

7TH AFRICA-EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

CONFERENCE THEME

New Thinking for Structural Transformation & Sustainable Development in Africa

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

The conference will foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among researchers, development practitioners and African policymakers. The African-European Research Development and Capacity Building Programme will be launch at the Conference.

CONFERENCE DATE

Wednesday 14th - Thursday 15th November, 2018

CONFERENCE VENUE

Conference Hall, Djibson Hotels, Quartier JAK/PLM Akpakpa, Cotonou - Benin Republic

TIME: 9:00 am

SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Diji Chukwuemeka

Chairman, African Research Council
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

ED. Jonah Ulebor

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



DAY ONE: Wednesday 14th November, 2018

Arrival/Delegates Meeting

DAY TWO: Thursday 15th November, 2018

Conference Registration - 10:00 am - 10:30 am

Institutional Brief/Keynote Speakers - 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Brief on African-European Research Development and Capacity Building Programme - 11:00 am - 11:30 am

Partnership for African Research: Setting the Agenda - 11:30 am - 12 noon

Presentation by International Representative for African-European Development Project - 12 noon - 1:00 pm

African School of Economics

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PLENARY SESSION 1 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

BREAK - 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

PLENARY SESSION 2 - 3:30 pm - 6:00pm

DAY THREE: Friday 16th November, 2018 - Departure from Cotonou



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7th African-European Regional Conference on Economic Transformation

...developing a framework for research and policy

From the Conference Secretariat
African Research Council for Sustainable Development
University of Ibadan, Nigeria



The objective of the 7th African-European Regional Conference on Economic Transformation is to reflect on the progress, challenges, and prospects of structurally transforming the economies of an African nation, drawing lessons from the European Economy. The conference is therefore expected to foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among researchers, development practitioners, and African policymakers.

Recent studies and statistics have shown that the European Union ranks as the world's second-largest economy by gross domestic product. The indices focus on demography, health, life expectancy, children's mortality, public finance and the volume of trade¹. As recently as 2014, the EU outranked all other countries in terms of GDP. The EU-African Research framework is intended to examine key sectors of the European economy where Africa can draw lessons and develop from.

²Brexit leaves Africa with two important lessons:

1. First, integration should not solely focus on economic growth and regulation at a macro level, but should also effectively translate the tangible benefits of integration to citizens at the micro level. These efforts would ultimately shift the sentiments of citizens more favorably towards the regional arrangement. More than ever, technocrats at the AU and RECs have to constantly gauge and take into account the views of their citizens on adopted policies. While full integration in Africa is still an aspiration, buy-in from African citizens will be a crucial defining factor in the success or failure of the regional arrangement.

The Africa-wide development agenda, as championed by the AU, is based on regional integration and the formation of an African Economic Community (AEC) using its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks. It aims to create free trade areas, customs unions, a single market, a central bank, and a common currency. The current continental agenda, Agenda 2063, set a vision for the creation of an integrated, developed and peaceful Africa by 2063. For Africa, the potential gains from increased regional integration are significant: the 54 economies in Africa make up the most fragmented region in the world. In addition, more than a third of African economies are landlocked.

¹The 2017 edition of the statistical compendium '—The European Union and the African Union A statistical portrait, prepared jointly by Eurostat and the Statistics Division of the African Union (AU) Commission in the framework of the promotion of economic governance as foreseen by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

²Brexit: Lessons learnt for regional integration in Africa. Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2. Second, integration entails that states find an advantageous balance between their membership in the regional integration scheme and their national interests. Countries become part of a collective arrangement to maximize their national interests; and if these interests are not realized, they may be deterred from implementing regional and continental plans. The creation of Free Trade Areas (FTA) in Africa is limited by the dominance of some states in the trade flows in their regions such as Nigeria in ECOWAS, Kenya in the EAC, and South Africa in SADC. Thus, the AU and RECs need to clearly outline the gains from regional integration in order for states to realize their national interests; not only economic gains but also the intangible value of group membership in a continental or regional arrangement.

Despite the challenges the EU faces today, the ideals of regional integration have not failed in Europe or in Africa. The EU is a Europe of democracy, a Europe of prosperity, a Europe of pluralism, liberty, and friendship. The EU motto, "United in diversity", applies today more so than ever because it signifies how Europeans have come together in the form of the EU to work towards peace and prosperity and to benefit from the continent's different cultures, traditions, and languages. In the midst of uncertainty in Europe, Africa should, more than ever, view its diversity as an opportunity for greater regional integration.

It will become more important for regional powers to avoid the pursuit of nationalist agendas in favor of following a common vision towards successful regional integration. The AU should prioritize communication with its members, encourage a unified approach, and most importantly translate political decision making in such a way that the common people can relate to it. In fact, avoiding alienation between the political elite and their constituencies is one of the most important lessons to draw from Brexit.

