



Message from Tayo Fashoyin

During much of the present decade, I have served our great Association, ILERA, as Secretary. During the period, we had four World Congresses and unbroken record of Regional Congresses in-between the World Congresses. Our Association is stronger today because of your involvement in the various scientific programmes of the Association. Our Study Groups have remained strong and popular, as a key medium for the sharing of research and new thinking in our field. We also published an important treatise about our field and our Association, i.e. ***The Global Evolution of Industrial Relations. Events, Ideas and the IIRA.*** (2004) We had intended this book to be a modest articulation of the origin and role of our Association, but it turned out to do much more, as it traces the origin and development of our field and how our Association became a major global vanguard of this important phenomenon of modern industrial life.

Just a year ago, our Council took the major decision, after more than a decade of extensive discussion and careful review, to change the name of our Association to International Labour and Employment Relations Association, ILERA. As our President, Janice Bellace and I explained in our announcement of the name change, the Association is enlarging its scope of subjects to reflect the in the new world of work. Issues such as non-standard or atypical employment are increasingly taking the attention of policy makers and decision makers as well as growing academic discourse. I can confirm to you that the overwhelming majority of our esteemed members have hailed the name change as proper and timely, as a response to the change we are witnessing in our field today and in the foreseeable le future.

Well, I suppose I could go on and write on so many things that have come across during the period of my stewardship. But that is not the purpose of this message; its purpose is to let you know that I am retiring as Secretary of our Association at the end of this month. As many of you may know, this coincides with my retirement from the International Labour Office, which I have served for more than 16 years. I now return to private life. In doing so, I want to thank all of you for your support, encouragement and friendship. I extend my sincere thanks to the Presidents I have had the privilege of working with, and to members of the Executive Committee and of Council. All of them have made my work as Secretary meaningful, fruitful and interesting. I am grateful to Johanna De Vries, our Administrative Assistant, who has held the fort in the Secretariat all these years. Johanna learnt the ILERA language and means of action rather fast, and as such made my work as Secretary highly focussed; I thank her for her dedication. As I leave, the Executive Committee has made a nomination to the Director General of the ILO for an interim Secretary, until the next election in Philadelphia in July 2012. This decision had been taken at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Copenhagen in June 2010. We will communicate this to you in the near future. I trust all of you will extend to the new Secretary the same support you have given to me these past years.

Let me conclude by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tayo Fashoyin
ILERA Secretary

14 December 2010