



Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa
Quality Research For Sound Policies

Annual Report

October 2015-September 2016



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Foreword



As Nigeria is currently witnessing an economic and fiscal crisis, the need for evidence-based and timely research to guide policymakers in making informed decisions have become ever more useful. CSEA, as a leading think tank in Africa, with proximity to policymakers in the capital city of Abuja, is increasingly positioning itself to track and analyse key developments in the Nigerian economy, and provide actionable recommendations. Thus the centre has moved to strengthen its organizational structure, research capacity and quality, as well as its dissemination strategy to ensure that policy-relevant research is continuously channelled into the policy space.

With the re-structuring of the BOT in 2015 to include top-class professionals with impressive knowledge and experience in the region, the Centre is currently benefiting from their valuable support and oversight. This is evident in their increased role in resource mobilization, quality assurance of research output, and encouraging transparency in operations. To ensure financial sustainability of the Centre and reduce the reliance on the core funding from IDRC, CSEA has created a Fundraising Committee with a unique and clear strategy, designed in line with the changing dynamics of the funding landscape. The Centre has also recruited and retained competent research staff to improve and maintain research quality as well as the relevance of its output to policymakers. In an effort to strengthen the Centre's research capacity and the ability to execute diverse research projects, CSEA's staff have participated in various trainings and capacity building workshops over the year.

The year witnessed an increased engagement of CSEA's researchers in funded research projects in Education, Agricultural value-chain, Infrastructure financing, and Fiscal sustainability. The feedback from the funders of these projects have been impressive. CSEA's research staff have also broadened and deepened their research outputs to meet the growing economic challenges and complexities in Nigeria's economy, and Africa more generally. In view of this, the Centre created the Information and Data Management Unit (IDM), with key publications such as the weekly Economic Update, the quarterly Nigeria Economic Review, and the bi-annual Nigeria Chart pack, other periodic publications, to enhance the timely response to emerging and contemporary issues in the region, in a timely way. These outputs have been well-received by policymakers, academia, and the general public.

The Centre is strengthening its existing linkages with policymakers, and also establishing new ones. CSEA's website has been upgraded to become more user-friendly. In addition, social media platforms have been strengthened to effectively disseminate research outputs, including working papers, project reports, and policy briefs. Over the past year, the Centre has organized various seminars, while its staff members have also participated in several international workshops, seminars, and conferences.

Building on our progress, we are optimistic that CSEA would continue to play a key role in providing timely, rigorous and evidence-based research aimed at informing government's economic policies.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chukwuka Onyekwena', written over a white rectangular background.

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena
Acting Executive Director, CSEA

1. INTRODUCTION

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) is a non-profit think tank that conducts independent, high quality applied research on economic policy issues in Nigeria and the rest of Africa. CSEA was founded in 2008 by Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria's former Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance in Nigeria. The Centre places emphasis on the production of high quality and policy relevant research and building sustainable relationship with key policymakers and other stakeholders.

CSEA benefits from the financial support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, under the Think Tank Initiative (TTI). The Initiative is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of independent policy research institutions in the developing world. It was launched in 2008 and currently provides 43 think tanks in 20 countries with core funding. CSEA is presently a beneficiary of the Phase 2 of the TTI Institutional Grant of CAD 702,682 for the period: 2014-2019. The Centre also benefits from Research grants/project funding from other institutions.

CSEA has continued in its tradition of providing rigorous and relevant evidence-based research that is used to inform policies in Nigeria. To provide timely and relevant evidence-based research on Nigeria's economy, the Centre established the Information and Data Management Unit (IDM). The main objective of this Unit is to collate qualitative and quantitative data and provide periodic analysis on Nigeria's economy. The unit consists of a Research Associate, Research Assistants and Communications officer. The team produces a weekly update of recent happenings in the economy under CSEA's thematic research areas.

In the period under review, the Centre restructured its website and communication channels to make them more user friendly. The process was also undertaken to broaden the reach of CSEA's research outputs such as Working Papers, Peer Reviewed Papers, and Opinion Articles. Similarly, CSEA also established linkages with relevant organizations and key players, particularly through collaborations and partnerships. This approach has improved the Centre's ability to communicate its research outputs more widely across various stakeholders in Nigeria, and Africa, as well as increase its ability to attract more funding.

