

AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED ECONOMICS

Promoting evidence-based decision making...



Activity Report **2010**

Summary



ACTIVITY REPORT 2010



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REVIEW OF 2010 AND PROSPECTS FOR 2011

The year 2010 was remarkable for landmark achievements in many programme areas. Overall, the programmes and achievements during the year reflect the principles and tenets of the AIAE 5-year Strategic Plan – Project Leading-Edge 2009-2013. The year 2010 is significant as the second straight year in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The year marked the climax of the second cycle of the Institute's flagship – the business environment research, dissemination and policy dialogue programme (otherwise called the BECANS) as evidenced by the launching of the research publications on the 23rd of September 2010. The significance of this achievement lies in the fact that this is the first replication and update of the BECANS research, since the first cycle results were launched in 2007.

Besides the BECANS, research is ongoing in other thematic economic policy areas. During the year, the Institute intensified implementation of macroeconomic modelling and forecasting study and launched two separate studies within the agricultural growth and poverty reduction thematic area. In order to improve research quality and enhance research influence on public policy, the Institute has developed and adopted a 'Research Policy and Guidelines' which spells out the key criteria and procedures for conducting and disseminating policy research. Some key elements of the policy include independent scientific reviews of research outputs, active engagement and interaction with policymakers and end-users throughout the research process, communication of the research by using a variety of relevant, suitable and effective tools and methods.

The year also witnessed the initial 12 months of the implementation of the IDRC institutional support programme. The IDRC institutional support covers three functional areas: research & research quality, organizational development and communication & policy linkages. We are using the funding support in enhancing our institutional capabilities for the effective conduct and communication of good-quality research that inform and influence public policy.

Several milestones were recorded in organizational development. On the financial management side, the Institute has developed and adopted an Internal Audit Policy/Guidelines. New and better financial management and accounting system has been put in place. The Corporate Affairs Unit was transformed and upgraded into the Communication and Relations Unit, charged with facilitating and intermediating research communication to end-users, engagement with policymakers and fostering collaboration/partnerships with organized private sector, civil society groups and development partners. In order to promote evaluative thinking and sustainable organizational growth and development of the Institute, a 'Monitoring and Evaluation Policy/Guidelines' was also developed and has been undergoing fine-tuning for implementation. An important ingredient of organizational development is capacity building of research and administrative staff. During the year, several staff participated in relevant training courses, local and overseas. Staff also attended research workshops, seminars and policy conferences, both within and outside Nigeria.



Prof Eric Eboh
Executive Director AIAE



Within the programmatic framework of promoting evidence-based policymaking and interaction between researchers, policy makers and end-users, the Institute organized, co-organized or facilitated policy forums, stakeholder dialogues and topical conferences during the year 2010. In a landmark development, the Institute established the 'Policy Think Group' (PTG) on 29th January 2010 as an independent think-group devoted to the critical analysis of topical policy questions on the Nigerian and African economies. The intent is to advance evidence-based decision making by stakeholders including government, private sector, civil society and the entire development community. The objective of PTG is to render rapid yet sound analytic perspectives for informing and influencing public debate on topical economic policy matters.

The first of the policy dialogues was the Policy Seminar on "Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007" held on 22nd February 2010 in collaboration with the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC), Abuja. The seminar considered the challenges and imperatives for implementing/adopting the Act by Federal and State Governments.

The launching of the novel publication on the global economic crisis and Nigeria titled "The Global Economic Crisis and Nigeria: Taking the Right Lessons and Avoiding the Wrong Lessons" was held on the 15th April 2010. The event also featured stakeholder dialogue for making the most of the lessons from the global economic crisis. On 5th May 2010, the Enugu Forum Policy Seminar was held. It focused on "Community-directed Interventions in Healthcare Provisioning", in view of the time-bound MDGs targets. Furthermore, in collaboration with British Council, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) under the Development Partnership in Higher Education (DePHE 326) project, and University of Reading, UK, the Institute held a Policy Conference on "Enhancing Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change" on 27th July, 2010 at Enugu, Nigeria. The conference attracted government officials, private sector leaders, civil society groups, professionals and development practitioners. Also, the second-tier BECANS-based dissemination/dialogue was kick-started with the BECANS dissemination/dialogue workshop for the South-East States, on 18th November 2010.

Intensified efforts in stakeholder consultation and dialogue yielded significant milestone for the establishment of the AIAE-facilitated South-East Nigeria Economic Commission (SENEC). The Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the SENEK was jointly executed by the Governments of Anambra, Imo, Enugu and Abia States. The SENEK is an outcome of research-based stakeholder policy dialogue programme of the Institute. The SENEK is one of the vivid examples of AIAE's relevance and impact on its economic environment.

The year also witnessed the continued intensification of the demand for the Institute's research and professional services. This is evidenced by the increasing number of requests for the participation and involvement research staff and Associate Fellows as members of government and private sector technical committees or working groups and resource persons in research and policy programmes. There has also been increasing requests from international, regional and national agencies for research and policy-relevant partnerships and collaboration with the Institute. Of particular note is that the Institute recorded increased invitation from the print and electronic media to proffer expert independent opinions on key national economic policy debates. The increased local



and international demand for the Institute's research services, programme outputs and for its research staff underscores the growing respect for and impact of the Institute as an economic policy think-tank in Nigeria and Africa.

The communication and dissemination activities of the Institute remained alive with new editions of the different publication series – Enugu Forum Policy Papers, AIAE Newsletter Series, AIAE BECANS Policy Briefs, AIAE Research Paper Series and AIAE Macroeconomic Forecast Series. Two books were published and presented to the public during the year. They include “The Global Economic Crisis and Nigeria: Taking the Right Lessons and Avoiding the Wrong Lessons” and “Business Environment across Nigerian States 2010: Tackling the Security Challenge”.

