**ADVANCING CHILD RIGHTS ACT AND FAMILY COURT**

Child Rights Law and Family court workshop in Calabar, Cross River State

The Justice Research Institute is championing the cause of disseminating knowledge on the protection of the rights of Children, and advancing child justice through specialized workshop on the Child Rights Act and the family court system. As part of our mandate to disseminate knowledge and be a resource centre for the judiciary, we collaborate with states judiciary in facilitating capacity development seminars and workshops for Judges, Magistrates, Family Court Assessors and other judicial personnel on this area of our justice system, which has not been fully utilized.

As a follow of our previous knowledge sharing experiences with the Lagos State Judiciary in April 2010, we held a very successful workshop for the Cross River State Judiciary in Calabar on the 12th of March 2011. The workshop was attended by personnel of the state judiciary including Judges, Magistrates, judicial workers, representatives from the State Executive, the House of Assembly, Civil society, schools and the media. The First Lady of Cross River State, Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke while declaring open the workshop expressed her joy for the effort by the Sate judiciary towards addressing an issue for which she has made so much commitment: Child Justice.

Participants at the workshop left with fulfillment and great optimism for the future. The sessions were facilitated by Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Director of the Justice Research Institute and former Attorney General of Lagos State, Prof. Adedokun Adeyemi, Child Rights Expert and lecturer at the University of Lagos, Mrs. Maryam Uwais, Director Justice Research Institute and Child Rights Expert, Ms. Sharon Oladiji, a Child Rights Expert from the UNICEF Nigeria and Mrs. Osai Ojigho , training expert from the Alliances for Africa.