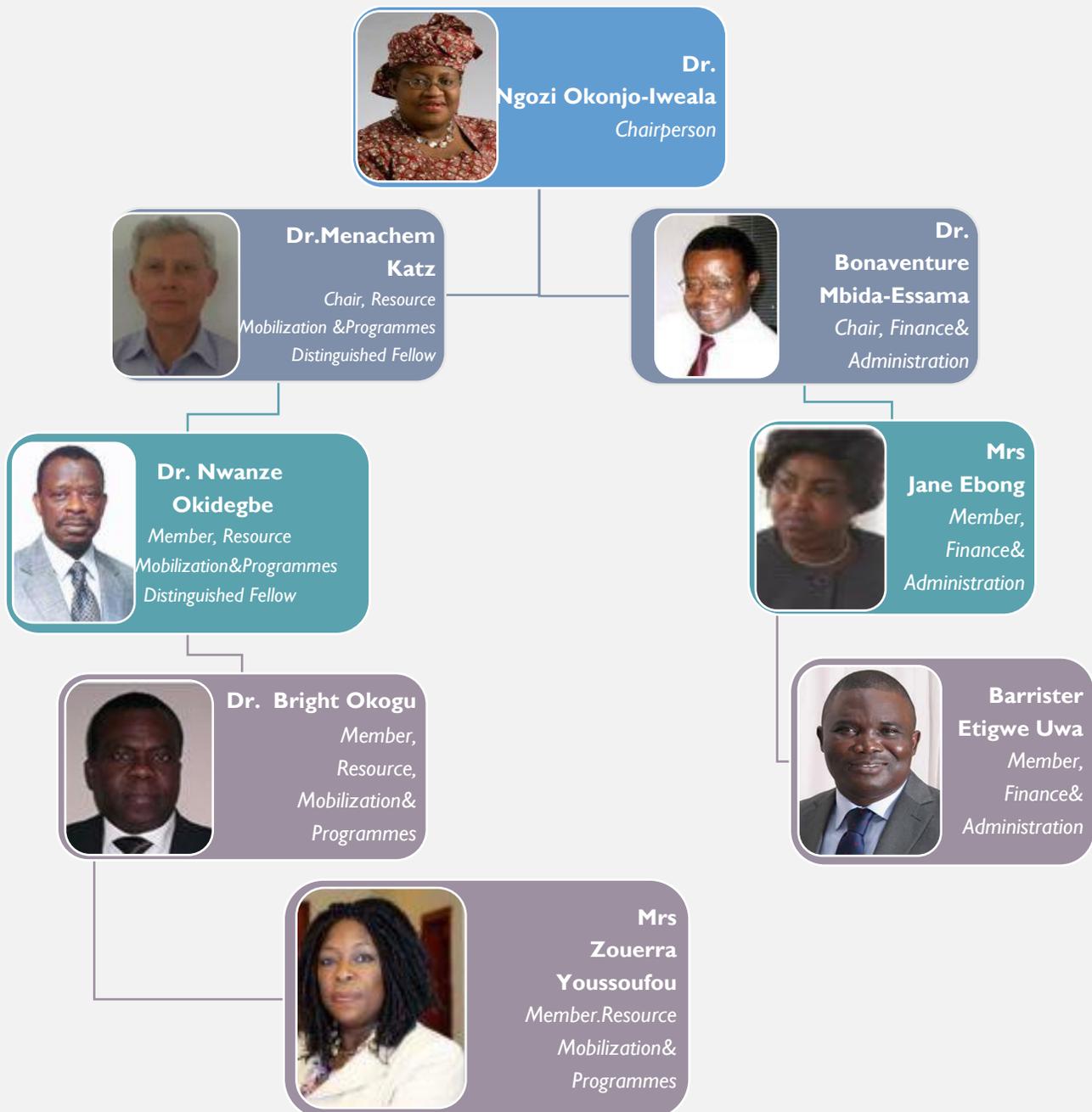
CSEA Vision Statement

CSEA's vision is to become the leading research think-tank in Africa by contributing quality and evidence-based research to enhance public policy debates on key economic issues that would influence policy-making.

2. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Board Restructure

In an effort to strengthen the Centre's organisational performance, the board was restructured to include five new members. The BOT presently consists of eight highly-placed individuals who will support and oversee activities at the Centre. Given the importance of funding for the Centre's long term sustainability, the newly restructured Board consists of two committees: Resource Mobilization and Programmes Committee and Finance and Administration Committee. Two members of the Board also serve as Distinguished Fellows at the Centre.



2.2 Staffing

As part of efforts to improve its overall performance, CSEA recruited additional Research staff. The recruitment drive was aimed at strengthening the Centre's research capacity, and maintain its ability to continue providing high-quality and evidence-based research outputs. The new researchers consist of senior level (one Senior Research Fellow), mid-level (five Research Associates) and junior level (two Research Assistants) Cadres. The Centre will also receive an additional Researcher (PhD) who would join the team in January, 2017.



Abayomi Olakojo (PhD)

**Senior Research Fellow
PhD (Econ) (Ibadan)**

Research Interests include:
Trade and Financial
Interdependence, Poverty
Analysis, Labour, Inclusive
growth and Social



Eustace Uzor

**Research Associate
MSc (Econ/finance)
(Essex)**

Research Interests include:
Labour & financial markers,
Development Economics
and Public Policy Economics



Tirimisiyu Oloko

**Research Associate
MSc (Econ) (Ibadan)**

Research Interests include:
financial econometrics,
Macroeconomic modelling
and International finance.



Muhammed Yusuf

**Research Associate
MSc (Econ) (Ibadan)**

Research Interests include:
public sector economics,
Applied econometrics,
financial markets & Health
Financing.



Precious Akanonu

**Research Associate
MSc (Econ/Finance)
(Glasgow)**

Research Interests include:
Trade Investment and
Growth, Macroeconomic
management and Climate
Change.



Anointing Momoh

**Research Associate
MSc (Econ) (Ilorin)**

Research Interests Include:
Public Policy, Economics of
sustainable development,
social protection and
Urban Infrastructure.



