates between 12th and 16th of May 2022. As usual, the event featured participants from across the globe who participated in different sections of the conference: trainings, presentations, meetings and consultations. Seventy-one (71) members of ISSUP from Nigeria were at the conference (more than 80 percent were sponsored), the 4th highest attendees out of one hundred and twenty-five (125) countries/territories represented at the conference. In this section of SOLACE, some of the participants from Nigeria shared their experiences.



**Mabo Olugbenga**  
*(My experience from ISSUP Conference in Abu Dhabi.)*

I was in Abu Dhabi for both the Conference as well as the Recovery Allies Training programme organized by Drug

Advisory Programme (DAP) under the sponsorship of the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). I benefited immensely from the wealth of knowledge shared on evidence-based practices and new research findings on prevention of drug use and treatment during the plenary sessions. The Recovery Allies Training was really eye-opening to me. At the Conference, I had the opportunity to sit for both UPC and the Allies of Recovery credentialing examinations. I encourage more members to show interest in Recovery Allies trainings and programmes with a view to supporting people in recovery.

I make bold to say that it was a well-organized conference. I commend the efforts of ISSUP and the Local Organizing Committee in Abu Dhabi. I also commend the efforts of the amiable President of ISSUP Nigeria chapter, Dr Martin Agwogie and his team for pushing the

limit to ensure that more members of the chapter attended this year's Conference. It is my believe that with many other efforts being made, prevention of drug use and treatment of drug use disorders in Nigeria will record tremendous progress.

**M**y selection to participate at the Global Drug Demand Reduction Trainers' Training (Global Trainers Training) for the ISSUP International Conference, Abu Dhabi, 2022 was a dream come true.

Arriving Abu Dhabi at night, I was fascinated by the beauty of the layout of the city on the a e r i a l v i e w .

Commencing the training on the 12th of May, there were 5 of us Nigerian members among 42 participants globally. Our trainer was Dr. William Ebiti, also



**Dr Nwoga Charles Nnaemeka**

from Nigeria; a wonderful trainer and mentor.

The highlights for me were: meeting new people and networking; knowing that we Nigerians are not as backward as we often think; learning to plan and deliver training and self-discovery. We were named the DDR Cohort IV and the bonding was exceptional! We have since been forming partnerships across Countries and looking forward to a reunion. My special thanks go to Dr. Martin Agwogie, our amiable leader.

**“EVERGREEN” ABU-DHABI CONFERENCE**

**T**he 2022 Conference of the International Society Of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) at Abu Dhabi brought to the podium different voices of Professionals and perspectives



**Mrs. Obot Bassey**

globally, to network and share experiences of addiction experts beyond borders.

My very special thanks go to the ISSUP Conference organizers; the President, ISSUP Nigeria Chapter, Dr. Martin O. Agwogie for granting me the unique

opportunity to speak at the Conference; as well as other Institutions and Parties whose vision and support were instrumental in making the Conference the huge success that it was.

The lessons learnt at the Conference remain forever green in curbing the drug addiction problem in my State.

I was grateful to be sponsored by ISSUP to attend the 2022 International Conference in Abu Dhabi. I participated in the refresher course for the ICAP Examinations, and my knowledge in the field of SUD treatment was truly refreshed. I had lively, fantastic, and friendly classmates and thus, seized the opportunity to establish contacts that hopefully, will last a lifetime. My tutors were down-to-earth and excellent in every way. It was an opportunity for networking, learning, exchanging ideas, and sharing experiences across cultural, as well as socio-economic divides.

The program of events was rich and intellectually stimulating. I listened to professionals worldwide talk about their research works and other projects in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. I felt inspired to emulate and hopefully, match or surpass their giant strides. Abu Dhabi was, indeed, an unforgettable experience.



**Dr Emmanuel Essien**

*Consultant Psychiatrist, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.*

It appeared like a dream when ISSUP accepted my Abstract for in-person presentation as well as full sponsorship for the Conference. I was overjoyed and dived straight in with the preparations.

I was initially sceptical not knowing what to expect. However, I was pleasantly surprised to meet a very friendly, welcoming and accommodating people of UAE. I particularly fell in love with their dressing. The Opening Ceremony was a grand occasion, full of pomp, colour and the Emirate tradition; a beauty to behold!

The unfortunate incident of the demise of the King of the Emirate denied me the opportunity to show-case my Nigerian National attire. Notwithstanding, the Conference was a great exposure to me in the field of SUD prevention and treatment. It was my first presentation at an international event and I was excited about it. The questions and applause after my presentation was encouraging.

The reality of the enormity of the global substance use problem was further brought to the fore. I was overwhelmed with efforts towards curbing the menace. The bottom line is that every one of us must be up and about. No matter how little our efforts, we must be doing something positive in our small corners. Anything, no matter what, geared towards the right direction, is better than nothing at all!

I hereby appreciate Dr Olajumoke Koyejo who encouraged me to submit an abstract; Mr Peter Adenibuyan who assisted me with my abstract; and Dr Martin Agwogie, for his wise counsel always. My super thanks go to INL for the sponsorship.

Thank you all!



**Olori Lydia Adza Ajayi**



Coming from the career and field of transport, logistics and supply, I will say that my experience in Abu Dhabi, UAE was a career-changing one. This is a field that doesn't have much of a reputation in the drug demand reduction space.

I arrived at the conference with enthusiasm and determination to equip myself in order to make my fullest contribution to my country's success in the fight against substance use and abuse.

