

Counseling in Nigeria and Botswana

Counselling Association of Nigeria

“Great counsellors!”

“Great, great counsellors!”

These were the words speakers and participants used to convene and reconvene the annual conference of the Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON). Spoken by the presenters and echoed back by the counselors in the audience, these words seemed to be a call to attention and an acknowledgement of the work that Nigerian counselors do with the citizens of their country.



Professor Ibrahim Kolo, CASSON president, addresses conference attendees.

“CASSON holds annual conferences during which it engages in continuing capacity development exercises for members and provides avenue for paper presentations on key contemporary topical issues and research findings in counselling professional practice,” explained CASSON’s president, Professor Ibrahim Kolo.

NBCC International (NBCC-I) staff were pleased to be invited to attend and present at this 34th annual national conference, which was held in August 2010 and attended by approximately 500 Nigerian counselors and international guests.

While attending this conference, NBCC-I associate vice president Dr. Wendi Schweiger learned that CASSON is working hard to gain formal recognition for a profession that has existed for decades in Nigeria and is planning to include standards for counselors within the legislative plan.

Botswana Counselling Association

Dr. Jabulani Muchado, president of the Botswana Counselling Association (BCA) stated, “The first international conference was a trademark for BCA. It was an eye-opener, a great opportunity for networking and collaboration. It provided BCA with a forum to reflect on its growth and development, broaden its scope of understanding the problems and challenges of counselling practice in Botswana.”

The 1st International Conference of the Botswana Counselling Association was attended by Dr. James Benshoff, NBCC Board chair; Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC; and Dr. Wendi Schweiger, who were also honored to be invited to take part in three keynote presentations during the four-day event. The conference drew



Board Members Attend APECA Conference in Malaysia

In August 2010, the Association of Psychological and Educational Counsellors of Asia-Pacific (APECA) held its 18th biennial conference in Penang, Malaysia. Board members and staff from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and its affiliate the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) attended. Participation in the conference allowed NBCC and CCE to support international colleagues in promoting quality assurance and professionalism in counseling.

Dr. James Benshoff, NBCC Board chair, along with Dr. Thomas Clawson, NBCC’s president and CEO, provided a keynote speech addressing the history of counselor licensure and certification.

Dr. Benshoff and NBCC Board chair-elect Mr. Kevin Gallagher, along with CCE Board chair Dr. John McCarthy and NBCC staff members Dr. J. Scott Hinkle, Ms. Kristi McCaskill, Dr. Dan Collins and Dr. Andreea Szilagyi, presented to conference attendees from 19 different countries on various topics related to counseling and certification.

Following the conference, Dr. Hinkle and Dr. Donna Henderson, a professor at Wake Forest University, provided two trainings related to NBCC-I’s Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program in Malaysia. One group completed a program that will allow them to train future trainers. The second group received instruction that will allow them to train future MHFs. Both groups were excited at the prospect of putting their new skills to work addressing local mental health needs.

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