Enemaku Okpanachi

**Research Assistant
BSc (Econ) (Bingham)**

Research Interests
include:
International Economics
and Trade.



Peace John

**Research Assistant
BSc (Econ) (Abuja)**

Research Interests include:
Public Financial
Management, Governance
and Investment.

2.3 Training and Capacity Building

Given the central importance of capacity building in maintaining and improving the research quality of CSEA's outputs, the Centre's staffs participated in a number of strategic and results oriented trainings. These include:

2nd Technical Workshop on Strengthening Capacities in Gender Analysis for Sub-Saharan African Countries

December 7-10 2015, Dakar, Senegal

Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES) hosted a 3-day workshop on the above theme: "Strengthening Capacities in Gender Analysis for the Sub-Saharan African Countries". The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of Think Tank Initiative (TTI) supported institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. It also provided a platform for researchers to exchange ideas and share experiences on gender analysis. **Dr. Solomon Olakojo** joined other senior researchers from Think Tanks across the region for the event.



Participants pose for a group photograph

West African Think Tank Network (WATTNet) Write Shop

March 3-5, 2016, Accra, Ghana

On the occasion of the inaugural conference of the WATTNet, the Think Tank Initiative organized a Story Telling Write Shop for researchers and communications staff from all the seven TTI-funded think tanks from the region. The workshop provided a platform for participants to learn how to identify and develop stories of influence in order to promote their institution's work and reach across various audiences. **Tirimisiyu Oloko** and **Drusilla David** joined other researchers and communications staff for the training.



Participants at the Write Shop Training

Brown International Advanced Research Institutes Program (BIARI)

June 4-18, 2016 Rhode Island, United States

The Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BIARI), hosted by the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, convened 146 participants from 55 countries from to participate in their annual residential program. BIARI addresses the world's most pressing global issues by reaching across academic, professional, and geographic boundaries to bring early-career and rising scholars together with faculty members and professionals from multiple fields. This year centered on different themes: Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Increasing Effectiveness and Accountability in the Age of Complex Emergencies, Governance and Development in the Age of Globalization, Ethnicity, Conflict, and Inequality in Global Perspective, and Climate Change and Its Impacts: Connecting Variability and Knowledge in a Global System. The program featured lectures, seminars, and workshops and provided a platform for discussions on some of the most prominent global issues. With the financial support of Santander Universities, **Eustace Ezechukwu Uzor** joined other scholars for the two-week program on Climate Change and Its Impacts.



2016 BIARI participants pose for a group photograph

Harvard Executive Program

April 18-22, 2016 Massachusetts, United States

CSEA participated in the Executive Education program on 'Rethinking Financial Inclusion – smart design and policy', at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. The program provided a platform for participants representing key market players, practitioners and stakeholders from central banks, regulators, Microfinance practitioners, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholders in the finance industry. The sessions consisted of themes that highlighted approaches to understanding the needs of

financial services, using design principles and economic insights to devise regulatory policies that would enhance the benefits of financial access. The program also featured group sessions which enabled participants to engage directly on the issues on collaborative approaches to designing, testing and refining solutions. **Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena** participated in the group discussion on “Financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)”. The study identified the limitations of MSMEs in having sufficient access to credit that would facilitate investment for inclusive growth and job creation in Nigeria.



Participants in a group photograph

Policy Research Methodology and Analysis Training

September 12-15, 2016 Accra, Ghana

CSEA participated in the Policy Research Methodology and Analysis Training at the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Accra Ghana. The training was aimed at enhancing participants’ skills in policy research methodology, policy analysis, data collection techniques, research report writing, and documentation. It also provided a platform for participants to learn how to adopt the appropriate methodology and apply the right techniques to enhance their research work and effectively communicate research outcomes to stakeholders. **Mohammed Yusuf** and **Tirimisiyu Oloko** joined other participants drawn from across Africa for the training.

Africa Oil Governance Summit

September 26-27, 2016, Accra Ghana

The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) hosted the 2nd edition of the annual “Africa Oil Governance Summit”, “Rising through the Rubbles of Oil Price Shock- Strategies for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.” The summit focused on the governance challenges associated with the volatility of oil prices and provided a platform for participants from Government, Accountability and Independent Institutions, Industry, Civil Society and Communities, to discuss governance mechanisms required to manage oil price volatility and sustain economic growth. The event also featured panel sessions with discussions including the way forward in managing the current situation and the future boom to ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development. **Precious Akanonu** participated in the panel discussion on the topic: “Developing Africa’s economy without oil - Tax-based versus debt-based development”.

2.4 Resource Mobilization

CSEA's resource mobilization objective is to fully generate a broad range of significant funding sources to ensure that the Centre is able to expand its institutional grant within the next financial year. While the Centre places utmost emphasis on informing policymaking by providing relevant and high quality research, the need to diversify its funding sources is paramount to sustaining the activities of the Centre.

Overtime, CSEA's activities have been **largely** financed by grants from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, under the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), which was launched in 2008. The Centre is presently a beneficiary of the Phase 2 of the TTI Institutional Grant for the period: 2014-2019. In an effort to sustain funding, CSEA has explored a number of options to realise other sources of major funding. The Centre established and implemented a business model in the form of an **Economic Intelligence Unit** which aimed at engaging targeted public and private actors as well as philanthropic foundations to support research activities at the Centre. This Unit however faced significant challenges in meeting its fundraising mandate. While low appetite to fund research in Nigeria was arguably one of its main challenges, the lack of a clear and structured fundraising strategy led to the discontinuation of the Unit.

