

Opening Address Delivered by Mrs. C. U. Gayya, mni, 1st Vice President, West African Management Development Institutes Network (WAMDEVIN) and Director-General, Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) at the Opening Ceremony of the Train-The-Trainers' Course Organised by WAMDEVIN for staff of WAMDEVIN MDIs in the West African Sub-region held at ASCON, Topo – Badagry on 21st May – 1st June, 2018

The Executive Secretary
WAMDEVIN, Dr. S. K. Olowe

Directors of ASCON here

Distinguished Resource Persons

Management and staff of ASCON

Our Esteemed Course Participants

Invited Guests

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure and a heart of gratitude to the Most High God, that I, on behalf of the President, West African Management Development Institutes Network (WAMDEVIN), Hon. Bill Twehway of Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA), and the entire Executive Committee of the Network welcome you all to this occasion marking the opening of a two-week Train-The-Trainers' course organised by WAMDEVIN for staff of the West African Management Development and Training Institutions.

I am delighted to welcome and thank all our distinguished facilitators especially Dr. (Mrs.) A. O. Fagbemi and Mrs. B. F. Akinyemi who accepted to facilitate on this programme. We appreciate your presence here.

On behalf of the WAMDEVIN EXCO, I congratulate the Executive Secretary, Dr. S. K. Olowe for putting together this edition of the TTT at a time when financial resources of members of the institutes are very lean. Thank you for working tirelessly to meet this great need of the West African MDIs at this time when donor funding is no longer readily available.

For us in ASCON, we are highly honoured to host the programme which affords us the opportunity to meet our colleagues from other countries like Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and The Gambia.

I also wish to seize this opportunity to welcome our colleagues from the MDIs within and outside Nigeria to this course. This programme should open up the forum for more collaboration, cooperation and partnership among the various MDIs for each member institute to derive the benefit of networking. The MDIs have a responsibility for quality assurance in Human Capacity Building through Training, Research and Consultancy in various countries. We owe West African Governments this much and we need to work collaboratively with one another in order to effectively perform our duties to governments and citizens across the region. It is when all MDIs perform and make very meaningful contribution to governance that we can collectively justify our existence and our relevance.

The course was designed to equip faculty staff of MDIs with the basic knowledge, skills and attitude which will assist them in discharging their responsibilities satisfactorily.

Specifically, at the end of the course, participants should be able to:

- (i) analyze organizational and individual training needs;
- (ii) prepare suitable training proposals based on request or perceived needs of clients;
- (iii) design and implement training programmes;
- (iv) evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of training programmes; and
- (v) apply modern training technology.

The objectives of this programme as stated are laudable, but they may not be achieved if the participants do not apply themselves diligently to the programme. I therefore wish to appeal to you all to endeavour to reciprocate the good gestures of your organisations by giving nothing but the best in order to obtain value for money from the Course and subsequently improve your performance on the job.

Given the caliber of participants, duration of the programme and what is expected of you, I am confident that you all are up to the task and will make a success of the programme. I assure you of the best from the seasoned facilitators lined up for the programme. Despite the tight schedule of the course, I will like to request that you find time to explore our serene environment and visit our sports centre for in-door and out-door games.

The Executive Secretary, WAMDEVIN, Resource Persons, Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, as I welcome the delegates, I will like to express, once again, the gratitude of ASCON to the President of WAMDEVIN for holding the course in ASCON.

At this juncture, as I wish all our delegates very fruitful and rewarding sessions, I hereby wish to declare the course open to the glory of God and benefit of all mankind.

Thank you.

**Office of the Director-General,
Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON)
and 1st Vice President, West African Management
Development Institutes Network (WAMDEVIN).**

21st May, 2018