

# **REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RADIOGRAPHERS AND RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (ISRRT) CONFERENCE HELD AT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN APRIL, 2018**

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I would like to start by thanking the ISRRT conference organisers for the opportunity given to attend one of the world famous congresses for Radiographers. The ISSRT conference is one of the most educational meetings I ever attended. My experience starts from the day I received an email notification of the travel grant award. I received the message as shocking and surprising as I never thought of it. Partly because of the number of applicants that might have applied for it. Even though, I had no idea.

## **VISA EXPERIENCE**

### **Trinidad Consulate**

It may interest to you to know how I cross the visa hurdles. Meeting the visa requirements was my first encounter as we were expected to deposit certain amount equivalent to the returned ticket from Nigeria to Trinidad. However, with intervention of our national society that was waved. The second encounter, was locating the address for the consulate as not too many people knew where exactly the building is located. I spent quite a long time searching for the place, but eventually I got it. Interestingly, the visa became ready barely 24hours after submitting the application.

### **US Embassy**

The experience at the US embassy was a different one. First of all was meeting the visa requirements. Secondly, the number of applicants booked for submission at the venue, where out of about 50 applicants, I was the only person that was granted entry visa, the remaining applicants were denied.

## **THE JOURNEY TO TRINIDAD**

The journey to Trinidad was amazing one. My connecting flights were terrible. I had four connecting flights with transit time between 1 to 12 hours in all the airports. This was same for the returned journey. However, the entire journey was adventurous as we had to pass through many interesting places.

## **EXPERIENCE AT TRINIDAD**

At the beginning, my expectation about Trinidad was low as it's a small country and with a very small population compared to a country like ours. However I was amazed with siren and organised environment I saw. The people are nice, friendly and accommodating.

## **THE ISRRT CONFERENCE**

The conference was great one as I had the opportunity to speak to international speakers whom I only see on publications. I was opportune to have had two presentations. The presentations have boosted my confidence. I met great speakers and scholars that I never dreamt of seeing in my career. Many of them, I only read their publications while some I heard about them from colleagues. Excellent papers were presented that are quite motivating and educative.

## **SHARING EXPERIENCE WITH COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS**

On returned back home after the conferences, there was departmental meeting where an opportunity was given for me to share my experience with colleagues. I shared with them about the excellent paper and poster presentations which cover all aspect of Radiography. After my presentation, possible areas of research that the department can focus on were identified. Opportunity to establish linkages that will promote cross interaction especially in the field of research, hand-on training, and short courses in different fields in Radiography were highlighted. Finally, staff were also encouraged to prepare and attend the next conference in the year 2020.

Being a lecturer in the school of Radiography in Nigeria, I organised an interactive class with the students in the final year and a set following them. We had a very fruitful discussion. Part of the discussion includes: encouraging the students to participate in radiography association with a view of promoting radiography practice. Encourage also to participate in conferences at both local and international levels. The students are informed about opportunities that exist in attendance conferences namely: promoting unity among colleagues, showcasing different research areas in radiography, discussion issues that affect Radiography profession and many more.

## **CONCLUSION**

The ISSRT conference is very educative, above all it promotes unity among colleagues from different part of the globe. My dream is to contribute in supporting colleagues especially from low in-come countries so that they can have the opportunity to participate in future ISRRT congresses. Finally, I look forward to a similar experience in future.

**Idris Garba**

**LONG LIVE ARN KANO**

**LONG LIVE ARN NIGERIA**

**LONG LIVE ISRRT**