

HIFASS RECEIVES PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICER FOUNDATION

It is with great delight I welcome you both, Dr. Gene Migliaccio and Dr. Muhiuddin Haider, and your powerful entourage to our office in Abuja. On behalf of the board and management of HIFASS, I extend our love and appreciation to PHS Foundation Board for releasing you both- scholars and achievers of international repute- for this assignment. It is a humbling experience that we dearly cherish. We have always considered ourselves members of the PHS family but your presence here with us is a dream come true. We just cannot wait to see Jerry Farrell, Jerold Michael and other members of the family in New Orleans next month. Once more, you are welcome.

Let me seize this opportunity to commend the leadership role the USA government and its people are playing in deploying extraordinary capacity across the globe, particularly to vulnerable populations, to contain decisively ever emerging global threats, ensuring the world becomes a safer place for us all.

HIFASS is a young organization, committed to collaborative efforts in the promotion of public health and diplomacy, particularly in the nations of Africa. The PHS Foundation and HIFASS share a joint interest in public health manpower development which is critical to our mission. In September 2008, HIFASS signed an agreement with PHS Foundation that whenever possible we will work together to actualize this interest. In 2009, the US government Department of Defence signed a five year cooperative funding agreement with HIFASS to assist in resource mobilization and management for the joint HIV/AIDS programme of military to military cooperation between US government and Nigeria government.

HIFASS also collaborates with military medical personnel to conduct research, training and build capacity on the health needs of military personnel and civilians living in and around military barracks.

Today, we are excited to have you with us. I want to assure you that we are very willing to learn and you can count on our maximum cooperation. Learning prepares us to tackle the challenges that the future holds. Abraham Lincoln once declared “if I had 8 hours to chop down a tree, I would spend six sharpening my axe”. We have no doubt that by the end of this professionalization exercise, we will be better positioned to carry out our responsibilities. On behalf of HIFASS, I wish both of you a wonderful stay!

Dr. R.O. Oritsejafor

President, HIFASS