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Recommendations and Resolutions of the Second Psychology Congress of the Cameroon Psychological Association (CPA)

Introduction

The Second Psychology Congress of the Cameroon Psychological Association (CPA) was held in the Stanislas MELONE Amphitheatre on Campus II of the University of Douala from Thursday, 09 to Saturday, 11 June 2016. The theme of Congress was *Psychology: Its Necessity and Relevance to Cameroon's Emergence*. A total of 490 participants drawn from among university lecturers of all ranks, Psychology practitioners and undergraduate and graduate students from various universities attended the Congress.

Vote of Thanks, Recommendations and Resolutions

The scientific programme of the Second Congress of the Cameroon Psychological Association (CPA) was organized various event, namely, a Pre-Congress Discussion Forum, an Opening Ceremony, five Symposia, five Workshops, a CPA General Assembly and a Closing ceremony. Having addressed different facets of the Congress theme, and having raised pertinent issues and their implications for individual citizenship emergence as a precondition for national emergence, hereby give a vote of thanks, recommend and resolve as follows:

- I. **Vote of Thanks.**
 - a. Extend deep gratitude to the Rector of the University of Douala, **Professor Francois-Xavier ETOA**, for his generosity of spirit in accepting to host the Congress, making available adequate space for all Congress activities and events and disposing himself to personally and inspirationally open the Congress.

- b. Heartily thank the Chair and members of the Local Organizing Committee and the Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities for having invested talent, energy and resources to put together a splendid Congress in place.
- c. Acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the lively participation of the University of Douala Choir and Majorettes in the Opening Ceremony.
- d. Recognize the considerable sacrifices of the University of Douala and the Local Organizing Committee to provide resources for the Congress, particularly the restoration.
- e. Commend student-participants in general and in particular the active participation of the students of the Department of Psychology of the University of Douala.

II. Recommendations

In a nutshell, the papers presented and the debates and exchanges they provoked revealed difficulties with individual and inter-personal emergence as well as pointed to the undesirable consequences of the dramatic crisis of social change, rapid technological innovations and information explosion and their psychosocial underpinnings. These issues should become the contents for Psychology education, research and applications. In this light, we recommend:

1. Re-examination of Psychology Education and Training (PET) courses with the objective of developing appropriate curricula that adequately address and analyze the contextual (local) knowledge and entrepreneurship in Cameroon.
2. Remind parents to please resume the role of “first teachers” of their children with the seriousness that the challenging state of the nation’s children and youth requires.
3. Plead with governmental authorities, civil society organizations, spiritual leaders, custodians of traditional values and the hierarchies of academic governance to kindly visualize their role vis-à-vis the emergence of Cameroon as predicated on the emergence of the academic governors to reinforce their vigilance to track down and curb the escalation of violence, bullying and other vices in the school milieus and university campuses throughout Cameroon.

4. That psychology endeavours to put in place programmes to empower parents on their primary socialisation mission/role.

III. **Resolutions:**

- a. Hold the Third Congress of the CPA in The University of Bamenda from Wednesday, 28 June to Saturday, 01 July 2017 on the theme Cross-Cultural Research (Recherches Trans-Culturelles). Sub-themes: Psychology (La Psychologie), Comparative education ([éducation compare), Clinical research (Recherche Clinique), Trauma-centered psychological intervention (...), Challenging mental health issues between spiritual, African traditions and Westernized conceptions (....).
- b. Call on the Executive Council of the CPA to undertake necessary and relevant action to register the Cameroon Psychological Association as the professional body for the practice of Psychology as a Profession in Cameroon. We look forward to the dependable goodwill and informed assistance of H.E. the Rector of the University of Douala in this crucial matter.

Done in the Stanislas MELOME Amphitheatre of the University of Douala on Saturday, 11 June 2016.

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