The launch of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and the first-ever summit between the 27 members of the EU and the 54 nations of Africa in 2007 seem to have hit a reset of sorts in the two regions' relationship. Indeed, over the last decade, the EU has worked, with a large degree of success, to transition to a partnership model based on reciprocal trade. The fifth EU-Africa Summit took place in Abidjan in 2017 against a background in which two-way trade exceeds \$300 billion. In association with the summit, the EU pledged to mobilize more than \$54 billion in "sustainable" investment for Africa by 2020.

The EU is shoring up its commercial position in Africa through a web of free trade agreements, or Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which Brussels is negotiating or has concluded with 40 African nations in sub-Saharan Africa. The EPAs provide European companies with preferential access to markets across the region and will liberalize about 80 percent of imports over 20 years. Progress on concluding the EPAs is not without its challenges. Not surprisingly, Nigeria contends that an EPA undermines its industrialization strategies, and Brexit detracts from the EU ability's to negotiate as a common market.

A comprehensive EU trade strategy combined with a private sector that has historic ties to local markets sets the stage for continued growth and influence by European firms in the

African market. In addition, the EU is well positioned to share lessons learned from its decades of experience with regional economic integration as, especially as the Continental Free Trade Agreement was signed by most African Union members in Kigali on March 21.

³The idea of an economically and politically United Africa has been gaining momentum since the first Pan-African Congress of 1900. Roughly one century later, the African Union (AU) was launched at the 2002 summit in Durban, South Africa.

The European Union (EU) started small with the European Coal and Steel Community (1951 Treaty of Paris) with only six countries. Today, it includes a common market, a common currency, and increasingly a coordinated foreign and security policy. The AU counts 53 members (twice the EU's current number), and with 1 billion people also twice the EU's population. Furthermore, Europe in the 1950s and the African continent today could hardly be more different in their starting positions - geographically, economically, in terms of infrastructure and human capital stocks, the state of public institutions, or the checks and balances on leaders.

Some strategic areas of research that Africa should learn from include,

1. Energy
2. Transport
3. Democratic Ideals and accountability
4. Government expenditure and revenue
5. Regional Integration

³Competing in Africa: China, the European Union, and the United States
Witney Scheidman and ³Joel Wiegert. The Brookings Institutions, Washington DC, USA

Learning Europe's Lessons in Africa

Blair Glencorse and Charles Landow

Blair Glencorse is Founder and Executive Director of the Accountability Lab.

Charles Landow is Associate Director of the Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative at the Council on Foreign Relations, University of Nebraska at Omaha, New York.



The EU's experience — including, not least, the ongoing Eurozone crisis — offers plenty of lessons that could help the EAC replicate the EU's successes while avoiding its troubles. Economically, the evidence suggests that East African countries should vigorously integrate their markets but move cautiously regarding a common currency. Politically, they should focus intensely on accountability for democratic practices, though progress on this front will be more difficult than in the economic sphere. The EAC's five countries — Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda — have made astoundingly rapid progress since the bloc was re-launched in 2000 (An earlier union of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda dissolved in 1977, ten years after its founding.)

On paper, at least, the EAC has harmonized rules and tariffs and guaranteed the free movement of labor, capital, goods, and services among member states. In the EU, this occurred through the acceptance of the *Acquis Communautaire*, the body of EU law. In the EAC it has, so far, meaning the adoption of a common market and customs union, joint judicial and legislative bodies, and measures such as the mutual accreditation of higher education institutions.

The EAC's progress offers a welcome if little-noticed, argument that the Euro's troubles need not discredit the EU's model for integration. There is no need to throw out the baby with the bathwater. Indeed, economically, the EAC has an enormous amount to gain from integration. According to the latest data in the World Bank's global poverty statistics, 81 percent of Burundians, 43 percent of Kenyans, 63 percent of Rwandans, 68 percent of Tanzanians, and 38 percent of Ugandans live on less than \$1.25 per day. IMF data show that GDP per capita is only \$850 in the wealthiest EAC country, Kenya. In Burundi, the poorest, it is just \$279.

Each EAC member economy is also small in the aggregate. Kenya, the largest of the five, has a 2011 GDP of only \$35 billion, according to the IMF — about the same as South Dakota. This suggests that integration could unlock tremendous growth and economies of scale.

Geography, too, points to substantial advantages if East African states can successfully merge their markets. Kenya and Tanzania enjoy long coastlines; Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda are landlocked. With under-developed infrastructure throughout the region, the gains from the construction of roads and railways, carefully streamlined border crossings, and improved connections from the interior to Kenyan and Tanzanian ports could be huge. A modern transport network would allow investors to increase and spread throughout the region.

The EAC has traveled quickly along the continuum of economic integration through the development of a customs union and common market, which have begun to support intra-regional development and specialization. Kenya is supplying financial services and Uganda is increasingly providing education and health services to other members, for example. This is all to the good.

The next major step, a common currency, is more problematic, however. East African leaders have announced their intention to form a currency between 2012 and 2015. The group's leaders recently urged negotiators to "move with greater speed" to conclude a protocol that would lay out steps toward implementation. Officials hope to reach an agreement by the end of the year. But the EU's experience suggests this is premature.

