



18.01.2018

## PRESS RELEASE

### ITEC DAY CELEBRATION, 2018

The High Commission of India, Abuja, celebrated the annual Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day through a Reception held at its premises in the evening of Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

2. The event was graced by the Nigerian Minister for Science & Technology, H.E. Dr Ogonnaya Onu, and the Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mme Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim, who jointly lit the traditional lamp. The Minister for Budget and National Planning of Nigeria was represented by its Director (International Cooperation), Mr S.O. Eloho.

3. An audience of around 300 ITEC alumnae attended the function.

4. The High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy, in his speech, highlighted India's developmental training programmes, particularly ITEC training programmes, as well as those under IAFS-III. He also focused on Nigeria-specific assistance initiatives under the \$100 million LoC, viz., projects in the power sector, including solar energy and rural electrification, in the three States of Kaduna, Cross River and Enugu, and a proposal to open a Vocational Training Centre.

5. The Nigerian MoS for Foreign Affairs, appreciated the Government of India for cooperation through the fully-funded ITEC Programme. The Minister cited the ITEC Programme as an example of India's role and positive efforts in enhancing South-South cooperation by rendering assistance to developing countries in diverse areas.

6. Two Nigerian ITEC alumnae, who spoke on the occasion, reminisced on their ITEC experiences in India.

7. An educative slide-show on how to update the database of ITEC alumnae on the ITEC Website was demonstrated.

8. Under the ITEC Programme, in the Financial Year 2017-2018, India has offered 310 training slots to Nigeria, 20 to Benin, 32 to Cameroon, 5 to Chad, and 10 to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), all of which are concurrently-accredited from the High Commission of India, Abuja.

9. A cultural flavour was added to the event by young Indian and Nigerian dancers through their captivating Indian and Nigerian dances. Video clips from the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) on India's technological advancements and of some Nigerian ITEC alumnae caught the audience's attention. The event rounded-off with an Indian buffet dinner featuring traditional Indian dishes.

10. Select photos which captured the event are available at the High Commission of India Website, [www.hcindia-abuja.org/events.php](http://www.hcindia-abuja.org/events.php).

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