With the spate of research-enhancing investments and achievements in 2010, the stage is set for accelerated growth and consolidation of institutional impacts, in subsequent years, beginning from the year 2011. In particular, the year 2010 featured the laying of strong foundations of research infrastructure, research organization/management, organizational development and building greater capabilities for communication with policymakers and stakeholders. These foundations and new capabilities signify bright prospects for the year 2011. In fact, the utilization of these foundations for the production of research outputs in an effective manner would be the driving principle of research and other programmes in the year 2011.

Prof. Eric Eboh
Executive Director



1.0 IDENTITY, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

AIAE is a not-for-profit, independent international research organization. It is registered as Company Limited by Guarantee (Ltd Gte) in Nigeria in 2000, but started operations in 2001. The Institute is devoted to economic policy research in line with its mission to promote evidence-based decision making. Based on its research outputs, AIAE facilitates policy advocacy, conducts training and participates in knowledge-based networking. It also provides consultancy services to governments, national organisations, international development agencies and the Organized Private Sector (OPS).

The Institute has Board of Directors, comprising internationally accomplished and respected scholars and professionals. AIAE is based in Enugu, south-east Nigeria. It is headed by an Executive Director, working with a good number of research and administrative staff. Much of the research is carried out through a network of local and international experts who are affiliated to AIAE as Associate Fellows. Each expert has at least a Masters Degree in Economics, Social Sciences, Management or related disciplines.

1.1 What We Do

AIAE's operational approaches consist of five mutually reinforcing modules:

1. Frontier economic research and policy analysis;
2. Expert consortium on topical economic questions;
3. Evidence-based stakeholder policy dialogue;
4. Networking with national/international research institutions; and
5. Capacity building services to clients. The five modules are otherwise known as the FEENC approach.

1.2 Thematic Programme Areas

These approaches are applied across the five thematic research areas. They are:

- Trade Regional Integration and Competitiveness (TRIC);
- Macroeconomic Analysis Modeling and Forecasting (MAMF);
- Public Sector Economics and Management (PSEM);
- Poverty Income Distribution and the Labour Market (PIDLAM); and
- Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRUD).



The thematic groups are the building blocks of the research programme. They constitute the research hubs for producing frontier knowledge based on teamwork, international research networking, scientific validation and quality assurance.

2.0 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 Board of Directors

The Institute is governed by a Board of Directors, chaired by Prof. Chukwuma Soludo. Professor Eric Chiedum Eboh is the Executive Director.

2.2 Management and Human Resources

Staff: The Institute is headed by an Executive Director. Other staff positions include the Finance and Administrative Manager, Communications and Relations Manager, Research Coordinator, Deputy Research Coordinator, Programme Officers, Research Associates, Research Assistants, Senior Administrative Secretary, Internal Audit Officer, Communications Assistant, Administrative Assistants, Finance Assistant and the Librarian.

2.3 New Appointments in 2010

The Institute in September 2010 appointed Miss Gloria Oyiyechukwu Eboh as the Communications Assistant. Miss Eboh is a graduate of Political Science/ Sociology of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and she is highly proficient in information technology. She has attended several workshops and conferences targeted towards strengthening her functions in public relations management and public policy advocacy. She is already using her skills to project the image of the Institute in the Communications and Relations Unit.

Associate Fellows: Much of the substantive research work of the Institute is carried out through a network of experts within and outside Nigeria who are affiliated to the Institute as Associate Fellows. By the end of 2010, the Institute had two hundred and nineteen (219) Associate Fellows each with at least Masters Degree in Economics Social Sciences and related disciplines. Five (5) new members were admitted in the year.



3.0 RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN IN THE YEAR 2010

3.1 Business Environment and Competitiveness Across Nigerian States (BECANS II)

The overall goal of the BECANS is to promote evidence-based reforms of the business environment in Nigeria, with focus on the subnational jurisdictions. The initiative is designed to supply independent research-based evidence on the business environment across Nigerian states, in an ongoing manner. Such evidence is essential to improve the quality of dialogue and advocacy. Also, BECANS provides benchmarking tools for business managers, investors and policymakers to identify specific competitiveness obstacles, thus stimulating critical thinking about strategies to overcome them. This business environment scorecard of Nigerian states is the second in the BECANS publication series. BECANS runs in successive cycles of research, surveys, dissemination and policy dialogue.

3.2 Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting

The AIAE macroeconomic modelling and forecasting group was set up with the principal objectives of tracking trends in major macroeconomic indices, evaluating impact of alternative government fiscal and monetary policy programmes on variables of interest and interpreting their implications for the broad macroeconomic indices, with particular reference to growth. In so doing, it also would evaluate impact of various shocks and interpret their implications for broad macroeconomic indices, make projections on future trends under alternative assumptions of the behaviour of agents and provide a tool for the private sector to feed macro trends into their micro decisions.

3.3 Cost-Effective Agriculture Growth Options for Poverty Reduction In Nigeria

This study assesses the relative cost-effectiveness of different agriculture expenditures to reduce poverty in Nigeria. Based on a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model of the Nigerian economy using yield growth and expenditure data from the National Special Programme for Food Security (NSPFS), we assessed the relative costs of increasing household income by 1% by increasing the yield of different crops. Though the study was intended to cover many states of the country, the unavailability of good quality data compelled limiting the study to Oyo State in the Southwest and Jigawa State in the Northwest of the country. The research will be completed and published in the Research Paper Series in 2011.



