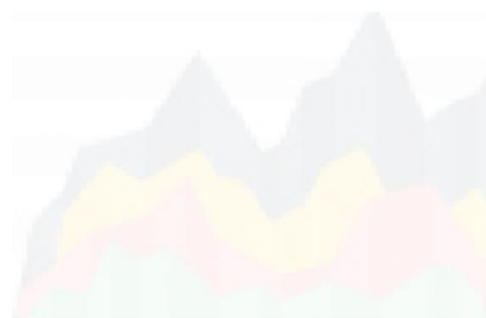




ANNUAL REPORT

October 2016 - September 2017

**CSEA's mission is to enhance
development outcomes in Africa
through evidence-based research**



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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 repositioning itself to track and analyse key developments in the Nigerian economy, and provide actionable recommendations. Thus the centre has strengthened 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 restructuring of the BOT in 2015 to include leading professionals with extensive 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 outputs, and promoting transparency in operations. To ensure financial sustainability of the Centre and reduce the reliance on the core funding from International Development Research Centre (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 funders of these projects has 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 and other periodic publications, to provide a timely response to emerging and contemporary issues in the region. 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 improved 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.



Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena



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 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.

To maintain its tradition of providing rigorous and relevant evidence-based research that is used to inform policies in Nigeria, the Centre's Information and Data Management Unit (IDM) in charge of providing periodic analysis on Nigeria's economy by collating qualitative and quantitative data under CSEA's thematic research areas, enhanced the publications by including a

monthly analysis and publication in key African countries.

In the period under review, the Centre enhanced its resource mobilization strategies by continuing to build on its Business Model strategy introduced under the TTI sustainability programme. The model enabled CSEA identify specific objectives required in developing an effective fundraising strategy and ensure its implementation.

Bearing in mind the growing interest in bridging the gap between research and policy, effective dissemination in a strategic format is of vital importance. CSEA aims to maximize the benefits of its research outputs and its eventual influence on policy and practice. To this end, the Centre has embarked on a restructuring of communications strategies in an effort to improve the dissemination of research evidence for policy change. This would involve upgrading the Centre's website and revamping its communication channels to meet global standards. These approaches, it is hoped, would enhance CSEA's visibility in the policy space as well as create opportunities for engaging with donors.

Similarly, CSEA has continued to strengthen and establish new linkages with relevant organizations and key players, particularly through collaborations and partnerships. This approach has greatly enhanced 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 MISSION 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. RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

2.1 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 conducts policy relevant along 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 natural resource governance, agricultural policy, energy efficiency and geopolitics, environmental management and climate change.
4. **Education, Health and Population Dynamics (EHPD)**
This research theme 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 issues of regional integration, intra-regional trade in Africa and investigates the determinants as well as tracks the impact of FDI in Africa and 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 analysis on the 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.

2.2 Funded Research Projects

2.2.1 Research on Chinese Investment in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry

CSEA conducted a research on Chinese Investment in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry. The project was funded with a grant of \$13,134.82, by the **UK's Department for International Development (DFID)** and the **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)**, and undertaken jointly by a consortium of the Open University and University of Dundee, with the African Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Ghana. The research was conducted in selected African countries, namely- Ghana, Sudan, South Sudan and Nigeria. The project highlighted development implications of oil and gas exploitation in these countries as well as how Chinese players particularly Chinese National Oil Companies operating in these countries shape development outcomes of oil and gas exploitation in comparison with other (traditional) players. Among other things, the research focused on issues around local capacity development, supply chain localization and linkage development, local content issues, fiscal impact and a political economy understanding of how investments in the oil and gas sector affect development. It was completed in May 2017.

2.2.2 Energy Subsidies in Nigeria: Opportunities and Challenges

CSEA is conducting a study on renewable energy in Nigeria commissioned by the **Centre for Global Development (CGD)** for a research grant of **\$10,000**. The aim of the project is to examine the current state of renewable energy penetration in Nigeria, as well as to identify and gauge the sensitivity of barriers to its adoption in Nigeria through a nationally-representative survey. This is to be achieved through in-depth surveys on the perspectives of consumers, industry experts, and policymakers across the country on renewable energy technologies –hydropower, wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy.

2.2.3 Modelling the Impact of Tobacco Tax Change on Public Health and Government Revenue in Nigeria

CSEA is conducting research on the Impact of a Tobacco Tax Change on Public Health and Government Revenue in Nigeria. The project was commissioned by the **African Capacity Building Foundation** with a grant of **\$10000**. The aim of the project is to provide a critical analysis of the evolution of tobacco product prices, taxation and prevalence in different regions of Nigeria and in comparison to neighboring countries. This will provide comprehensive and comparative information on the position of Nigeria and its regions, with respect to tobacco use and tobacco taxation. Essentially, it will generate evidence to help stakeholders identify key country-specific issues, gaps, and mechanisms that affect or serve tobacco tax policy implementation and administration in order to support a successful tobacco tax reform.

