



Benson Idahosa University Legacy Campus

RESEARCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

YEAR 2020: HINDSIGHT, INSIGHT AND FORESIGHT



I have heard many people say “I wish a year like 2020 never came, never comes again, is never remembered”. These comments are reminiscent of the harsh realities of the tempestuous year: the psychological, economic and emotional pains that have become synonymous with the year 2020. The year of the corona virus pandemic.

The corona virus disease (Covid-19) which emerged from Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019, spread like wildfire bringing the entire world to its knees and crippling the strongest economies, even the economy of the United States of America. If America is hungry today, it can only be imagined the toll of the virus!!

According to John Hopkins University, there have been 2.19m Covid-19 deaths around the world and the economic damage is inestimable. The toll on the school system is equally unredeemable as is the effect on the social fabrics of human lives.

The picture of 2020 is so grim that it has earned the opprobrium of a vast majority of humanity. As everyone is in a hurry to bid farewell to this infamous year, it seems to be casting a shadow on the incoming year, heralding uncertainty, resignation and fear. Not again, Not again, I pray!

But were any precious stones found in the mines of the Covid-19 pandemic world? I dare say - yes.

Clearly the world became smaller than thought, boundaries became less meaningful, collaborative networks for the fight against the virus became a norm and class distinctions became weak because both the rich and the poor breathe the same virus infected air. The virus did not respect persons! This is a great lesson.

Another lesson is the redefinition of the classroom and the school. Suddenly new educational systems of virtual classes became prominent as well as computer programmes to power the systems. And the world began to welcome new nomenclatures like 'new normal' 'social distancing', 'physical distancing' and the like.

Yet another lesson is that we are more assured of safety when we protect our neighbour, so I mask for you and you mask for me and then we are both safe!! No message on communality can be more glaring or more effective. It is akin to the divine mandate - Be your brother's keeper.

A specific outcome of the lockdowns is the quantity of time that became available to people at home. This was both a blessing and a curse; for some this meant boredom and depression, for others this meant the



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mining of books and investment in research. So a research output audit is likely to reveal a significant increase in knowledge creation, dissemination and consumption.

So we will remember 2020 after all for all of these lessons also. A silver lining? A glitter of hope?

It is in the hope for a better 2021 that in this issue of the newsletter, we present in hindsight our research endeavours and exploits in the passing year as well as herald the research agenda for the New Year.

Despite the tumults of 2020, the university under the aegis of its Research Directorate hosted a number of research and workshop activities which culminated in

the maiden annual research productivity award ceremony in which eight members of the academic community were recognised for their research exploits.

I invite you to read the research stories on the award of professor emeritus on two distinguished staff of the university, the inaugural lecture presentation of the first female professor in the university and the award of honorary degrees on deserving members of the social community of the university. And much more!

Professor Alexandra Esimaje
Editor-in-Chief
Benson Idahosa University Research News (BIURN)

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Prof. Sam Guobadia

VC'S ADDRESS AT THE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM IN BIU

Research is one major way by which the university contributes to society through multiple engagements with the social, economic and political issues that confront society. More so, it is research and the accruing innovations that enhance the quality of man's life. Therefore, every renowned university places a high premium on its research infrastructure to enable research productivity and the eventual branding of the institution. This is the goal of Benson Idahosa University in setting up the Directorate of Research and International programmes to coordinate research activities and advise management on the achievement of a healthy and vibrant research culture. Today's symposium is one of such endeavours.

The relationship between research output and academic input which this symposium focuses does not require much defense. This claim is an assertion which must be backed with reasons which

themselves must be supported by evidence before it can be accepted as a valid statement. This is what research is all about – making a good argument. It is my belief that at the end of the symposium the underlying assumptions of this topic will be validated and the outcomes deployed in this academic community.

I must acknowledge that research infrastructure in universities in the third world is often weaker than those in the advanced countries even though the third world stands to gain much more from the advances of science. This situation is more glaring in the Nigerian context and much more in private universities like ours. This is the reason many funding agencies focus on the continents of Asia and Africa recognising that the world is a globe. Nothing is more demonstrable of this fact than the Covid 19 pandemic which is traversing the whole world and enforcing collaborative responses.

