



## Quarterly Newsletter

*Quality Research for Sound Policies*

### Welcome to CSEA's July 2015 Newsletter

#### CSEA NEWS

##### **CSEA announces new appointments to its Board of Trustees**

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) is pleased to announce the addition of five new members to its Board of Trustees. The new members join an eight-member board that oversees and support CSEA achieve its mission which is to enhance development outcomes and policy making in Africa and Nigeria by providing evidence-based research for policymakers.

The new members are:

##### **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

Dr. Okonjo-Iweala was the former Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance of Nigeria and also a past Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. She has served in a number of senior positions at the World Bank and also serves as a member of numerous boards including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). She joined CSEA Board as its Chairperson.

##### **Dr. Menachem Katz**

Dr. Katz was the Associate Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). He previously worked at the International Monetary Fund where he headed IMF Missions to several African Countries, including Nigeria. He joined the Board as chair of the Resource Mobilization and Programmes Committee.

##### **Dr. Nwanze Okidegbe**

Dr. Okidegbe was the former Chief Economic Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the period of 2011-2015. He worked previously as a Senior Consultant in various capacities for the World Bank and also served on international task-forces in the United Nations. He joined CSEA's board as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee.

##### **Ms. Zouera Youssoufou**

Ms. Youssoufou is the Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer, Dangote Foundation. She was previously the World Bank Country Manager for Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe and the Global Head of IFC Women in Business at the International Finance Corporation (IFC). She joined CSEA's Board as a member of the Resource Mobilization and Programmes Committee.

##### **Mr. Bonaventure Mbida-Essama**

Mr. Mbida-Essama is the Chief Executive Officer at the Nelson Mandela Institution. He had previously held senior positions at the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). He joined CSEA's Board as Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

##### **CSEA contributes to the 2015 Africa Progress Report**

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) contributed to the **Africa Progress Report 2015**, by the Africa Progress Panel titled '**Power, People, Planet**'. The report examines the steps to a ten-fold increase in power generation to provide all Africans with access to electricity by 2030. This would reduce poverty and inequality, boost growth, and provide the climate leadership that is sorely missing at the international level.

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## Recommended Reading

### **The Chinese Model of Infrastructure Development in Africa**

*Uzor Ezechukwu, CSEA*

The report identifies Infrastructural Development as a key step in providing a competitive business environment for African economies. Research shows that infrastructure development provides the backbone for poverty reduction strategies and programmes designed to improve the livelihood of the poor. It is notable that Africa is in dire need of infrastructural development as the absence of quality infrastructure in the continent holds back per capita economic growth by 2 percentage points each year and depresses firm productivity by as much as 40 percent. The Chinese Resource for Infrastructure (RFI) loans presents the most promising source of funds for infrastructure development in Africa, given the constraints on the traditional Western sources of infrastructure finance. The emerging role of China as a major infrastructure financier can be understood in the context of the trade complementarity that exists between African countries and China.

[Download Report](#)

## CSEA EVENT UPDATES

### **Impact Evaluation for Evidence-Based Policy in Development**

*8-19 June, 2015, Norwich, United Kingdom*

Uzor Ezechukwu joined participants from think tanks, NGO's, international agencies and academic professionals from developing and developed countries for a training workshop organized by the International Development UEA, University of East Anglia, Norwich and supported by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation(3ie).The theme of the workshop [Impact Evaluation for Evidence-Based Policy in Development](#) aimed at providing a platform for the participants to understand the methods used in evidence-based policymaking in order to evaluate and justify continued public spending on particular projects and programmes. The workshop included training sessions for participants to understand the quantitative and qualitative evaluation techniques for impact evaluation as well as understanding of the roles they can play in the design and assessment of public policy and development interventions.



### **World Economic Forum on Africa 2015**

*3 - 5 June, 2015, Cape Town, South Africa*

Dr. Ebere Uneze joined regional and global leaders from business, government and civil societies and the media at the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the World Economic Forum in Africa under the theme, [Then and Now: Reimagining Africa's Future](#). The conference convened stakeholders to take stock of Africa's progress over the last 25 years ,share insights on the present landscape and identify innovative approaches to accelerate inclusive growth to bring about sustainable development in the future. The meeting also provided a platform for discussions on the following issues: Enabling Markets, Marshalling Resources and Inspiring Creativity. Also featured were high-level sessions on critical subjects such as migration, combating terrorism and harnessing Africa's informal economy.

## CSEA STAFF TRAINING

### **Financial Management and Grants Reporting Training**

*18-21 May, 2015, Accra, Ghana*

Bamidele Ogundipe joined other participants at the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) training course in Financial Management and Grants Reporting training. The course was designed to strengthen the financial management and reporting skills of programme officers, project managers, finance officers and fundraising staff of Civil Society Organisations. The training provided a platform for participants to learn effective resource management and also build their confidence in managing and reporting on institutional donor grants. The training also explored essential financial management procedures, financial accountability and control mechanisms that are paramount to effective operational management.

### **Resource Mobilization and Proposal Writing**

*12-15 May, 2015, Accra, Ghana*

Uzor Ezechukwu joined other participants for the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) training course in Resource Mobilisation and Proposal Writing for Civil Society Organisations. The objective of the course was to help practitioners identify the current gap in resources for sustainable programme intervention and understand the diverse sources and methods to mobilise resources. The training provided a platform to improve participants' capability to understand the strategies to attract requisite resources for their respective organisations. It also explored project proposal writing related challenges and focused on how to raise more interest from donor community, organisations and stakeholders through winning proposals.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **AEC: Call for Papers**

The African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is calling for papers ahead of the African Economic Conference (AEC) 2015 tagged [Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the Post 2015 Development Agenda](#). The AEC 2015 will provide an opportunity to assess the impact of current inclusive growth strategies by presenting the latest empirical evidence on poverty, inequality and human development in Africa. It will also provide critical thinking on how policy-makers, development partners, the private sector, civil society organizations and the academia should support the planning and implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The deadline for submission is July 31, 2015.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **2015 PEGNet Conference**

*October 8-9, 2015 Berlin*

The Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) Conference 2015 will be held on the theme of [Transformation of Developing and Emerging Economies: Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth](#). Discussions will focus particularly on the economic dimension of sustainability within the context of the Post-2015 and the structural transformation that is needed to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, foster innovation and to reduce inequality within and among countries. The conference will also highlight the possible synergies and trade-offs between the different dimensions of sustainable development and look into the policies and instruments to manage them.

## ABOUT CSEA

The Centre for the study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) is a non-profit think tank Research Centre that conducts high quality applied research on economic policy issues in Nigeria and the rest of Africa. The Centre conducts research on issues around Public Financial Management and Governance; Macroeconomic Management; Trade Investment and Growth; Programme Evaluation, Poverty Measurement and Analysis; Natural Resources, Energy and Environment; Education, Health and Population Dynamics; Global Economic Governance.

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