2.2.4 2017 Nigeria Benchmarking Exercise

CSEA is also conducting a Benchmarking Exercise, a **NGN 3,693,900** project commissioned by the **Nigerian Natural Resource Charter (NNRC)** and **FOSTER**. The Benchmarking Exercise is conducted periodically to assess Nigeria's performance against the 12 Natural Resource Charter (NRC) precepts. The NRC precepts provide a framework for evaluating the petroleum sector governance and policy environment as well as a set of guiding principles on how a country can best manage its natural resource endowment. It also seeks to evaluate Nigeria's progress towards sound management of its resource wealth.

2.2.5 Electrification in Nigeria: Challenges and Way Forward

CSEA is conducting a research study on electricity in Nigeria. The aim of the project is to unbundle issues around the electricity sector in Nigeria and provide a thorough assessment of the current state of the sector, government plans and efforts, and pathways to realizing set targets. The project was commissioned by **Centre for Global Development** with a grant of **\$10,000**.

2.3 CSEA Research Publications

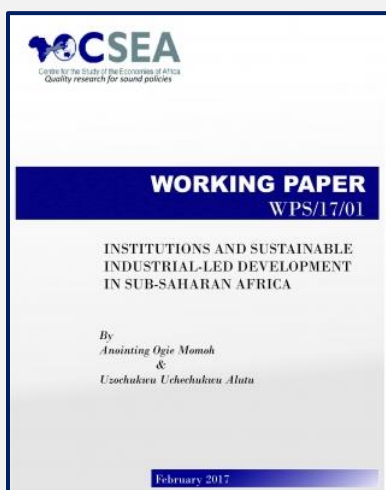
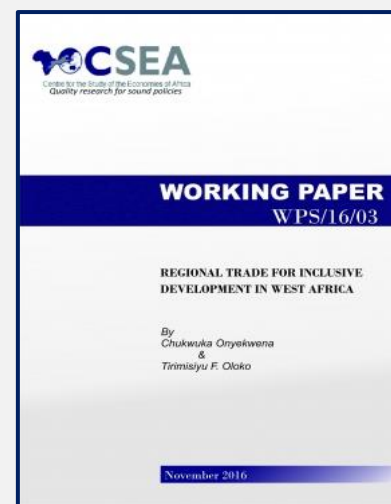
In the year under review, CSEA prepared and disseminated several working papers, economic reports and updates, policy alerts and opinion articles.

2.3.1 Working Papers

Regional Trade for Inclusive Development in West Africa”

Onyekwena, C., Oloko, T.

This study examined the potential of regional trade in facilitating the achievement of inclusive development in the West African region. It employs descriptive analysis to examine the nature, composition and dimension of ECOWAS trade within the group and with the rest of the world, vis-à-vis three other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).



“Institutions and Sustainable Industrial-led Development in Sub-Saharan Africa”

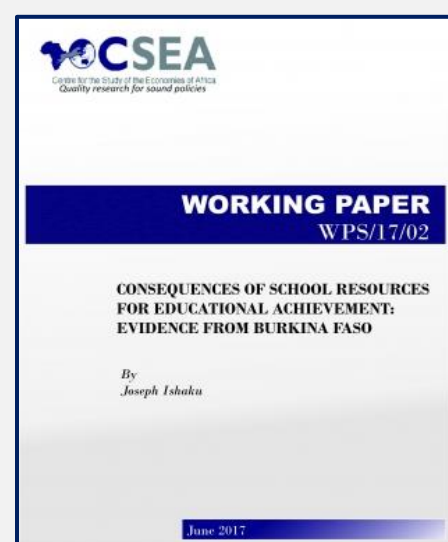
Ogie, Momoh A., Alutu U.

Over the past decade up until 2013, economies in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) grew at an average of 5 per cent; with some countries dubbed to be growing at “East Asian rates”. This growth has however not translated into inclusive and sustainable growth and development of the region. This paper rides on the premise that institutions matter to the type and pattern of growth and development across economies.

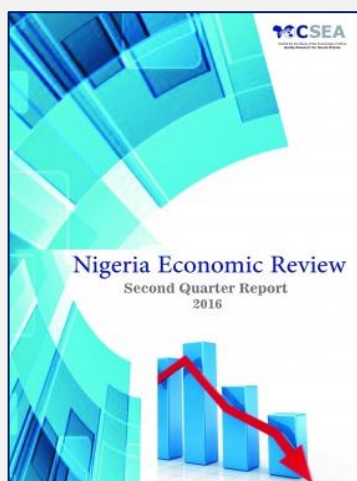
“Consequences of School Resources for Educational Achievement: Evidence from Burkina Faso”

Ishaku Joseph

This paper examined the determinants of educational achievement in a developing country context, Burkina Faso. We deviate from the extant literature by constructing an aggregate index of school quality from the observable school resources. Also, we account for school choice constraints, faced by children especially in rural areas, as it relates to the geographical inequalities in the distribution of quality schools. in mathematics.

