



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA, DR. UCHE OLOWU, PH.D, FCIB AT THE 54TH ANNUAL BANKERS DINNER, HELD AT LAGOS CONTINENTAL HOTEL, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019.**

### **Protocols**

Distinguished guests, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Banker's Dinner of The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria. On behalf of the Governing Council, Management and Staff of the Institute, let me assert my appreciation for your commitment towards sharing this august evening with us.

As you all may already know the Banker's Dinner is an annual event aimed at bringing the banking community together in an informal setting where they could interact and share ideas. The Dinner is also traditionally a platform whereby the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) gives an insight into the monetary and fiscal policies of the CBN both in the present and coming year. Tonight, we are pleased as ever to welcome him, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, CON, FCIB, who would deliver his remarks later on in the evening. We are particularly delighted as this is the first dinner to be attended by the Governor during his recently approved second term as the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Let me take this opportunity to wish you greater successes and breakthroughs as you maintain the mantle of leadership for another term.

This year I am proud to note that the event has been given a face lift with the introduction of an Awards Ceremony. The Following awards would be given out this evening;

- a. **The X Factor** – This award is for an inspirational female banker who has a proven track record of outstanding management and leadership in the sector, either as an employee or a stakeholder.
- b. **Affiliate of the Year** – This award recognizes an industry affiliate/agent whose performance has accelerated the industry's goal of financial inclusion
- c. **The Next Generation (Customer)** – This award recognizes a business in an identified strategic sector that has been catalyzed by the industry's support.

The aim of such awards is to further encourage excellence in the Nigerian banking industry and beyond. I congratulate the members of the Adhoc Committee on the 2019 Annual Bankers Dinner under the able leadership of Mr. Emeka Emuwa, FCIB, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive, Union Bank Plc for conceiving this innovation and tirelessly working to ensure a world class event. Indeed, we greatly appreciate your efforts.



Let me also appreciate the Managing Director/Chief Executives of Banks who have co-sponsored this Dinner especially those who have made time to be here tonight. Your presence is a testament to the support you have always extended to us.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I mark my last Dinner with you as President/Chairman of Council of our great Institute, permit me to share with you some of the key initiatives embarked on in 2019 and lined up for 2020. Such activities include the following:

#### Skills and Competencies

- **New Certification Programme:** The Introduction of Ethics Compliance Certification in conjunction with the Subcommittee of Bankers Committee in Competency and Industry Standards.
- **Review of ACIB Syllabus:** The Governing Council approved of the engagement of Price Water Coopers (PwC) Nigeria for the development of content for the Syllabi of the Banking Professional Examination and Certification Programmes. The final draft was approved and will take effect from April 2020.

In the course of reviewing the syllabus for the Chartered Banker Certification Programme, proposed modules to be added to the intermediate level of the Certification include Digital Banking and Fintech. These modules would tackle themes in cryptocurrency, digitization of financial services and disruptive innovation.

#### Rules and Standards

- **Community of Practice :**  
In June 25, 2019- the Institute launched the Communities of Practice platform. The platform which cuts across various sub-sectors of the banking industry, including Fintech is a collaborative, interactive network of individuals and subject experts within a generally defined topic of knowledge and experience. Members appraise the subject matter in order to enhance talent management and human capital development for the banking and financial services sector.
- **Accreditation & Linkage Institutions**  
In fulfillment of our mandate as the Sole Accreditation Agency in the Country, the Institute Executed Linkage Agreements with ten (10) Tertiary Institutions bringing the total number to sixty-five (65).

Likewise, the Institute presented Certificates of Accreditation to the Central Bank of Nigeria Learning Centre and Two (2) Bank Academies bringing the total number to eighteen (18) bank academies.



Certificates of Accreditation were awarded to Twenty-one (21) Educational Training Service Providers (ETSPs) bringing the total number to Fifty One (51).

Finally, the number of Institutions under the M.Sc./ACIB Programme increased from nine (9) to eleven (11) with the inclusion of Igbinedion University, Okada and Lagos State University.

- **Research and Advocacy**

The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) is committed towards ensuring not only professionalism in the banking industry but also imbuing the set of skills, knowledge and personal attributes required to secure and maintain gainful employment. In view of this, the Governing Council approved the conduct of a Survey on the Employability of the ACIB Certificate Holders - the Institute's flagship Qualification/Certification currently possessed by over 4000 holders.

The research was conducted by the CIBN Centre for Financial Studies (CIBNCFS) - the research arm of the Institute. The research has been presented to the Capacity Building Committee of the Institute and would be further submitted to the Governing Council for further discussion and directive.

Thank you all once again for your presence here tonight. Please enjoy the event filled night ahead and its festivities.

Lastly, let me take this unique opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year ahead.

God Bless.

**Uche M. Olowu, Ph.D., FCIB**  
President/Chairman of Council  
The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria  
Friday, November 29, 2019