Center for the Study of The Economies of Africa

ANNUAL REPORT

2019
JANUARY - DECEMBER
Message from our Executive Director

2019 was a dynamic and successful year for CSEA with several notable accomplishments, capping over a decade of producing evidence-based research and analysis in Africa. It also marks a significant period for the Centre, as the Institutional funding provided by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) ended.

A major highlight for the year under review is the Centre’s award as a Center of Excellence by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As a Center of Excellence, CSEA and UNCTAD will be collaborating closely on research, capacity building and dissemination of research outputs. This strategic partnership will significantly enrich CSEA research work and increase its reach to a wider audience.

In 2019, we embarked on a year-long strategy of repositioning our research objectives to align with the changes in the development space, in response to emerging opportunities. Thus, CSEA explored other relevant areas of research including climate change, gender, and social inclusion policies. This increased the Centre’s success towards receiving a record number of awarded research projects in 2019.

Our research team published a number of compelling reports and research outcomes in 2019 with significant mentions in journals of articles, and republishing them in reputable academic institutes as well as media platforms. CSEA staff also participated in high policy events and strategic workshops, which also enhanced the Centre’s visibility and enabled CSEA distinguish itself as a key player in the network of think tanks.

We expanded and strengthened our communications and outreach efforts by exploring innovative strategies such as data visualization, videos and documentaries, to disseminate our research outputs. In the year under review, CSEA recorded remarkable growth and accomplishment, in its policy engagement through partnerships with an increased network of institutions, researchers, resource persons, and policymakers. CSEA organized seminars, policy dialogues and workshops which greatly enhanced the Centre’s ability to communicate its research outputs more widely across various stakeholders in Africa.

With positive outcomes and new opportunities, we continue to take stock of the Centre’s strengths and capacities, as well as its opportunities and challenges. CSEA is poised for an enhanced decade of policy impact, and the promotion of progress towards our strategic objectives through organizational development, research and communications outreach.

We appreciate our numerous partners, donors, and Board Members, whose support is crucial to growing our knowledge base and delivering greater impact. We are also grateful to our talented, knowledgeable and dedicated staff as we continue to break new ground in pursuing our objectives.

In preparing for our continued growth as a forward-thinking organization we look forward to working together on an ambitious new strategic plan in the new decade.

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena
Executive Director
Center for the Study of The Economies of Africa

IN A NUTSHELL

Our Objective

Our Objective is to enhance development outcomes in Africa through evidence based research.

Our mission

To help improve public sector efficiency in Africa to enhance Africa’s preparedness to contribute to International economic policy debates and its integration into the global economy.
AREAS OF FOCUS

Public Financial Management and Governance
This research area focuses on budgeting processes and strategies, fiscal decentralisation, cost of governance, public performance measurement, cost-benefit and effectiveness analysis of government programs.

Global Economic Governance
This research area analyzes the changing institutional context for global economic governance and the implications for African countries.

Education, Health and Population Dynamics
This program is the anchor of CSEA’s activities in the areas of human capital development, labor markets and urbanization.

Program Evaluation, Poverty Measurement and Analysis
This research area evaluates the effectiveness of various programs, policies and projects aimed at addressing development challenges—such as impact evaluation of government and development programs, poverty, gender disparity, social inclusion and inequality.

Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment
This research area examines critical issues in the areas of natural resource governance, agrarian policy, energy efficiency and geopolitics, environmental management and climate change.

Trade Investment and Growth
This research area examines regional integration and intra-regional trade in Africa, with emphasis on their effects on inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

Macroeconomic Management
The overall objective of this research area is to conduct technical analyses on key macroeconomic issues, with the coverage gradually expanding to include other African countries.
“Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death worldwide, responsible for 100 million deaths—more than deaths from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined”.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS
FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS
ONGOING:

Community Engagement, Local politics and Education Outcomes: Evidence from Nigeria

CSEA is conducting the Research on Improving Systems of Education in Nigeria (RISE), a multi-country project that aims to understand how school system in developing countries can overcome the learning crisis and achieve quality education. The project was commissioned by the Department for International Development-Research on Improving Systems of Education (DFID-RISE) and is being conducted in partnership with the African School of Economics (ASE). The RISE Nigeria project will address five components: 1) Mission and Colonial Schools; 2) Free Primary Education (FPE); 3) National Youth Service Corps (NYSC); 4) School Based Management Committees (SBMCs); and 5) Political Economy. Currently, the project is conducting the Mission School Phase which focuses on analysing the impact of direct and indirect educational aspects as well as exposure on social mobility across generations.

