

ABUAD Celebrates International Day of Peace (IDP)

Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), joins the global community in observing International Peace Day 2023. Each year the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed worldwide on 21 September.

The UN General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more. This year's theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. It is a call to action recognizing our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace.

As an institution, ABUAD reiterated its commitment to fostering peace through its contributions to realizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hoping to help create a culture of peace for all. The Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings consistently ranked ABUAD number one out of the over two hundred and seventy-five universities in Nigeria.

This is predicated upon our contributions to the SDGs compared to other universities in Nigeria. Perhaps nothing succinctly underlines or completely encapsulates ABUAD's contributions to the Global Goals, otherwise known as the Sustainable Development Goals. This year's theme places a premium on the significance of the SDGs as a non-negotiable vehicle of peaceful coexistence and prosperity. 2023 marks the midpoint in implementing the SDGs.

The 2023 International Day of Peace observance coincides with the SDG summit (18–19 September) to mark the mid-point milestone. The SDGs aim to bring us closer to having more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence. But the goals will not be achieved without the buy-in and contribution of a wide range of actors including the 1.2 billion young people alive.

ABUAD joins the United Nations' call to take action for peace: fight inequality, drive action on climate change, and promote and protect human rights. The areas of our impact where we have excelled and still hope to do better include SDG 1: ABUAD is ending poverty in all its forms by creating employment. Thousands of people are under-employed with ABUAD, thereby making people earn a living by living above the poverty line irrespective of sex, age, or employment status. On SDG 2: ABUAD is ending hunger, achieving food security

and improved nutrition, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture. Undernourishment, the prevalence of severe food insecurity, and prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age are becoming a rare case in Ekiti state through the large-scale ABUAD farms and the industrial park, which is established to process all agricultural products from the ABUAD farms and nearby farmers.



On SDG 3: ABUAD ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all ages. Life expectancy and child and maternal mortality are being fostered through the establishment of Afe Babalola University Multisystem Hospital (AMSH). Deaths from road traffic injuries, the prevalence of current tobacco use, and the suicide mortality rate are fast becoming a thing of the past.

On SDG 4: As an educational institution that straddles primary, secondary, and tertiary, ABUAD ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all with its numerous incentives

like scholarships and bursaries, as well as Open and Distance Learning and Part-Time Studies. It has helped improve the rates at primary schools, completion rates of primary school education, participation in tertiary education, etc.

The classrooms are built to encourage inclusivity and diversity of persons irrespective of sex, age, disability status, and indigenous peoples. The schools have cutting-edge infrastructure facilities, such as access to the Internet, electricity, computers, drinking water, and toilets.

On SDG 7: ABUAD provides access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. With its own Independent Power Plant capable of generating 5MGwatts of electricity, the percentage of the population with access to electricity is 100%. ABUAD can even supply power to many institutions through its renewable energy plants.

On SDG 16: ABUAD Conflict Peace and Strategic Studies Department was established with the sole aim of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, as well as providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. ABUAD Peace Studies, through its faculties' teaching, research, and community services, is at the forefront of effective peacebuilding in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, and the country.

On SDG 17: ABUAD is at the forefront of strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. ABUAD admits that increasing international cooperation is seen as vital to achieving the said goal; she is in partnership with CCABOTA to generate electricity, she is in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for improved agriculture, she is in partnership with many other institutions to developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial support is seen as critical to the overall success of the SDGs.

It is for this reason that ABUAD is involved in numerous cooperation and public-private partnerships that involve civil societies, some of which are: 1. Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre MoUs, ICMC MoUs, John Hopkins University MoUs and several other reputable organizations towards attaining the Global Goals In observing the international

Peace Day Afe Babalola University Conflict, Peace and Strategic Studies Department has consistently held the Afe Babalola Peace and Leadership Distinguished Personality Lecture Series.

This has been done with the Nigeria Army's Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre annually. The maiden edition was delivered by Maj Gen Olu Ireferin, the GoC 81 Division of the Nigeria Army, followed by Maj Gen JA Ataguba, the Director Peacekeeping Defence Headquarters Abuja, while Maj Gen Fagge, the Commandant of the Martin Luther Agwai, International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre Jaji Kaduna State delivered the 3rd edition. This lecture Series has been an avenue to commemorate the importance of International Peace Day within and outside the ABUAD community. ABUAD acknowledges the fact that for hundreds of years, mankind equipped its kinds with knowledge and skills with which to perpetuate violence, war, and strategy. Hence, nations waged war against nations and innovated and advanced weapons with which to advance violence. Humanity glorified victory on the altar of violence until the occasions of the 1st and 2nd World Wars when it dawned on humanity that we might one day wake to the total destruction of our world.

This consciousness led to the founding of the United Nations Organisation, which was responsible for maintaining world peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, achieving international cooperation, and serving as the center of harmonizing the actions of nations. For the first time in millions of years of human history, we are taking a concerted action to develop knowledge and skills to entrench peace through the solidarity and brotherliness of mankind. Because knowledge and skills matter for world peace, we established the Conflict, Peace, and Strategic Studies Programme as a university for this purpose. **Happy International Peace Day!**