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IPA REGIONAL SEMINAR IN NIGERIA

🕒 June 5, 2018

With a focus on the sustainable development of publishing in Africa, the IPA held its first ever African Regional Seminar in Lagos, Nigeria on 9 May. With speakers and guests from across the continent, the seminar was a huge success.

Over 180 delegates came to the seminar which was opened by Gbadega Adedapo, President of the Nigerian Publishers Association and member of the IPA's Executive Committee. He encouraged the industry to shout louder and louder, estimating its annual turnover at around one billion US dollars. He called on participants to use the seminar as a catalyst for a Lagos Action Plan 2018 to help carry the African publishing industry forward.

IPA President, Dr Michiel Kolman, used his opening remarks to underline the connected nature of the publishing industry in a globalised world, telling the audience 'almost none of our challenges exist in isolation. We can all learn from each other. The challenges faced in Nigeria today may be those faced somewhere else tomorrow. And the solutions in one government may inspire another.' He also warned against African governments being used as proxies in the industry's companies' efforts to undermine copyright.

The seminar then moved on to 6 panels covering the following topics:

1. Publishing in the 21st Century: the Socio-economic Contribution of the Publishing Industry in Africa;



2. Strengthening Educational Publishing in Africa
3. Bringing the Voice of African Writers, Publishers and Creators to the World;
4. The Role of Technology in Overcoming Illiteracy and Promoting a Reading Culture;
5. Addressing Freedom to Publish Challenges
6. Enhancing Enforcement of Copyright and Intellectual Property (IP) Laws.

IPA was delighted to welcome 2007 Prix Voix d'Afrique laureate Trevor Ncube to the panel on freedom to publish. The panel also featured Kristenn Einarsson, Chair of the IF

Freedom to Publish Committee. The Zimbabwean publisher said the award had protected him and raised his profile, giving him a platform to voice his views in a way that governments took notice.

Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, President of the Emirates Publishers Association and a member of the IPA's Executive Committee, drew proceedings to a close by underlining the importance of strong local publishing industries both culturally and economically. She also announced that the Kenyan Publishers Association had offered to host the next IPA seminar for sustainable development of Africa next year in Nairobi.

You can get a feel for the atmosphere of the seminar in the report of the event [here](#) as well as the press statement from before and after the event. Olatoun Williams of Borders Literature Online also gives a detailed review [here](#).



Photos of the event are available [here](#).



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