

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
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PRESS NOTE

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**NIGERIAN ELECTION COMMISSIONERS BEGIN STUDY
VISIT TO INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT**

**NIGERIAN COMMISSION LAUDS INDIA'S ELECTORAL
PROCESS AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT**

A nine-member delegation from the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria have began a study visit to the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), of the Election Commission of India, in New Delhi. The delegation is headed by Prof. Lai Olurode, National Commissioner and comprises three other National Commissioners, namely Ambassador Ahmed Wali, Dr. Abdulkadir S. Oniyangi, Engr (Dr) Nuru Yakubu, and Barr. Kassim Gana Gaidam - Resident Electoral Commissioner. They are accompanied by four senior officials.

Welcoming the delegation at the IIDEM, Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr. S. Y. Quraishi referred to the historical friendly relations between India and Nigeria, and their close cooperation in different sectors, especially in the arena of election management. He pointed out that both Nigeria and India have large populations and also regional, religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversities. Hence, both Election Commissions can learn from each other. Dr. Quraishi commended the Nigerian Commission for having conducted a very credible and successful national election as recently as in April 2011.

Mr. H. S. Brahma, Election Commissioner also addressed the delegates and hoped that the interaction would be mutually beneficial.

The Leader of the Nigerian delegation, Prof. Lai Olurode, complimented the Election Commission of India for its long history of conducting free and fair elections and for promoting democratic processes through innovative methods. He stated that considering India's strong institutions and the resilience of its democratic processes, the Nigerian Commission had chosen India as the destination for its study visit. He also stated that the successes gained by their Commission at the recent National Elections in Nigeria needed to be consolidated and institutionalised. For this, he felt that his side had a lot to learn from the Indian experience.

As part of its programme for the Nigerian Commissioners, IIDEM has arranged for a number of presentations and discussions, including key ideas about the Indian Electoral Model,

Election related legal framework, Electoral Management systems, Implementation challenges, Voter Education and Electoral Training. Three field visits have also been organized to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, to give the visiting delegation a ground-level experience of the working of electoral system and processes, particularly in relation to preparatory work for elections, summary revision of electoral rolls and voters' facilitation.

IIDEM, a recently-launched initiative of the Election Commission, is an advanced resource centre of learning, research, training and extension for participatory democracy and election management. During its less-than-three months existence, the Institute has already hosted 12 national-level training programmes, and one international training programme for senior election officials from Kenya. IIDEM is presently considering training requests from a number of countries including Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

(YASHVIR SINGH)
Director