

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 33RD ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONFERENCE/SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (NISLT) TAGGED NSUKKA 2017**

The Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) in collaboration with the Association of Science Laboratory Technology of Nigeria (ASLTON) held its 33rd Annual National Conference/Scientific Workshop organized in fulfillment of the mandate of the profession. The main theme of the Conference tagged “**Economic Diversification through Science Laboratory Entrepreneurship Dynamics**”. The Conference drew participants from educational institutions, Research institutes, and industries all over the country. During the Conference forty-five (45) scientific research papers were presented during the scientific sessions in different subject areas of Science and Technology.

The body wishes to commend the Federal Government for the stable security situation in of the country especially North East and the Niger Delta region. We also joined other well-meaning Nigerians to pray for the health of Mr. President as he continues the good work of rescuing the country. However, we recognised the efforts of the Enugu State Government and the Management of University of Nigeria Nsukka for providing an enabling environment for the hosting of the conference at Nsukka.

However, the participants observed the following:

1. Some organisations/employers engage personnel not trained, registered and licensed as Science Laboratory Technologists, thereby encouraging quackery in science laboratory profession across the country;
2. There is paucity of funds to procure necessary laboratory equipment and infrastructure which affects scientific research and technological development in the country;
3. Participants also observed that lack of training and re-training of science laboratory technologists as well as unemployment of adequate personnel in science laboratory specialties is grossly impacting negatively on the growth and development of Science and Technology in the country;
4. Our trained, registered and licensed personnel (Laboratory technologists) are not included in the policy making levels in the organisation where they are employed;
5. Science and Technology as a sector has not been fully explored as an avenue for economic diversifications;
6. There are insufficient laboratories in various institutions;



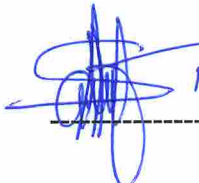
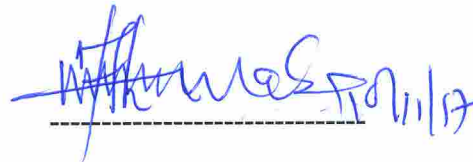
7. It was also observed that trained, registered and licensed science laboratory technologists are not being engaged in supply, production of reagents as well as regulation of import and export that will positively improve the Nigerian economy;
8. The National Council of Science and Technology (NCST) meetings resolutions of 2015 and 2016 on prototype of Model Science Laboratory and employment of registered technologists/scientists have not been implemented;
9. It was observed that some States of the Federation are either paying half or no salary to science laboratory technologists and other categories of workers in their States which is drastically affecting efficiency and productivity of the workforce;
10. We observed that some of the items contained in the Act 12 of 2003 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria establishing the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) have been overtaken by events.

Recommendations:

1. Organisations should employ only trained, registered and licensed science laboratory technologists/scientists in their laboratories;
2. There should be adequate budgetary provision and release of funds for the supply of equipment and other infrastructural development;
3. For better growth and development in science laboratory practice, regular training and re-training of science laboratory technologists and prompt employment/replacement of science laboratory manpower should be adhered to;
4. There should be inclusion of science laboratory technologists at policy and decision making levels in educational institutions, Research institutes, industries and other MDAs where they are engaged;
5. Government should encourage diversification through commercialization of research and development products from the science laboratory;
6. There should be adequate and well equipped laboratories in educational institutions, Research institutes, and other MDAs where laboratory services are required;

7. Government should encourage human capacity development through investment and standardization in which production, supply, importation and exportation of science laboratory products will improve the Nigerian economy;
8. The Council resolutions of 2015 and 2016 at the National Council of Science and Technology (NCST) meetings on prototype of Model Science Laboratories and employment of registered technologists/ scientists should be urgently implemented;
9. To enhance productivity, efficiency, and boost morale of the workforce, salaries should be paid fully as at when due;
10. Government should facilitate the amendment of the Act 12 of 2003 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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