With diverse levels of wealth and widely varying approaches to regulation and competitiveness, and with some members (notably Germany) running current-account surpluses while others (such as Greece) run deficits, the Eurozone has been unable to promote stability and growth in all its members at the same time. The EAC faces a similar range of economic disparities.

As recent headlines show, the EU also sorely lacks sufficient fiscal integration and institutional consensus. A decade after the Euro entered circulation, the role of its governing organization, the European Central Bank (ECB), remains a subject of acrimony, and there is no cross-national budget surveillance or credible penalty for violating agreements. ECB president Mario Draghi on Thursday announced a plan to buy the bonds of indebted national governments, but it comes over vehement opposition from Germany, the Eurozone's dominant economy. The EAC lacks consensus on these questions as well.

Europe's experience and the EAC's situation on the ground argue for eschewing a monetary union until East Africa's integration advances considerably. Harmonizing regulations; facilitating travel, investment, and trade; maintaining consistent control over inflation; investing in infrastructure; balancing levels of wealth and competitiveness; sharing greater sovereign authority over policies and decisions; building institutions with secure and agreed-upon powers — all these should come before a common currency.

Fortunately, some officials and experts appear to recognize that haste is dangerous. The EAC's secretary general, Richard Sezibera, said this spring that "we are not rushing to single currency before putting our house in order." Delegations from the region are visiting Brussels to analyze Europe's experience (they are also visiting West Africa to learn about that region's monetary union).

At a conference in Tanzania, Oxford economist Paul Collier said: "Considering what happened in the Eurozone, the monetary union is not the way to go." Rwanda's *New Times* has featured a series of articles expressing skepticism about the region's readiness for a common currency. Even the chief economist of the National Bank of Rwanda, Thomas Kigabo, has written a paper arguing that "the economic convergence and institutional development needed to support the monetary union is likely to take an extended period of time." A former governor of the Bank of Uganda, Leo Kibirango, recently sounded similar cautionary note.

Politically, too, the EU offers valuable lessons for East Africa. But here it is not clear that the EAC can make use of them. Perhaps the EU's greatest achievement is cementing a zone of democracy and peace where armed conflict, once common, is unthinkable. Although governance across the EU is far from perfect, the bloc has created a large and growing space where basic rights and institutions are protected and peace is inviolate. Even with its current problems, the EU has become a global paragon of accountability and stability. This is a remarkable historical achievement.

The problem is that these political accomplishments were driven by a group of previously prosperous and institutionally robust Western European states. The attractiveness of their example, and the inducement of structural assistance, market access, and prestige, encouraged Eastern and Southern European countries to strengthen their democratic institutions and norms in order to join the EU.

In the EAC, there is no such core of rich and established democracies. No member is in a strong position to hold others to high standards of governance. The bloc already includes states whose democratic credentials are dubious at best. Neither is any member willing or able to offer significant funds to others as an inducement for reform. Indeed, perceptions of imbalanced benefits (with Kenya seen as reaping disproportionate gains) are part of what doomed the first attempt at East African integration in the 1970s.

In the near future, then, the EAC's major gains are likelier to come in the economic realm than the political one. That is no reason to abandon hopes for democratic progress, though. EAC states should still articulate a strong commitment to rights and freedoms and build institutions to hold each other firmly accountable for democratic practices (or lack thereof). They could learn from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has had some (but only some) success in condemning coups d'états and working to restore democracy — as in Côte d'Ivoire in 2010-11 and in Mali more recently.

As the EU struggles to emerge from the crisis, East Africans are demonstrating that the case for integration remains alive and well and the European model retains its aspirational sheen. If the EAC can learn from the EU's history, the people of East Africa, and other African regions could enjoy improved economic opportunities and political stability, in turn becoming a more important business and security partner.

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Book of Proceedings



Conference Abstracts

The Purchasing Practices Challenges in the Anti-Corruption Crusade in Nigeria

¹Isa Stephen Adobunu & ²Titus Obed Tswabki

*Department of Purchasing and Supply,
Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State*

Abstract

The paper examines the purchasing practices challenges in Nigeria and briefly looked at the challenges that will be faced by us that are in this profession and particularly those who are proud to call themselves Nigerians. It also suggested that what may be described as corrupt varies from country to country and that the war against corruption is a war of values, ideas and action which borders on core issues of personal integrity and citizenship. It said Government alone cannot win the war without a coalition of own willing citizens. The purchasing practices challenges that borders issuing licenses, permits, quantitative import restrictions (quotes), passports, customs and border crossing documents banking licenses, implementing price controls, blocking new firms and investors from entry to markets and providing monopoly power, awarding procurement contracts, granting subsidies, soft credits, tax exemptions etc. were mentioned. A sample size of 250 organizations were chosen from selected public and private companies to obtain useful information through the use of questionnaire and interviews. This was to ascertain whether or not there was purchasing practices challenges inherent in the above organizations. It was however, found out that purchasing practices in these ministries, parastatals, agencies and private companies faced real challenges. The paper recommended that reform programmes and policies such as liberalization stabilization, deregulation privatization, application of standardized procedures and practices etc. be put in place as a means of reducing purchasing corrupt practices in Nigeria and the employment of purchasing professionals into purchasing functions.

