

foreign guests on their arrival. Anyone who is privy to this kind of information will be forced to ask himself/herself if there was any exchange of correspondence between the coming visitor and his/her prospective hosts. There are times when Heads of Departments have no choice but to secure temporary accommodations for their visitors pending the perfection of their papers with the appropriate authorities who may eventually take over as hosts. Aside the fact that this mars the smooth running of exchange programs, it does not also portray the University as a serious institution.

Bureaucracy

This refers to the complex service rules usually in operation in this part of the world. It is observed that issues that may not have taken hours to resolve end up taking days, weeks or even months due to faulty structures or unnecessary administrative formalities. It sounds funny when directives are given from superior authorities and tagged 'Urgent' or 'Treat as urgent' but only for one to realize that events have even overtaken the said urgent task owing to undue bureaucratic bottlenecks. This of course has its negative impact on the system as the institution is sometimes seen or regarded as being unserious. Students and staff are mostly at the receiving end of this rather unfortunate situation, though.

Mutual Suspicion

This is where the question of reputation/integrity comes in. How does one explain a situation where an institution's request for educational or cultural exchange is stylishly turned down by its foreign counterpart owing to the wrong perception about Africa and its people? This question is being asked because, it is on record that attempts by the University of Ilorin to collaborate with some Universities especially outside Africa did not yield positive results simply because the foreign partners are not just comfortable collaborating with Unilorin on particular grounds. We understand that issues of this nature have often foiled collaborative efforts of so many ECOWAS Universities without any clear explanation or excuse from the other end.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Through this work, we have come to understand that the purpose of internationalization of the University of Ilorin is to enable the institution increase mutual understanding between the staff and students of the University and those of other institutions within and outside the country by means of educational and cultural exchange. It is meant to strengthen the ties which unite them with other institutions by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the University of Ilorin and other institutions. It also showcases the contributions being made towards a peaceful and more fruitful life for people throughout Africa and the world; by promoting international cooperation for educational and cultural advancement. The work thus encourages the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between Nigeria, the other countries of West Africa and the world at large.

The truth according to Bamfo (2013: 21) is that, "despite the imagery of poverty and political instability ECOWAS' member countries send to the world, the organization has made modest accomplishments bridging the cultural divide that has existed between its Francophone and Anglophone members through increased travel and cultural exchanges. ECOWAS Commissioners have shown evenness sharing positions between Francophone and Anglophone members."

"If Europe, that fragment of the earth representing a tiny part of humanity, has been able to impose itself on the planet, dominating it and organizing it for its exclusive profit, it is only because it developed a conquering culture of rigor and work, removed from the influence of invisible forces. We must do the same' (Etounga-Manguelle 2000, cited by Asemota 2013) especially here in West Africa. Our governments must lend their support by making our environments conducive for prospective visitors to come in. The affairs of the state must be properly managed through provision and maintenance of peace, health and security for all; necessary funds should be made available to provide needed facilities and infrastructures.