

# Igbo Studies Association

April 5, 2020

## Postponement of the ISA 2020 Enugu Annual International Conference and Business Meeting, due to COVID-19

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To All ISA Members:

I hope this memorandum finds you safe, strong, and healthy. Life's complications abound at home and at work. Today, as parents cum teachers, we are remotely doing our best to help students take their classes virtually, a drastic shift in orientation that has placed enormous demands of time, effort and new technology on teachers and students alike.

As a result, we need to go beyond the interim measures we had envisaged would see us through Enugu 2020, when I wrote to you on March 14, 2020. Today, I write to announce some necessary and immediate changes in the ISA calendar year 2020-2021, due to the continuing ravages worldwide of COVID-19, the contagious, infectious respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic. I recognize that this will be very disappointing news to all of us, but our focus on the welfare, safety and health of our community of academics, scholars and students makes it impossible to hold our annual conference and meeting this year as scheduled.

**The Igbo Studies Association (USA) must postpone its upcoming Annual Conference and Business Meeting scheduled to hold in Enugu, Nigeria, June 18-20, 2020, and reschedule it for June 17-19, 2021.**

- **Principal Conference Theme** remains “Uwa Ndi Igbo” (Igbo World, Igbo Condition).
- **Keynote Speaker** is retained for 2021.
- **Hotel venue at Enugu** will be retained for 2021.
- **Abstracts** received stay in safe custody of the Program Director for use in 2021.
- **Full papers** submitted by the April 30, 2020 deadline shall be considered either for *Igbo Studies Review (ISR)*, Number 9, 2021 or the next volume(s) of Selected Papers, along with those that will be submitted in 2021.
- *Igbo Studies Review (ISR)* Number 8, 2020 will publish as usual.
- **Membership dues** paid in 2020 will transfer to 2021 (“Membership Stimulus Package 1”).
- **Conference Registration fees** paid for 2020 will also transfer to 2021 (“Membership Stimulus Package 2”).
- **Election for Executive Offices online** is hereby postponed until 2021.

Take note that we all have interest, ability and responsibility to help curtail the spread of this virus, through **social distancing, self-monitoring, self-quarantine, and when fallen ill seeing a healthcare official**. Per the World Health Organization (WHO), here are 5 ways to stay physically and mentally healthy:

- ✓ Eat a balanced and nutritious diet of washed and disinfected meat, fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ Limit ingestion of alcoholic and sugary drinks.
- ✓ Do not smoke.
- ✓ Exercise of at least 60 minutes a day for children, and 30 minutes a day for adults (walk, ride, run outside, if your local guidelines allow, or if shuttered stretching, yoga, walk/run on the spot, go up and down stairs, not sit for long periods at a time, dance to music.
- ✓ Take care of your mental health by shunning stress and anxiety, refusing to be confused or scared, and mitigate the psychological consequences of social distancing with phone calls, e-mails and/or text messages. You may also continue to use Facetime, Skype, or Zoom, etc. to stay connected with colleagues, family and friends.

**COVID-19 Resources:** News and other help: <https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/covid19.html>.

Up-to-the-minute worldwide information on the virus: <https://www.covidvisualizer.com/>

Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC):

<https://www.bing.com/news/search?q=NCDC+Nigeria+Center+For+Disease+Control&qpvt=ncdc+nigeria+center+for+disease+control&FORM=EWRE>.

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Myths Busters, see attached PDF file from the World Health Org. (WHO).

After the battle is fought and won, may we be able to say like the Israelites to Moses, “(We) have taken a census of the fighting men (*and women*) and not one of us is missing” (NUM 31:49; HCSB).

Once more, keep checking for updates on the ISA web site or the google group listserv.

Chineke. Onye ebele, O bu gi bu ike anyi o! Obugazi gi ji isi ugbo anyi o!

Ya gazie nu o!

Dr. Mrs. Ada Uzoamaka Azodo

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President, Igbo Studies Association (USA)