It is therefore with much indebtedness that, I, on behalf of the management of this university applaud the achievements of our staff who notwithstanding the constraining factors of funding, time, facilities and workload have made laudable contributions to research in their respective fields. Today, we have chosen to recognise this class of staff: those whose research productivity is attested by grant awards as well as those who have shown great promise in research and gained entrance to highly competitive publication outlets.

As vice chancellor, I promise to give more support to the research initiatives of the academic staff of this university, to enhance the research capacity of staff and to create a sustainable research enterprise.

I have no doubt that this symposium will be very engaging and fruitful given the array of speakers here.

RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY AWARD: BIU CELEBRATES RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



Awardees from L-R: Iyekhoetin Omoruyi, Ojo Idahosa (represented by Chuks Ezirim), Theresa Akpoghome, Alexandra Esimaje, James Edokpolor, Dickson Olodu, Sam Adedoyin

Following the establishment of the Annual Research Productivity Award in Benson Idahosa University, nine deserving academic staff of the institution were recognised for their outstanding contributions to research. The awardees included four research grant winners and five academic staff with a history of significant research output. The awardees were presented with certificates of honour and cash awards on the 16th of December, 2020. Big congratulations to the grant winners: Alexandra Esimaje, Emmanuel Odjadjare, Anthony I. Oyeogbe and Iyekhoetin M. Omoruyi; and to Theresa Akpoghome, James Edokpolor, Dickson Olodu, Ojo Idahosa, Sam Adedoyin for high impact research publications.

Benson Idahosa University Confers Emeritus Title on two Outstanding Professors



Prof. A.R. Anao



Prof. P.A. Igbafe

The Benson Idahosa University, at its 15th convocation ceremony held on the 13th of September, 2019 bestowed the prestigious title of Emeritus Professor upon Philip Aigbona Igbafe, a professor of History and Abhulimen Richard Anao, a professor of Accounting. The awards were conferred on these highly distinguished academic scholars in recognition of their outstanding achievements in their fields of study and exceptional contribution to both

academic and administrative leadership in the University. Both professors received noteworthy accolades for this recognition and for being the first emeritus professors in Benson Idahosa University.

RT. Rev. (Dr) Matthew A. Okpebholo Bags another Honorary Degree

The honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration (Honoris Causa) of the Benson Idahosa University was conferred on RT. Rev. (Dr) Matthew A. Okpebholo at the University's 15th convocation ceremony on 13 September, 2019. Bishop Okpebholo is an astute and long-standing business mogul and CEO of Ray Royal Construction Company. This award was given in recognition of his philanthropy and immense contribution to the development of Benson Idahosa University and Nigeria at large.



RT. Rev. Okpebholo flanked by his wife, the Chancellor, President and past Council Chairman of Benson Idahosa University



Prof. C.L. Igeleke

Prof. Clara Leyibo Igeleke Delivers BIU's 8th Inaugural Lecture

Clara Leyibo Igeleke, a professor of Phytopathogenic Microbiology in the Faculty of Science, Benson Idahosa University gave the 8th inaugural lecture on the 26th of November, 2019. In the lecture which was titled – “Microbes: the Good, the Bad and the Fascinating: Man the Effective Manager”, Professor Igeleke expounded the concept of microbes, their relevance to humans, activities, applications and effective management by humans. The event was attended by several dignitaries. We congratulate Prof. Igeleke for this landmark achievement.

A TALK ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

On 25 September, 2019 during a one-day conference organised by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Dr. Chamberlain Egbulefu of the Department of Mass communications, in collaboration with Professor Muyiwa Popoola, delivered a lecture on Corporate Social Responsibilities as a Strategy for Effective Business Management. The essence of the lecture was to educate individuals, institutions and corporate organisations on the importance of corporate social responsibility: a key factor in the creation of cordial relationship between firms and their host communities.



Dr. C. Egbulefu

AHP Regional Assembly, Abuja February, 2020



With the generous financial support of the Carnegie

Corporation of New York, the African Humanities Program (AHP) held its fourth Regional Assembly (RA) in Nigeria, February 11-13, 2020.

