



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
(20th - 21st JULY 2018,): CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme: Economic Diversification in Developing Countries: The Way Forward for Nigeria

BACKGROUND

During the last decade, there has been deep concerns about the risks of Nigeria's over-dependence on the oil and gas sector and the urgent need to diversify the economy. Historically, the non-oil sector, particularly the agricultural sector, was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy during the 1960s and early 1970s. For instance, in the 1960s, the agricultural sector accounted for 85% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings, 90% of employment generation, and about 80% of gross domestic product (CBN, 2010). However, following the so-called "oil syndrome" in the 1980s, the oil sector has dominated the Nigerian economy, accounting for over 90% of foreign exchange earnings and more than 80% of government revenue. Since then, the economy has continued to witness the coexistence of vast natural resource wealth and extreme poverty, a problem commonly referred to as the "resource curse".

Identifying this as a problem in the early 80s, the Nigerian government adopted the 1986 Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), for diversifying the Nigerian economy and enhancing productivity growth in a stable macroeconomic environment as its focus. Unfortunately, the oil sector still accounts for more than 80% of total export earnings and total government revenue. More so, economic stagnation, high unemployment rate, runaway inflation, increasing widespread poverty, rising informal sector, collapse of basic infrastructure and social services, persistent external sector imbalances, struggling financial system and low output growth now characterize the economy.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

The foregoing paragraphs indicate the need to correct the existing structural distortions and put the Nigerian economy on the path of sustainable growth and development. Hence, this conference is designed as a platform for policy makers, researchers from different fields, academics, professionals, government functionaries and agencies, industrialists, NGOs, CSOs, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and evolve concrete proposals to enhance productive growth in the non-oil sector, and be extricated from the clutches of the so-called "Dutch disease".

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

- * Economic Diversification in history: what can we learn?
- * The politics of Economic diversification in resource rich countries
- * Challenges and prospects of economic diversification
- * Agriculture and Economic diversification in Nigeria
- * The financial system and economic diversification
- * Governance structure and economic diversification
- * Research and economic diversification in developing countries
- * Diversification of the Nigerian Economy: The role of industrialization
- * Economic diversification and economic development: The policy options
- * Entrepreneurship development and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * Engineering, ICT, indigenous technology and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * Corruption and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * School curriculum and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * Infrastructure and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * Social aggregates, Culture and Economic Diversification.
- * Religion and economic diversification
- * Rule of law, peace, security, conflict resolution and economic diversification
- * Regional integration and economic diversification
- * SMEs and economic diversification in Nigeria
- * International trade policy and economic diversification
- * Creativity, innovation and Economic Diversification
- * Institutional Quality and Economic Diversification
- * Tourism, entertainment and economic diversification
- * Ecosystems and economic diversification

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite authors to submit abstracts of not more than 250 words in any of the sub-themes. The abstracts should be in standard MS word, Times New Roman and single spacing. It should include title of the research paper, author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation(s), email address, phone numbers, three to five key words, and JEL Classification codes.

Abstracts should be submitted before 22nd April 2018, 24.00 Nigerian Time (GMT+1) to:

conference.ecounn@gmail.com and copy **nathaniel.urama@unn.edu.ng** Successful authors will be notified by 30th April 2018, and will be expected to submit full papers by 10th June 2018.

CONFERENCE FEES

Normal Registration: NGN15,000 or US\$50.

Early Registration NGN10,000 or US\$30.

(before June 30th, 2018)

Students: NGN5,000 or US\$20.

All registration will close by 10th July 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS

Distinguished administrators and policy makers invited and expected at the Conference include: His Excellency, Dr Akinwumi Adeshina, President, African Development Bank (AfDB); Professor Charles Chukwuma Soludo, Former Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); Mr Tony Okpanachi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Development Bank of Nigeria, among others.

The Conference Registration Fee should be paid to:-

Department of Economics, UNN.

ECO Bank. Account Number: 5412001639.

Sort Code: 050250185

Conference Venue: PAA, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria.

Date: 20th-21st July 2018. *Time:* 8.00 am -5 pm each day.

Carefully selected papers from the conference will form the foundation of an edited book: Economic Diversification in Developing Countries: The Way Forward for Nigeria. Others will be published in a special issue of the Departmental journal, "Journal of Economics and Allied Research".