

[2020 + 60] = ?

NINAH NIMI BRIGGS

Although rather cliché, it certainly stands true that many the world over entered this year with great expectations. The number '2020' espoused something *special* in the hearts of most. Stylish-sounding, it was to serve as the dawn of a new era with great political, fiscal, social, and environmental strides across regions, societies, and demographics. It actually *did*. It heralded the 'decade of action' for the United Nations and its SDGs, which in themselves suddenly became far more crucial thanks to the *impetus* this year has occasioned on us.

A global pandemic (with its own stylish name) unleashed disruption like man(kind) had hitherto not envisaged nor experienced in living memory, which has become the painfully accepted norm across business, social, and (geo)political ecosystems; triggering a deep-seated identity crisis in many spheres, reflected in changing challenges, changing needs and changing trends. 'Normal' is recreating itself for the purposes of its journey ahead; a journey in which our own industry and profession admittedly play an increasingly critical role - so I hope you've got your bags packed for the 2020+ journey.

Our country Nigeria gained independence sixty years ago. Our profession established its Institute sixty years ago. The journey for the Nation has been somewhat of a mixed bag - starting out with a lot of promise, finding a resource-trajectory that catapulted fortunes, started to stumble along the way, and is now trying to gather and strengthen her internally *challenged* organs. At sixty, our country finds herself at multiple crossroads. From the economy to population, from climate change to (in)security, from electoral maturity to long-term fiscal and policy resets (long overdue, in thanks to the cripple of a mono-economy). In all these, however, lie strong seeds of greatness and unbridled potential readily available for tapping. As human development needs consistently outstrip ability to meet them, thankfully (germinating seeds of) innovation and entrepreneurship provide promise and succour that must be harnessed as we do 2020+.

Our profession itself is also at its crossroads with a past that has laid a necessary and critical foundation, a present that is grappling with self-realisation, and a future that is betroth to climate change and technology energised disruption. In Nigeria we have particularly interesting *additives* to this mix - the 'dwindling number' of registered practitioners and the seeming 'loss of place at the table', the compound effect of which clearly points out the task ahead. With a registered head-count hovering just above the 5,000 mark to serve a teeming population currently estimated at 200m+ (70% made up of below 30-yrs of age), and considered the largest economy in Africa and the largest 'black nation' on earth, we have a sure responsibility to deliver on and prevent abortive works on a future to be harnessed.

In December 1991, Abuja became the Capital Territory of our country, a title it has (up)held with varying degrees of success since then. The sustained economic, employment, and social influx from sources both within and without national margins is a reflection of the growing strategic importance of the FCT, second only to its predecessor capital city. But with this comes a (sometimes caustic) menu of *capital-delicacies* - an asymmetrically increased pressure on services, utilities and urban infrastructure, urban blight and urban sprawl, seasonal flooding and community demolitions as a 'planning response', transportation-vs-traffic, the human realities of waste (generation and distribution), and a masterplan in dire need of wholistic revisit.

In a bid to become a (truly) Capital City the Territory's current Administration is endeavouring to deal with this array of challenges in stages as best as is possible, engaging available policy provisions, technical capacities and political will. Beyond 'floor plans and sections', as Architects, there is much need to realise and deliver on our expansive potentials - vested in us by our unique training and subsequent skillset, to bring, add and apply value to this quest to domesticate the SDGs, particularly SDG-11 (with which all other SDGs are directly/indirectly linked). Not a mean feat, but as 60-yr olds this is our professional responsibility to the 2020+ journey.

Tesla, and its indefatigable *progenitor* have heralded the 'normalcy of disruption' insofar as the future on this planet is concerned. Every facet of human development and human endeavour is laid bare before this altar, our profession inclusive. A data-driven future where the 'virtual (becomes) reality', reality (is mostly) augmented, and natural intelligence becomes exponentially capable with an 'artificial' injection is going to signpost the crossroads we find ourselves at. Particularly as we innovate to domesticate these in our 'third-world' context, or should I say 'developing world' post 2020. Building Information Models (BIM) will help, policy interventions will help, political will will certainly help, but ultimately it requires 'you and I' for us to stand any chance of success. In our society today habitation, health, hunger, and human development (in all its facets) present themselves to us as intervention opportunities on a daily basis, therefore I hope we've got our bags packed.

