



**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA, UCHE M. OLOWU, Ph.D., FCIB AT THE IMO STATE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARD NIGHT, HELD AT IBIS ROYAL HOTEL, NEW OWERRI ON NOVEMBER 22, 2019**

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me, both personally and as the President/Chairman of Council of this great Institute, to welcome you all this evening to the Institute's Imo State Branch Annual Dinner and Award Night in the magnificent surroundings of His Excellency; the State Governor, Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, CON.

I wish at the outset to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, CON., the Governor of Imo State for generously honoring our invitation to be part of us this evening. I have been termed the Chief host of today's event but it is worthy of mention that I also graciously extend my appreciation to our Host, Mr. Ignatius Anukam, MCIB, ACIB, Chairman, Imo State Branch, CIBN, who has successfully brought together like minds of intellectual abilities to celebrate the branch. Your exceptional leadership qualities would without doubt greatly contribute to the further development of the Branch and the Institute as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen, everyone here has played an important role in the successes that our institute has achieved over these years. The distinction and excellence you have brought to each of your positions in your various organizations is deservedly recognized and acknowledged by the Institute. To the Staff of the Branch, It is through your deep commitment to and your innovative efforts for our institute that it continues to adapt and improve, to meet every challenge successfully as we move forward into the future.

Talking about the future in banking is to talk about technology. Technology has no doubt created many new opportunities but also many challenges one of which is Disruptive Technology. A report released by Mc-kinsey in 2017 found that about half the activities people are paid to do globally could theoretically be automated using currently demonstrated technologies. The good news is; Very few occupations, less than 5 percent, consist of activities that can be fully automated using currently available technology. They further reported that about 60% of occupations, at least one-third of the constituent activities could be automated, implying substantial workplace transformations and changes for all workers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, aside having our taste bud fulfilled, the question of "How this disruption affects the Banking Industry and how we can best prepare for it?" is one important



takeaway for us. This challenge and many others spur us all to double our efforts to keep the channels of Banking open between Nigeria and the whole world. We must ensure that the Banking Sector are fully engaged in this process and are encouraged and challenged to be more innovative.

As we celebrate our successes over the years, I will like to inform us all that the Imo State Government ably led by His Excellency the Governor of Imo State, has also in its large capacity donated to the forward movement of the Institute by allocating a piece of land to the CIBN Imo State branch for the building of its secretariat. This kind and generous gesture by the State Government will forever be written in the book of the institute.

To this regards, we are humbly requesting that all stakeholders of the institute which of course involves the Federal, State & Local Government, The Central Bank of Nigeria, all Banks in the Nation and all other private organizations in the Financial Services Sector, to pledge their full support to the development of this Branch and the Institute at large as we strive to creating value, building capacity as well as fostering confidence in the Financial Services Industry.

Distinguished guests, this evening has been prepared in honor of all of you, as a gratitude for all your highly valued contributions to date and as a milestone for us to create a new vision that will guide us in our future together. Please endeavor to network and rub minds on how to move the industry forward.

I was reminded to keep dinner remarks short, as everyone is looking forward to enjoying the rest of the dinner. So please allow me to conclude by sincerely thanking all of you once again for your many efforts and commitments.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and amazing dinner.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Enjoy your meal.

**Uche M. Olowu, Ph.D, FCIB**  
President/Chairman of Council, CIBN  
Friday, November 22, 2019