3.4 Agricultural Growth Drivers and Implications for Economic Policy

The way and manner agricultural growth takes place in any economy reflects the condition of its productivity, competitiveness and sustainability. Though Nigeria's agricultural growth has accelerated to an average of 7 years over the past 6 years, there are concerns that this growth may not be sustainable. While several studies analysed the growth composition and trajectory of agriculture, very few focused on delineating the role of direct (inputs) vis-à-vis indirect (policy) variables. This study therefore seeks to answer the fundamental question regarding the relative importance of the factors that have driven agricultural growth over the last decades. Answering this question implies much for the crucial role already assigned to agricultural sector in the national economic vision of becoming one of the topmost 20 economies by the year 2020.

3.5 Study on Federal Government Budget Implementation

The study is aimed at examining the extent and process of budget implementation at the federal government level, from 2005-2009. The study includes a systematic documentation and analysis of the budget experience in Nigeria over the past five years, examination of the causes and consequences of poor budget implementation and practical and effective recommendations on how to improve the system. The main sources of budget and finance data include the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant-General, Office of the Auditor-General, line or sector ministries, National Planning Commission and the National Assembly. The study analyses the annual patterns of budget implementation 2005-2009 at the general level and budget implementation at the sector-level using some case studies. The case studies include the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Power and Steel, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Works, Judiciary and National Assembly. The study examines budget implementation from the perspectives of budget process, project costing and management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, transparency and accountability. The study will be completed in 2011.



4.0 RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

4.1 The Databank Initiative

Origin and Purpose

Established in 2006, the Databank is designed to develop and maintain an ongoing robust, credible and up-to-date statistical database. The databank consolidates macroeconomic, microeconomic, social sector and human development indicator in a coherent and cumulative manner. Since inception, the Databank has been undergoing constant updating and enhancement to make it more useful, accessible and comprehensive. The statistical database is a critical research resource. It is intended to make research more efficient and effective at the Institute. The Databank is managed by a coordinating team. The team is charged with the function of mobilizing statistical information from various sources, conducting data verification and transformation as well as updating them as and when due. Today, the Databank provides the Institute's researchers with quick, convenient and inexpensive access to verifiable datasets on various economic and development indicators. The Databank is also a ready statistical resource for government, academia and private sector.

Progress in the Year 2010

The major development in the unit in 2010 was the updating of the AGRUD database with the 2009 National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security Agency (NPAFS) data on crops both at the state (including FCT) and national level. It now covers 10 years time series data from 1999-2009. The area covered include: crop production, crop yield, and crop area. Also, BECANS II under the BECANS thematic database has been included in the databank. The bank now has four-year time series data (2007-2010) on business development indicators across the Nigeria states and FCT.

4.2 Peer Learning Seminar Series

The first peer learning seminar was held on 17th March 2010. The topic was MDGs Costing in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects, delivered by Mr. Barth T. Feese, Head, Costing Unit, Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals. Participants were taken through how the country had demonstrated its commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This was done by taking practical steps towards implementing an MDG-based planning approach in its development policies, strategies and reform programmes.

The second was held on 28th April 2010 at AIAE conference room. The theme of the seminar was "Using Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) as a Tool for Macroeconomic Planning in Nigeria". The speaker was Mr. Falokun Gabriel Olakunle, Senior Research Fellow and Head, Economic Development Division, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), Ibadan. The session was attended by Associate Fellows and the staff.



4.3 Other Training Activities

Training of Professionals on Multivariate Analysis

In line with its strategic plan in the project leading edge, the AIAE successfully trained professionals in various fields on the Multivariate Techniques in Economic and Social Analysis. The Techniques enable policy makers, NGOs officers, corporate managers as well as researchers to sharpen their decision making tools. The one week training course held between 26th and 31st July, 2010 took place at Bridgewater hotel, Enugu. The course was facilitated by Prof. Araar Abdelkrim of Universite Laval, Quebec, Canada.

4.4 Staff Training

Miss Queeneth Anyanwu, the Librarian had two trainings in e-library and ICT in library management. The first took place at the Institute's library on 30th August 2010 as a result of Valerie Rhoe's visit to the Institute. The training was centered on the use of Mendeley software to create e-library database. The second is a workshop on Computer Application for Librarians/Information Officers and Educationists. It took place at the Centre for Management and Development (CMD), Shangisha Ikeja Lagos State between the 15th and 19th of November, 2010. The objectives of the workshop among other things include using the computer (key library automation tool) to prepare, store, view and retrieve documents; to identify the features of library automation and to use the internet and e-mail facilities to enhance the services of the library.

Mrs. Olivia Aka, the Internal Auditor attended training on; 'The Role of Internal Auditors in Organizational Performance' organized by the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) in Lagos between 26th July and 30th July, 2010. The training would help her to have a firm grasp of internal control procedure and to appreciate the role of internal audit function in business auto piloting and service delivery.

Mr. Amaechi Chukwu, a Research Fellow in the Institute and **Mr. Olusola Oluwadare** attended one day research for advocacy workshop organized by DFID-ENABLE in Lagos on 24th June, 2010.

Mrs. Beatrice Ndibe, attended 'Advanced Management Course for Administrative Officers', held at Nigerian Institute of Management House, Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island, Lagos between 25 and 29 October, 2010. The training was organized by Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) to expand the knowledge of the participants on the strategic role of administrative officers and acquaint them with the leadership skills and competencies necessary for effective performance as managers.



Mr. Celestine Nzeh, a Research Fellow and Associate Fellows Liaison Officer attended training workshop on Green Economics of Nigeria held on February 22, 2010 at Shehu Musa Ya'Adua Centre, Abuja. He also attended International Conference on Energy, Environment and Economic Growth held at New Chelsea Hotel, Abuja between 19th and 20th April, 2010 organized by Nigeria Association for Energy Economics (NAEE) and International Association for Energy Economics (IAAE).