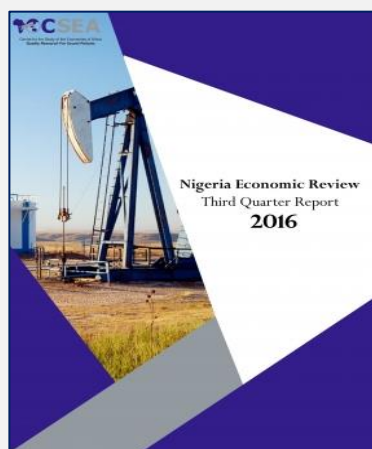


2.3.2 Economic Reports



Nigeria Economic Review: 2016Q2

Global economy is projected to grow by 3.0 percent in 2016 on the account of falling domestic and export demand in some developed and emerging economies, as well as falling output growth of major oil producing countries. While the U.S, U.K and China witnessed slow growth in output, the Eurozone witnessed marginal decline in output with implications for Nigeria's external sector. On a regional basis, low but rising commodity prices yield positive growth in diversified economies such as South Africa (0.7 percent) while growth in less diversified economies like Nigeria (-2.06 percent) continue to contract. Domestically, the stagflation in the Nigerian economy deepened into a recession in 2016Q2.



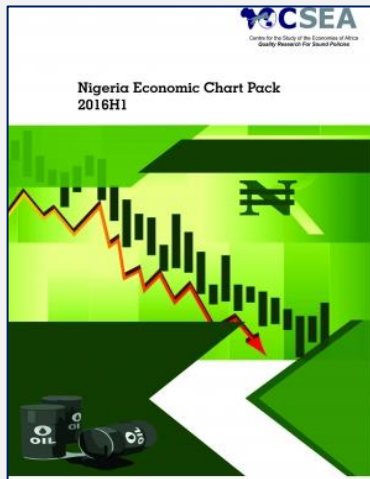
Nigeria Economic Review: 2016Q3

Global economic growth remained fairly stable in 2016Q3 with baseline projections for global growth at 3.1 percent and 2.4 percent by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank respectively. Growth in developed countries was moderate but unevenly distributed. While the U.S and the UK showed improvements, growth in other economies remained tepid. Among emerging countries, India witnessed higher growth while growth in China remained constant but the Chinese Yuan continued to appreciate. Given that India is Nigeria's major crude oil importer, improving economic conditions in India may translate into rising demand for Nigeria's crude oil.



Nigeria Economic Review: 2016Q4

The global economy grew by 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016 (2016Q4) relative to 2.5 percent in 2016Q3, due to rising investment and consumption demands in developed and emerging economies as well as a rise in commodity prices. However, over the entire year, global GDP growth stood at 2.6 percent in 2016, relative to the growth of 3.09 percent recorded in 2015. Notably, output grew progressively in the US over the year, while the steady growth recorded in the UK since the start of the year stalled in 2016Q4, emerging economies recorded mixed experiences, many SSA countries showed signs of recovery in the period.



Nigeria Economic Chart Pack (2016H1)

This publication provides an array of charts on key economic and financial indicators of the Nigerian economy. The report is a graphical display of relevant and periodic data used to capture trends in the domestic economy dating as far as possible up to the most recent half-year. The selection of the start dates for the plots within year 2000 is largely dependent on data availability. The aim of the report is to illustrate the changes in economic trends with the aid of descriptive charts. In addition, a short note that describes the trend and its drivers is provided for the graphs. The data cuts across monetary, fiscal and sectoral indices obtained mainly from the various publications and dataset of the CBN, NBS and FIRS.



Nigeria Economic Update

This publication continues to provide weekly snapshots 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 and Unemployment rate, Crude oil prices, Foreign Exchange Rates and Foreign Reserves, Power, Stock Market, Gross Domestic Product and Inflation.



Africa Economic Update

CSEA has published 8 issues of the “Africa Economic Update” since its launch in February 2017. The monthly publication provides a snapshot of recent economic developments in major African countries, including South Africa, Ghana, Egypt, Angola, Niger and Zimbabwe. It reviews and monitors trends, changes and growth in key sectors such as: inflation, monetary policy, business and economic growth outlook.



Manufacturing Sector: Operating Amidst Economic Recession and Unsteady Foreign Exchange Rates

The 2017 Manufacturing Sector Survey conducted by CSEA and NOI Polls provides an assessment of the Nigerian Manufacturing Sector, highlighting the key challenges facing operators within the sector. The report findings draws from a survey conducted in early in, targeting manufacturers, managers and decision makers as respondents from the six geo-political zones of the country. A major finding from the survey of firms shows that key performance metrics and profitability have worsened due to economic recession and inflation as well as widening FOREX spread resulting in an increasing unsupportive business environment for growth and development. Other key findings from the survey include excessive reliance on foreign inputs and raw materials by the Nigerian manufacturing sector, as well as a lack of coordination between the public and private sector.

2.3.3 Book Chapters



Trade and Foreign Direct Investment Nexus in West Africa: Does Export Category Matter?