More recently, the Centre has benefited from research grants/project funding from other institutions, such as Federal Public Administration Reform Programme (FEPAR), Oxfam International, Southern Voice, and the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. Moving forward, CSEA has created a Fundraising Committee to oversee CSEA's drive towards increasing and sustaining its funding base and to ensure that the fundraising strategy is successfully implemented. Already, the Committee has developed a clear **Fundraising strategy** which highlights the need for CSEA to become financially sustainable Post-2019. Given that most donor organizations have reduced the size of their funding for development research, the strategy uses a methodological approach to identify key target funders that the Centre can focus its fundraising efforts.

While highlighting the challenges the Centre has faced in resource mobilisation, the fundraising strategy document identifies emerging opportunities the Centre can capitalize on to increase and diversify its funding base. Following this, the strategy document categorized and identified potential and major donors from CSEA's database and contacts, which includes national and international grant-making organizations, as well as resource persons and individuals that the Centre can partner with, to attract more project-based funding.

The document also provides unique methods that the Centre will deploy to approach prospective funders, who provide grants or trainings along CSEA's thematic areas. Some of these approaches include:

- Stimulating Demand for Evidence-Based Research
- Customized fundraising strategy for grant-making organizations
- Monitoring and responding effectively to call for proposals
- Image Building

CSEA would also ensure that the fundraising strategy is maintained and utilized effectively by conducting periodic evaluation of both successful and unsuccessful proposals/concept notes. These documents will be reviewed to determine areas where the Centre can improve its future performance.

As part of CSEA's wider resource mobilization strategy, the Centre is increasing the use of joint partnerships and collaboration to increase its chances of attracting funding. A case in point is CSEA's recent collaboration with NOI-Polls that culminated to a survey which explored the challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's manufacturing sector.

Subsequently, CSEA will partner with NOI-Polls to design a business model to serve as a guide for research on specific products and services that would be of interest to potential clients across the African continent. The main aim of this strategy is to combine the strength of NOI-Polls in conducting surveys with CSEA's capacity in providing more in-depth analytical research. These products could be in the form of Business/Consumer Confidence Indices, and key indices in the labour, financial, investment, and credit markets.

While this ongoing engagements with NOI-Polls are work-in-progress, the Centre would continue to build similar working relationships with other reputable institutions in Africa.

2.5 CSEA Transparency Ranking

In 2016 CSEA became the first think tank in Nigeria to implement a 5-star transparency rating ranked by TRANSPARIFY International. This marked a huge improvement from the poor performance in the Think Tank Transparency Report 2016. However, the Centre has moved swiftly to address the low scores by disclosing its donors, the precise amount received from each and the purpose of the donation on its funding page on the CSEA website.



3. RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

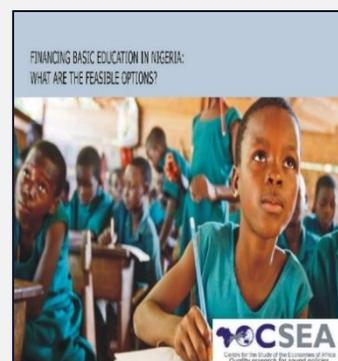
3.1 Funded Research Projects

3.1.1 The Education Commission Project

CSEA conducted two research projects focused on basic education for the International Commission on Financing Global Education (The Education Commission) in 2016. In particular, the projects were entitled: 'Financing Basic Education in Nigeria: What are the feasible options' and 'Improving Educational Outcomes in Nigeria: Effectiveness, Accountability, and Equity Issues'.

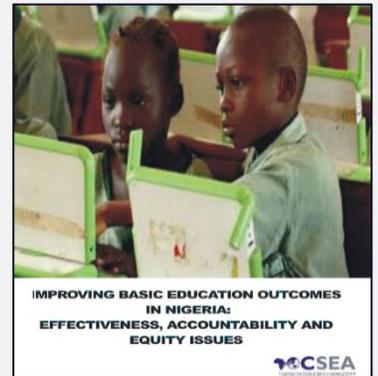
Financing Basic Education in Nigeria: What are the feasible options?

This study assessed the financing options for basic education in Nigeria as well as the challenges of achieving free education. Studies from selected states showed that while some progress have been made in the past few years, their total expenditure on education is still considerably below the recommended education financing benchmarks. The study therefore recommends a streamlining of the existing financing structure in Nigeria to enhance clarity and functionality of basic education.



Improving Educational Outcomes in Nigeria: Effectiveness, Accountability, and Equity Issues

The study provides an assessment of basic education in Nigeria with a focus on effectiveness, accountability and equity in financing using data sourced from some selected states. It also examines gender disparities in education outcomes. Although Gender inequalities in access to basic education has been declining over time due to increased efforts by government, donors and development partners, evidence from the data shows that while some states have achieved gender parity in access, other states are yet to realize an equitable number of parity. The study recommends that improving the income generating capacity at local levels and streamlining the education financing framework can enhance effectiveness and accountability.