Budget: £3,000,000.00

The Economics of Tobacco Control Nigeria

CSEA received funding for a two-year project, commissioned by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, to provide research and advocacy in Nigeria. The proposed project focuses on: i) estimating the optimal tobacco tax rates and structure; ii) assessing the economic costs and impact of tobacco use across different groups as well as cost-effectiveness of tobacco control interventions; iii) identifying the impact of tax changes on illicit trade as well as cost-effective measures of curbing illicit trade on tobacco products. For the second component, CSEA conducted Focus Group Discussions in four states (Adamawa, Anambra, Kogi, Rivers and Lagos) to explore the impact of tobacco use on i) current or former smokers with tobacco-related illnesses, and ii) caregivers for household members with tobacco-related illnesses.

Budget - CAD$ 311,000.00
Assessing Willingness to Pay (WTP) for Electricity in Nigeria

This study will estimate the willingness and ability to pay for electricity across urban, semi-urban and rural areas of Abuja metropolis based on the existing Multi-Year Tariff Order (MYTO). The aim is to provide evidence for improving demand management factors such as pricing and investment decisions, towards reducing commercial and collection losses and ultimately improving service delivery. The main data source for assessing willingness to pay (WTP) in this study will be supply-side and demand-side survey of electricity producers and consumers, respectively, in selected communities within Abuja metropolis (categorized based on income profiles). The project was commissioned by the Energy for Growth Hub.

Budget: $50,000

CSEA also received funding from the Energy for Growth Hub to evaluate the impact and financial sustainability of selected WB-WS electricity supply projects and identify factors that affect outcomes. Based on the ensemble of case studies, policy-relevant insights about the impact of the WB-WS model will be derived. The conditions under which this model is most effective and the potential it has as an important complement to the dominant mode of electricity supply will also be derived. Our goal is to improve the theory that explains how such special enterprises interact with their host governments.

Budget: $40,000

The Role of Information about Peer Behaviour on Tax Compliance in Nigeria: An Experimental Study

CSEA is conducting a research for The Nigeria Tax Research Network/International Centre for Tax and Development on the Role of Information about Peer Behaviour on Tax Compliance in Nigeria: An Experimental Study. Domestic revenue mobilization is a priority for many SSA countries. Yet, low tax compliance constitutes a major challenge to this drive. Improving tax compliance will require an understanding of the underlying factors influencing a taxpayer’s decision to either pay taxes or not. However, little is known about tax compliance behavior in most SSA countries; insights that are indispensable to reforming policies and designing interventions aimed at improving tax compliance. CSEA will conduct an experimental design to identify the role of peer effect on tax compliance in Nigeria’s context.

Budget: $20,000

Strengthening the Capacity of Country and Regional Policy Support Organizations in Africa – Phase II

This study aims to develop and implement an initiative aimed at helping Civil Society Organizations that engage on policy issues to understand better their strengths and deficits so that they can build up their capacity and competencies. It would also provide suggestions for Policymakers to know better which CSO-Ps have what capabilities and how reliable their work is, and also allow funders to be able to assess better which CSO-Ps to support. The project was commissioned by Results for Development (R4D).

Budget: $20,000.00

Evaluating the Impact of the Continental Free Trade Area in Nigerian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

The overall aim of this study is to provide evidence to support advocacy and better representation of the needs of MSMEs in Nigeria, to ensure that the AfCFTA yields maximum benefits for MSMEs. The specific objectives of the study are: To highlight the economic outlook and growth potential of the AfCFTA and To provide a cost-benefit analysis on the impact of the AfCFTA on MSMEs’ economic opportunities and business growth potential. The project was commissioned by the Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).