By Chukwuka Onyekwena, Idris Ademuyiwa, Eberechukwu Uneze

This paper examines the effect of inward FDI in West Africa on exports to EU countries. It investigates from a host country perspective, the impact of FDI on different export categories: primary, intermediate, and final goods. Contrary to previous studies where multinationals are usually engaged in downstream production in the host country, this study presents a “commodity-proximity” model where multinational presence in upstream activities in resource-abundant host countries can stimulate the export of primary and/or intermediate goods to source countries where downstream activities take place.

2.3.4 Policy Papers

“Understanding the Ongoing Recession in Nigeria: A synthesis of the events and policy options”

Onyekwena, C., Muhammed A., Akanonu, P.

In the second quarter of 2016, the Nigerian economy witnessed its first recession in twenty years due to the interplay of several external and internal factors. The recession continued giving rise to relentless unemployment rate and job losses, double digit and soaring inflation, currency depreciation and widening gap between parallel market and official exchange rates, amongst other adverse effect on individuals and firms in the country. This paper analysed the ongoing recession in the Nigerian economy to provide insights on the interplay of events and recommendations for policy.

“An Analysis of the Nigerian Economic Growth and Recovery Plan”

Adeniran, A., Akanonu, P., Muhammed A.,

This paper examines the response of the Nigerian government to the ongoing recession in the domestic economy, particularly in the context of the recently released Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) for 2017-2020. It also provides an analysis of key questions about the suitability, achievability, and prospect of the ERGP in accelerating economic growth in the country. Specifically it analyzed the question: Is the proposed recovery plan and policies well-targeted to address prevailing economic crises in Nigerian economy?

2.3.5 Discussion Papers

Examining Nigeria’s learning crisis: Can communities be mobilized to take action?

By Eustace Uzor

Until recently, policy design and interventions in basic education were unduly focused on increasing school enrollment in developing countries, with little attention on improving the quality of learning. Using Lagos and Kano State, this paper examined the extent to which School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) mobilized actions to improve school-level accountability, and how this affected school performance and learning outcomes. The study finds that increasing citizen-clients’ participation and voice via SBMCs can improve educational outcomes by strengthening accountability.

Climate Policy and Finance: Designing an Effective Carbon-Pricing Policy for Nigeria’s Oil and Gas Sector.

By Akanonu Precious

Carbon pricing has been recognized not only as the most efficient economic policy instruments to internalize the social cost of emissions, but also as a major tool to generate public revenues that can be used to offset the potential adverse distributional effects of climate policy. However, in many developing countries, there is a widespread reluctance to commit to climate policy, largely due to financial constraints, a lack of public support, and concern over its regressive effects. This paper makes recommendations towards the design of an effective carbon pricing system.

2.3.6 Opinion Articles

“Nigeria is out of recession but not out of the woods yet

By Adedeji Adeniran

After five quarters of negative growth, Nigeria finally exited its worst recession in 29 years. The economy grew by 0.55% in the second quarter of 2017, majorly driven by the oil sector which contributed about 78% of the growth recorded. This indicates that the economy is positively responding to the recent improvements in oil prices and domestic oil production. The recession was initially triggered by an interplay of external and internal factors. On the external side, the crash in global oil prices that became particularly acute towards the end of 2015 led to slowdown in economic growth and depressed the foreign direct investment into the country. The problem was further compounded by renewed restiveness in the Niger Delta in the early 2016, leading to vandalism of major oil and gas infrastructure.

“Skills mismatch in Nigeria’s labour market: What are the drivers and how can government bridge the gap?

By Eustace Uzor and Odchie Nwabuikwu

Given changing labour market demands, the Nigerian government, especially the Federal Ministry of Education, needs to facilitate the alignment of the training of future labour market entrants to the emerging skill requirements of the labour market. This is especially important given the rise of new technologies and their rapid diffusion in Nigeria as well as the structural transformation of Nigeria’s economy from a predominantly agrarian economy to a service-dominated economy. Undoubtedly, these processes have significantly altered labour market dynamics, particularly the jobs and skills demanded. Undoubtedly, these processes have significantly altered labour market dynamics, particularly the jobs and skills demanded.

“Rethinking Teachers’ Training Model in Nigeria”

By Ene Ikpebe

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 critical need.

“President Elect Donald Trump: What could this mean for Africa?”

By Anointing Momoh and Joseph Ishaku

After a closely contested election, the United States of America Donald John Trump as its 45th president and this begs the question, what does a Trump presidency mean for Africa and Nigeria in particular? This article, tries as succinctly as possible to examine and answer this question. It briefly touches on some key areas of US engagement in Africa, and by extension Nigeria; notably trade, migration, climate change, diplomacy, foreign aid and the war on terrorism in Africa.

“Crisis as an opportunity: The two sides of economic recession”

By Adedeji Adeniran

Economic crisis is no doubt a painful episode for different economic entities; however it also presents an opportunity for implementing reforms, especially for economies like Nigeria, where political will towards implementing reform, even during good times, is weak. The economic crisis currently facing the Nigerian economy has no doubt had a catastrophic and debilitating effect on various economic entities. For instance, a report by the NBS shows that the population of the unemployed has increased to about 11 million in the third quarter of 2016.

3. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CSEA continues to place utmost importance on improving and sustaining its overall performance. This section highlights the steps the Centre has taken to improve its organisational effectiveness.

3.1 Staffing

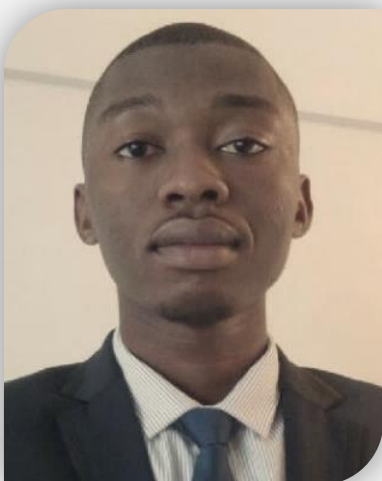
Centre recruited additional Research Staff to strengthen the Centre's research capacity and maintain its ability to continue providing high-quality and evidence-based research outputs. The new researchers consist of two senior level (a Research Director and a Senior Research Fellow) and mid-level cadre (two Research Associates).



Chinny Ogunro, PhD
(Health Policy) (Harvard)
Director, Health Research
Research Interests:
*Health System Strengthening
*Public Health
*Health Financing and Management



Adedeji Adeniran, PhD
(Econ) (Witwatersrand)
Senior Research Fellow
Research Interests:
*Macroeconomics,
*Development finance,
*Public economics,
*Policy analysis,
*Experimental economics.



Joseph Ishaku
MSc (Econ) (London)
Research Associate
Research Interests:
*Development Economics,
*Education,
*Sustainable Development,
*Poverty and Program Evaluation.



Ehikowoicho Idoko
MSc (Econ) (Durham)
Research Associate
Research Interests:
*Industrial policy,
*Globalization,
*Sustainable Economic Development

3.2 Office Renovation and Image Building

As part of efforts to strengthen institutional management and organizational performance as well as enhance the productivity of its staff, CSEA carried out a redesign of its office environment. The newly redesigned office increased work space and improved the quality of existing facilities at the Centre. These changes are expected to significantly enhance staff productivity given a more conducive work environment. It is expected that this will boost the Centre's image among key stakeholders, including funders/donors.



3.3 Resource Mobilization/Fundraising Strategy

CSEA has continued to benefit from major grants financed by the IDRC under the TTI which was launched in 2008. However, as Phase 2 of the TTI Institutional Grant for the period: 2014-2019 comes to an end, it is imperative that alternative sources of funding are developed to ensure the financial sustainability of the Centre beyond 2019. While the Centre places emphasis on the production of high-quality research relevant to policy formulation, and on building sustainable relationship with other policy stakeholders, it is critical that strategies to access and attract more funds be consistently improved, as available funding become keenly contested by research organizations around the world.

CSEA benefits from research grants/project funding from other institutions such as the Federal Public Administration Reform Programme (FEPAR), Facility for Oil Sector Transparency (FOSTER), Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) and the Centre for Global Development (CGD). However, the Centre continues to explore additional funding opportunities to diversify its funding base.

Specifically, CSEA's Fundraising Committee has developed a fundraising working document that identifies emerging opportunities, including among potential and existing donors to maximise its fundraising opportunities. To ensure that it diversifies its funding base the list is constantly iteratively to include national and international grant-making organizations, as well as resource persons and individuals that the Centre can leverage and partner with, to attract more project-based funding.

So far, the Centre has begun to implement the approaches in its resource mobilization strategy. These include: Stimulating the demand for evidence-based research. Here, CSEA has

enhanced its visibility by providing research on topical issues and disseminating them in accessible formats to policymakers. The Centre has also implemented a unique method of approaching potential funders. This is based on an understanding of the needs of potential funders, which maximize CSEA's chances of attracting more funds. Third, it has improved the Centre's mode of monitoring and responding to call for proposals. This is evident in the Centre's recent increase in project-based funding from grantmaking organisations. CSEA has also continued to improve its credibility and visibility through enhanced image building. This has improved the Centre's competitiveness and increased confidence in the efficient delivery of contracted research services.

The Centre has benefitted immensely from the Business Models for Think Tanks sustainability organized by TTI. Under this programme, CSEA identified specific objectives that will be key to repositioning its organizational capacity and performance in an effort to develop a successful and sustainable Business Model to achieve and maintain financial sustainability. Subsequently, it has been participating in the action learning process devised by the Business Model. This process has enabled CSEA to thoroughly evaluate its progress as it strives to implement the plans it had identified for its Business model. These include strengthening and repositioning its organizational capacity; redirecting its research focus to effectively target funding opportunities; exploring innovative communication approaches as well as developing a monitoring and evaluation culture. This process has provided a platform for the Centre to identify its challenges and develop specific approaches to tackle them and achieve long-term sustainability.