The size of the Grant for both projects was \$124,965. It commenced from January 15, 2016 and has now been completed. The project involved various activities which included a combination of desk research and field research in four Nigerian states, namely: Lagos, Kaduna, Zamfara, and Bayelsa.

3.1.2 Food Reserve Project

CSEA is conducting a research project on the efficiency of food reserves in enhancing food security in developing countries commissioned by **DAI Europe Ltd / European Commission** for a research grant of 10,800 Euros. The objective of the study is to examine the role of food reserves in enhancing food security in Nigeria. The project has three phases of study implementation which includes: Desk-based review of food security and food reserve system in Nigeria, Fieldwork in selected states as well as visits to MDAs and research institutions for interviews with targeted stakeholders.



3.1.3 Nigeria's rice value chain Project

CSEA conducted a field research project on “Contract Farming in Nigeria’s Value Chain: exploring the experiences of Olam Nigeria”. The project was commissioned by **Michigan State University (MSU), United States of America** with a grant of **\$20,194** from February 2016 to April 2016. Using Olam Nigeria as a Case Study, the study examined the experiences of several actors, including out-growers, local buying agents, rice-farmer cooperatives, parboilers and millers, as well as financiers (Central Bank of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Bank of Industry) in the rice value chain. The study highlighted the challenges faced by Olam’s Out-Grower Model and identified other structural challenges constraining the increased production of high quality rice in Nigeria. These issues were highlighted in a report titled Case Study of Olam Outgrower Scheme in Rukubi Rice Farming Communities, ‘Nasarawa State Nigeria.

3.1.4 Infrastructure Financing in Nigeria Project

CSEA is conducting research on “Infrastructure financing in Botswana and Nigeria: Engagement with Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDBs) and recommendations on how learning processes could be improved”. The project was commissioned by the **South African Institute of international affairs, Global Economic Governance Africa (SAIIA-GEGAfrica)** with a grant of



65,000 Rand from August 8, 2016 to October 31 2016. The objective of the study is to explore the experiences of MICs in Africa with MDBs to identify pertinent constraints that prohibit greater lending from these institutions. Preliminary findings from the report “Infrastructure Financing in Nigeria: Engagement with MDBs and recommendations on how lending processes could be improved” indicates that Nigeria’s huge infrastructure gap cannot be solely financed with government (oil) revenue.

3.1.5 Fiscal Sustainability Study

CSEA is also conducting a study on “Fiscal Sustainability” for DFID’s Partnership to Engage, Reform & Learn (PERL) | Learning, Evidencing & Advocacy Partnership (LEAP) with a grant of GBP 1000 for Phase I from 23 August to 30 September 2016. The study examines the key assumptions of the 2016 Budget and trends in fiscal macro-economic indicators with the aim of assessing potential implementation challenges, as well as drawing implications for subsequent budget formulation. It also identifies the challenges of fiscal consolidation in Nigeria which is hugely manifested in states’ budgeting and financing. This is because the autonomous nature of state in handling finances, which is constitutional, militates against fiscal discipline in most States, leading to the inability of states to pay salaries, thus relying heavily on the federal government support to meet up their fiscal obligations.

3.2 CSEA Research Areas

CSEA aims to enhance development outcomes in Africa through evidence-based research. The Centre has a broad reach that extends to international and public sector stakeholders. Essentially, the Centre expects to feed its outputs into the policymaking process. CSEA research is conducted in seven thematic areas:

1. **Public Financial Management and Governance (PFMG)**

Focuses on budgeting processes and strategies, fiscal decentralization, cost of governance, cost-benefit and effectiveness analysis of government programs.

2. **Program Evaluation, Poverty Measurement and Analysis (PEPMA)**

Evaluates the effectiveness of government programs, policies and

projects in areas such as growth pro-poorness and poverty, gender disparity, social inclusion and inequality.

3. **Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment (NREE)**

Examines critical issues in the areas of natural resource governance, agricultural policy, energy efficiency and geopolitics, environmental management and climate change.

4. Education, Health and Population Dynamics (EHPD)

Examines human capital development, labour markets and urbanization. It also focuses on Returns to Education and Training, Youth Unemployment and Job Creation, Urbanization and Maternal and Child Health.

5. Trade, Investment and Growth (TIG)

Examines regional integration and intra-regional trade in Africa, investigates the determinants and impacts of FDI in Africa and tracks the economic competitiveness of countries in the region.

6. Macroeconomic Management (MEM)

Conducts analyses on key macroeconomic issues, including budget, fiscal and monetary policies, debt management, government reforms and public private partnership.

7. Global Economic Governance (GEG)

Conducts analyses on changing institutional context for global economic governance and its implications for African countries.

However, these thematic areas are presently undergoing revisions to align with contemporary development issues and the research funding landscape.

3.3 CSEA Research Publications

In the year under review, CSEA prepared and disseminated several working papers, economic reports and updates, policy brief and opinion articles

3.3.1 Working Papers

“Export Commodity Prices and Long-Run Growth of Primary Commodities-Based African Economies”

By Solomon Abayomi Olakojo

There is a link between primary commodity export prices and economic performance. Many African economies are primary commodities export biased, often in few primary commodities. Previous studies focus on the impact of commodity prices on growth in Africa with little attention paid to different primary commodities and the level of diversification in primary commodities export. This study, investigates the effect of primary commodity prices on the long-run growth of 24 primary commodities-based African economies; by commodity types and level of diversification in primary commodities exports.

