

Dear Nomination Committee for the WFSJ board,

To anyone who knows anything about science journalism in Africa, the first name that comes to mind on this topic is: Ochieng Ogodo.

Mr Ogodo is a household name in the circles of science journalism in Africa and beyond, having built up a huge profile over the last decade or so.

He has been incredibly active as a science journalist and editor across Africa. There's hardly a month when he is not travelling to some African country to report from, or to speak at, conferences, ministerial meetings or press trips.

In his capacity as Sub-Saharan Africa editor and coordinator for SciDev.Net he has built up a large network of contacts in science, journalism, policy and funding circles way beyond his native Kenya, and East Africa.

And, working closely with other regional editors, he's well aware of issues in Francophone/West Africa as well as in North Africa, and the rest of the developing world, too.

Colleagues in Africa respect and admire him, and the fact that he comes from Africa but works for an international global brand makes him a perfect bridge between the two worlds.

I have worked closely with him for several years, both when he was reporting for me, and as a fellow editor. We've attended conferences together and trained journalists together. I have always been impressed by his positivity, optimism, good nature and willingness to compromise, in addition to professionalism and love for science journalism.

He is one of the few journalists in Africa who have managed to build a full-time career solely on science reporting, and he has not stopped at that — he is also extremely active in training new reporters, speaking at events, and setting up science journalism associations.

He was involved in African conferences of science journalism and in the African bid to host the WCSJ. The fact that their bid didn't win, but he is still active and enthusiastic about WFSJ several years later shows off his positive spirit and the hope for the conference to eventually go to Africa.

Given all this, I cannot think of a better or more pan-African candidate to join your board. I can wholeheartedly recommend Mr Ogodo, and wish him best of luck in mainstreaming African science journalism globally.

Best wishes,



Mico Tatalović

Environment News Editor

Shortlisted for best section team at British Society of Magazine Editors' Talent Awards 2017

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