

Editorial

Honouring the Legacy of Mrs Lupita Turner

The passing of Mrs Lupita Turner, the esteemed Secretary General of the World Education Fellowship (WEF), on 7th January 2024, marked the end of an era for WEF and the broader educational community. As the tributes in this issue of *New Era in Education* illustrate, her impact was profound, her leadership exemplary, and her dedication to progressive education unwavering. Her absence continues to be deeply felt, yet her legacy remains an enduring beacon of inspiration.

Mrs Turner was more than an administrator—she was the heart and soul of WEF International. Through her tireless work and visionary leadership, she championed the values of education as a force for social transformation. She believed in the power of learning to bridge divides, uplift communities, and shape a better world. Under her stewardship, WEF expanded its reach, welcoming new sections such as Botswana WEF in 2022. She also played a critical role in preserving WEF's intellectual heritage by spearheading the digitisation of *New Era in Education*, ensuring that nearly a century of educational thought remains accessible to future generations.

Her influence extended far beyond the organisational sphere. As Hiroyuki Sakuma, President of the WEF Japan Section, recalls, Mrs Turner embodied the spirit of fellowship, welcoming participants at conferences, fostering connections, and tirelessly advocating for the mission of WEF. She and her husband, Professor David Turner, nurtured strong relationships with WEF sections worldwide, including Japan, where they were warmly regarded as part of the community. Her reflections on WEF's history during its centenary celebrations in 2021 were a testament to her deep commitment to the ideals set forth by WEF founder Beatrice Ensor—a commitment to education as a pathway to peace and progress.

In Nigeria, Mrs Turner's impact was equally profound. As Professor Steve Azaiki, Founding President of the International Society of Comparative Education, Science & Technology (ISCEST) Nigeria, notes, she along with her husband, Professor Turner, played a pivotal role in birthing, supporting and nurturing ISCEST Nigeria. At the inaugural ISCEST conference in 2014, she chaired a special WEF panel, reinforcing the connections between global and African educational initiatives. She was a true internationalist, believing that education should transcend geographical and cultural boundaries.

Lupita Turner's passing leaves a void that cannot be easily filled, but her work, her ideals, and her unwavering belief in education's transformative power continue to inspire those she mentored and collaborated with. Her memory is woven into the very fabric of WEF, and her contributions will guide its future direction. As we mourn her loss, we also celebrate the extraordinary legacy she leaves behind—a legacy that calls upon all of us to continue the work of fostering a world where education serves as a force for unity, progress, and peace.

Adieu, dear Lupita. Your light continues to shine.

Ogunleye, J.