

**WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY BAYO AIYEGBUSI, DIRECTOR
REGULATORY DEPARTMENT, NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION,
AT THE ONE DAY WORKSHOP FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS,
OPERATING AND COMPLIANCE MANAGERS OF OPTICAL DISCS
PLANTS HELD AT PLANET ONE, MARYLAND, LAGOS
MARCH 11, 2009**

PROTOCOL

On behalf of the Director General and management of the Nigerian Copyright Commission, I welcome you all to this workshop specially organized for chief executives, operating and compliance managers of optical discs plants.

I wish to welcome in a very special way, our colleagues from other sister government agencies who have; inspite of their very busy schedule honoured our invitation to this workshop. This has again demonstrated the importance and strength of our inter-agency cooperation. The need to share information and experiences particularly in areas of overlapping regulatory functions such as the case of the optical discs manufacturing industry cannot be overemphasized. We sincerely appreciate your presence.

I welcome our esteemed participants, particularly the chief executive officers here present, many of whom are saddled with the delicate and arduous duty of managing the operations in the about 12 functional and registered optical discs plants in Nigeria. We appreciate the inconvenience of having to abandon your respective busy duty posts to attend this workshop, and would therefore wish to assure you that the time you will

spend here will go a long way to strengthen the operations of your businesses and ensure that it approximates to the required regulatory standards. The current tempo of our regulatory engagements with your industry demands a forum of this nature to underscore some of the crucial issues that have been observed as possible areas of difficulty in meeting the underlying policy of our new regulations. We are looking forward to a very active participation from you all.

I acknowledge and welcome in a special way, stakeholders in the copyright industries who are here in our midst. Even though this workshop may not address in a very direct way, issues of copyright infringement, in substance however, the essence of the exercise is to improve on the regulatory environment and ultimately guaranty security of your creative products against piracy and other abuses. We will also welcome your suggestions and inputs on how best we can improve on our performance in regulating the various activities that impact on the exploitation of your products.

Finally, I welcome members of the media here present. The Commission remains grateful to you for your support of our various programmes. The fight against piracy is one which cannot be fought silently since the commission must draw from and rely on the collective will power and support of the consuming public. An enlightened public, conscious of the ill effects of piracy can only emerge from the agenda setting of the media. That is why the commission continues to rely on its collaboration with the media in implementing some of its key programmes. We thank you for again accepting to partner with us.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me, for reasons of expediency to generally welcome all who have not been specifically mentioned in this short address. We are indeed grateful for your acceptance of our invitation to be here and count on your valuable input to the deliberations that would eventually take place.

Once again, I thank you all and wish you a very fruitful workshop.