

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN, HRH OBA (ENGR)  
OLAYIWOLA OLALEKAN ADERETI, THE OBAWARA OF IWARA  
KINGDOM OF IFE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF PICTORIAL EXHIBITION IN HONOUR OF LEO  
FROBENIUS ON 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 AT NATIONAL MUSEUM,  
ILE-IFE AT 11:00AM.**

Kabiyesi, the Adagba of Iyanfoworogi, HRH Oba 'Bolu Fatunmise, Ife  
Traditional Chiefs in attendance,

Distinguished scholars from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife here present,  
Invited guests, Gentlemen of the Press, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am particularly happy and honoured to be called upon to chair the opening ceremony of **The 100 Years Ago in the Eyes of Leo-Frobenius and his Expedition Team**. This exhibition is unique because it is packaged to honour and celebrate Leo-Frobenius, a German ethnologist, who popularized and projected Ife Arts to the outside world when he visited Ile-Ife in 1910. Through his publication "The Voice of Africa" published in 1913, the attention of Ile-Ife and her rich cultural heritage was brought to limelight. This singular incident changed the cultural landscape and fortunes of Ile-Ife completely, Ile-Ife and Ife Arts became known to the outside world for the very first time and became a tourist delight and tourist destination not only to tourists but to researchers as well.

Kabiyesi, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a fact of history that Ile-Ife is the cradle of Yoruba Culture and Civilization, rich and naturally endowed with outstanding sculptures and unique heritage sites unequally anywhere in the world. Regrettably, however, succeeding generations of Ife have done very little to improve and develop Ife artistic culture. It is no longer in doubt, that nothing was known of Ife arts by the outside world until the advent of Leo-Frobenius in November, 1910. The fact is that a lot of Ife exquisite sculptures of outstanding qualities are still buried in the soil yet to be discovered.

There is urgent need for cultural reawakening not only in Ife but in Nigeria in general to compliment Leo-Frobenius concerted efforts. It is high time for cultural studies to be made compulsory in our schools and colleges to ensure the continuity and growth of our cultural heritage. There should be a cultural summit to chart the way forward. Government and all stakeholders in the cultural sector must stop paying lip service to cultural revival and development.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to seize this unique opportunity to call for the revival of "Odu" - A cultural journal hitherto published by Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the efforts of Leo-Frobenius Institute in Germany, National Commission for Museums and Monuments and particularly, National Museum, Ile-Ife for this exhibition.

Thank you all.