“Extra-ECOWAS Trade and Investment Flows: Any Evidence of Business Cycles Transmissions?”

By Solomon Abayomi Olakojo

This study investigates the effects of merchandise trade and investment flows on the transmission of business cycles between members of ECOWAS and the major trading partners between 1985 and 2014. Total trade and FDI significantly influence the transmission of business cycles with elasticities of 1.1% and 0.7%, respectively in the long run. There are little variations across the major trading partners and other

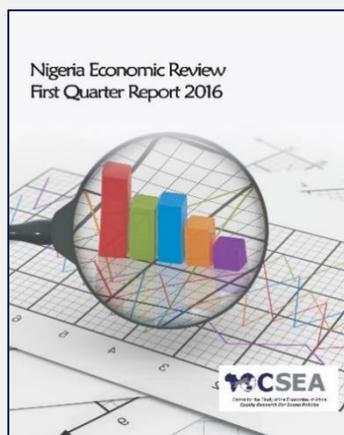
measures of trade flows. Intra-industry trade flows with all partners, EU and USA influences the cross-country business cycles with elasticities of 1.0%, 0.5% and 1.8%, respectively.

“Portfolio Diversification between Developed and less Developed Economies: The Case of US and UK Investors in Nigeria”

By *Tirimisyu Oloko*

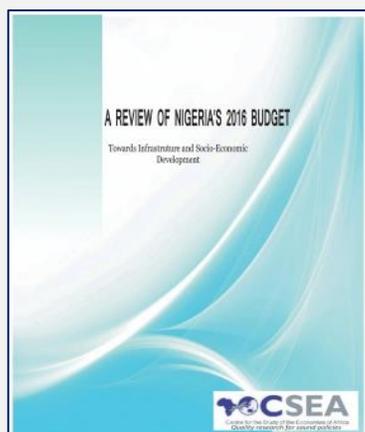
This study examines the hedging effectiveness of portfolio investment diversification between developed and developing economies; with focus on the Nigerian stock assets vis-à-vis the stock assets of the United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK). Its main contribution is in the analysis of optimal portfolio diversification using optimal portfolio weight (OPW) and optimal hedging ratio (OHR). Empirical findings show that the OPW and OHR are low, which indicates impressive potential gains from combining Nigerian stock assets in an investment portfolio with US and UK stock assets. In addition, exchange rate volatility is found to pose stern limitation on the potential benefits of this portfolio diversification arrangement. It is therefore recommended that the monetary authority in Nigeria should pursue policies towards reducing exchange rate volatility to the barest minimum. This will possibly attract more investors from developed economies who might be willing to combine Nigerian stock in their investment portfolio to minimize portfolio risk.

3.3.2 Economic Reports



Nigeria Economic Review: First Quarter Report, 2016

This report provides an evidence-based analysis of the state of the Nigerian economy in a bid to inform economic policies in Nigeria. The report presents some analyses of significant economic events in Nigeria within the period, and provides an outlook on what policymakers, businesses, and individuals should expect in subsequent quarters of 2016. It also provides valuable insights into potential drivers of the economic trends and outlines expectations for subsequent quarters of the year. The area of focus are Global Economic Performance, Domestic Economic Performance, External Sector Performance, and Sectoral Performance.



A Review of Nigeria's 2016 Budget

By *Solomon Olakojo, Mohammed Yusuf, Tirimisyu Oloko*

This study reviews and assesses the 2016 budget of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in line with IMF's budget assessment indicators, namely: comprehensiveness, transparency, and realism. The assessment is based on clear understanding of the present administration's objectives, which are: to achieve socio-economic and infrastructural development, to diversify the Nigerian economy, and to achieve improved security of lives and properties.

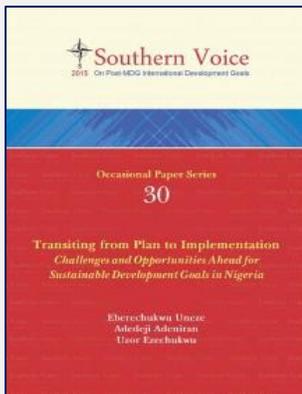


Nigeria Economic Update

CSEA's Nigerian Economic Update has published 37 issues since its launch in December 2015. The weekly publication is a snapshot of recent activities in major sectors of the Economy. It highlights and analyses trends and growth in these areas and provides brief recommendations for policymakers. These include among others, Employment/Unemployment rate, Crude oil prices, Foreign Exchange Rates and Foreign Reserves, Power, Stock Market, Gross Domestic Product and Inflation.