4. COMMUNICATIONS, DISSEMINATION & OUTREACH

CSEA continues to build on the progress made in its policy linkages, communications and outreach. The Centre participated in several conferences, seminars and high-level meetings within Africa and around the World. This section highlights the Network and Outreach activities of the Centre as well as efforts made to enhance and sustain its communications strategies in the year under review.

4.1 CSEA Communications Strategy

To maintain its relevance and increase the visibility of the Centre in the policy space and other relevant circles, CSEA updated and strengthened its communications strategy and engagement. Specifically, it began an upgrade of its website infrastructure to meet minimum acceptable standards. The revamping of its website would effectively highlight relevant and current research projects using a combination of pictures, infographics and videos that meet global standards. This strategic reform aligns with CSEA's objectives which is to provide high-quality

and evidence-based research aimed at informing policy. The Centre is also widening its external communication channels and improving the quality of its content on traditional and new media. It is also taking advantage of rapidly evolving technologies such as factsheets, graphs and multimedia content such as videos and podcasts on completed and ongoing research projects. These steps have enhanced the Centre's relevance and visibility thus stimulating interests from diverse stakeholders.

4.2 CSEA Partnership

The Centre has continued to maintain collaborative partnerships whilst 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)
- NOI Polls
- Africa Portal
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC)

4.3 Capacity Building Workshops

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 in-house and external trainings.

i) Capacity building workshop on Strengthening Research Proposals

June 30 – July 1, 2017, Nairobi -Kenya

CSEA joined participants at the capacity building workshop titled: Strengthening Research

Proposals organized by the Global Development Network (GDN) in partnership with the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice of the World Bank Group and financed by the Competitive Industries and Innovations Program (CIIP). The workshop which held from 30th June to 1st July

2017, in Nairobi Kenya aims to mobilize developing country researchers to produce contextualized, evidence-based research on the subject of industrial policies. This is in an effort to contribute to an understanding how governments and companies in developing countries interact to improve industrial productivity, and how these impacts can be measured.



The workshop featured various sessions which also provided a platform for participants to present their research proposals. CSEA's **Adedeji Adeniran** and **Ehikowoicho Idoko** presented a proposal titled "Mobilizing local knowledge to improve competitiveness strategies in Nigeria".



ii) Regional Course on Economic and Financial Report Writing Skills and Presentation Techniques
July 24 – August 2, 2017 Accra, Ghana

CSEA participated in the Regional Course on Economic and Financial Report Writing Skills and Presentation Techniques at the West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM), Accra Ghana. The Regional Course was aimed at equipping participants' with good communication skills, and the capability to structure, write and present more effective economic, financial and other technical reports. The course also provided a platform for participants to be competent and

confident communicators, both in speaking and writing research reports and outcomes. **John Peace** and **Okpanachi Enemaku** joined other participants drawn from across Africa for the training.



iii) Advanced Writing and Reporting Skills Training
June-September 2017, Lagos

CSEA communication staff participated at the Advanced Writing and Reporting Skills (AWARES) course at the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University Lagos. The training aimed at improving the writing skills research communications staff to facilitate proficiency in research as well as critical and cognate skills. It included skills training on the effective use of the web to present one's work and

the improvement of productivity through greater self-management and evidence-based research across various audiences. Specifically, the Business and Economic Writing module provided training on requisites of business and economic reporting, and also highlighted the creative trend of persuasive business communication with the use of the new information technologies and tools to transform the challenges in written communication. **Drusilla David** participated in this training.

iv) In-house training on Fundamentals of Print Design

March 20-April 7, 2017

CSEA staff participated in a 3 week introductory course on the fundamentals of print design. The training was designed to teach the fundamental principles of graphic design: image-making, typography, composition, working with color, pattern and shape and also provide a core set of graphic design skills that staff can apply to CSEA publications. CSEA's IDM unit participated in this training.

v) Capacity Building Workshop on Tobacco Control in Africa

December 7-9, 2016, Nairobi, Kenya



CSEA participated in a Capacity Building Workshop on Tobacco Control in Africa organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). The workshop was aimed at increasing, as well as sharing knowledge and the methodology of research on the economics of tobacco control in Africa to promote tobacco control evidence policy making. Specifically, it aimed to enhance African researchers' skills on analyzing the implications of tobacco use as well

as emphasize the need to develop new frontiers in tobacco control research. CSEA presented a paper on "Tobacco Policy in Nigeria" which highlighted the prevalence of smoking and Nigeria's efforts to implement tobacco control policies.

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena and **Precious Akanonu** joined participants drawn from across Africa for the workshop.

vi) TTI Business Models Workshop for Think Tank Sustainability

October 19-21 2016 in Dar-Es-Salam Tanzania

CSEA participated in the Business Models workshop for Think Tank sustainability organized by the IDRC's TTI and hosted by the Regional Policy Research for Development (REPOA). The training aimed to provide support and also strengthen the capacity of selected Sub-Saharan African TTI-supported

institutions on strategies to successfully develop an effective and suitable business model that will help them move towards long-term financial sustainability. The workshop included several peer-learning and group sessions which provided a platform for think tanks to discuss their sustainability challenges and highlight possible approaches and remedial action plan.

