

# Formal Inauguration of GEIFON & 1<sup>st</sup> Public Lecture

GEIFON's inauguration and 1<sup>st</sup> Public lecture events were held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2006, at the University of Benin, Benin City. The [lecture](#) titled: “*Funding opportunities for higher education in Africa*” was delivered by Professor Noureini Tidjani-Serpos (Deputy Director-General, UNESCO, Paris). Participants at this public lecture included representatives of 12 Nigerian Universities (Federal, State and Private).

The chairman of the occasion was Brig. Gen. (Dr.) S.O. Ogbemudia (the 2-time former governor of Bendel/Edo State and founder of the University of Benin). Also present, were representatives of the State governor, Edo State Commissioner For Education and chief executives of other institutions of higher learning.

The ceremony included speeches/welcome addresses by Dr. S.O. Ogbemudia, Dr. Amos Adamu (Chairman, GEIFON's Board of Trustees and Professor A.B. Ebeigbe (GEIFON's Executive Secretary). The citation on the Guest Lecturer (Professor Noureini Tidjani-Serpos), was delivered by the Provost of the College of Education, Ekiadolor, Benin City (Professor Raymond Elaho) while Dr. (Mrs R.O. Olubor) gave the Vote of Thanks.

Following the inauguration and Public Lecture, the representatives of the Nigerian Universities present participated in an interactive session with the UNESCO official (Professor Tidjani-Serpos). A major outcome of this interaction is a resolution for the establishment of an academic network between GEIFON and participating institutions, for partnership with major international educational agencies; e.g. UNESCO. In this regard, GEIFON is currently working on proposals directed at two UNESCO programmes: (a) UNITWIN – aimed at establishing academic network between some selected Nigerian Universities, two USA-based Universities and UNESCO, for capacity building in Environmental Sciences (b) UNESCO CHAIR – to be located in a Nigerian University.

The interactive session also afforded an opportunity for GEIFON's Executive Director to acquaint participants with current activities of GEIFON: Professor Ebeigbe stressed that GEIFON is currently involved in facilitating a number of international educational projects involving Nigerian Institutions of Higher Learning and institutions in developed countries. Some of GEIFON's (rapidly-growing) institutional partners include: the University of Benin, Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Babcock University, Olabisi Onabanjo University and Delta State University. GEIFON is also particularly endowed with a vast number of International Advisers, consisting, mainly, of Nigerian experts in diaspora.

## Speeches:

1. [Welcome address by Executive Director, Professor A.B. Ebeigbe](#)
2. [Welcome address by Dr. Amos Adamu, Chairman, Board of Trustees, GEIFON](#)
3. [Public Lecture by Professor Noureini Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO](#)

#### 4. Photos at GEIFON's Inauguration and 1<sup>ST</sup> Public Lecture



Courtesy visit by Professor Noureini Tidjani-Serpos (Deputy Director-General, UNESCO, Paris) and GEIFON members to the Vice Chancellor, University of Benin, during the inauguration of GEIFON: Noureini Tidjani-Serpos (1); Professor Anthony B. Ebeigbe, Executive Director, GEIFON (2); Ifedayo A. Ajayi, Secretary, GEIFON (3); Prof. E.K.I. Omogbai (4); Professor B.E. Bafor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, UNIBEN (5); Dr. Ray Ozolua (6); Dr. (Mrs) R.O. Olubor (7); Prof. A.A. Famodu, GEIFON Secretary (8); Prof. P.I. Campbell (9); Dr. L.C. Yuka (10); Prof. A.O. Obasohan (11); P. Igbafe (12).





Professor Noureini Tidjani-Serpos, receiving a decorative medal during a courtesy visit to the Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Benin, Professor B.E. Bafor. Professor A.B. Ebeigbe (sitting) watches.