3.3.3 Publications

CSEA also collaborated and contributed to research publications with partner organisations

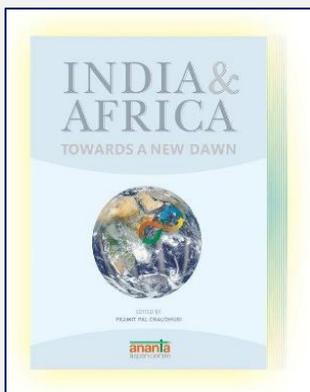


Transiting from Plan to Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead for Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

A Southern Voice Occasional Paper Series

By Eberchukwu Uneze, Ademideji Adeniran & Eustace Uzor

This study examines the adequacy of various means of implementation Mol for the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, focusing on five key areas: the ease of mainstreaming international goals into national plans; the efficacy of management, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; the ability of financing options to meet financing needs; the robustness of stakeholders and partnerships; and the level of statistical capacity.



Energy Complementarity: An Empirical look at India-Africa Energy Relations. In India and Africa: Towards a New Dawn

A publication of the Ananta Centre, New Delhi, India

By Chukwuka Onyekwena, edited by Pramit Pal Chaudhuri

India and Africa have numerous areas in which they can collaborate. These include trade and investment, development and democracy, technology and education, maritime security and counter terrorism. This book is a collection of essays by experts from both India and African countries articulating many aspects of this emerging relationship; the key areas of cooperation and collaboration; and the challenges and roadblocks ahead. This publication highlights the depth and the complementarity of this relationship and the impact this would have across the world.

3.3.4 Policy Brief

A Note on the Economic Downturn in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Nigeria-South Africa Comparison

By Precious Akanonu and Chukwuka Onyekwena

This piece situates the present argument on the largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa in the context of recent commodity market crisis and its potential implications. It sheds light on the present debate on the comparative size of the Nigerian and South African economies. It also searches through the looming recession in both economies and provides an outlook for the rest of the year.

3.3.5 Opinion Articles

“On the recent rise in Nigeria’s monetary policy rate:Deciphering Implications”

By Precious Akanonu

The article examines the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), on the 26th of June 2016 which unexpectedly raised monetary policy rate (MPR) by 200 basis point, from 12 percent to 14 percent and its implications for the Nigerian economy.

“On the Recent removal of Gasoline Subsidy in Nigeria”

By Muhammed Adekunle Yusuf

The article focuses on the implications of fuel subsidy removal on social welfare and provides insights into social spending options that can minimize the impact of the withdrawal. It also highlights the benefits of the action to the current global economic slowdown as the policy action would help free up resources for spending in other areas of

“Paradox of ‘Jobless Growth’ in Nigeria and options for policy”

By Solomon Olakojo

This article highlights the repercussions of Nigeria’s rebased gross domestic product (GDP) data using 2010 as the base year. Although rebasing the data has its advantages, the desired growth requires more jobs creation and poverty reduction. Any deviation from this implies a growth that is not inclusive-an issue needed to be addressed.

4. COMMUNICATIONS, DISSEMINATION&OUTREACH

CSEA has continued to build on the progress made in policy linkages, communications and outreach. CSEA also co-hosted policy dialogues and seminars and attended several workshops and conferences within Africa and around the World. This section highlights the Network and Outreach activities of the Centre as well as effort made to improve the visibility of the Centre, in the year over review.

4.1 CSEA Partnership

The Centre is building collaborative partnerships and cultivating new working relationships with research organizations and development partners to help broaden the scope of the Centres operations.

CSEA current Partners Include:

International Development Research Centre(IDRC)
West African Think Tank Network (WATTNet)
South African Institute of International Affairs(SAIIA)
The Africa Policy Circle
The Education Commission
World Bank
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
Central Bank of Nigeria(CBN)
Global Economic Governance Africa(GEGAfrica)
NOIPolls
Africa Portal
African Development Bank(AfDB)
Universal Basic Education Commission(UBEC)

4.2 CSEA Events, Networking and Outreach

i) International Conference on Agriculture in West Africa

November 17-19, 2015, Dakar, Senegal

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the West Africa regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP), the conference was organized to take stock of progress made and provide guidance on its implementation in the next 10 years ahead. The event featured several forums including: "Financing the Regional Offensive for a Sustainable and Sustained Revitalization of Rice Production in West Africa" and a Global Forum "Review of Achievements of ECOWAP+10 and 2025 Outlook".

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena joined government representatives, stakeholders in the sector and other Research experts for a wide-range of discussions.



ii) Building Evidence for Education Workshop

April 20, 2016, Washington, D.C

The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (Education Commission) organised the Building Evidence in Education (BE2) workshop which provided a platform for participants to provide input on a selected set of their research topics, then develop a systematic review platform concept based on their inputs, explore research collaboration opportunities and also share their vision on the future of BE2. **Uzor Ezechukwu** presented a draft paper on “Financing Basic Education in Nigeria: What are the Feasible Options?”

iii) Focus Group Discussion on Basic Education in Nigeria

April 28, 2016, Abuja Nigeria

CSEA organized a Focus Group Discussion event in collaboration with NOIPolls to engage with relevant education stakeholders as well as communicate emerging findings from the draft report of the research projects. Some of the stakeholders that participated in the event include: the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), DFID- Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN), the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), among other key actors. Key observations and recommendations from the discussion were incorporated into the final report for the Education Commission Project.



iv) Launch & Stakeholders Conference of the Association for Research on Civil Society Africa