Budget: N7,000,000.00
Chinese infrastructure financing and the Belt and Road Initiative

The aim of the project is to move towards quantifying the development impact of particular Chinese infrastructure projects in Africa. The project will measure in concrete terms what impacts Chinese infrastructure provisions are having on African development. The project is funded by South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

Budget: ZAR 30,000

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Project Title- Research on Trans-Fatty Acids in Nigeria
  Commissioned by- Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)
  Budget Size-$44,783

- Project Title- 2019 Nigeria Benchmarking Exercise
  Commissioned by-Nigeria Natural Resource Charter (NNRC)/FOS-TER
  Budget Size-NGN 6,157,200

- Project Title- Strengthening Sustainable Financing for
  Regulatory Monitoring of Food Control and Fortification in Nigeria
  Commissioned by- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
  Budget Size-$15,000

- Project Title- Payment Patterns in Nigeria’s Public Facilities:
  Unexpected costs and implications for maternal care
  health-seeking behaviour in Nigeria
  Commissioned by- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
  Budget Size- $15,000

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS II

- Project Title- Rural Labor Market Assessment to support skills
devlopment and income generation for households (women and men) in Damaturu, Potiskum and Gujba. Commissioned by- Save the Children
  Budget Size-N5,500,000

- Project Title- Building resilience among IDPs in Nigeria
  Commissioned by-IDRC-TTI
  Budget Size-NGN 2,346,957

- Project Title- The Effects of Increased Tobacco Consumption
  and Affordability
  Commissioned by- Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre(CIS- LAC)
  Budget Size-NGN 2,000,000

Project Title- Research and dissemination of four (4) Memos on
Nigeria’s Energy Sector
Commissioned by-Energy for Growth Hub
Budget Size-$20,000
Earlier in 2019, the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) core-funding by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) ended. CSEA was one of the 43 policy research institutions in 20 developing countries who benefited from this support since 2009. The TTI support provided the CSEA with adequate resources and technical support to restructure and strengthen its activities, specifically in the areas of organizational performance, research quality and policy engagement. Moving forward, the Centre re-strategized for alternative sources of funding to ensure the financial sustainability of the Centre beyond 2019.

CSEA receives SDG Recognition Award

CSEA was awarded the ‘RECOGNITION AS SDG CHAMPION’ honor on April 1, 2019, by the International Network for Corporate Social Responsibility (In-CSR). The award is in acknowledgement and commendation of the Centre’s success in advancing Sustainable Development Goals. CSEA has continued to make significant advances over the years in its research and policy intervention efforts in areas such as health, education and migration, that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UNDP’s Agenda for 2030.
Lateef Akanni, Research Associate at CSEA, participated in a three-week seminar organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The training provided a platform for participants to study the characteristics and national conditions of Chinese think tanks.
OUR TEAM

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena
Executive Director

Dr. Chinny Ogunro
Director of Health Research

Dr. Adedeji Adeniran
Senior Research Fellow

Dr. Grace Onubedo
Senior Research Fellow

Precious C. Akanonu
Research Fellow

Mma Amara Ekuruche
Research Associate

Lateef Olawale Akanni
Research Associate

Joseph Ishiaku
Research Associate

Marco Castradori
Research Associate

Enemaku Okpanachi
Research Assistant

Christian Obi
Director Of Accounts & Finance

Ekenemchukwu A. Onwumere
Finance & Admin Officer

Drusilla David
Communication/Institutional Advancement Officer

Akpabio Edidiong
Digital Communications Assistant
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Efficiency of Food Reserves in Enhancing Food Security in Developing Countries: The Nigerian Experience</td>
<td>Working Paper</td>
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<td>Sustainability Implications of Nigeria’s Water Use Patterns</td>
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<td>Managing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>How To Resolve The Tariff Disputes Blocking Nigeria’s Solar Project Pipeline?</td>
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<td>Achieving Abundant and Affordable Energy in Africa: Is there a place for nuclear power in Nigeria?</td>
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<td>Challenges and Interventions Needs in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI)</td>
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<td>Future Energy Use in the Developing World: Implications for poverty reduction and climate goals</td>
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<td>Three Top Priorities for Nigeria’s 2020 Power Agenda</td>
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<td>A Scoping Study of Nigeria’s Tobacco Market and Policy Space</td>
<td>Project Report</td>
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<td>An Appraisal of Nigeria’s Implementation of the Quality Education Goal</td>
<td>Journal of Implementation</td>
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<td>Developing a Human Development Index (HDI) for the Nigerian States: Conceptual Approach and Preliminary Evidence</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Opportunities and Pitfalls in Practical Translation of Youth Inclusivity for Sustainable Peacebuilding in Africa</td>
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<td>Early Child Education: The Most Important; Yet The Most Neglected</td>
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<td>INVESTIGATION: West Africa’s Illicit Tobacco Trade Hits Nigeria’s Revenue</td>
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<td>Cigarettes Still Flooding to Nigeria Despite de facto Ban on Imports</td>
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<td>The 2020 National Budget: right cycle is great, but implementation is better</td>
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<td>Nigeria’s New National Minimum Wage: Responses and Implications for the Economy</td>
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<td>The Global South and development assistance</td>
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<td>Chinese think tanks with Chinese characteristics: some lessons for African think tanks</td>
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<td>Building political will for policy change: the role of CSOs in Nigeria</td>
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<td>Managing Africa’s Rising Debt: Time for a Multi-Pronged Approach</td>
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<td>Finance and Firm Productivity in Africa: Background Study from World Bank Enterprise Survey Data</td>
<td>Working Paper</td>
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OUTREACH AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Over the last year, we focused on strengthening our capacity to expand visibility and the uptake of our policy outputs. We enhanced our methods of disseminating research using the newly introduced stickman series, video documentaries and re-energized our digital channels to increase content delivery through our social media platforms. We strengthened our outreach efforts by upscaling our database of policymakers and increased our engagements. We also hosted stakeholders including policymakers, researchers, members of the academia, civil society organizations at key events that helped define the conversation around today’s most pressing development challenges. CSEA staff also participated in high-level conferences, strategic workshops and policy dialogues across the globe.

