



Mrs. Abdulahi, of the Nigerian National Volunteer Service and IOM's Mr. Charles Kwenin at the Diaspora engagement workshop

IOM ORGANIZES DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN ABUJA

Under the European Union Funded "Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria" project, IOM organized a two-day workshop which was held on 5 and 6 February 2013 in Abuja.

In attendance were key representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies working on migration and Diaspora related issues.

With the Diaspora now being recognized as key actors in the development agenda of a number of developing countries today, IOM believes that it is pertinent for the Nigerian government to involve its Diaspora in the country's development. As their value stems not only from what they can contribute from afar in terms of remittances, but also from what they can bring upon their return to their countries of origin in the areas of financial, human, and social capital.

Issues such as the role of banks in Diaspora remittance transfers and investment, Diaspora bonds, Capital market investments, Diaspora philanthropy and Best practices and applications were

discussed.

This workshop created a unique opportunity for participants to discuss ways of effectively engaging the Nigerian Diaspora.

IOM HOLDS ADVOCACY WORKSHOP AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

IOM held an advocacy workshop on the 4th of February 2013 at the National Assembly in Abuja. In attendance were key representatives of the Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS), Nigerians in Diaspora Alumni Network (NIDAN), European Union (EU), Chairperson of the House Committee on Diaspora, other House members and High Commissioners of India, Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago.

The role of government in engaging Diaspora for effective development was discussed in detail and best practices were shared by Charles Kwenin, IOM's Senior Regional Adviser for sub-Saharan Africa.

IOM TRAINS 183 IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON DOCUMENT FRAUD AND IMPOSTOR DETECTION

With Funding from the European Union, IOM Nigeria's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) team based in Abuja, facilitated a series of Document Fraud and impostor detection Training of Trainers courses for 183 officers of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) between November 2012 and February 2013. Five officers of the Superintendent Cadre were carefully selected from the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory to participate in the trainings.

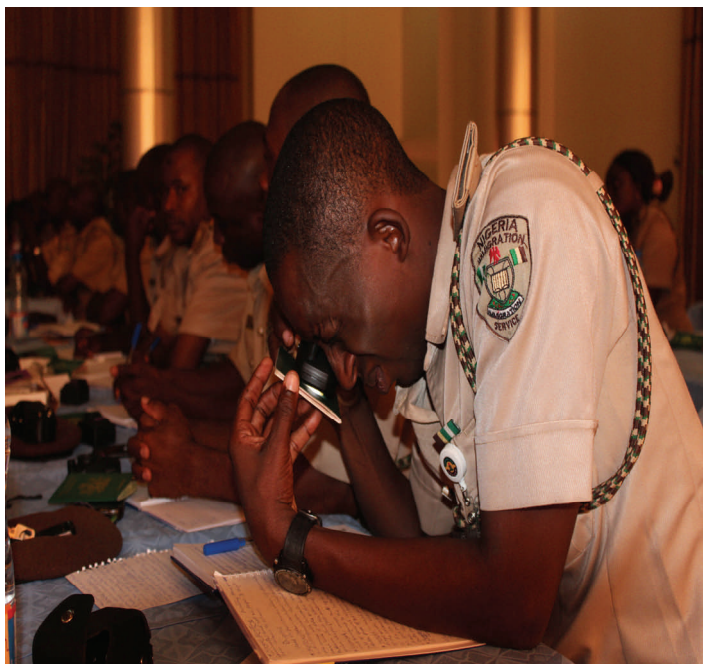
Mark Richmond, IOM's IBM Specialist teamed up with Mr Nuhu Tanko from the NIS Document Fraud Unit to design an intermediate level training course covering key areas such as Travel Document Security, Forged Documents and Counterfeiting. There were practical sessions allowing officers to examine travel documents using specialized equipment as well as examination of counterfeit currency.

As travel documents have become more sophisticated and secure, impostor numbers have also risen and officers were provided with training to allow them detect such persons. Drawing on expertise from the trainers, officers were also provided with training in writing document examination reports to a level that is acceptable for presentation in Nigerian courts of law.

SWISS GOVERNMENT FUNDS A NEW DOCUMENT FRAUD UNIT IN LAGOS STATE

With funding from the Swiss Federal Office on Migration and building on the success of the Document Fraud Unit (DFU) at the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Headquarters in Abuja, IOM is working closely with the NIS to establish a DFU in Lagos. A scoping visit was carried out in October 2012 to decide on a suitable location and steps are currently being taken to prepare the room which will house the equipment.

This new DFU will handle large quantity of documents requiring detailed analysis from key locations in the south of the country including Murtala Mohammed Airport in Lagos as well as the busiest land border crossing in West Africa; Seme border in Lagos state.



An Officer of the Nigeria Immigration Service examines a passport using a special document examination device provided by the EU



NIS officers from the south eastern zone on the last day of training



Deputy Comptroller General of the NIS, Mr. Oklobia and IOM's Ms Ojoma Ali inspecting prospective premises for the DFU