Keywords: *Purchasing practices, Challenges, Anti-corruption crusade*

Examining the Pollution of Marine Environment by Plastic Debris and its Impact on the Species

¹Wilcox, Rogers Ibifubara, ²Aniekan, Emem Okon & ³Akadi, Anthony Patrick

^{1&2}Department of Geography and Natural Resources Management, University of Uyo

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Abstract

Plastic debris is known to have killed many marine species, this threatens their survival since many are already endangered by other forms of anthropogenic activities. Entanglement and ingestion of plastic litters are the common effects on marine lives. Other minor threats include, the use of plastic debris by "invader" species, absorption of polychlorinated biphenyls from ingested plastics, etc. This study reviews the literatures on the plastic debris in the water bodies and some of their harmful effects on the marine lives. A concise work of this nature helps in new policy formulation and informed decision making in order to mitigation these challenges.

Keywords: *Pollution, Marine environment, Plastic debris, Impact, Species*



Reproductive Rights of Young Women and Perception towards Legalizing Abortion in Nigeria

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Abstract

Reproductive right is a constituent part of the fundamental right to health. However, traditions, culture and restrictive abortion laws in Nigeria were not favourably disposed to this right. This paper, therefore, sought to examine the Reproductive Rights of Young Women and Perception towards Legalizing Abortion in Nigeria. The study utilized descriptive cross-sectional study to examine female final year students of the University of Lagos. Multistage and simple random sampling techniques were used to select one hundred and fifty female students. The study found that less than one-fifth (17.7%) of the respondents agreed that abortion should be legalized in Nigeria, with close to half (45.6%) admitting that abortion incidence would increase if legalized. This showed knowledge gaps in understanding the impact of liberalizing abortion laws in Nigeria. There should, therefore, be appropriate sex education in tertiary institutions embracing areas of contraception, reproductive rights and gender equality.

Keywords: *Reproductive rights, Legalizing abortion, Contraception, Restrictive laws*

Religious Curricula Nexus in Nigerian Governance and Peace Management

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Abstract

The paper establishes a connection between Christian and Islamic religious curricula in Nigerian tertiary institutions and governance, security challenges and peace management. It argues that religious peace and its management in Nigeria is greatly influenced by the texture of religious curricula in Nigerian institutions of learning, and government's finagle in religious curricula policies and administration. A functionalist approach to religious education which upholds the manifest and latent functions of religious education in the strategic development of the society is engaged. The approach establishes a relationship between attitude and behavior in religious conflicts to curricula impact in the Nigerian society. It contends that individual religious views must be ventilated simultaneously with opportunities to learn from other religious traditions in the planning and implementation of religious education curricular in Nigerian schools. The paper concludes with a recommendation of an inclusion of ecumenically compliant approach to the study of religion in Nigerian institutions of learning.

Keywords: *Religious Curricula Nexus, Nigerian Governance, Peace Management*

The Roles of Transportation in Logistic Management

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Abstract

Transportation serves as a link between other activities in the logistics pipeline. It provides a link between raw material source, plant and the customer. This paper focuses on the roles of transportation in logistics activities in which it states that, transportation bridges gap over buyer and seller, it adds values, it has a global impact and it also played a significant role to the company. This paper also discusses the various types of logistics activities which include: Transportation, facility structure, inventory management and material handling. It goes further to discuss the various modes of transportation which includes, air, water, road, pipeline and containerization. The paper then concludes that since transportation played a significant role in the logistical activities, industrialized countries, individual business men should maintain its transportation facilities since it is the major link that connects all the logistics activities that enable the movement of raw materials to the plant and from the plant to the end users. Because if there is no transportation there will be no production, if there is no production, there will be no marketing and if there is no marketing, there will be no consumers.

Keywords: *Transportation, Logistic, Plant*

Analysis of the Impact of Parents' Socio-Economic Background on Students Academic Performance in Sokoto Metropolis of Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper analyses empirically the impacts of parent's socio-economic background on the academic performance of their children in Sokoto metropolis of Sokoto state of Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the factors that influenced the student's academic performance and the relationship between the student's socioeconomic background and academic performance. To achieve this, the research uses primary data collected from 350 respondents out of the 4466 students of the schools in Sokoto metropolis using random sampling technique. Questionnaires were administered to the respondents and data collected was analyzed using regression analysis. The result shows that parent's socio-economic class; father's level of education and mother's level of education are the major determinants of the academic performance of students in Sokoto metropolis. The research recommends a vibrant poverty alleviation program for poor parents in Sokoto state.