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCES/DIALOGUES

UNCTAD, CSEA partner to advance African economic research

17 -18 December, 2019 ⚪ Abuja, Nigeria

CSEA and UNCTAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop closer ties through joint research and capacity building activities. The agreement went into immediate effect in the shape of a workshop on “fostering productive capacities, structural economic transformation and export diversification in West African Economies”, held just after the MoU was signed. It provided a platform for West African policymakers came together to identify policies and measures that could assist their economies in overcoming their commodity-based growth pattern.

3rd Steering Committee Meeting for the South-South Global Thinkers

7 November 2019 ⚪ Antananarivo, Madagascar

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena joined other participants at the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting for “the South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC”. It provided a platform for a comprehensive review of the policy and legal issues discussed during “the Role of South-South Cooperation in Promoting and Deepening Trade and Investment in Africa” and identify further research questions that could feed into the development of a comprehensive study South-South investments.
11th African Private Sector Forum

5-8 November 2019  ♦ Antananarivo, Madagascar

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) organized a workshop on “The Role of South-South Cooperation in Promoting and Deepening Trade and Investment in Africa – Promoting Conducive Policy and Legal Environments in Africa” during the 11th African Private Sector Forum. The workshop provided a platform for discussions on the relevance and the need for the adaptation of the existing instruments for investment in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

CSEA becomes an UNCTAD Regional Center of Excellence

October 29 2019  ♦ Geneva, Switzerland

At its annual Centers of Excellence strategic meeting, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) selected CSEA alongside four other organizations as UNCTAD Regional Center of Excellence (CoE). The CoE’s with different strengths and expertise in various sectors including sustainable development, poverty alleviation and policy cooperation across developing countries. The CoE would leverage South-South cooperation as a means of providing technical assistance, and more importantly share successful experiences and best practices in trade and development policies.

11th African Policy Circle Meeting

October 10 - 11, 2019  ♦ Lilongwe, Malawi

The 11th meeting of the Africa Policy Circle (APC) held under the theme “Sustainable African Cities of the Future”, to bring the urban transport and urban development agenda to the forefront of sustainable development. The meeting also provided a platform for participants to deliberate and propose actionable recommendations on sustainable urbanization around the key features of urban life in Africa.
Local Government, Human Development: Chinese lessons for African Countries

September 9-10 2019  📍 Uganda

Dr. Adedeji Adeniran participated in a workshop organized by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) which convened policy makers, researchers, local government leaders and academics from UK and China meeting to discuss Chinese lessons for African Countries under the research theme “Local government, human development: Chinese lessons for African Countries”. Discussions centered around whether local authorities can accelerate economic growth and development, as well as identifying and evaluating Chinese experiences and exploring whether there are lessons from this that are applicable to low income Africa.

Strengthening SDG 17 through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

July 18, 2019  📍 New York USA

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena participated at the Consultation with Southern based Think Tanks for the 2019 Human Development Report which was co-hosted by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Human Development Report Office (HDR). The consultation was organised specifically to hear stakeholder’s perspectives and experiences from Southern-based think tanks relating to inequality and related sub-themes, identify broad contours, and scope on the specific issues; and discuss key policy options and promote buy-in among the stakeholders.

South-South Global Thinkers Dialogue – Reflection on BAPA+40 Outcome Document.

