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### **ISOLA/Trinidad 2006: December 2005 Newsletter**

Dear colleagues:

Before we all go away for the year-end break, I thought I should bring to your attention a few issues, some of them arising from questions that I have been asked in the last few weeks.

#### The trip to Tobago

Besides being a very beautiful place to visit on an excursion, the island of Tobago is the home region of the late Dr J.D. Elder, a doyen of Afro-diasporic folklore study in whose honor ISOLA is holding the 2006 conference in Trinidad & Tobago. Our trip to Tobago is being arranged with the cooperation of the Tobago House of Assembly and influential civic and cultural officials in the country. However, we would like to be sure how many of us actually intend to make this trip, which entails an additional expense in air travel ( I am informed it will cost about US \$50, but urge participants to check with their airline agents). It is planned as a day trip, and plans are being made to provide us with ground transportation in Tobago. Those who wish to make this trip should please notify me **urgently** by e-mail reply, so we can decide whether or not this is a viable item for our conference agenda.

#### Performances:

We plan to devote one of the evenings of the conference to poetry performances. These will include the chanting of oral/folk poetry from the orisa and other indigenous traditions of Africa and the Caribbean: Trinidad & Tobago has an especially vibrant tradition in this regard. Poets among us should also be ready to present some of their modern compositions at the event. Finally, this cultural aspect of the conference will feature calypso music, one of the country's proud contributions to world culture and the subject of some of Dr Elder's ground-breaking work.

#### Hotel accommodation

Participants should please check on the current rates of hotels advertised in earlier newsletters. One participant has told me that upon a random check with one of the listed hotels (Brenda Bed and Breakfast), he learnt that the price earlier quoted as US\$25 has now gone up to US\$35, breakfast being a separate expense as before.

#### My e-mail address

Some correspondents from Nigeria have reported having difficulties reaching me by my regular e-mail address (above). My enquiry has revealed that my university's server has recently taken the step of screening off a lot of the mail coming from Nigeria, sad to say, so as to reduce the traffic of financial scams emanating from the country. Anyone who has had problems reaching me with my official address (above) may use my personal e-mail address [isidoreokpewho@yahoo.com](mailto:isidoreokpewho@yahoo.com). Sorry about this!

#### ISOLA Publication News

This is the final call for those who have, within the last one year, published articles, books, and other relevant works dealing with some aspect of African (and Afro-diasporic) oral literature/folklore to send me the details of such publications. The next installment of ISOLA Publication News will be issued in February 2006.

Have a great holiday !!

Isidore Okpewho

President of ISOLA