Mr. Olusola Oluwadare, Communications and Relations Manager and **Mrs. Beatrice Ndibe**, Administrative Secretary attended a one week workshop on advocacy for Business Membership Organizations (BMOs). It was organized by UK- Department for International Development-Enhancing Nigerian Advocacy for a Better Business Environment (DFID-ENABLE) at Valencia hotels Abuja between 14th and 18th June, 2010

Mr. Olusola Oluwadare attended training programme organized by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) on 'Public Relations Research and Evaluation and PR Policy Strategy and Practice' between 1st and 4th December, 2010 at the University of Ibadan Hotels, Nigeria. He also participated in the inauguration of Business Environment Network (BEN) at National Assembly Complex Abuja on 21st July, 2010. BEN was established to provide a safe platform for interfacing with legislators providing them with requisite information, education and context required for effective business related lawmaking. He equally represented the Institute at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Enugu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ECCIMA) held on 22nd November, 2010 at Celebrities Eatery, Enugu.

Miss Chinyere Onyia, the Financial Assistant attended the training organized by NIM between 29th November and 3rd December, 2010 at Lagos. The title of the training was, 'Cash Management and Control Analysis'.

Miss Gloria Eboh, the Communications Assistant attended a workshop on 'Service Marketing and Proposal Development Training' at Azia Hall, Denis Hotel, Abuja on 3rd and 4th November, 2010. It was organized by DFID-ENABLE. She also attended training organized by NIPR between 23rd and 26th November, 2010 at Abuja. The title of the programme was 'Strategic Management Skills for PR Practitioners and Corporate Culture for Improved Productivity'.

Prof. Eboh, the Executive Director attended a 3-weeks training programme on Project Appraisal and Risk Management at the Duke Centre for International Development, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, from 16th May -11th June, 2010.

Mr. Uba Chiwuike, the Finance and Administrative Manager attended training on Sage MIP Fund Accounting Software in Austin, Texas in the USA. The training was organized by Ziegner Technologies Inc in Austin, Texas, USA from 9th August 2010 – 13th August 2010. AIAE acquired the new accounting software in order to introduce better fund management practices. Sage MIP Fund Accounting is the financial management solution preferred by AIAE for planning and managing budgets, maximizing grants, and producing accurate customized reports in minutes.



5.0 NETWORKING, OUTREACH AND AFFILIATIONS

5.1 Associate Fellows Network: Functioning and Impact

The research network of the Institute connects Associate Fellows within the five thematic groups. These thematic groups are the research hubs of the Institute. They serve as research workshops for generating critical frontier and applied knowledge in line with the mission of the Institute. The Institute's Associate Fellows is a networking model that has proved to be a very credible and beneficial platform. The networking arrangement provides rich opportunities for intellectual self-enhancement, academic interaction and mutual learning. The thematic groups constitute the research hubs of the Institute.

5.2 Associate Fellows Annual Retreat/Workshop

The Associate Fellows Retreat for the year 2010 was held on 31st August and 1st September 2010 with the theme, "Scientific Writing and Research Communications". The retreat held at Bridgewater's Luxury Suite Enugu, exposed the fellows of the Institute to the modern day rudiments of communicating policy research. It was facilitated by Valerie Rhoe, the Programme Coordinator of the Nigeria Strategy Support Programme of the International Food Policy Research Institute (INFRI). Ms. Rhoe developed and administered modules on how research results could be communicated to intermediate and end users. Eighty five (85) Associate Fellows of the Institute attended the retreat.

5.3 The South East Nigeria Economic Commission (SENEC) Initiative

During the year, the establishment of the SENEK received a major boost. The Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of SENEK was jointly executed by the Governments of Anambra, Imo, Enugu and Abia States. This milestone was achieved on the back of extensive stakeholder consultations and dialogue involving AIAE, the SENEK Interim Steering Committee, Governments of the South-East States, private sector organizations, civil society organizations and community-based organizations. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Governors of the South-East States marks a critical turning point for the SENEK idea.

5.4 Partnership, Networks and Affiliations

International Development Research Centre (IDRC): The relationship of AIAE in the network of 24 African Think Tanks under the Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Think Tank Initiative continued to wax stronger in 2010. Dr. Diakalia Sanogo, IDRC Senior Programme Monitoring Officer was at the Institute on 8th July, 2010 on a monitoring visit. IDRC is one of the world's leading institutions in the generation and application of new knowledge to meet the challenges of international development. The policy research institutions were selected from 11 East and West African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.



African Economic Research Consortium (AERC): AIAE Associate Fellows are active participants in the research programme of the AERC, Nairobi, Kenya. The Institute also receives institutional support in the form of book grants from AERC. During the year, AIAE intensified institutional partnership with AERC in capacity building, institutional development and research networking.

Centre for Study of African Economies (CSAE), Oxford University, UK: The Institute collaborates with the CSAE in a number of areas including training, economic research, publications and capacity building.

African Society for Ecological Economics (ASEE): The Institute is exploring arrangements to conduct collaborative research with member organizations of the African Society for Ecological Economics. Joint research projects are being prepared in response to international calls for proposals.

African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network: AIAE's institutional partnership with ATPS for the purpose of deepening technology policy research in Africa was strengthened in 2010.

Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD): The Institute's relationship established with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, under the auspices of Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate and member of AIAE Board of Directors waxed stronger during the year under review.

Centre for Economic and International Studies (CEIS): The relationship of the Institute through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CEIS, an internationally recognized research centre in the Faculty of Economics, University of Rome is waxing stronger.

Department for International Development-Enhancing Nigerian Advocacy for a Better Business Environment (DFID-ENABLE): ENABLE collaborated with the Institute to chart the course of providing platform for advocacy of research outputs. ENABLE has the initiatives targeted towards improving the business environment in Nigeria and plays important roles in reforming government policy, regulations, laws and licenses. AIAE and ENABLE particularly worked together in co-opting the Organized Private Sector (OPS), the media and other stakeholders in advancing the objectives of the second circle of Business Environment and Competitiveness Across Nigerian States (BECANS II).

Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (NARPNet): NARPNet seeks to become an authoritative, independent forum for promoting research for evidence-based agricultural and rural development policies in Nigeria. The mission is to facilitate the conduct of research as well as the communication and utilization of research results in the agricultural and rural development policy process in Nigeria. The relationship of the Institute with the Network remains strong in 2010.

Private Sector Organisations: In 2010, AIAE intensified working relationships and collaboration with the Nigeria's leading private sector organizations. Apart from working relationship in terms of attendance in their programmes, the management of the Institute took time to pay courtesy visit to some of them in order to underscore the yearnings for stronger collaborations. They include; Nigerian Economic Summit Group Ltd/Gte (NESG), Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI), Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), the City Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Nigerian Association of Women Entrepreneurs (NAWE).



Government Policymaking Agencies: In line with the key research programming principle of building and harnessing links with government's policy authorities for the purpose of promoting evidence-based policymaking, AIAE continues to have good working relationship and collaboration with Federal and States Governments' Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs). Notable among them are the National Planning Commission (NPC), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Presidential Office on MDGs, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Federal Ministry of Finance/Budget Office of the Federation, State government' Ministries of Economic Planning/Planning Commissions, Debt Management Office (DMO), Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

6.0 AIAE AND THE MEDIA

6.1 Capacity Building for CICAN

The relationship between AIAE and the media took a greater dimension in 2010 as it organized one day capacity building programme to equip journalists under the aegis of Commerce and Industry Correspondents Association of Nigeria (CICAN) on the nitty- gritty of research reporting. The seminar with the theme **"The Role of the Media in Fostering Utilization of Research in Public Policy"** was held in Lagos on 30th April, 2010, at Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja. The main paper was delivered by Mr. Muda Yusuf, the Director General of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and presided over by the Director General of the Nigerian Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) Mr. Lawrence Adekunle represented by Mr. Mike Ojo, the Deputy Director General.

A paper was also delivered by Mr. Lanre Oyetade, the Personal Finance Editor of the African Newspapers of Nigeria, publishers of the Tribune Titles. The title of the paper was **"The Media and Financial Empowerment"**. The Executive Director of AIAE, Prof Eric Eboh presented research conducted by the Institute on informal sector in Nigeria.

6.2 The Media and BECANS II

Nigerian journalists gave a wide reportage to all the pre and post BECANS activities throughout 2010. Earlier, the reporters tagged BECANS Media Team were trained by the Institute and supported by ENABLE on "How to report BECANS" with a paper presented by Mr. Goddy Ikeh, the Chief Executive Officer of the Forthworth Communications Agency, a veteran journalist retired from the News Agencies of Nigeria (NAN). The Executive Director later addressed the press on all issues surrounding BECANS.



6.3 Relationship with Media Houses

In order to strengthen the existing relationship between the Institute and the media, a team led by Prof Eric Eboh and supported by Mr. Uba Chiuwike, the Finance and Administrative Manager, Mr. Sola Oluwadare, the Communications and Relations Manager and Miss Gloria Eboh, the Communications Assistant paid courtesy visit to some media houses in Lagos between 6th and 10th September, 2010.

The Team visited the Rutam House Isolo of the Guardian Newspapers, Alagbado office of the Daar Communications owners of African Independent Television (AIT), Lagos office of the African Newspapers of Nigeria, publishers of the Tribune Titles and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Broadcasting House, Ikoyi, Lagos. In all the places visited, the Institute was commended for all its research initiatives and particularly gave her a pat on the back for the BECANS initiative. There was a live transmission of interview of Prof Eboh on AIT the same period. The team also visited offices of the Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

7.0 PUBLIC POLICY DIALOGUE AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED/CO-ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE

7.1 Policy Seminar on Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) 2007

The Institute successfully organized a policy seminar on Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 (FRA), on 22nd February, 2010 in Transcorp Hilton Abuja, Nigeria. The Policy Seminar was aimed at discussing how to checkmate fiscal rascality at all levels of government, with the title, "Progress and Implementation Challenges of Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007". It was chaired by Honourable Eseme Eyibo, member of the Federal House of Representatives and Chairman, House Committee on Media and Publicity, and was attended by 75 participants drawn from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) including journalists from both print and electronic media. Also in attendance were Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP), National Assembly, represented by Dr. Patterson Ekeocha, while Dr. Usman Okpanachi represented Dr. Ladi Hamalai, the Country Director/Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria. The Chairman of Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC), Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Jibril Yelwa and some of his commissioners were also in attendance.

7.2. Seminar on Cost Effective Agricultural Funding

The Institute on 26th January, 2010 organized a seminar to herald its research programme on 'Cost Effective Agricultural Growth Options for Poverty Reduction' in Valencia Hotel in Abuja. The event was attended by stakeholders from Federal Universities, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), relevant Federal government parastatals, National Planning Commission (NPC), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), USAID, the academics and others. The



meeting concluded that Institute would consult relevant government stakeholders and obtain their inputs to make the research more relevant and useful to policy making and programme planning.

7.3. Inauguration of Policy Think Group (PTG)

The Institute, on 29th January, 2010 in Enugu inaugurated a Policy Think Group (PTG), devoted to intellectual analysis and public dissemination of all sectors of the economy. The intent is to advance evidence based decision making by stakeholders including government, private sector, civil society and the entire development community. The objective is to contribute sound analytic perspectives that can inform and guide public discourse of topical economic policy matters. PTG is an “independent think platform” constituted by experts and practitioners, whose primary motivation is to contribute ideas for the common good.

