



**UNIVERSITE SONOU D'AFRIQUE,
INSTITUT D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR SONOU D'AFRIQUE (IESSAF)**

(Institut Universitaire Privé Bilingue)

Autorisation N° 008/MESRS/CAB/DC/SGM/DPP/DEPES/SP du 05 Janvier 2011

Avakpa Tokpa Place Independance, 01 BP. 3950, Porto-Novo, Benin

**CONFERENCE ANNOUCEMENT
WEST AFRICA COMPARATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
(Porto-Novo 2012)
FINAL NOTIFICATION
*Call for Papers***

Background

The West Africa Research Conference is an initiative of Institut D'enseignement Supérieur Sonou D'afrique (IESSAF-Université), Porto-Novo, Republic of Benin. The conference is being proposed as an annual academic gathering defined geographically as "West Africa," but widespread in thematic scope with particular reference to issues that are of concern to the West African region in the global context. The conference wishes to establish a reputation as a center for comparative interdisciplinary research in Linguistics, Languages, Literatures, Communication, Education, History, Politics, Trade and Commerce, etc central to the West African region.

The Comparative Research Conference initiative is inclusive of a biannual journal *West Africa Journal of Comparative Research* (WAJCR). Participants are encouraged to submit their papers for publication consideration.

For decades, the artificial and colonial categorization of Francophone Vs Anglophone West Africa discourses seem to have been accepted as a factor of identity in the region. This acceptance continues to create artificial gulf in the region, blurring the integrative processes that have been going on long after the physical exit of colonial Europe. Although the region is not a homogeneous society, the people and governments of the region have continued to absorb one another, imbibing in different ways the linguistic, socio-cultural and regional characters of one another, exchanging and sharing endowments and pains of conflicts much more than ever before.

In order to discuss ways in which this artificial categorization is being ruptured and identify its influencing factors and emerging character of integrating West Africa, in its debut, this conference will address a range of critically important linguistic, literary, educational and technological themes that are centrally "West Africa," but without limitation in thematic spread.

Conference Themes

The conference themes are meant to be understood broadly from a comparative perspective, ranging from the empirical to the theoretical, encompassing the following themes:

Languages: Yoruba, French and English

- Languages in contact.
- Linguistic diversity and influences.
- Attitudes and Sensibilities to indigenous Vs Non-indigenous languages in the region.
- Varieties of Yoruba: Nigeria/Benin Republic.
- Indigenous languages in contact.
- The choice of a Lingua Franca for the region possible?
- Spread and use of Yoruba in the region.
- French and English indigenization in the region.

- Functions of Yoruba/French and English in the region.
- Indigenous languages in the context of globalization.
- Universalization of access to basic education in the region.
- Current language policies in the region in the comparative context.
- Language Education in the region.
- ‘French’ Experience of ‘Anglophone’ French learners.
- Language and Meaning in West African Literature.
- ‘Foreign’ Vs Indigenous languages.
- Indigenous Languages Literatures.
- Globalizing West African Major Languages.
- Regionalism and Multilingualism.
- Languages of wider communication across the region.
- The state and status of indigenous languages in the region.
- History and literary traditions of the region.
- Cultural identities of the region in modern written literature.
- West African literature in Translation.
- Theater, film, Home Video in the region.
- ‘Nollywood’ : spread, influences and implications for the région.
- Community Theater- any tradition?
- Cultural Connectivity.
- Factors and Influences of Information Technology and Communication.

Conference Dates

July 15th (Sunday): Arrival.

July 16th (Mon)-17th (Tuesday): Conference Proper.

July 18th (Wed): Lome Excursion/Departure.

NOTE: Registration for excursion interest will be taken at the conference.

Conference Registration

Abstracts of not more than 250 words/full paper 5,000 words maximum in **Microsoft Word format** will be received at the following email addresses: portnovo2012@gmail.com (English/Yoruba), usafbenin@yahoo.com (French). Please create a title page; title of paper, name of the author(s) and affiliation: Department, University/Company/Organization and email address.

Presenters may choose to submit other papers to *West Africa Journal of Comparative Research* being proposed as a fully refereed academic journal (Details at the Conference).

NOTE: 1. Conference Paper abstract submission deadline: July **5th, 2012**

2. Full paper submission deadline: **July 10th, 2012.**

For Inquiries, Please Contact

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