Keywords: *Impact of parents, Socio-economic background, Academic performance*

Edutainment Approach in Christian Religious Studies Delivery: A New Approach in Nigerian Educational Transformation

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Abstract

This study focused on edutainment approach in Christian Religious Studies (CRS) delivery as a new direction in Nigerian's Educational transformation. This is necessary because Nigeria is facing challenges on the use of instructional resources. The non-randomized quasi-experimental pre-test, post-test control design was used to find out the effect of edutainment method on academic achievement of students in CRS. The population comprised of all the students in Zaria educational zone which is 4, 450 out of which 120 CRS senior secondary school students were sampled using intact class sampling technique: 60 from one public School and 60 from one private school. The Schools were selected using simple sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was Christian Religious Studies achievement test. It consisted of a five -point liker scale questionnaire which has been subjected to validity and reliability test, descriptive statistics of mean, standard error and Z-test were used to analyze the data collected. The study revealed that edutainment method enhances students' academic achievement in CRS. Recommendations such as suitable edutainment method training programmes should be designed for CRS teachers to empower them on how to use this method of delivery, among others are proffered.

Keywords: *Christian religious studies, Edutainment approach, Educational transformation, Nigeria*

Hides and Skin Commerce: The Role and Dominance of Multinational National Corporations in Zamfara, Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

A Multinational Corporation refers to an enterprise operating in several nations of the world but managed from one (home) country. Precisely, any company or group that derives a quarter of its revenue from operations outside its home country is considered as a Multinational Corporation. In Nigeria, most of these corporations were from Britain and other parts of Europe. Several other nations trooped into the country from the grant of political independence. The trade in hides and skin was a profitable business that attracted the participation of different multinational companies, because of the multiple uses of leather and its high demand outside Nigeria. However in the conduct of the trade in hides and skin, there was an exclusive external control of the production and the trade system. This control made possible the manipulation of the production process and the prices. This paper intends to unravel the factors that facilitated the production and processing of hides and skin in Zamfara, Northern Nigeria, the collapse of domestic tanning industries, the dominance exerted by the hides and skin foreign investors, undue opportunities enjoyed by the expatriates firms and how indigenous investors were gradually dominated in hides and skin trade in their home country. The paper unveils the trends in the development of this critical industry towards, its contributions to agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, problems and challenges. It also examined the abuse of government export incentives; called Export Expansion Grant by leather exporters and proffer some alternative solutions.

Keywords: *Hides and Skin, Leather, Production, Multi - National Corporations, Trade, and Dominance*

Educational Policies in the Context of Nigerian Politics: Rethinking Effective Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The growth and development of any country, Nigeria inclusive, depends heavily on its ability to achieve its educational goals which are translated into the national education policies. Educational policies are therefore the backbone of every development since all other sectors of the economy are embedded in education. The success or failure of an economy is determined by the success or failure of the educational policies of a given country. In Nigeria, unfortunately, educational policies are often formulated in a well structured documentation but when it comes to implementation, there will come number of factors to deteriorate their successful implementation. Most of those factors are politically inclined which if are not addressed will continue to cripple the future development of the country as a result of the substandard education that people will continue to receive due to the poor policy implementation. This chapter aims at highlighting the concept of educational policy, growth and development of educational policies in Nigeria and the roles of educational policies in bringing about national development. However, some of the challenges that cripple effective implementation of educational policies in Nigeria like the employment of substandard personnel and strategies, poor funding, inadequate resources, language and political interference have been discussed herewith. Finally the chapter is of the opinion that in order to ensure effective policy implementation for national development, there is the need for the government to employ experts and standard procedures, introduce parallel language policy in the schools, provide adequate funding and resources, corrupt individuals be brought to justice, the general public should help the government realize factual statistical data, government should enact law that will ban the incessant drop-out of the students and also introduce some incentives or grants that will encourage the poor children to stay in the schools.

Keywords: *Educational policy, Nigeria, Politics, Implementation, Challenges, Sustainable Development*

An Assessment of the Impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on Nigerian Economy

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Abstract

The paper is an examination of foreign direct investment and economic growth nexus with Nigeria as a reference study. Empirical researches had established that outward oriented economies grow faster than closed economies. Other factors identified that cause economy to grow include globalization, and trade liberalization, investment in physical capital, exchange rate, foreign aids, among others. This study examines the impact of Nigeria's trade openness and economic growth between 1980 and 2016. Data were sourced from the publication of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin within the period under review. Unit Root Test, Johansen Cointegration and Error Correction Models (ECM) were adopted as the techniques of data analysis. Augmented Dickey Fuller conditions were met at the presence of the variables both at level and the first difference. Result of the analysis revealed that in the short-run the impact of the variables on the dependent variable i.e a positive and statistically insignificant impact exist between foreign direct investment and economic growth. This is clearly true because most of the country's economic growth is not achieved through foreign direct investment. It is therefore recommended that government in collaboration with private organizations should massively invest in human capital development so as to realized and sustained economic growth that can lead to poverty reduction and employment generation.