Previous Assemblies took place in Kampala, Uganda in 2017, Accra, Ghana in 2018, and Dar es Salaam in 2019. The purpose of these annual events is to review and celebrate recent research supported by AHP.

Public events at the Abuja Regional Assembly included a keynote address by distinguished Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka, a roundtable titled “Academic Cultures in the Humanities in Nigeria: Segmented by Religion and Ethnicity”, book launch and keynote address by Ochia Ofeimuna, Nigerian poet, and country-based discussion groups to plan for a future African-directed AHP.

Prof. Alexandra Esimaje of Benson Idahosa University, an AHP fellow, had the privilege of attending this event and was a rapporteur.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Research Output and Academic Input Symposium

The Directorate of Research and International Programme on the 16 of December, 2020 organised an academic symposium entitled Research Output and Academic Input: Interfaces and Indices. The key speakers were Prof. Mrs Christy Nkechi Omoifo from the University of Benin and Prof. Ernest B. Izevbigie from the Benson Idahosa University. They spoke on Research Output and Academic Input: interfaces and indices and academic environment and research output respectively. The guest speakers underscored the primacy of research quality, the immediate consequence of its lack and the anticipated symbiosis between research quality and academic content. They lamented the situation in our universities where teaching is hardly informed by research and innovative research not encouraged.



The Director of Drip (Mid) with Profs. Izevbigie and Omoifo

BIU Staff Wins

RAINN Research Consultancy Grant

We are proud to announce that Theresa Akpoghome, Dean of the Faculty of Law and an avid researcher has won a research consultancy grant from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) which is the largest U.S. anti-sexual violence organisation. Theresa Akpoghome is charged with the task to generate and analyse data on sexual violence in the six (6) African countries of Nigeria, DRC, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. We congratulate Prof. Akpoghome on this achievement.



Prof. T Akpoghome

Internationalisation and Grantsmanship workshop



Dr. Akanimo Odon (3rd from left) with the VC, DVC, Director of DRIP, immediate past Registrar and some key officers of Benson Idahosa University Community

A one-day workshop on innovative research and winning international grants was organised by the Directorate of Research and International Programmes (BIUDRIP) on 30 September 2019. The facilitator, Dr Akanimo Odon of Lancaster University, United Kingdom presented a robust lecture on the gains of internationalization and innovative research. He illustrated strategies of institutional branding and emphasised resource mobilization for impact and the training of students on employability and career development skills.

BIU Hosts COSFAN

On the 2 of November, 2019, the Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association of Nigeria (COSFAN) in collaboration with the Benson Idahosa University organised a one-day mentorship symposium on the Access and Benefits of Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK. The target audience included faculty staff, postgraduate students, professionals and final year undergraduates. Dr. Rachael Ngozi Osagie, a Commonwealth postdoctoral fellow and Chairperson of COSFAN was the facilitator. She explained the functions of the Commonwealth Commission: its goals, contributions, funding initiatives, policies and selection criteria.



Prof Esimaje and Dr. R. N. Osagie

NAFAK Collaborates with BIU for its 22nd Annual Conference



The Benson Idahosa University hosted the 22 annual national conference of the Nationwide Association for the Advancement of Knowledge (NAFAK) from the 9th-13th of March, 2020. The keynote speaker was Prof. Sanni Bamidele of Benson Idahosa University while the lead paper presenter was Ven. Prof. Mon. Nwadiani from the University of Benin. The theme of the conference was Creative Education and Entrepreneurial Skills: a Sine Qua Non for Sustainable National Development.

BIU Student Develops Software

A 300-level student, George Uweh, of the Department of Computer Science, Benson Idahosa University has demonstrated ingenuity by developing a computer application for course registration, fees payment and hostel allocation. The App is currently in use by students of Benson Idahosa University. Laudable feat that is worthy of acknowledgement.



