

Summary Report on 1st Nigerian Knowledge for Development Partnership Roundtable held on Tuesday 20th August 2019 at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry Conference Hall, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

Knowledge is playing key role in the development of societies and regions. Arising from the United Nations acceptance and support for the global Agenda Knowledge for Development, cities and regions around the world are now adapting and creating their own knowledge development Agenda in order to transform into Knowledge cities and Knowledge societies.

The Roundtable which focussed on Knowledge Agenda for Nigeria started with a conversation promoted by Knowledge Hub Nigeria Ltd/GTE in collaboration with Knowledge for Development Initiative (K4DI) and in partnership with Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), was convened to prepare Nigeria towards the Knowledge economy and knowledge society.

The Roundtable drew delegates from diverse sectors in Nigeria. It also exhibited the Knowledge.Arts Space highlighting the nexus between knowledge and art and the increasing contribution of the creative industry to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and sustainable livelihood.

The Roundtable was addressed by Prince Lekan Fadina, Founder of Knowledge for Development Initiative and Managing Director/Chief Executive of Knowledge Hub Nigeria Ltd/GTE; Mr. Babatunde P. Ruwase, President Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (represented by Mrs. Toki Mabogunge, Deputy President of the Chamber), who chaired

the occasion; Amb (Prof.) Ibrahim Gambari, Former Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Under-Secretary General of United Nations, who presented a Keynote Paper titled “Knowledge is at the heart of Nigeria’s Development; and His Excellency Werner Senfter, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria (represented by the Commercial Counsellor Austrian Embassy, Mr. Guido Stock), who made a presentation on “Business Opportunities through Knowledge Partnerships - The experience of Austria.”

The Roundtable had thematic group sessions tagged Knowledge Café. This provided the delegates representing different stakeholder groups to discuss the challenges and opportunities of knowledge societies, and identify key actions to advance knowledge in Nigeria in a targeted, systematic and integrated way. The thematic groups also examined what is required to make Nigeria a world leading society, the strengths and weaknesses; which actions have greatest impacts for development, how to manage knowledge in an organisation, and the role of Government, business, non-governmental organisation and the society.

The Roundtable also saw the launching of Knowledge for Development Initiative which is set out to promote knowledge development, contribute to the understanding and dissemination of the global Agenda Knowledge for Development, the strengthening of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement and the local and international development goals.

The Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as partners at the Roundtable, demonstrated solid commitment to the partnership. LCCI noted the desirability, timeliness and relevance of the objectives of the

Knowledge Initiative especially now that the world faces the challenges of Digitalization and Knowledge Age.

The delegates provided wholehearted inputs towards the development of Knowledge Agenda for Nigeria and expressed appreciation for experiences shared during the Roundtable. They were unanimous in the desire to join the partnership and also work with the Think Tank Group to finalise the Knowledge Agenda for Nigeria document, the first edition of which will be presented to the public during the Knowledge Week/Knowledge Conference planned for November 2019.

The Roundtable enjoined delegates to be prepared for the Knowledge economy, Digitalisation and Technology imperatives of our time. In this connection, all hands must be on deck by government, private sector, academia, civil society and individuals to ensure that Nigeria keys into the challenges and opportunities of knowledge society.

The Roundtable sees the need for provision of services with special emphasis on social sectors that critically affect people at the Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP). It underscored the need for Knowledge Hub and the organisers to address the government policy on lifting ten million people out of poverty through knowledge services and human capital development in order that Knowledge will be available to shape outcomes for social impact.

Pictures from the Roundtable



The hightable(L-R). Prof. Emmanuel Oladpo, Professor of Climatology, UNILAG; Prof. Aba Sagoe, former Secretary to Lagos State Government; Mr. Guido Stock, Commercial Counsellor, Austrian Embassy; Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, former Under-secretary General of United Nations; Mrs. Toki Mabogunje, Deputy President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mrs. Joke Fadina, Wife of Prince Lekan Fadina; Prince Lekan Fadina, Chief Executive of Knowledge Hub and Convener, 1st Knowledge for Development Partnership Roundtable (Standing - going to deliver his welcome address); Omoba (Engr./Barr) Yemisi Shyllon, Largest collector of arts in Africa; Mr. Gabriel Idahosa, Trustee of Knowledge for Development Initiative.



Group photograph of some of the delegates at the Roundtable



Prince Lekan Fadina delivering his welcome address



Amb. (Prof.) Ibrahim Gambari delivering the keynote speech



Mr. Guido Stock, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Austria delivering the address of the Ambassador of Austria in Nigeria



Prince Lekan Fadina in discussion with Mr. Guido Stock



Prof. Emmanuel Oladipo delivering his goodwill message



L-R: Chairman, Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA) (Lagos Chapter), Mr. Idowu Sonaya; Amb. (Prof.) Ibrahim Gambari; Mrs. Toki Mabogunje; President Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA), Mr. Oliver Enwonwu; and another artist and delegate.



Technical session in progress



L-R: Former Ambassador to Ethiopia, Prof. Segun Akinsanya; Prince Lekan Fadina; Mr. Idowu Sonaya; Mr. Oliver Enwonwu; Chief (Dr.) Ezekiel Anaibe, an industrialist



Group photograph of some delegates at the Roundtable



Mrs. Jaji, former Director in Federal Ministry of the Environment and Nigeria Desk Officer on Sustainable Development illustrates an idea on knowledge development



Mr. Idowu Sonaya describes the make of the Head of Oba of Benin Bronze work to Amb. (Prof.) Ibrahim Gambari and other delegates



Mr. Guido Stock takes interest in one of the books on display during the art tour



L-R: Mr. Idowu Sonaya, Mr. Oliver Enwonwu, Prince Lekan Fadina, and Omo Oba (Engr./Barr) Yemisi Shyllon on the knowledge-art nexus.



Mr. Guido Stock admires an artwork on display