Keywords: *FDI Economic Growth, Human Capital, Exchange Rate, Trade Liberalization*

Employees' Compensation Management and Financial Performance of Money Deposit Banks in Nigeria

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Abstract

Among the human resources management functions, employees' compensation is one of the most complex and dynamic function. There are lots of empirical facts that suggest that employees' compensation management plays a key role because of its place in the employment relationship. Despite this, many managers in Nigeria see compensation as a cost expanding strategy and they thereby try reducing compensation expenses in order to maximize profits. Also, previous researches concentrated on establishing a linkage between executive compensation and performance of firms; and the general impact of compensation on firm performance with contradictory results. Thus, the need for this study on the impact of employees' compensation on the financial performance of money deposit banks in Nigeria. Specifically, the study determine the impact of wages and salaries; workers defined benefits (Gratuity/Retirement Benefits); and employees' contributions plan (pension contributions) on the performance of Nigeria money deposit banks. This study used Ex-post facto research design through the use of panel data from sampled money deposit Banks in Nigeria. Information was extracted from 2010-2016 for 14 banks out the 24 listed banks on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE). Multiple regression analysis (Ordinary Least Square, OLS) is used to determine the variability of dependent variables (ROA) as a result of changes in any of explanatory variables (W&S, GRB, and PCP). The study found positive and significant impact of salaries and wages on the financial performance of money deposit banks. On the contrary, pension contribution and gratuity are found to have positive but insignificant effect on the financial performance of money deposit banks. Consequently, the study recommended that all money deposit banks in Nigeria should influence their workers performance through good wages and salaries packages in order to boost their financial performance.

Keywords: *Employees, Compensation, Financial, Performance, Money Deposit*

Comparative Studies on the Sensilla Distribution on the Antennae of Cockroach, *Blattaorientalis* (Dictyoptera: Blattidae) and Grasshopper, *Zonocerusvariegatus* (Orthoptera: Acrididae)

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Abstract

This research was conducted on the comparative studies on the abundance and distribution of sensilla on the antennae of cockroach: *B. orientalis* and grasshopper *Zonocerus variegatus* in Bakura, Nigeria from September to December, 2017. Ten cockroaches and grasshoppers (5 males and 5 females each) were collected from different parts using sweep net and hand picking. Heads of sexes were detached and separately boiled in 10% potassium hydroxide (KOH) solution to dissolve chitin. The antennae were carefully separated from the head capsule, washed, dehydrated, stained in safranin solution, cleared and mounted separately on each slide. Observations were made on the length of antennae, antennal segments, abundance and distribution of various types of sensilla in all the antennae. *B. orientalis* had the longest antennae (69 and 67 mm) than *Z. variegatus* with (32 and 28 mm). Four types of sensilla Viz; trichoid, basiconic, coeloconic and chaetica sensillae, the highest distribution were found on the flagellum and the least on the scape. Females have the highest distribution of sensillae compared to males.

Keywords: *Comparative studies, Sensilla distribution*

Strategies to Achieve Food Security in Nigeria

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Abstract

There has consistently been a growing concern in Nigeria and Africa in the past several decades and has culminated into a contemporary issue requiring the urgent attention of government(s) at all levels. This dire requisite is predicted on the provision that food security is one of the indicators of country's development. Thus Nigeria cannot afford to take issue of food security lightly. This must be taken seriously because the population of the world, particularly that of Nigeria is increasing progressively and this means the circulation and the equitable distribution of available resources will be vicious. This coupled with the irrefutable socio-economic responsibilities of the government has made nations of the world to take feeding their teeming populations seriously. Also, more than ever before, providing food which is a basic necessity of life, has become pressing in the face of migration, which has not only endangered population explosion. But has made migration and emigration easy. This is not to undermine the role of globalization or breaking down of barriers, which has brought nations together and abrogated borders in some cases and created porous borders in others. It is against this back drop that this paper seeks to assess strategies for ensuring food security in Nigeria while reviewing the economic strains it has placed on Nigeria and appraising way forward.

Keywords: *Strategies, Food security*



The Imperatives and Consequences of Market Orientation

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Abstract

With few exceptions, available literature tends to uphold the view that market orientation is a universally relevant concept in every business organization. A consistent positive relationship exists between the organization's degree of market orientation and performance. The paper therefore, proposes that organization can create a market orientation by influencing senior management and organizational characteristics while adapting to the exogenous factors with the ultimate objective of sustaining or improving performance. This framework identifies and examines those imperatives and consequences of effective market orientation.