Members of the Group are Eric Eboh, Ukwu I. Ukwu, Nkechi Mbanefoh, Onyukwu E. Onyukwu, Chukwuma Agu, Oliver Ujah, Oby Nwankwo , Stan Ukeje, Kalu Oji, Friday Ohuche, John Okoye, Frank Amagwu, Anthonia Ifeyinwa Achike, Ralph Ndigwe, Moses Oduh, Kanayo Ogujiuba, Chidiebere Ibe, Emeka Celestine Nzeh, Uba Chiuwike. The coordinator of the group is Uzochukwu Amakom while Sola Oluwadare is the secretary.

7.4. Public Presentation of Book on Global Economic crisis

AIAE made a public presentation of the book, - '**Global Economic Crisis: Taking the Right Lessons, Avoiding the Wrong Lessons**' on 15th April, 2010 at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. The book is an edited synthesis of papers presented at the National Policy Symposium on Global Economic Crisis, organized by the Institute on 18th June, 2009. It was edited by Professor Eric Eboh, the Executive Director of AIAE, and Professor Osita Ogbu, former Chief Economic Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chief Executive Officer, National Planning Commission of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The event was attended by government officials, technocrats, international development bodies, NGOs, CSOs, academia, community leaders and the media.

7.5 Enugu Forum (Development Policy Seminar)

Enugu Forum is a civic platform, created and run by the Institute, for evidence-based policy advocacy. The purpose is to debate, propose and advocate policy options based on concrete evidence and sound analysis. It brings together diverse stakeholders including government officials, private sector operators, civil society groups, independent think-tanks, academics and NGOs to exchange views and examine critical social and economic issues affecting the country. It seeks to promote stakeholder interaction and shared understanding of policy alternatives.



This year's forum was held on 5th May, 2010. The theme of the event held at Bridgewaters Hotel and Suites, Enugu was, “**Community Directed Intervention and Healthcare Provision in Africa**”. Stakeholders in the health sector used the avenue to advocate a holistic approach to tackling challenges associated with community participation in provision of health care facilities in African countries. The guest speaker, Prof. Joseph Okeibunor Head, Department of Sociology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, who spoke on Community Directed Interventions and Health Provisioning in Africa: *Low Cost Strategy for Attaining the Millennium Development Goals on Health*, stressed that CDI approach makes the community to take charge of the process, usually through a series of community meetings for decision-making on implementation and how to carry out its roles in the implementation.

The seminar was presided over by Dr. B.S.C. Uzochukwu, a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and Consultants and Public Health Physician of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu. The two discussants at the seminar were, Dr. Ikehukwu E. Obi of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Rev. Fr. D. Hycenth Eme Ichoku of Economics Department University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN). Others who contributed greatly to the discussions included Mr Frank Amagwu, Chairman of Steering Committee, Enugu Forum, representatives of Enugu and Imo States Commissioners of health, Professor Gini Mbanefoh, former Vice Chancellor of UNN, representatives of DFID, UNDP, YDF, NDE, PATHS, UNICEF, civil societies and the media.

7.6 Forum on Business Environment across Nigerian States (FOBEANS 2010)

The Institute successfully held the second national Forum on Business Environment across Nigerian States (tagged FOBEANS 2010), on 23rd September 2010, at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. The chairman of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Mazi Sam Oluabunwa presided over the event attended by the Senior Programme Monitoring Officer of IDRC Dr. Diakala Sanogo, the government officials, diplomatic community, the Organised Private Sector, NGOs, CSOs, the media and other stakeholders.

Close to thirty states were represented by senior officials of their Planning Commissions, Investment Promotion Councils and Companies, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Internal Revenue Boards and other related Ministry Department and Agencies from the six geopolitical zones. Representatives of Federal, States Private Universities and other higher institutions also graced the occasion.

7.7 International Conference on Enhancing Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change

AIAE, in collaboration with the British Council, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, under the Development Partnership in Higher Education (DePHE 326) project, and the University of Reading, United Kingdom held an international conference on, ‘Enhancing Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change’ on 27th July, 2010 at Bridgewaters Hotel, Enugu.

The study was carried out by the team of professionals including; Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Project Coordinator, Department of Agricultural Extension, UNN, Prof.



Eric Eboh, AIAE, Prof. Michael Madukwe, Department of Agricultural Extension, UNN, Prof. (Mrs.) P.C. Onokala, Department of Geography, UNN, Dr. Anselm Enete, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNN, Prof. Chris Garforth, International and Rural Development Department, the University of Reading, UK, Mr. Oliver Ujah, AIAE and Miss Ebele Amaechina, AIAE. While Dr. Ozor presented the report that led the discussion, Prof Chris Gafort of the University of Reading also made a presentation.

7.8 Workshop for the Dissemination of BECANS in the South-East States of Nigeria.

In line with the dissemination and advocacy plan of the BECANS programme, a stakeholder workshop was held on 18th November 2010 in collaboration with the South-East Nigeria Economic Commission (SENEC).

The objectives of the workshop were to disseminate the BECANS results and findings of the constituent states on various aspects of the business environment; acquaint the state-level private sector and civil society organizations in the zone with methods and tools for BECANS-based dialogue and advocacy. The objective also included preparation of regular stakeholder follow-up and implementation timetable for promoting and monitoring the reforms to address observed low points of the business environment in the respective states.

The key benefits and outcomes of the workshop include: deeper understanding of the BECANS evidence; better awareness and appreciation of BECANS evidence on the zonal level; knowledge of methods and tools for utilizing the BECANS evidence; generation of menu of issues, agenda and timetable for regular dialogue and advocacy activities to promote and monitor state-level business environment reforms. The workshop was attended by government officials from the five south-east states, private sector leaders, company managers, civil society organizations, development practitioners and professional groups.



