10TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

(Organized by the LivingScience Foundation, Ile-Ife CAC/IT/91834)

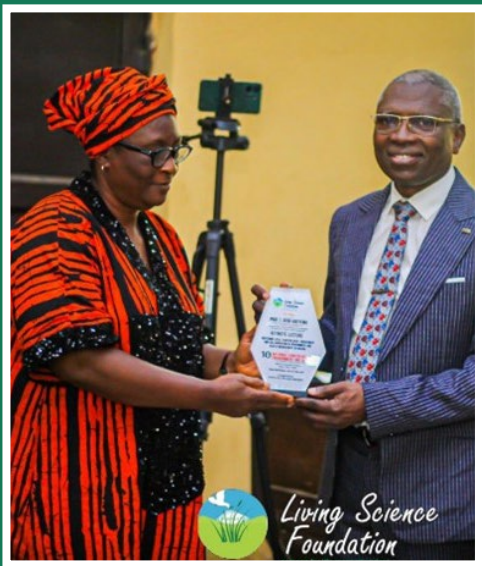
Venue: University of Ilesa, Ilesa, Osun State

15 – 16 October, 2025

Theme:

FOSTERING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA









COMMUNIQUE

1. Preamble

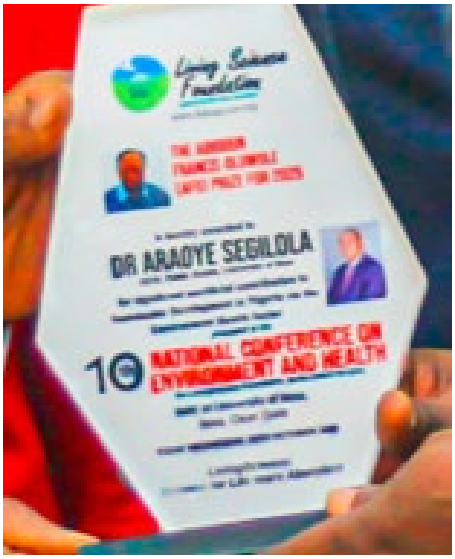
The tenth annual National Conference on Environment and Health held Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th October, 2025 at the University of Ilesa, Ilesa, Osun State. Day 1 event held at the Basic Medical Sciences Hall, while the event for Day 2 held at the Faculty of Sciences Lecture Theatres Complex. The Conference was convened by the LivingScience Foundation Ile-Ife, in conjunction with a number of strategic partners. About seventy Institutions from across Nigeria and overseas were represented in discussing the theme: *FOSTERING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA*.

The Conference was declared open by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilesa, Prof **Taiwo Asaolu** (FCA, PhD) who was represented by the Director of the University's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre, Dr **Oladiipo Folorunso**. The opening session was chaired by Rt Rev. Prof **Dapo Asaju,** Bishop of the Diocese of Ilesa, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), and former Vice Chancellor, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State. Other distinguished Guests at the opening session were: **Oba Julius Oluropo Fatanmi.** Kabiyesi Olura of Ira-Ikeji; Hon. Justice **Lawrence O. Arojo,** Osun State High Court of Justice, Osogbo; Prof **Innocent Bariate Barikor,** Director General/CEO, NESREA, Abuja (represented by Mr **Kehinde Aliu**, the Osun State Coordinator for NESREA), Prof **Abel Oyebamiji**, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, University of Ilesa, Ilesa; and Rev **Bode Oluwusi**, Chairman of the Board of Advisers of the LivingScience Foundation. Pastor **Ezekiel Odeyemi** (FIoL, FRSA, FNIM), Chairman of LivingScience Foundation's Board of Trustees, addressed the Conference virtually via Zoom. A total of two hundred and thirty (230) participants / guests signed the attendance register at the confrence.

The Keynote Lecture was delivered by Prof **Z. Debo Adeyewa**, distinguished Professor of Satellite Meteorology and Environmental Sustainability at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, and former Chairman, Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities. He was complemented by five Lead Speakers who addressed key sub-themes of the Conference. These included:

Mr **Adeleke Ajani**. Retired Zonal Director, South West NESREA, Ibadan;
Dr **Wada Aliyu**, FHRIM, FQIIN, FIMC, CMC, Department of Health Information Management, National Hospital, Abuja;
Sanitarian (Dr) **Adekemi Agnes Oni**, Senior Lecturer at the Environmental Health Officer Tutors Course, University College Hospital, Ibadan;
Dr **Adekunle Gregory Fakunle**. Head, Department of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria; and
Engr (Dr) **Oluwasesan Joshua**. Chief Technical Officer, SEEMS Ltd, Ikeja, Nigeria

The technical business was conducted in three plenary and two parallel sessions over the two days. The sessions were chaired by San (Dr) **Tope Akinwunmi**, South West President of the Environmental Health Officers Association of Nigeria (EHOAN) and Lecturer at Atiba University, Oyo; Mr **Kehinde Aliu**, Osun State Coordinator of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Dr **Maza Danjuma**, Associate Professor at the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; and Dr **Oluwatoyin Ikuteyijo**, Member of LivingScience Foundation's Board of Advisers, and Lecturer at the Department of Public Health, Osun State University, Osogbo.



