

Report On the College of Management and Social Sciences Conference 2nd ICISD 2023

Introduction

Following the success of the International Conference on Innovation and Sustainable Development (ICISD) 2020 in November 2020, an ad-hoc committee was set up to organise a second version of the conference in January 2022. The committee was initially composed of 22 persons. I was invited to Chair the committee. The committee began to have meetings on issues such as the theme for the conference etc., Committees were set up according to the capacity of every member who was active then. All these happened with the intention that the best time to hold the conference would be in November of 2022.

Previous Assignments

However, some lingering issues were not completed by the previous committee of ICISD 2020. These activities needed to be concluded to draw credibility to the current one. The issue of certificates for conference presenters was the most important one. This was concluded by July 2022. The qualifying candidates for certificates were fully attended to. Some emails of participants that were not attended to which had drawn their ire were also dealt with during this period.

Changes in dates and Postponements

The committee had initially planned for November 2022 as far back as April. The commitment of members was low at the start and getting off the ground was difficult. Several full committee meetings were called and very few members attended. This dragged several issues before an apt theme could be arrived at by the general committee. The theme was put up on the WhatsApp platform of the general committee for about a month to form the proper Aims and Objectives of the ICISD conference. From this point thereabouts in September 2022, actions became noticeable. There were other several meetings to fine-tune the theme until the final one adopted by the Conference Committee (CC) was formed.

The calendar of the school was an important consideration in the setting of the dates of the conference as the academic calendar and known university activities were taken into consideration each time a date was arrived at. This was duly done and a date for November 23 - 25 2022 was initially set but the date could not hold for some fundamental changes in the academic calendar of the university that were unanticipated by the Committee. The imminent failure of the date set initially forced the committee to search for another date of March 16 to 18th 2023, taking into consideration this time the issue of elections. By this time, we have floated the flyer and obtained approval from the Vice Chancellor after the necessary checks have been done. Then the Federal Government suspended academic activities till after the general elections, ordering that schools should resume activities by the 18th of March 2023. To be compliant with the order of the Federal Government through the NUC and since Covenant University would send all students (including Postgraduate) home a new date was immediately arrived at for April 18 -20 2023. This time prayer was offered to ensure the dates do not have to change again.

Conference Opening

The CC searched for Speakers and Lead Paper presenters from the industry and the efforts brought about two Finance industry professionals who obliged to speak. They are Ms Chizor

Malize of the Financial Institutions Training Centre and Ms Bunmi Lawson the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the EdFin Microfinance bank (a specialised Microfinance Bank for Education in Nigeria). Their presentations and submissions are in the Programme (attached). The two speakers gave brilliant presentations on the topic they choose to treat. The Vice Chancellor opened the conference in the morning of the 19th with Ms Bunmi Lawson presenting on **Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Poverty Reduction and Post Covid-19 Technological Trends**. The paper presented on the 20th April by the Managing Director of Financial Institutions Training Centre Ms Chizor Malize was titled: **Innovation, Technological Advancement and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does finance play a significant role?**

The conference did not harvest as many papers as expected. The papers came in the last week to the conference. There were a total of 43 papers. There was apathy in the paper submission (probably because of cost). The disciplines of the submission are listed below: The papers were submitted by 33 authors. Table 1 shows other details about the submissions.

Table 1 Distribution of Submissions

Disciplines	No	Context	No	Authors	No	Tracks	No
Economics	5	External	10	Lecturers	18	1	14
Business Management	4	Internal	37	Students	25	2	14
Entrepreneurship	8					3	13
Education	2						
Human Resources	3						
Finance	12						
Accounting	5						
Geography	2						
Others	2						
Total	43		43		43		43

Programme of Activities

The programme setting was initially three days but had to be reduced to two to allow for the Senate of the university that was set to meet on the closing date. Activities were also reduced on the last date to close the conference by 1.30 to allow the Professors in the college to attend the Senate meeting billed to hold later that day. The full programme of activities is attached.

As the dates of the conference got closer, a number of the faculty made themselves available for extra assignments from the CC. The list of the active committee members of the CC is at the back of the Programme of events attached.

Finance

An initial budget of ₦380,000.00 was planned and submitted for approval at the application stage. The budgets suffered some virement due to escalating costs and the need to encourage members to attend meetings. The final position of the budget is below. The feeding was on the conference days and two previous meetings of the many that the CC had. The expenses incurred and revenue status of the conference is as shown in Table 2

Table 2 Financial Summary

Particulars	Expenses (₦)	Revenue(₦)
Payment for Conference		300,000
Subvention and Support		100,000
Feeding	188,600	
Media and Publications	25,000	
Banners	15,000	
Plaques	15,000	
Review Expenses	60,000	
Bank Charges and Costs	6,075	
Total	309675.00	-309,675.00
Net		90,325

Publication Matters

Drawing from the experience of the previous conference on publication issues, the CC scouted for Scopus journals to host special issues for the papers. The journal found only one in the Q4 category. This journal is closed access. Some of the conditions are onerous. Just yesterday, a Q2 journal accepted the offer to publish the papers in an issue without naming issue as Special Issue. The qualifying papers would be presented to them after due review and improvement in quality, which is currently ongoing. More than fifteen selected papers are undergoing this process currently.

Post-Conference Activities

The participant that paid for the conference has been singled out to receive certificates of presentation and participation. The certificates are to be dispatched this weekend. The email account of the ICISD will be monitored to receive complaints if there are any and issues with any for timely and adequate responses from either participants or intending participant

Appreciation

The Committee members and particularly the chair would like to appreciate the Dean of the College for the enormous responsibility bestowed on it to organise the 2nd ICISD especially the Covenant University Management for approving the dates and allowing the organs of the university to cooperate with the CC. It is also important to place on record the support obtained from the units like the CSIS, PPD and CUCRID for the various roles each played in the success of the conference. We express this to all that came and submitted papers and those that participated mainly online. And most important, is our uncommon thanksgiving to God for all things.

Prof Kehinde A. Adetiloye
Chair, ICISD 2023