



SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

MAY, 2022

APPRECIATION

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the hybrid edition of the School Safety Summit. Thank you to the staff and volunteers of The Safety Chic Ltd. Thank you to the Lagos State Safety Commission, the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board, IOSH West Africa, Women Entrepreneurship for Africa, European Network of Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health (ENETOSH) and all the participants.

School Safety Summit 6: Child Safety - Importance of a Systematic Safety Education

The Summit kicked off with opening remarks from the Founder of The Safety Chic, Ugochi Obidiegwu. She acknowledged all stakeholders present such as representatives of the office of the Lagos State Safety Commission, the Head of International Cooperation, DGUV, Germany, the Lagos State Fire Service, staff and teachers from the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board, the leadership of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), the leadership of IOSH West Africa, Lagos and the participants (parents, teachers and safety professionals).

She said, The Safety Chic exists to contribute to capacity building efforts for educators in the country. She stressed that the theme for this year's summit, "Child Safety - Importance of a Systematic Safety Education" was essential because it is the foundation the work The Safety Chic is built on. Safety Education has to be systematic and not just a response to a social media trend or news. She urged all stakeholders to take responsibility and be proactive about our children's safety. She said it was important for children to learn about safety because while working in the field and through research, she has observed that children are able to learn safety content presented in an age appropriate manner. Children are like sponges, they are not too small to learn and the medium of education used in conveying these lessons must be age appropriate.

She briefly gave an overview of the safety education game app that would be launched during the event. The Adventures of Muna game app covers different safety lessons in each level of the game presented in a fun and memorable way. She promised to serve all children including all children in underserved communities who would get safety education materials for free. She also offered to work with organizations and governments to integrate safety into the education of African children. She encouraged everyone to look out for different ways they can implement right away their nuggets from the summit.

The keynote address was presented by Dr Ulrike Bollman, Head of International Cooperation, DGUV. She said ENETOSH, an international organization is dedicated to integrating Safety and Health into the Educational System. She stressed that ENETOSH has a strategic action plan to accomplish this aim. This plan can be found on www.enetosh.net. She said there are two levels of integrating safety

education systematically:

1. Making people into authentic humans.
2. Making safety education an integral part of the school.

Dr. Bollman highlighted three fields of action for making safety an integral part of schools: school development, teaching development and organizational development. She concluded her session with six factors and three principles for a strategic approach. The factors are language, goals, cooperation, multi-level approach, participation and resources. Competence Orientation, School Development Approach and Holistic Prevention are the three principles upon which strategic implementation of safety should be done in schools. After the Keynote address, participants watched an illustration video of The Adventures of Muna mobile game app for children. Participants were encouraged to download for a discounted fee of \$2 as opposed to the \$5 fee when it is launched on July 1, 2022. The app is available for download on www.thesafetychic.com

Mr Temitope Mudele, President, IOSH West Africa, Lagos, encouraged parents to take responsibility for the safety of the children because most times, children spend more time with their parents than with anyone else. He mentioned that parents should create a safe space for their children to speak out concerning whatever may be bothering them and to keep communication lines open. A representative from The Lagos State Fire Service educated participants on what to do in case of fire accidents at home. She suggested preventive measures such as keeping match boxes away from the gas, ensuring that the gas cylinders are kept outside the home and much more. In a case of a fire incident, everyone should be evacuated to safety and the fire service contacted. She encouraged parents and teachers to let children know what their boundaries are regarding fire, the environment around which fire is used and to ensure supervision.

A panel session ensued with the following panelists:

1. Dr. Abdoulaye Diallo, Child Fund, Guinea
2. Mr Rotimi Eyitayo, Teammasters, Lagos
3. Mrs Abiola Sanusi,
4. Mr Alpha Djalon, Greendeeve – Sarl, Guinea
5. Dr Bisi Esuroso, Schoolrun Academy, Lagos

Alpha Djalon said it was relevant to teach health and safety to children so they can be protected. He also said it's important to teach children safety in their formative years rather than wait till their older. Abduction was the most common case of child safety he had experienced. Dr. Abdoulaye Diallo encouraged stakeholders to create

innovative products with their target audience in mind, partner with Non-governmental organizations around them, keep in touch with the Ministry of Education so as to ensure sustainability of their products and services, and mobilize funds from corporate organizations. He mentioned that these and more have helped his work in partnerships at Child Fund, Guinea.

Ms Abiola Sanusi mentioned that research was conducted in 2021 and the Nigerian Education Board came up with a minimum standard for school safety in the country. She said a missing gap she has noticed in Nigerian schools is the lack of a School Safety Plan which should be outlined and posted in the Principal's office. She also said risk assessment should be included in this plan. Mr Rotimi Eyitayo spoke on the need for children to be educated on cause and effect for their unsafe actions and activities. He said some children who lack knowledge on the effect of their actions played a lot of pranks in the name of games. Dr Bisi Esuroso said children play naturally so most of the safety accidents they encounter are during play. So stakeholders are to guard their physical activities by ensuring that their environment is clutter free and exit points are open.

The DG of the Lagos Safety Commission was ably represented by Mr Adebisi and he read the DG's speech. He emphasised that safety is important and should be approached creatively. The summit ended on a splendid note as participants were well equipped with practical tips and insights on how to stay safe, keep children around them safe and also implement systematic safety education in schools.