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WFSJ
Board Elections

To whom it may concern

2017-07-02

Letter of Recommendation for Alexander Abutu Augustine

I was utmost glad when I heard that Alexander Abutu Augustine (Lexy) is willing to run for the election to the Board of the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ). So I strongly want to support his candidature.

I know Lexy since 2006 when he was my mentee in the first round of SjCOOP in Africa. Since then we have regular e-mail contact and Skype or Facebook chats ever now and then.

He performed as the best writer of the SjCOOP course and in 2008 wrote the most discussed story ever published until then on SciDev.net.

But he is also very active in supporting science journalism in Subsahara-Africa while keeping international bonds. So he became the President of the African Federation of Science Journalists (AFSJ) in 2007, which flourished considerably when he entered the board.

Consequently, the organisers of the 6th World Conference of Science Journalists 2009 (WCSJ) recruited him as panellist as one of the four journalists on the panel "Four Science Journalists who changed the World".

He worked with Research Africa in South Africa, and in London with ResearchResearch. Currently he is back in Nigeria where he works as environment editor for the Daily Trust newspaper, is still freelance for SciDev.net, and just started his blog www.scientificng.com. He is also editor at the well known webzine AfricaSTI.

I know Lexy as an extremely engaged science journalists and a good networker also beyond the African continent, where he is a known and trusted person. He is a good and thoughtful auditor (listener), and a constructive, knowledgable and far-sighted debater. Thus I am fully convinced he will enrich the WFSJ Board.

I am a German science journalist, President emeritus of EUSJA and still a member of the Board of the German TELI. The 1st SjCOOP 1-week briefing workshop for mentors 2006 in Munich, Germany, was organised under my active auspices.

With kind regards