Activities at the Conference also included a Quiz Competition featuring seven High Schools from Ilesa and its environs. Also, the 7th edition of the **A.F Oluwole** Prize, recognizing significant sacrificial contributions to Sustainable Development in Nigeria via the Environment-Health sector was awarded to Dr. **Araoye Segilola**, an accomplished Environmental Epidemiologist and Public Health expert.

2. Key Observations and Recommendations

Conference recalled the "Think Global, Act Local" dictum of Environmental Management, and urged that while Nigeria must diligently follow global developments, our response and actions must be locally determined. Conference noted that many concepts which are sound in principle when enunciated from a global platform, will nevertheless require careful, holistic evaluation and moderation, before they can be meaningfully domesticated and implemented locally.

Seven specific Key Results Areas (KRAs) considered to be of significant importance in contemporary Nigeria and Conference Recommendations on them, are summarized below.

1. Vaccination Should be Indigenized and it Should Only Serve As Complement to Environmental Sanitation in Nigeria's Quest for Optimal Public Health

Conference noted that while Vaccination represents an ingenious scheme for secondary prevention of infectious diseases, Environmental Sanitation provides a straight-forward primary prevention of same. Conference held that better public health outcomes would result, especially in Nigeria's low-income setting, if only a sizable fraction of the resources expended on mass vaccination were deployed into environmental sanitation.

Furthermore, Conference considered it appalling that local capacity for vaccine production in Nigeria was sabotaged and frustrated by foreign interests in 1991 after 50 years of prior smooth operation. This has now led to the current situation where vaccine products which are outrightly proscribed in the first world countries, are being shipped down for use in Nigeria, citing so-called benefits-costs constraints. An example of these is the use of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in Nigeria which the World Health Assembly had condemned and recommended for global phase-out in May 2012. Countries shipping OPV into Nigeria are known to use Inactivated Polio Vaccines (IPV) instead, with the OPV outrightly proscribed. Another example of this outrageous and deadly situation, is the continued use of mercury-containing vaccines in Nigeria. These products, (employing thimerosal as preservative in multidose formats) have been fully proscribed in Europe for over three decades, and partially in the US since 2001. In the US, the few remaining products that were being used alongside mercury-free versions, were totally banned on July 22 this year.

The impact of this situation on public health in Nigeria is staggering and can hardly be over-emphasized. Conference called for an urgent restoration of Nigeria's vaccine production capacity, and an immediate end to the use of products which are condemned by global health authorities and proscribed everywhere in the developed nations.

2. There is Urgent Need to Embrace Sustainability in Nigeria's Burgeoning Mining And Extractive Operations.

Conference noted that solid minerals mining and oil extraction have long powered Nigeria's economy, creating jobs and revenue. However, they also leave behind serious problems such as polluted water bodies, degraded farmlands, unsafe air, and associated health risks that fall most heavily on the communities living closest to the operations.

Conference deliberated extensively on how Nigeria can strike a balance between socio-economic growth and environmental health in its extractive industries. It drew on examples like lead poisoning in Zamfara, oil spills and gas flaring in the Niger Delta, and abandoned tin mines in Jos Plateau to review the human and ecological costs of poorly managed resource extraction. Conference further noted from lessons from other countries, including Botswana and Chile, that mining can be both profitable and sustainable when guided by strong policies and accountability.

As pathway to equitable and sustainable exploitation of Nigeria's natural resources, Conference therefore advocated for deepened community involvement, local-driven research by the academia, Corporate Social Responsibility

from industry, and improved security architecture by government to safeguard regulators in view of unrelenting aggression by unscrupulous (and often foreign-sponsored) industry players.

3. Closer Collaborations Among Key Stakeholders is Needed to Curb the Perennial Flooding and Associated Hazards to Human :ives, Properties, and the Ecosystem in Nigeria

Conference noted that flooding remains one of Nigeria's most devastating natural hazards, causing loss of lives and properties, as well as having significant consequences for biodiversity, sanitation, and public health. Conference identified three tiers of factors responsible for the perennial flooding incidences in Nigeria. These are natural factors (like rainfall, storm surges, and climate variability); human activities such as deforestation and poor land use; and inadequate government regulations and ineffective policies.