July 17 2019  📍 New York, USA

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a session bringing together think tank members from the South-South Global Thinkers initiative to discuss their reflection on the BAPA+40 outcome document. Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena joined other participants to give a presentation on BAPA+40, and also propose research ideas and knowledge initiatives that would be important for Southern Countries and development partners.
6th Africa Think Tank Summit
April 24 - 26, 2019 ✔ Tanzania

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) convened the Sixth Africa Think Tank Summit under the theme “Tackling Implementation Challenges for Africa’s Sustainable Development”. The event was organized in partnership with the Government of Kenya and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA). The summit provided a platform for participants to propose strategies and actionable recommendations that would enable think tanks contribute to tackling policy implementation challenges within the context of Africa’s vision as reflected in Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, through sharing knowledge and country case studies on good practices in ensuring successful implementation of policies and strategies. Dr Adedeji Adeniran and Joseph Ishaku participated in this event.

CSEA participates in the regional workshop on health-related SDGs
April 15-16, 2019 ✔ Dakar Senegal

IPAR convened participants including -representatives of the Ministries of Health of 15 West African countries, think tank and university researchers, representatives of civil society as well as other technical and financial partners- under the leadership of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), at a regional workshop. Dr. Chinny Ogunro participated in the workshop which provided a platform to share the results of the regional synthesis, discuss proposed indicators, analyze in depth the availability of data for the selected indicators, specify the nature of the data and establish the baseline.

International Conference on the Emergence of Africa
January 17 - 19, 2019 ✔ Dakar

Dr. Grace Onubedo joined other representatives from West African Think Tanks at the revitalization workshop of the West African Think Tanks Network (WATTNet). The discussions which were led by Consortium pour le Recherche Économique et Sociale(CRES), Senegal, provided a platform for participants to reflect and share ideas on how to revive the network. The network is a platform for the development and exchange of ideas, information and experiences among think tanks in West Africa, to help address the region’s key development challenges while strengthening the organizational performance of the member institutions of the network.
Leaders in African Education Research convene to discuss Strengthening Research in Education

July 16 - 17 2019   Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Addis Ababa University (AAU) in collaboration with Centre for Global Development (CGD), DFID and the REAL Centre at the University of Cambridge convened 41 education researchers representing 18 countries from across the continent for the ‘Leaders in African Education Research’ to debate research priorities and opportunities in order to deliver high-quality and impactful research.

SDG Learning Session on Policy Coherence

July 12 2019   New York USA

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena was a panelist at the SDG Learning session “From silos to synergies: Governance and policy coherence tools for implementing the SDGs in an integrated manner”. The overall objective of the learning session was to build capacities for enhancing policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs.

Progress on the 2030 Agenda: Insights from country experiences

July 12 2019   New York USA

Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena participated in a high-level meeting organized by the United Nations Foundation and Southern Voice convened participants at a high-level event on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to launch the “State of the SDGs” report discuss progress on the 2030 Agenda for the Southern Voice’s State of the SDGs research initiative.

T20 Summit- SDG Progress-Perspectives from around the Globe

May 26 - 29, 2019   Japan

As a side event of the T20 Summit in Tokyo, Japan, the Southern Voice Network in collaboration with the JICA Research Institute organized a panel discussion to review progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the regions and draw implications for its accelerated implementation. CSEA senior research fellow, Dr. Adedeji Adeniran, participated in the panel discussion which featured panelists from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe to discuss the challenges regions face towards the implementation of the SDGs and propose possible solutions to them. reputable CSO’s and the Academia.
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October 3 2019

Jessica Lovering, Fellow at Energy for Growth Hub, explores the feasibility of commercial nuclear power in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in light of advanced nuclear technologies and their potential to overcome some of the challenges to deployment.

July 2 2019

Belinda Archibong, Assistant Professor of Economics at Colombia University, presenting a paper: Bargaining Matters: Taxation and Public Service Provision Under Natural Resource Revenue Sharing Arrangements.

July 25 2019

Leonard Wantchekon, Professor at the Politics department and associated faculty in the Economics department, Princeton University, presenting a paper: “Can Informed Public Deliberation Overcome Clientelism? Experimental Evidence from Benin”.

August 6 2019

Ebehi Iyoha, PhD Candidate in Economics, Department of Economics at Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, presenting a paper titled “Production Function Estimation in the Presence of Spillovers”
CSEA’s strategic communications ignite important policy debates, and influence development policy and practices.
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