May 19-21, 2016, Lagos, Nigeria

The Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa (AROSCA) created under the auspices of the Association for Research on Non-Profit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) organized its formal launch event which had in attendance, scholars and researchers, practitioners in civil society, business, and policymakers from around the continent. AROSCA seeks to create a platform for meaningful engagement among stakeholders, with the goal of knowledge generation and dissemination. **Dr. Chukwukwa Onyekwena** joined over 80 participants from Malawi, Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria and Cameroon for these discussions.



v) Africa Policy Circle Workshop

May 30-31, 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Africa Policy Circle Workshop, organized by the Africa Policy Circle (APC) and supported by the Global Public Policy Institute and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with the theme “The African Policy Agenda: What Role for Think Tanks and Civil Society?” provided a platform for discussion among participants from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Think Tanks on a wide range of issues. This included, roundtable discussions on current policy priorities and key implementation challenges facing the African Union on global goals such as the SDGs and how CSOs and Think Tanks can impact on this process. **Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena** joined other stakeholders, members of various think tanks and CSOs for a wide-range of discussions.



vi) Workshop on Food Security Public Stocks in Developing Countries

June 22-24, 2016, Montpellier, France

The workshop on Food Security in Developing countries was organized by the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) in collaboration with DAI and the European Commission. The event provided a platform for participants to discuss ways through which food reserves in the national and regional level can contribute to improving food security, provide recommendations on how complementarity between food reserves and other tools can best be achieved, and how to incorporate these methods to the different countries. **Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena** presented a paper on “Efficiency of food reserves in enhancing food and security in developing countries: The Nigeria Case Study”.



vi) Stakeholder Forum on 2016 Manufacturing Sector Survey

August 23, 2016, Abuja, Nigeria

CSEA in collaboration with NOIPolls organised a stakeholder’s forum to disseminate findings and insights of the challenges and opportunities in the Manufacturing Sector Survey. The survey indicated that although Nigeria's manufacturing sector grew by an average of 16.7% annually from 2010 to 2014 it contracted by

1.5% from 2014 to 2015. The survey also identified a number of causes of this decline in output, (which are common factors in most organisations) Foreign competition, poor power supply as well as inconsistency of governments policies.

Stakeholders in the manufacturing sector which included representatives from Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), National association of small and medium size enterprises (NASME) and the Lagos chamber of commerce and industry (LCCI) also presented a summary of challenges faced by their organisations and also provided recommendations that would inform policy change for the sector. Some of these recommendations include:

- Provision of foreign exchange window to manufacturers
- Sufficient access to credit and loans
- Resuscitation of indigenous industries
- Policy consistency and promotion of indigenous and local produce
- Increase competitiveness of made in Nigeria products

Picture Highlights



4.3 CSEA Dissemination Activities

In the year under review, CSEA staff also granted press interviews to some media outlets on key burning issues affecting the Nigerian Economy.

- The Centre granted an interview to **Sophia Adengo** of CCTV on “Efforts ongoing to diversify economy in Nigeria”.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBuUmyMKlyl>
- CSEA also highlighted the ongoing economic challenges in Nigeria in a feature story with **Sophia Adengo**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyIiECiaHKs>
- CSEA also contributed to the ongoing discussion sequel to the stakeholder’s forum on the 2016 manufacturing sector survey on the Africa Independent Television (AIT) with **Nancy Iloh**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvLLqmnfkKc>
- The Centre also participated in radio programmes on (**We FM Radio, Nigeria Info Radio, and KISSFM Radio, Abuja**) to further drive the importance of reviving and sustaining the manufacturing sector in Nigeria.
- CSEA also contributed to a report ahead of the 2016 G20 summit scheduled for September 4-5, 2016 in Hangzhou China for CCTV.
- CSEA contributed to two News articles written by Onize Ohikere for WORLD Magazine:
Nigeria floats currency to save crippled economy <http://bit.ly/2dbWlgN>
Oil bust hits hard in petroleum-driven countries <http://bit.ly/2dbVQDt>

CSEA’s website has been a focal point for the dissemination of the Centre’s Research activities. The Centre’s social media platforms have been effective in enhancing its visibility and outreach activities.

While the website features regular upload of research publications and reports as well as data visualizations and Infographics on selected reports, the social media platforms provide instant update to the audience on each recent activity.

The following are CSEA’s active social media handles:



5. CONCLUSION

This report has highlighted the activities of CSEA for the fiscal year, October 2015- September 2016. The report highlights key aspects of CSEA operational activities such as, organizational restructuring, resource mobilization, research and dissemination activities, in line with the Centre's Medium-term Strategic Plan (2012-2016). With the support of TTI Phase II expected to end in 2019, the Centre is increasing efforts aimed at diversifying its funding base. In the next financial year, the Centre would build more expertise on key areas, including: Agricultural and Food security, Gender, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This expanded focus is expected to make CSEA more responsive to both the domestic and global agenda for development.

Going forward, CSEA is committed to its tradition of providing innovative and policy relevant research targeted at informing government policies and programme interventions in both Nigeria and Africa.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations who have contributed towards making CSEA the foremost research organisation it is today. Our hard work would not have been rewarding without donors such as the IDRC – whom through its TTI grant makes it possible for us to act independently and objectively.

And to all organisations, state agencies and CSOs who have made our research work and data collection feasible, we are immensely grateful.

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