“Participants brainstorming during the Business Model group sessions”



Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Peace Anumudu and Drusilla David joined other participants for the training.

4.4 CSEA Events, Networking and Outreach

i) Africa Policy Circle's 7th Meeting

October 5-6, 2017, Mombasa, Kenya

The 7th meeting of the Africa Policy Circle focused on the central theme “Structural Inequalities as a driver for Violent Extremism”. The meeting provided a platform for wide-range discussions and paper presentations on issues including how disparities in income, justice and opportunity can push people towards violent extremism. It also highlighted the need for sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to develop more research on violent extremism and its drivers. Precious Akanonu joined other participants from African think tanks and civil society actors for these discussions.



ii) 2017 Manufacturing Sector Survey Report Launch

September 12, 2017, Abuja



The 2017 Manufacturing Sector Survey conducted by CSEA and NOIPolls provided an assessment of the Nigerian Manufacturing Sector, highlighting key challenges facing operators within the sector. A major finding from the survey of firms was that critical performance indicators and profitability have worsened due to economic recession and inflation as well as widening FOREX spread due to poor business environment.

iii) Summer Retreat in Strategic Foresight

August 7-11 2017, London, United Kingdom

The School of International Futures organized a five-day annual retreat for policy planners, business leaders and strategic thinkers from around the world to learn how to plan for and respond to future challenges and opportunities in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. The event provided a unique combination of executive education, insight, and understanding of how to use foresight with impact. Participants were provided the opportunity to learn how to use systematic and imaginative approaches to the future, to identify emerging opportunities and threats, build resilience, and critically to connect future insights back to policy and decision-making today. The retreat featured dynamic learning sessions, lectures and panel discussions as well as training in a range of foresight tools, including drivers of change and scenario development. It also provided a platform for peer-learning and networking among participants, facilitators and speakers. Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena participated in this event.



iv) 2017 AROSCA Conference

May 27-29 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa (AROCSA) in collaboration with the Association for Research Non-Profits & Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) convened researchers and practitioners in civil society, in its maiden conference to explore contemporary issues of

African agency, given the current global trends. The theme of the conference was “Africa in a Changing Global Context: People, Production and Politics”. The conference aimed to promote an active learning exchange of information and ideas between researchers and CSOs and establish key recommendations that would inform policy on the way forward in African development. CSEA was represented by **Adedeji Adeniran** who made two paper presentations on “Effect of Electoral competition on poverty: Empirical Evidence from the Nigerian States” and “New Directions of Philanthropy in Africa: Dealing with the threats and opportunities”.



v) Technical Tax Meeting on Tobacco

June 22-23, 2017, London

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free kids organized a technical meeting on tobacco tax policies. The meeting outlined and discussed the components of an effective tobacco tax reform as well as how to develop an evidence-base for tobacco tax reform. It provided a platform for participants to discuss various components of tobacco tax policy campaign. **Precious Akanonu** participated in the meeting and joined the group presentation on "9 components of an effective tobacco tax policy advocacy campaign".



vi) 6th Africa Policy Circle Meeting

June 1-2, 2017, Gaborone, Botswana

CSEA participated at the 6th meeting of the African Policy Circle (APC) hosted by the Botswana Association of Local Authorities with the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development (ACORD). The meeting tagged, “Tackling inequalities through structural reforms”, provided a platform for participants to identify root causes of inequalities specifically at national level and how they can be addressed through structural transformation.. The plenary discussions featured



presentations of Draft Position Papers such as “SDG16 in Crisis: The Challenges of Sustaining Peace in places of crisis” and “Financing the SDGs: Tapping private sector and curbing illicit financial flows”. **Precious Akanonu** facilitated this session and also joined the discussion with other participants.

vii) IRES meeting on Africa’s Structural Development Challenges

May 15, 2017, Morocco

The Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) organized a meeting entitled "What innovative strategies for addressing Africa's structural development challenges". The meeting was under the framework of IRES 2018 Strategic Report, devoted to the autonomous development of Africa and was attended by senior officials and experts from African think tanks. It provided a platform for discussions focused on structural challenges facing Africa as part of its economic, social and environmental development process. **Mohammed Adekunle Yusuf** presented a paper titled “African Continent Developmental Challenges: The Problems and Prospects in the Medium Term”.



viii) Think 20 Summit 2017 – GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