George Uweh

ESTABLISHING GLOBAL LINKS

International linkages

The Benson Idahosa University has signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a number of institutions such as Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Oklahoma, USA, the University of Muenster, Germany and The Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, USA. The MOUs present huge opportunities for academic collaborations, exchange programmes, trainings, and research stays/study abroad. We are also in the process of establishing a chapter of the Space Tourism Society which will expose our staff and students to space science. Staff and students are hereby encouraged to avail themselves of these opportunities by visiting DRIP to access detailed information on these collaborations.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BIU Plans PhD Research Colloquium

The aim of the PhD colloquium is to connect researchers to the research community, to create avenue for the dissemination of research results as well as to create opportunity for the mentoring of aspiring PG students. The target population are PG students, young researchers who have just finished their PhDs, and more experienced scholars. The colloquium will host 4-6 presenters at a time and have in attendance faculty members. The first colloquium is being planned for April and will feature six presenters some of whom are Beauty Eguasa (SMS), Chuks Ezirim (FAE), Dickson Olodu (ENGR) Theophilus Nwano (LAW), and Vivian Uzokwe (Science).



Benson
Idahosa
University

PhD Research Colloquium

—presents—

21st April, 2021 // 10:00AM

Aim

To connect researchers to the research community, create avenue for the dissemination of research results and opportunity for the mentoring of aspiring PG students.

Target

PG students, young researchers, aspiring PG students, and experienced scholars.



Beauty Eguasa

Audit Market
Concentration and
Audit Quality in
Nigeria



Dickson Olodu

Modelling and
Development of
Injection Moulded
Plastic-Grass
Composites



Theophilus Nwano

The Legal Implications
of Publicity and
Disclosure by Banks in
Nigeria



Chuks Ezirim

A Pragmatic Analysis
of Language of
Diplomacy of Nigeria-
Cameroon face off
over Bakassi
Peninsula



Vivian Uzoekwe

Phytochemical
Properties and
Medicinal Effects of
Solanum Eriathum
and Glyphaea Brevis

Venue: University Auditorium (Cafeteria Building) Legacy Campus

■ Leventis Fellowship

Centre of African Studies, University of London

The Centre of African Studies of the University of London invites applications from Nigerian academics to take part in a scheme of collaborative research funded by the Leventis Foundation.

The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. Applicants are invited to apply to spend three months as visitors of the Centre of African Studies in order to pursue their research in libraries and archives and to participate in the intellectual life of the Centre.

For details, visit the website at [SOAS: Centre of African Studies: Leventis Fellowship](https://www.soas.ac.uk/leventis-fellowship/)

■ Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

Submit an application if you are a researcher from abroad with above average qualifications, completed your doctorate less than 12 years ago, already have your own research profile and are working at least at the level of assistant professor or junior research group leader or have a record of several years of independent academic work. A Humboldt fellowship for experienced researchers allows you to carry out long-term research (6-18 months) in Germany. Applicants choose their topic of research and their academic host. The fellowship is flexible and can be divided up into as many as three stays within three years. Scientists and scholars of all nationality and disciplines can apply to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation online at any time.

■ Research Grants – Short-Term Grants DAAD

DAAD grants for doctoral candidates and young scientists and academics wishing to carry out research and continue their education in Germany for up to 6 months.

Awards

· Depending on academic level, monthly payments of euros 861 for - graduates, euros 1,200. - for doctoral candidates and postdocs

Application deadline: October 15 for research stays starting from April or April 1 for research stays starting from August

<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/?origin=165&status=4&subjectGrps=&daad=&q=&page=1&detail=50015434#voraussetzungen>

■ Georg Forster Research Fellowships (HERMES) for Developing Countries in Germany, 2021.

Georg Forster [Research Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers from developing and emerging countries \(except China and India\). Scientists and scholars from all disciplines from developing countries.](https://www.scholarship-positions.com/georg-forster-research-fellowship-hermes-developing-countries-germany-2014/2013/09/25/)

· **Application Deadline:** June 15, 2021

· **Award:** The fellowship is worth 2,650 EUR per month. This includes a mobility lump sum and a contribution to health and liability insurance.

<https://scholarship-positions.com/georg-forster-research-fellowship-hermes-developing-countries-germany-2014/2013/09/25/>

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