

**CALABAR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND
DOCUMENTATION**

= CIINSTRID =

Brief History and Profile

CIINSTRID
90B Goldie Street
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Email: ciinstrid@yahoo.com

Edwin Madunagu
Executive Director
October, 2010

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Brief History and Profile

1. CIINSTRID has existed continuously, but under successive forms and names, since 1973. The aim of the project has remained essentially the same: providing a center for research, information, documentation and public education. A public library has also remained the physical core of the center. Between 1976 and 1992, the name of the center was Action Center for Information and Documentation, ACID; between 1992 and 1999 it was Centre for Research, Information and Documentation, CENTRID; and from 2000, when it was re-incorporated, till the present time, the name has been Calabar International Institute for Research, Information and Documentation, CIINSTRID.
2. This effort at public information and education (from ACID, through CENTRID, to CIINSTRID), has been guided by a number of clear principles, including: The centre's offer and provision of services to the public must be completely **free**; the content and form of its public education and other activities must be anti - sexist, critical, humanist and liberating; and its organization must be self-critical, humanist, anti-sectarian and democratic. It was hoped that in this way, the effort would be much superior to the

existing reality in the national and international social sector called Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

3. CIINSTRID owes its origin to the realization by Bene Madunagu and Edwin Madunagu that, since 1973 and in the course of their academic, political, intellectual and social engagements, they had accumulated a large number of books, pamphlets, papers, documents, manuscripts, journals, newspapers, magazines, tapes, pictures, etc, and that these materials were lying under-used while our people, especially students and young people, literally scratched the ground for sources of information and knowledge.

4. What followed was the decision, by them, that this everexpanding accumulation of materials should now be made accessible, free of charge and in a systematic way, to the larger society. Bene Madunagu and Edwin Madunagu reached this decision in May 1990 and with it CENTRID came into being. On May 15, 1996 CENTRID Research Library was opened to the public; and on April 1, 2000 CENTRID was re-incorporated as CIINSTRID.

5. CIINSTRID is an institution for **popular, public and functional** education: popular in the sense that this education is neither sectarian nor elitist; public in the sense that it is neither secret nor covert; and functional in the sense that CIINSTRID's educational project is neither esoteric nor abstract.

6. The **mission** of CIINSTRID is to enhance the public understanding of the nature and conditions for the existence, reproduction and perpetuation of social and gender inequality and discrimination, poverty, disease, oppression and degradation of human rights in Nigeria, and hence the paths to humanist and democratic social change.

7. The physical core of CIINSTRID which is also the embodiment of its mission, is the Research Library located in CIINSTRID's current headquarters at No. 90B, Goldie Street, Calabar, capital of Cross River State of Nigeria. The facilities and services of this library are available to the general public at no cost to them, that is, FREE. Like the air which we all breathe and rain which falls on all of us, CIINSTRID research library is a free offer to humanity as a whole.

8. Arising from its non-profit, non-commercial and non-exploitative character, CIINSTRID can ordinarily maintain only a skeletal staff, performing voluntary (that is, non-paid) labour. But when it initiates any programme the personnel and materials employed to execute it will, in the course of this execution, also contribute to the maintenance and development of CIINSTRID, thus enhancing CIINSTRID's experience and capacity to continue to render services to humanity. In other words, to be able to continue to maintain, build up and renew its research and information services, CIINSTRID may engage in educational and academic programmes and activities (such as the CMA programme) which are humanistic, but non-commercial, not profit-making and not exploitative.

9. In all its programmes and activities CIINSTRID will insist on anti-hierarchical, anti-patriarchal, anti-sexist, collectivist, open and humane modes of internal administration, operation and interaction with the public. No income may be earned in, or from, CIINSTRID except fixed wages for work done, and these wages may come only from programmes and activities executed by CIINSTRID. These programmes and activities must only

be anti-sexist and humanistic and must not be commercial or for profit.

10. CIINSTRID offices and its Research Library are open to the general public from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 10.00am and 1.00pm. The Centre is directed by an Executive Board (EB) headed by an Executive Director (ED). The Executive Director is advised by a Board of Advisers (BOA) and is responsible to a Board of Trustees (BOT). CIINSTRID is a **non-lending** library.
11. CIINSTRID maintains and systematically builds up a stock of books, pamphlets, documents, papers, manuscripts, and journals, magazines and newspapers (and cuttings from them) of historical, political, scientific, economic, social and cultural importance.
12. CIINSTRID is committed to defending and promoting the interests and aspirations of the oppressed and exploited segments of the Nigerian, and African, society including: Women; Workers; Peasants; the Poor, Unemployed and Dispossessed; Children and Youths; and Ethnic and Religious Minorities. Beyond that, CIINSTRID is committed to promoting the interest and aspirations of the Nigerian nation, the African continent, the peoples of

African descent and the underdeveloped segments and nations of the world.

13. CIINSTRID is **non-sectarian** and will not be involved in any sectarian activity - as this will be incompatible with its humanist philosophy. It is **non-partisan** in the specific sense that it is not affiliated, and will not affiliate, to any political organization, movement, party or group. In particular, CIINSTRID and its projects will not be involved in the organization or execution of any political action, partisan or not.

14. CIINSTRID's commitment is pursued: **first**, through the provision of library and research facilities to the public; **secondly**, by the establishment and execution of special programmes targeted at special groups - such as the Conscientising Nigerian Male Adolescents (CMA), which has been going on since June 1995, and Public Education Forum on Women's Rights (Women's Forum); **thirdly**, through the publication, or procurement and free distribution, of books and journals; **fourthly** through the provision of special research assistance to, and collaboration with, similarly committed individuals

and organizations such as human rights groups, feminist and women's groups, youth-serving organizations and anti-poverty groups that may wish to collaborate with CIINSTRID or use CIINSTRID's research facilities ; and **fifthly** by the development of special education and information programme through CIINSTRID's website **(prospective)**.

15. At present, CIINSTRID's Research Library holds about 15,500 books (including more than 25 different types of encyclopaedia, dictionaries and other books of reference), 550 volumes of bound newspapers, 450 volumes of bound magazines, 820 volumes of documentation note books, and about 29,000 documents.
16. Special areas of study and research where books, documents and papers are systematically built up include: Workers' Movement, Students' Movement, Radical Movement; Women's Movement; Feminism and Gender; Masculinity; Universal Human Rights; The Human Rights of Women; The Human Rights of Children; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Political History; Cultural History; Political Philosophy;

Political Science; Economics: Education; Sociology; Philosophy; Mathematics and Natural Sciences; History and Philosophy of Science; International Relations and Politics; Religion; Literature and the Arts; Journalism and Communication Arts; the National Question; Ecology, Environment and Population; the Nigerian Society: History, Economy and Politics; Anti-Sexism and Critical Consciousness; Conscientising Nigerian Male Adolescents (CMA).

17. CIINSTRID and its programmes of free services are supported by organizations and individuals that accept CIINSTRID's principles. But this support must be free just like CIINSTRID'S services.

Edwin Madunagu

Executive Director, **CIINSTRID**

Calabar, Nigeria

October, 2010

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