

Workshop on NGOs' collaboration ends

NON-GOVERNMENTAL Organisations (NGO) in Nigeria over the weekend rose from a five-day workshop with an agreement for collaboration and networking among themselves.

The workshop organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Goethe Institut Lagos with the theme: "How To Run a NGO: Progressing Towards The Achievement of Organisational Goals" had resource persons from Nigeria and Germany brainstorming on acceptable ways of putting Nigeria NGOs on a better international footing.

Speaking at the workshop, an environmentalist and chairman of Nigerian Environmental Study and Action Team (NEST), Professor David Okali said networking was necessary among NGOs, since not one of them, no matter how well focused, had all the expertise to address all the multi-factor problems confronting it.

In a paper on "The Role and Functions of NGOs and their recent development in Nigeria," Prof. Okali regretted that, jealousy, protection of individual NGO's autonomy, unhealthy rivalry, incompatibility in styles of operation, heavy dependence on donors and insufficient trans-

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parency and accountability in network operations, leading to low level of mutual trust had made networking impossible, thereby impeding successful performance of NGOs' rules and functions in Nigeria.

He canvassed for a referral body like the Nigeria NGO Consultative Forum (NINCOF), where the sectoral apexes of NGOs could be embedded as well as formulating a code of ethics for Nigerian NGOs to improve their performance.

In her address, the director of Goethe Institut, Lagos, Renate Albetsen Marton urged participants to find a solution to the occasional friction between boards and executives of their NGOs especially on proposal writing.

She said that the duplication and the fragmentation of NGOs coupled with other problems that hinder their effective operations is not peculiar to Nigeria, hence, the invitation of resource persons from Germany to share with them and look for workable solutions to Nigerian NGO's problems.

Over 28 NGOs drawn from all parts of the country took part in the workshop.



• Recently, The Goethe Institute in Lagos, organised a workshop on how to run a non-governmental organisation. The event which appraised the activities of Nigerian NGOs under military rule also considered NGO's role in a democracy. Picture shows Dr. Thomas Jenisch, the visiting co-ordinator, addressing the workshop.

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