Keywords: *Imperatives, Consequences, Market orientation*



Nigeria International Trade Nexus and Economic Growth: A Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) Approach

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of international trade on the performance of the Nigerian economy, using GDP as a proxy for economic performance: export, import, and exchange rate as proxies for international trade. The study employs the use of time series data from 1970-2015 using a Vector Error Correction Model Approach, in addition to other econometrics techniques: such as unit root test, cointegration test, granger causality test, variance decomposition, and the impulse response function. Finding reveals causal relationship among the variables as well as stable long run relationship between international trade and economic performance. The result of the variance decomposition and the impulse response function shows that, the major cause of variation in Nigerian economic performance is attributed to the own shock of the variables and external innovations. The paper thus recommends for trade expansion policies and exchange rate reducing policies to boost exports and sustain positive economic performance

Keywords: *Economic performance, VECM, and International trade*

RHF and DFT Study of Uracil and Thymine in Different Environment

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Abstract

Uracil and Thymine are members of RNA and DNA respectively, and are of great interest for genetic material and drug concern. The molecular geometries of the Uracil and 5-Methyluracil (Thymine) have been studied using ab-initio Quantum chemical calculations at the Restricted Hatree-fock (RHF) with 6-31G (d,p) basis set. Also Density functional theory (DFT) at B3LYP have been carried out at the same basis set for inclusion of electron correlation. The optimized structure, Dipole moment, Enegies, charge transfer and quadrupole moment were computed in gas and water. The two molecules were found to be polar and the strength of the polarity is the greatest in water, also it was observed that the uracil and thymine are more stable in water and finally it was seen that band is greatest in water in both theories. The study was performed using Gaussian 09W software.

Keywords: *Uracil, Thymine, dipole, Band gap, Energy*

Africa and its Concurrent Emergence of Wasteful, Wasted and Wasting Generations

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Abstract

Human intellect or better still, manpower remains the bedrock of social advancement. If Bacon is right, it is the responsibility upon man to super induce a new nature through which life may be enriched. Though poverty is a global phenomenon, no other continents in the world have had its entire race and manpower progressively wasted as it is presently the case in Africa. In particular, the manifestation across sub-Saharan Africa has been the concurrent emergence of wasteful, wasted and wasting generations. The paradox in Africa has been that, those presently manning the state affairs, who themselves like philosopher kings, are privileged to have acquired the best of developmental input from the social nets, have turned out the wasters of subsequent generations of fellow Africans for whom, they, as privileged harbingers of good life, should bear the responsibility for enrichment of life. Contrarily, within Africa and all over the world, Africans have become the 21st century slaves, the priceless harlots, the insane drug pushers and addicts, the mindless terrorists, the helpless IDPs, the conscripted sex slaves, the victims of money rituals and senseless wars, and the raw mines of harvesters of vital human organs. Adopting pictorial and intuitive logic methods, this work examines and explicates the factors that have permitted the emergence of wasteful generations, its continuing strategies and conduct and the impact these have had on the rest of African citizens. As a pilot study, this work submits that except drastic measures are adopted wherein the seeming insignificant proportion of enlightened Africans acts as harbingers of inevitable change, the future scenarios holds nothing good for majority of the living and future Africans.

Keywords: *Manpower, Social advancement, African states, Wasting generations*

Enrollees Assessment of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOS) in the Implementation of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract

The abysmal performance of the healthcare sector in Nigeria led to the introduction of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in 2005 with the hope of increasing the performance of the healthcare delivery system in the Country. The pro-poor Scheme aimed at increasing coverage as well as affordability of healthcare services in Nigeria. As and Insurance Scheme, designed with Health Maintenance Organizations as intermediary, enrollees have disparate levels of satisfaction with the role of the HMOs. This study examines the perception of enrollees on the role of HMOs in the implementation of NHIS scheme in three tertiary medical institutions- University of Abuja Teaching Hospital (UATH); National Hospital, Abuja; and Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Abuja. Anchored on Benthamite Utility Theory, this survey study used self-administered structured questionnaire to elicit information from enrollees of the Scheme in the Tertiary Health Institutions in Abuja. The study found that the enrollees were not satisfied with the role of the HMOs in the implementation of the Scheme and that different HMOs had varying degrees of treating enrollees' cases which are disparaging. The study hence, recommends that the institutional framework for the implementation of NHIS should prevail on the HMOs to act according to the objectives of the Scheme which is to create healthcare satisfaction among Nigerians.

Keywords: *NHIS, HMOs, Enrollees, Satisfaction, Healthcare*

Economic Recession, Health Expenditure and Health Development in West Africa: Does there exist a Linkage?

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Abstract

This paper investigates the existence of a dynamic linkage relationship between recessions (measured by growth rate), health expenditure and health development in West Africa. It acknowledges the fact that recession does not have a direct impact on health development. Hence, the inclusion of health expenditure as a transmitting variable. Relevant data were sourced from World Development Indicator (WDI) published by the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) Online Data Portal. Graphs and statistical table were used to analyse the trend of the panel time series. Pre estimation tests (unit root and Cointegration) were conducted to ascertain the most appropriate panel econometric technique to be used in estimating the model. The paper expects to make findings such as the effect of recession on both public and private health expenditure, and the effect of health expenditure on health outcomes such as life expectancy and infant mortality rate. Recommendations will be made in line with the findings made.