8.0 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY STAFF

Prof. Eric Eboh and **Mr. Oliver Ujah** participated in the first Think Tank Initiative Learning Event/Workshop tagged “Strengthening Organizational Learning and Performance of Policy Research Institutions through Monitoring and Evaluation,” between March 8-10, 2010. The workshop was organized by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) at the Nairobi Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, for all the 24 grantee institutions in **East and West Africa**.

Prof. Eric Eboh, the Executive Director joined **Dr. Kevin Urama** (Executive Director, ATPS), **Dr. Nicholas Ozor** (Research Officer – Post Doc, ATPS), **Ms Wairimu Mwangi** (Research Officer, ATPS) and **Dr. Olumuyiwa Alaba** (Senior Research Officer, ATPS) as technical team on Innovative Alternatives to Prosperity Metrics in Africa, (IAPMA). The team on 10th March, 2010 met in Nairobi to discuss and propose the rationale, objectives, methods, activities and expected impact of the project.

Mr. Uba Chiuwike, the Finance and Administrative Manager represented AIAE at a 3 three-day Senior Policy Seminar XII on Bank Regulatory Reforms in Africa: Enhancing Bank Competition and Intermediation Efficiency on 22nd-24th March 2010 at Sarova Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya. It was jointly organised by African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the African Development Bank (ADB) The seminar provided a forum for African senior policy makers, economic researchers and other practitioners from sub-Saharan African countries to exchange experience and professional insights.

Prof. Eric Eboh attended the meeting of Sustainable Water Management Working Group of the International Resource Panel for Sustainable Resource Management of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) from 28th to 29th March, 2010 at Nairobi Kenya. The meeting was designed to finalise the Terms of Reference for sustainable Water Management working group.

Also, **Prof. Eric Eboh** participated in the 7th meeting of the Sustainable Water Management Working Group of the International Panel on Sustainable Resource Management, held in Stellenbosch (Western Cape), South Africa, 22-25 November 2010.

Mr. Celestine Nzeh attended African Technology Policy Studies, Network (ATPS) grantees’ progress review workshop report held between 24th to 27th May, 2010 at Nairobi Safari Club, Kenya. He made presentation on “Technological Challenges of Climate Change Adaptation in Nigeria: Insights From Enugu State”. He also attended the final review workshop for the ATPS climate change programme grants and ATPS annual Conference and Workshops held between 24th – 30th November 2010 in Conrad Hilton Cairo, Egypt. At the International conference in Cairo. He presented a paper on “Study of Technological and Farming Systems Adaptation to Climate Change in Farming Communities of Enugu State, Nigeria”.

9.0 PUBLICATIONS IN 2010

9.1 Business Environment in Nigerian States 2010: Tackling the Security Challenge

This book which showcases the business environment scorecard of Nigerian states is the second in the publication series of the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE)'s flagship research, survey and dissemination initiative known as the Business Environment and Competitiveness across Nigerian States (BECANS).

9.2 The Global Economic Crisis and Nigeria: Taking the Right Lessons, Avoiding the Wrong Lessons

This book is a product of the well articulated papers presented by experts and stakeholders at the National Symposium of Global Financial and Economic Crisis: Taking the Right Lessons and Avoiding the Wrong Lessons organized by, the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) in collaboration with the Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP) of the National Assembly on 18th June, 2009 at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Nigeria.

9.3 AIAE Research Paper Series

AIAE Research Paper Series presents technical research results from work done by the Institute and/or its Affiliate scientists and researchers. The purpose is to disseminate research reports and analyses that promote policy debate as well inform policy choices. During the year, AIAE published the fifth in the Research Paper Series. The publication is titled: **“On the Determinants of Energy Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa”**.

The Paper examines the determinants of electricity access in developing countries and pays particular attention to why Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries have been comparatively unsuccessful in providing electricity to their populations, despite reforms in the sector.

9.4 AIAE Policy Briefs

This Series publishes short, soft and general-interest papers. The objective is to provide rapid and easily comprehensible policy- and development-oriented discussions.

BECANS Policy Briefs

The Institute published BECANS Policy Briefs 1&2 drawn from the larger and more comprehensive Report: Business Environment in Nigerian States 2010-Tackling the Security Challenge. They are meant to highlight different aspects of research findings of the BECANS programme and serve as soft read supplements to the report.



Policy Brief on Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change

The Institute and Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DeLPHE), University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), British Council (BC) and the University of Reading jointly published policy brief on agricultural adaptation to climate change in southern Nigerian. It is the summary of the product of the DeLPHE 326 executed by multi-institutional partners. The findings in the Brief show the result of the study conducted in Southern Nigeria which reveals how change in climatic conditions affected agricultural production in the zones and the indigenous adaptive measures adopted by farmers in cushioning the effect of climate change on agriculture in the area.

9.5 Enugu Forum Policy Paper Series

Enugu Forum Policy Paper Series publishes the proceedings and outcomes of workshops, conferences, seminars or public lectures held by the Enugu Forum. The Series provides documentation of the topical presentations, debate, comments and perhaps consensus at the Forum. It is intended to disseminate the Forum's intellectual discourse to a wider audience. During the year, AIAE published the eleventh edition of the Enugu Forum Policy Paper Series which is entitled: "**Towards Sustainable Social Security in Nigeria**". The monograph is a product of Enugu Forum flagship seminar debate of the Institute. This edition was held on 15th October, 2009 with the theme 'Inclusive and Sustainable Social Security in Nigeria'. It looks into how sustainability of the social system should be the ultimate benchmark for any institutional reform of the pension system. It examines wide range of social protection and social assistance institutions.

Also the Institute published the twelfth edition of the Enugu Forum Policy Paper Series with the title: **Community Directed Intervention and Healthcare Provision in Nigeria**. The monograph reports the presentations, discussions and communiqué of the Enugu Forum Policy Seminar held on 5th May, 2010.