As I close, I admit the headwinds that have assailed the profession and indeed wider industry as a whole have been somewhat unprecedented, but almost in parallel, the opportunities and critical need for our services, intervention, and unique skills have (probably) never been this much appreciated, desired, recognised and required if development is going to be (truly) sustainable.



We all probably 'have' very good "20/20 vision" by now, no pun meant. We can see clearly where we have come from, we can see clearly where we are, and can see clearly what direction things need to head after 2020 - vantage like never before. Here's to formally welcome you to the rest of this special year of 2020, to the 'one-chance' of opportunities untold, and to the formal commencement of the 2020-2022 Session of the NIAABC....and by the way I am (probably like you) staring across the Atlantic with bated breath at 3rd November on a lighter note.



Happy Independence Day fellow Nigerians
Happy 60th Anniversary, The Nigerian Institute of Architects
Happy 2020-Q4 fellow NIAABC members



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NIAABC 2020/2021 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Month	Day	Activities	CPDPoints	Remarks
Aug 2020	3 rd	EXM-01	10	
	15 th	EXCO Retreat	15	
	25 th /28 th	ArchiBuilt EXPO	-	Rescheduled for September
Sep 2020	1 st /5 th	NIAPPE Seminar	-	
	9 th	EXM-02	10	
	21 st /25 th	NIAPPEs	-	
	30 th	NIAABC CGM-01/CPDP	15	
Oct 2020	2 nd /6 th	WAD	10	
	7 th	EXM-03	10	
	28 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Nov 2020	4 th	EXM-04	10	
	11 th	NIAABC CGM-02/CPDP	15	
	26 th /28 th	NAGM	20	
Dec 2020	2 nd	EXM-05	10	
	11 th	Secretariat closes	-	
	11 th	Chapter End-of-Year	15	
Jan 2021	13 th	EXM-06	10	
	27 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Feb 2021	3 rd	EXM-07	10	
	10 th	NIAABC CGM-03	15	
	24 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Mar 2021	2 nd /5 th	NIAPPE Seminar	-	
	10 th	EXM-08	10	
	23 rd /26 th	NIAPPEs	-	
	31 st	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Apr 2021	7 th	EXM-09	10	
	28 th	NIAABC CPDP	15	
May 2021	12 th	EXM-10	10	
	19 th	NIAABC CGM-04	10	
	26 th	NIAABC CPDP		
Jun 2021	9 th	EXM-11	10	
	30 th	NIAABC CPDP	15	
Jul 2021	7 th	EXM-12	10	




*Please note some dates are as obtained from the pre-covid National Calendar
EXCO will advise Chapter where and when events and/or dates need to be revised

	16 th	CAGM	20	
	28 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Aug 2021	4 th	EXM-13	10	
	18 th	NIAABC CGM-05	15	
	25 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Sep 2021	7 th /10 th	NIAPPE Seminar	-	
	8 th	EXM-14	10	
	21 st /24 th	NIAPPEs	-	
	29 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Oct 2021	4 th	WAD	10	
	13 th	EXM-15	10	
	20 th	NIAABC CGM-06	15	
	27 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Nov 2021	3 rd	EXM-16	10	
	10 th	NIAABC CGM-07	15	
	17 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
	24 th /27 th	NBGM	20	
Dec 2021	8 th	EXM-17	10	
	10 th	Secretariat closes	-	
	10 th	Chapter End-of-Year	15	
Jan 2022	12 th	EXM-18	10	
	26 th	NIAABC CPDP	15	
Feb 2022	2 nd	EXM-19	10	
	9 th	NIAABC CGM-08	15	
	23 rd	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Mar 2022	1 st /4 th	NIAPPE Seminar	-	
	9 th	EXM-20	10	
	22 nd /25 th	NIAPPEs	-	
	30 th	NIAABC CPDP	15	
Apr 2022	6 th	EXM-21	10	
	27 th	NIAABC CPDP	15	
May 2022	4 th	EXM-22	10	
	11 th	NIAABC CGM-09	15	
	25 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Jun 2022	1 st	EXM-23	10	
	29 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	
Jul 2022	13 th	EXM-24	10	
	20 th	CBGM	20	
	27 th	NIAABC CPDP	10	



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