Conference highlighted the importance of local stakeholder engagement in managing the risks and opportunities of flooding for both biodiversity and public health. It noted that effective collaboration between government agencies, researchers, and local communities can help in the design of sustainable strategies that balance ecosystem resilience with improved sanitation and health outcomes.

4. Nigeria's Food Sovereignty is Seriously Threatened by Emerging Pesticide Resistance, And Ongoing Aggressive Introduction of GMOs into Staple Foods

Conference noted that pesticide resistance has emerged as one of the most pressing, yet underrecognized environmental and public health threats of the 21st century. This has far-reaching implications for food security, ecosystem stability, and disease control, particularly in Nigeria, It further noted that pesticide resistance constitutes a cross-sectoral crisis, undermining pest and vector management systems, increasing chemical dependence, and intensifying risks to human and ecological health. Key drivers of pesticide resistance identified at the Conference included indiscriminate application, sub-lethal dosages, proliferation of counterfeit products, monocropping, climate variability, and weak regulatory enforcement.

Conference concluded that pesticide resistance in Nigeria is a converging crisis threatening decades of progress in food security, disease control, and sustainable development. It urgently advocated for a paradigm shift from chemical dependency toward Integrated Pest and Vector Management.

On Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) in Food, Conference noted that even if there were debates on benefits, and on adverse environment and health impacts of these products, there certainly are no such debates on their implication on food sovereignty. This is because farmers must need revert to the multinational seed companies to obtain seed for planting every farming season! Conference considered this absolutely unacceptable, and should be sufficient reason for Nigeria to stay-off these products. It therefore strongly called for immediate halt to the further deployment of GMOs into our foods system, in particular our staples such as maize and beans.

5. There is Need to Embrace the Use of Locally-designed Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to Enhance Public Health in Nigeria.

Conference noted that EHRs give timely and accurate access to data, and render them amenable to big data and AI analyses. This offers a unique opportunity to radically transform disease surveillance and appropriate interventions. Conference further noted that data is king, and in Environmental Health, it could facilitate discernment of critical patterns, implementation of Environment-Wide Association research., and even effective management of Health Insurance and similar databases. These could help in arriving at sound evidence-based decisions that can drive primary prevention of diseases.

Conference noted however, that models currently available in Nigeria are mostly disconnected donor-funded pilots, which though quite successful in high-income countries, are not directly applicable to low and medium-income countries such as Nigeria, due to lack of required infrastructure, funding, and technical capacity. They therefore often could not support interoperable systems among several institutions, and they soon fold up after the donor funds dry up.

Conference therefore urged the Association of Health Records and Information Management Practitioners of Ni-

geria (AHRIMPN) not to relent in its ongoing efforts, through advocacy and stakeholders' engagement, to mobilize required sustainable funding and robust governance required to bring more tertiary health institutions aboard in incorporating EHRs into their operations.

6. Reliable Air Pollution Data Are Largely Unavailable in Nigeria, Posing Severe Challenges to Effective Policy Interventions.

Conference observed that despite well-established adverse health impacts of air pollution, air quality monitoring in Nigeria is currently fragmented and inadequately integrated into health and environmental issues. Conference noted that remedying this situation would require establishment of low-cost quality-assured air monitoring networks; cohort and time-series studies with standardized exposure metrics; integrated exposure–health surveillance; and Policy measures that integrate emissions control, assess to cleaner household energy, urban planning, and effective risk communication.

Conference enthusiastically examined, as an example of fostered collaborations among key stakeholders, the recently commissioned AF Oluwole Air Quality Monitoring Station at Lagos. It noted that the Station emerged from well-coordinated collaborations involving indigenous industry players from Nigeria and China, (SEEMS Nigeria Limited, and ZATA, China), Agencies of the Ministries of Environment and of Health at Federal and State levels, together with the academia from several Nigerian Universities and China. Conference was pleased to note that the resulting new product, customized for Nigerian needs, promises to deliver the long-sought solution to enable reliable continuous monitoring of air pollutants across Nigeria.

7. Ionizing and Non-Ionizing Radiation Can Quietly Deliver Severe Impacts to the Masses and Must Needs be Aggressively Monitored and Managed.

Conference noted that both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation constitute largely insensible environmental hazards that can provide chronic exposure to large populations. There is therefore the need for adequate enlightenment of the public on this hazard. Conference noted in particular the need to build local capacity in detecting and mapping hotspots of naturally-occurring radioactive materials (NORMS) in the environment; as well as that of microwave radiation associated with the telecommunication industry. The latter will permit better planning of mast location and enable clear delineation of Exclusion Zones identifying locations which are to be put to restricted use in order to safeguard public health.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Conference commended the LivingScience Foundation and all strategic partners who contributed to make the conference both a reality, and resounding success. It noted that only an independent, locally-sponsored gathering of stakeholders across a wide spectrum of the Environment Health field, that can muster the capacity and courage to address key issues objectively and in depth as has been done at the Conference.

