

Tribute to Lupita Turner – Friend and Colleague

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There are various roles, positions and affiliations in which those of us who had the privilege to know Lupita Turner can place her. In whichever space she is placed, from any assumed perspective, Lupita's dedication, commitment to tasks, sociability, warmth, cheerfulness, good-natured attitude and positivity are highly likely to feature in the list of characteristics. It is indeed an honour for me to write this tribute to Lupita.

Over the decades, Lupita and her husband Professor David Turner participated in numerous education conferences, including the annual Knowledge, Innovation and Enterprise (KIE) and International Society of Comparative Education, Science and Technology (ISCEST) conferences. It was at a KIE conference that I first met Lupita. Her cordiality and graciousness were immediately perceptible. After this first meeting, our encounters at subsequent conferences grew into a professional, yet sister-like friendship. Lupita was as committed to sharing knowledge as much as she was to acquiring it. This was quite evident in her role as Secretary General of the World Education Fellowship (WEF). Professor James Ogunleye, a member of the WEF International Guiding Committee, gives credence to this sentiment by noting:

Lupita was a pillar of strength and commitment within the WEF International, tirelessly contributing to the success and functioning of the WEF. Her unwavering dedication to the work and activities of the WEF has left an indelible mark, and her absence will be profoundly felt by colleagues, members, and me personally, who I knew and worked with so very closely.

Even more telling, is the announcement made by Editor Professor Ogunleye to honour the departed Secretary General by producing a special issue of *the New Era in Education*, which is the official journal of WEF. For this special issue, colleagues and friends are invited to share their cherished memories and anecdotes of their experiences with Lupita Turner.

ISCEST's Founding President, Professor Steve Azaiki OON, echoes similar warm sentiments on behalf of the ISCEST Family. He recalls Lupita's dedication to promoting lifelong learning for all peoples:

We in Nigeria will forever remember Lupita's participation and contribution to the establishment of ISCEST Nigeria. I particularly recall her participation in ISCEST's inaugural conference held in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, from 07 – 11 December 2014. Using her knowledge as an educational consultant, Lupita helped us to streamline our curriculum at the Institute of Science & Technology, Yenagoa. ISCEST appreciates her assistance in helping us to establish Current Studies in Comparative Education, Science and Technology (CSCEST), the official journal of ISCEST.

Professor Azaiki's observation and thoughtful words about the relationship that Lupita had developed with ISCEST can be endorsed by many senior members of ISCEST. She was transformational in her approach to education and had some forward-looking ideas about what education should look like. I admire her original ideas and

creative spirit. The society will preserve Lupita's memory by imitating the dedicated spirit she showed for educational development and life-long learning.

Professor Turner tells about the huge efforts that Lupita made to be with her family last Christmas, despite some unfavourable circumstances. This clearly shows a strong devotion to family. Lupita is missed by so many colleagues and friends. She will always be remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing her, in whatever capacity. I express this privilege in this Haiku:

Paying a tribute
For a dear friend and colleague
Lupita Turner

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