I participated in the Recovery Allie (RA) training. I was encouraged throughout the conference, especially when one of our RA facilitators said that we should take off our pre-qualification and internalize the RA training as new programme. That statement served as a turning point for me. The conference offered a new

perspective on substance use prevention and recovery and with the evidence-based curriculum. I have come to a point where I understand how to provide evidence-based interventions.



**Rotimi Aroge**

Without prior skills in networking, the conference as a whole helped me to connect with new friends from every field and nation, some of whom have become mentors and business partners.



**Dr. Grace Scent**

The trip to Abu Dhabi was my first time of taking a long journey outside my Country. I was quite impressed, right from the Doha Airport, with the great edifices and unique architectural structures.

Culturally, the people appeared to be very respectful, diligent, contented,

and nice to visitors. The Leadership appeared unique and impeccable in terms of citizens abiding by the law. The sudden death of the President, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed blew sad wind into our joyous moments and led to a mournful departure for participants.

The knowledge received from the Conference cannot be over-emphasized because I got a first-hand experience of what evidence-based research is all about. Making new contacts was awesome. Especially, my group for "Rein in the Brain" training was accommodative, alongside the trainer Cynthia Moreno Tuohy. Her lecture was interesting and a "food for thought" in pursuing peace in our relationships.

Abu Dhabi was, indeed, a good place to be, and an adventure to be repeated. I am, indeed, grateful for the opportunity given me to attend the Conference and I thank my sponsors immensely.

Attending the Global Forum for Youth Leaders on Substance Use Prevention was indeed a cutting-edge experience for an undergraduate student who is passionate about keeping our community healthy, productive and free from substance use, especially, the academia. I was privileged to meet sixty-six (66) delegates from different Countries, and we shared experiences, knowledge, and culture.

I pledged myself to share the knowledge I gathered, the experiences as well as the opportunities I harnessed, to a wider population of youth in Nigeria. We need to take charge of the responsibility to bring a generational shift in the drug demand reduction workforce in our nation.

The problem of substance use is a shared responsibility and must be treated as such. I look forward to more of such opportunities in this area in the future.



**Mukhtar Aliyu Usman**  
 (Special Assistant to ISSUP on Students' Affairs)

In continuation of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter bi-monthly webinar, two webinars were hosted, June 14th and July 26th, 2022, with Dr. Ndidi Mercy Ofole and Dr. Ehigiator Adayonfo as speakers respectively.



Dr. Ndidi Mercy Ofole

### Topic: Substance Use and Risky Sexual Behaviour: Targeting Adolescents in Nigeria

#### Highlights from the presentation

- understanding of the concepts of “Substance Use”, “Sexual behaviours” and “Adolescents”
- the connection between substance use and sexual behaviours
- appropriate strategies for reduction for this cohort.



### Topic: Beyond dependence: Alcohol-induced Disorders

#### Highlights from the presentation

- sensitization to the wide range of disorders that are related to alcohol use
- created awareness of how to make the diagnoses of alcohol related disorders
- learnt how to manage alcohol related disorders



Dr. Ehigiator Adayonfo

Presentations are available on this link  
<https://www.issup.net/national-chapters/issup-nigeria/knowledge-share>  
UP Coming Webinar  
September 2022  
Be on the lookout for details



## PHOTO SPLASH FROM ABU DHABI CONFERENCE



PHOTO SPLASH





PHOTO SPPLASH



PHOTO SPILASH



*We lost a very committed professional colleague*



*A Saint Goes Home*

AGED  
**62**  
YEARS

**PASTOR IJEOMA  
JULIAJANE CHIKEZIE** Ph.D

SURVIVED BY:  
HUSBAND, CHILDREN, GRAND CHILDREN,  
SIBLINGS AND RELATIONS



## **ISSUP NIGERIA NEWS**

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Annual Conference/General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 25th of October 2022

Venue: Chelsea Hotel, FCT Abuja

### **UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES**

1. **GISA Workplace Substance Use Prevention, Management and Policy Training**  
**Date:** 8th to 10th September 2022  
For participation call 07053486054 or visit [www.gisainitiative.org](http://www.gisainitiative.org) to register.
2. **The Shelter NGO UPC Core online training**  
**Date:** 6th, 8th, 9th, 13th, 15th, and 16th September 2022  
**Time:** 6pm-8.30pm
3. **The Shelter Universal Recovery Curriculum online training**  
**Date:** 5th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 17th September 2022  
**Time:** 6pm-8.30pm  
For participation call +234 808 136 8804, + 234 802 499 4368 or visit [www.theshelterngo.com](http://www.theshelterngo.com)
4. **Jos University Teaching Hospital UTC 1 and UTC 2 Training**  
**Date:** 19th to 23rd, September 2022  
**Venue:** Seminar Hall A' JUTH Permanent Site, Lamingo, Jos, Plateau State  
For registration call 08033419499, 08038671385 or 08039695047
5. **MEK Universal Recovery Curriculum (URC)**  
**Date:** 3rd to 8th October 2022  
**Venue:** LASUCOM Ikeja, Lagos  
For registration call 08094294288



### **ISSUP Nigeria Chapter**

Building a Multi disciplinary Network of Core and Allied Professionals

New members are welcome

### **Membership process**

Visit [www.issup.net](http://www.issup.net)

\* then go to membership

\* click on Apply Now or Apply Today and follow the procedure.

For further inquiries or how to join ISSUP Nigeria, reach us on:

+234 706 221 9274

+234 812 937 8557

Or send mail to: [ISSUPNigeria@gmail.com](mailto:ISSUPNigeria@gmail.com)