9.6 AIAE Newsletter Series

The AIAE Newsletter is published in electronic and printed versions on a quarterly basis. The Newsletter complements the Institute's website in bringing information to the doorsteps of Associate Fellows and stakeholders. The Newsletter is designed to inform and enlighten our stakeholders and the general public on the programmes, activities and developments at the Institute. It is intended to respond to the information needs of researchers, government agencies, private sector and civil society. It also features guest articles, feedback from stakeholders on Institute's activities and programmes and functions as a medium of interaction among Associate Fellows and with the Institute.

Three editions of the Newsletter were published during the year 2010. These are:

Vol. 5 No. 12: January, 2010

Vol. 5 No. 13: April, 2010

Vol. 5 No 14: July, 2010

9.7 AIAE Macroeconomic Forecast Series

AIAE Macroeconomic Forecast Working Papers constitute one line of outputs of the Institute's macroeconomic forecast initiative—a flagship programme of the Institute. The Papers in the series contain reviews, analyses and discussions relating to the theory, practice and challenges of developing and sustaining macroeconomics forecasting models. The series is designed to rapidly transmit less technical and more generalist information for the purpose of informing, enlightening and stimulating the scientific and policy-relevant discourse about macroeconomic forecasting issues. The Series is intended for cross-disciplinary readership audience in academia, government, civil society and development community.

AIAE Website Statistics

The AIAE website has been a focal point for the dissemination of AIAE's vast research activity and public policy dialogue. In 2010, there was sustainable increase in the number of visits to the website. The different innovations on the site resulted in these increases which were maintained throughout the year. This is depicted in the table below:

Month	Daily Average				Monthly Totals			
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits
Jan-11	1116	596	245	120	34616	18494	7616	3725
Dec-10	953	548	216	106	29566	17012	6705	3287
Nov-10	1153	631	219	113	34595	18941	6583	3394
Oct-10	1243	741	238	112	38547	22992	7408	3481
Sep-10	1264	708	237	117	37925	21254	7137	3516
Aug-10	1555	876	259	114	48219	27174	8059	3562
Jul-10	1108	604	185	88	34355	18750	5740	2739
Jun-10	858	433	138	67	25741	13005	4160	2034
May-10	988	539	169	79	11866	6468	2036	957
Apr-10	433	320	105	41	12998	9607	3162	1253
Mar-10	436	268	95	36	11792	7251	2578	994



10.0 LIBRARY

With additional materials (both hard copies of materials and electronic materials), the library served the staff, Associate Fellows and other users better with updated information, thus, contributing to the Institute's qualitative and evidence-based research. The library was open for business throughout the year except for periods where the librarian travelled officially. Documentation, classification, book displays shelving and other library services were properly executed by the library during the year under review. The librarian's training in ICT for library service was a plus to the library service. It is hoped that the ICT major equipment for e-library services would be improved further to enhance the library services to the users.

Collection development/Acquisition: The library acquired more journals and few books through donation. The majority of the journals are the publications of AERC. Others are CBN, UNRISD, World Bank, ACODE and AIAE research publications. This gives a total number of about 85 reading materials. In addition to the internet, JSTOR and OARE, there are other e-books/journals acquired during the year. These include the IDRC/CRDI 101 e-books disc and the UNRISD e-book disc on "Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics. The Mendeley software free desktop and web programme for managing and sharing research papers, finding research data and collaborating online with other researchers was used to create a database as part of the efforts to increase the library's e-resources. This is found in this link <http://www.mendeley.com/research-papers/collections/4105341/AIAE-Library>.

Registration/Renewable: We had sixteen new members based on some old users who renewed their membership. Thus, the number of registered users was 149 by the end of 2010.

Partnership and Networking: The library spread its tentacle to Information management institutions like the ITOCA- , African Studies Centre, Netherlands where e-library links were given to the library to encourage the Institute's e-library service. This is in addition to other existing social networks like JSTOR, AGORA, OARE, IDRC, CBN, NBS and others.



11.0 DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

During the year, the construction of the Institute's office complex at Nza Street, Independence Layout, in Enugu progressed to completion. It is expected that the building would be fully ready for use in 2011.

Information and Communication Technology

The ICTs facilities including internet services were upgraded to improve efficiency. The internet service in the Institute was relatively stable with secure connectivity, which is reliably functional in servicing the activities of the Institute in 2010. At least the current accessibility of the Institute's systems to the internet is in harmony with the improvement of its network strength, as every Staff of the institute has a designated access point. In fact, Staff can undoubtedly count on the internet facility to serve their purpose. The Institute also acquired original software, for its system programs like Norton 360 Anti-virus, Microsoft Office 2007, Professional FPP, CorelDraw Graphics Suite, Adobe CS4, SPSS Version 17, EVIEWS Enterprise Edition 7.0 + EVIEWS Illustrated, Windows 7 Professional and others.

12.0 PROSPECTS FOR THE YEAR 2011

With the spate of research-enhancing investments and achievements in 2010, the stage is set for accelerated growth and consolidation of institutional impacts, in subsequent years, beginning from the year 2011. In particular, the year 2010 featured the laying of strong foundations of research infrastructure, research organization/management, organizational development and building greater capabilities for communication with policymakers and stakeholders. These foundations and new capabilities signify bright prospects for the year 2011. In fact, the effective utilization of these foundations would be the driving principle of research and other programmes in the year 2011. Overall, we look forward to a very eventful and fulfilling year 2011.

IMAGES OF 2010

Faces at the Associate Fellows Retreat



Faces at The Global Economic Crisis And Nigeria Book Presentation





Faces at BECANS Launch, Faces at Bus. Env. In South East, and
Faces at Enugu Forum