Conference further noted the significant importance of locally-acquired and locally-owned data being used to replace theoretical models as basis for formulating environmental-health standards, and government policies.

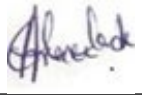
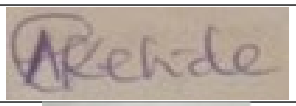
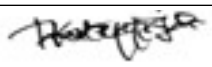
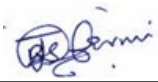
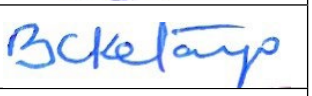
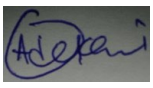
Conference considered it a serious anomaly that the health and general well-being of a nation like Nigeria would be outsourced to foreigners, and strategically tied to their apparent “generosities”. It called on local philanthropists to learn to invest their money into the health of their own kith and kin.

The request of the Osun State University, Osogbo to host the 11th edition of the National Conference on Environment and Health was unanimously accepted. The Conference is expected to come up mid-October, 2026.

Ilesa, October 30, 2025

Signatures

Signed by key sectoral stakeholders at the Conference

Adetomi ADENIYI (Ph.D) Coordinator, Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, University of Ilesa, Ilesa. Osun State	
Zachariah Debo ADEYEWA (Ph.D) Distinguished Professor of Satellite Meteorology and Environmental Sustainability, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State; and former Chairman, Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities	
Ismail Adeleke AJANI (M.Sc) Retired Director, NESREA Southwest Zone, Ibadan, Oyo State and Freelance Environmental Consultant and Strategist	
Grace O. AKINLADE (Ph.D) Coordinator, EnvironLab, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State	
Temitope AKINWUNMI, fwapceh (Ph.D) President, Environmental Health Officers Association of Nigeria (EHOAN), South West Nigeria; and Lecturer, Atiba University, Oyo, Oyo State	
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Adeniyi OGINNI (MB.BCh, MPH, Ph.D) Retired Pioneering Executive Secretary/CEO, Osun Health Insurance Agency, Osogbo; Lecturer, Dept of Public Health, Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State	
Joshua O. OJO (Ph.D) Professor of Health Physics and Environment, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; and President, LivingScience Foundation, Ile-Ife, Osun State	
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Please download the Book of Abstracts, Conference Presentations, and other resources from the Conference Website: http://conferences.lsfnigeria.org

APPENDIX - SOME INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED AT THE 10TH NCEH

List of Participating Institutions.

Universities and Tertiary Institutions

- ★ Nasarawa State University
- ★ University of Medical Science, Ondo City, Ondo State
- ★ Osun State University
- ★ University of Ilesa
- ★ University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- ★ Adeleke University
- ★ Obafemi Awolowo University
- ★ Aspen University, USA
- ★ Clemson University, USA
- ★ Seoul National University, Korea
- ★ Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
- ★ Kwara State University
- ★ Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila-Orogun
- ★ Atiba University,Oyo
- ★ Redeemer's University, Ede
- ★ Lancaster University, United Kingdom
- ★ Fountain University
- ★ Federal University of Technology
- ★ University of Ibadan
- ★ Lead City University
- ★ Ajayi Crowther University
- ★ Mountain Top University
- ★ Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology
- ★ University of Delta Agbor
- ★ Federal University of Technology, Akure
- ★ Federal University, Oye-Ekiti
- ★ Osun State College of Technology
- ★ College of Medicine, University of Ibadan,

Secondary Schools

- ★ Betgad Group of Schools
- ★ Potter and Clay Schools
- ★ Ogedengbe School of Science
- ★ Ilesa Grammar School
- ★ Obokun High School
- ★ St. Margaret Girls Grammar School
- ★ St. Anthony's Catholic High School
- ★ Redeemer's College
- ★ Reality High School
- ★ Arimoro High School
- ★ Bibo Oluwa Academ

V. PHOTO GALLERY



Guest Speaker, Mr Ismail Adeleke Ajani – presenting



Participant Presenting (Parallel Session , Day 2)



Hon. Justice Orojo presenting Plaque to guest speaker, Dr Agnes Oni



Hon. Justice Orojo presenting Plaque to guest speaker, Dr Gregory Fakunle



Keynote Speaker: Prof Z. Debo Adeyewa



Rendering the National Anthem

V. PHOTO GALLERY



Dr Oluwasesan Joshua (Presenting virtually)



Presentation of the A.F. Oluwole Prize 2025



Cross Section of Participants



Cross Section of Participants



Press Corp briefing



Registration Desk