29th -30th May 2017, Berlin, Germany



CSEA's Research Associate **Precious Akanonu**, joined other Young Global Changers (YGC) from around the world at the Think 20 Summit 2017 – GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. The Think20 (T20) is a network of research institutes and think tanks from the G20 countries. The T20 is mandated by the German G20 Presidency to provide 20 Global Solutions for the G20 on its focal topics such as: digital economy, climate policy and finance, migration and refugees. This year, the T20 summit provided a platform for leading international decision-makers from think tanks, academia, business, politics, international organizations and civil society to discuss and develop new solutions to major global problems within the thematic areas. It also provided an opportunity for carefully selected Young Global Changers who are passionate about changing the state of the world for the better to contribute to the discussions and share ideas and thoughts that will help address these global issues. Ms Akanonu was awarded the YGC scholarship to attend the summit and also discuss her project on Climate Policy and Finance.

ix) REPOA 22nd Annual Research Workshop

March 29-30, 2017 Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania

CSEA participated in the 22nd annual research workshop organized by the Policy Research for Development (REPOA) tagged "Why Institutions Matter for Industrial-led Development". The workshop aimed to promote evidence-based policy dialogue from research and experiences of participating countries on how institutions may enhance or constrain desired socio-economic transformation, particularly for those countries prioritizing industrialization as core development path. The workshop also brought together researchers and members of governmental bodies, as well as civil society representatives, to further promote research and deepen policy dialogue on the institutional needs for the Second Five-Year Development plan

and Development Vision 2025. **Anointing Momoh** presented a paper “Institutions and Sustainable Industrial-led Development in Sub-Saharan Africa”.



x) 5th Edition of the Atlantic Dialogues

December 14-16, 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco

The Atlantic Dialogues, jointly organized by OCP Policy Center and the German Marshall Fund (GMF),



convened high-level public- and private-sector leaders and participants from around the world for three days of open, informal discussion on cross-regional issues ranging from security to economics, migration to energy. Participants explored how the wider transatlantic community connects, ,

and collaborates on the most pressing issues affecting the Atlantic space under the theme “Changing Mental Maps: Strategies for an Atlantic in Transition.”. The event provided a platform for discussions around political, economic and security developments reshaping societies and relationships on all four of the Atlantic’s continents. **Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena** joined other participants for this event.

xi) African Policy Circle (APC) Workshop: Strengthening ties and leading change

November 3-4, 2016, Windhoek, Namibia

CSEA participated at the African Policy Circle (APC) workshop which was hosted by the Institute for public Policy Research (IPPR). The Africa Policy Circle provides a platform for African civil society, in particular, think tanks to work together and develop new solutions to African problems. This year's workshop tagged "Strengthening ties and leading change" provided a platform for discussions on a wide range of issues which included: Africa's voice at the G20, the AU's peace building programmes, and shrinking civil society space across Africa. In addition, the APC meeting mapped the way forward for the network which brings together 20 African think tanks and research organisations.



Precious Akanonu joined other participants for the workshop and presented a paper titled "Countering Shrinking Civil society space".

4.4 Media Highlights

[CSEA tasks CBN on dollar sales directives' enforcement](#)

National Mirror

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), a leading economic think-tank, has advised the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, on the ...

[Weekly Economic Index: The introduction of a new Forex policy by CBN forces naira appreciation](#)

Ventures Africa

According to the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) report, going forward, strategies that can enhance self-sufficiency in food ...

[Weekly Economic index: Naira depreciates further as Foreign reserve increases while the stock ...](#)

Ventures Africa

According to the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), the rise in crude oil prices reflects demand-side expansion, due to a myriad of ...

[Nigeria reclaims ranking as Africa's largest economy](#)

National Mirror

At the domestic level, a leading research think-tank, the Centre for the Study of the Economies in Africa, CSEA, described the computation as invalid.....

[Measuring Impact of Public Programs](#)

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/josephine-dallant/measuring-impact-of-publi b 8970022.html>

[How manufacturing sector bleeds – Experts](#)

Daily Trust

Speaking on the report, a Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), Dr. Adedeji Peter Adeniran, said ...

[Industry counts losses from Nigeria economic slump](#)

Caj News Africa

This is according to findings presented by NOIPolls, the polling firm, and Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), a non-profit think-tank ...

[Report: Policy Inconsistency, Infrastructure Deficit, Bane of Manufacturing Sector](#)

THISDAY Newspapers

... Manufacturing Sector Survey 2017 which was conducted by NOIPolls, in partnership with the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). ...

CSEA also contributed further to discussions on the Manufacturing survey report on Channels TV, Africa Independent Television (AIT), We FM Radio, Nigeria Info Radio and Wazobia Radio Programmes.

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.

CSEA's active social media handles include:



5. CONCLUSION

This report has highlighted the activities of CSEA for the fiscal year, October 2016 - September 2017. The report highlights key aspects of CSEA's operational activities such as: organizational management, resource mobilization, research, and dissemination activities.

As the TTI Phase II support ends in 2019, the Centre continues to strengthen its fundraising strategies and efforts to diversify its funding base. In the next financial year, the Centre would continue to build more technical expertise in emerging research areas such as climate change, poverty reduction, and women's empowerment, which are at the center of global development efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Centre will also deepen its work on Agricultural and rural development, Food security, and the goals outlined in the SDGs.

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

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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