Keywords: *Recession, Domestic Private Health Expenditure Per Capita, Public Health Expenditure, Health Development*

Achieving an Integrated, Developed and Peaceful AFRICA by 2063: lessons from the European Union

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Abstract

The Africa-wide development agenda, as championed by the African Union (AU), is based on regional integration and the formation of an African Economic Community (AEC) using its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks. It aims to create free trade areas, customs unions, a single market, a central bank, and a common currency. The current continental agenda, Agenda 2063, set a vision for the creation of an integrated, developed and peaceful Africa by 2063. For Africa, the potential gains from increased regional integration are significant: the 54 economies in Africa make up the most fragmented region in the world. The attainment of this economic goal leaves much to be desired, given the current development challenges of the African Continent; insecurity, weak institutions, political instability, war, poverty, lack of strong free trades, and ineffective economic partnership agreements. The European Union (EU) has emerged as the world's second-largest economy by gross domestic product and there are lessons that Africa can learn, to help the continent reposition itself in the actualisation of an integrated, developed and peaceful Africa by 2063. Such, lessons, drawn from the development pattern and experience of EU is the focus of this paper. The paper adopts a descriptive design, and data obtained through secondary sources are discussed using content analysis. It draws a theoretical model from the EU development pattern for Africa to learn and enhance her capacity.

Keywords: *African Union, European Union, African Economic Community, regional integration, integrated development*

Effect of Sugarcane and Neem Leaves Ashes on the Compressive Strength of Concrete

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Abstract

Sugarcane is among the principal agricultural crop cultivated in tropical country. The annual world production is 1.6 billion tons and it generates 279 million metric tons (MMT) of biomass residues, particularly sugarcane bagasse and leaves. Also, neem products from neem tree generate large quantity of wastes annually. Sugarcane is believed to have become established as a domestic garden crop around 800 B.C by Neolithic Horticulturalist and neem is a member of mahogany family known by the botanic name *Azadirachta Indica*. Hence, the evaluation of sugarcane Leaves Ash (SCLA) combined Neem Leave Ash (NLA) as alternative binders to cement could reduce the cost of concrete production and the effect of the products as wastes in environs. The sugarcane and neem leaves obtained were dried, burnt at 600°C to ashes, grinded into finer particles while the oxide composition on Al_2O_3 ; SiO_2 ; CaO and Fe_2O_3 were determined. This project mainly deals with the replacements of sugarcane and neem leaves ashes in percentage replacement to Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC). The mix ratio of 1:2:4 on 0.5 water-cement was adopted and the experiments on chemical compositions, slump, setting time and compressive strength tests on concrete partially replaced with SCLA/NLA by 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and 25% are presented. The casted concrete cubes were cured for 28 days at the intervals of 7 days while the compressive strength results obtained showed that the replacement of SCLA/NLA has effect on the strength of concrete and can be use in mass concrete production. The compressive strength logically increased with respect to curing age and decreases with percentage replacement of SCLA/NLA.

Keywords: *Ashes, Compressive strength, Leaves, Neem, Sugarcane*

From Expectations to Exploitations: The Dialectics of Chinese Infrastructural Aids to Nigeria

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Abstract

The apparent dearth of infrastructural facilities in Africa has both in the distant past and now spurred the continent into relying on foreign aids within and beyond it. Accompanied with obnoxious conditionality, the aids mostly in form of loan facilities are often not defrayed: a consequence of which most local resources are carted away by foreign creditors. From Paris Club, London Club to US, Switzerland, the lists of African creditor are endless. In recent times, precisely at the beginning of the millennium, China has taken a leading interest in Africa. The country under the guise of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) with its accompanying pledges (of infrastructures and loan facilities) has held most African countries to their whims and caprices as a result of inability of the latter to settle off incurred debts. The instances of Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia are remarkable examples. Nigeria is not spared too from this cynical umbrella. The assurances of infrastructural supply exemplified in rail projects, power supply; trading pacts, Dollar-Yuan-Naira swap deal, technology transfer, vocational and skill acquisition programmes, scholarships amongst other juicy baits have dominated the bilateral relations between the two countries. However, it is not exactly known as in other cases whether the gesture by the former is motivated by goodwill alone. This uncertainty actually informed the interest in critically appraising the nature and dynamics of Chinese aids to Nigeria recently. Relying on documentary sources and qualitative assessment of the matter, the paper justifies the Sino-Nigeria relations from the theoretical postulations of Immanuel Wallenstein World System Approach. Findings show that China and her litanies of investments/financial handouts are not without extreme clauses. Even though Nigeria has not been trapped yet, it is recommended that Nigeria sues for reliance on local manpower (both skilled and unskilled) while building/relishing the infrastructural aids that China offers so as not to suffer pains of technological transfer in the long and short run.

Keywords: *Sino-Nigeria, FOCAC, Bilateral Relations, Infrastructural Aids, Unequal Relations*

Pricing and Estimating Cost of Building Construction Project in Nigeria

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A b s t r a c t



