



African Heritage Institution

presents

International Conference

Theme:

Economics of Sustainable Growth in Africa

Introduction

Africa is a resource-rich continent with 54 countries and a population of over 1.25 billion people as at 2017. Due to the continent's large economic potential, many international business observers sometimes refer to it as the future economic growth engine of the world. However, available statistics show that economic growth in the continent has been neither consistent nor inclusive. In fact, the World Economic Forum argues that by any measure, the economic records of African countries between the oil shocks of the early 1970s and until the mid-1990s were largely dismal. The continent, however, recorded a trajectory of higher growth between the late 1990s and 2013 despite the slowed growth during the global financial crisis in 2007-2009, which was still stronger than that of the mid-1970s to early 90s. The continent achieved an average real annual GDP growth of 5.4% or GDP per capita of 2.5% between 2000 and 2010. In 2013, Africa had a growth rate average of 5.6% and was rated the world's fastest-growing continent. Nevertheless, growth slowed again to an average of 3.3% between 2014 and 2017, due likely or primarily to the drop in the global oil price. The net effect was worse in Sub-Saharan Africa as the average growth rate slowed sharply in 2016 to 1.4% -- the lowest in two decades.

The deceleration in Africa's growth since 2014 has been concentrated in the oil-exporting economies and North African countries, which are still rebuilding following the political convulsions of the Arab Spring. The decline can be attributed to insufficient planning and excessive optimism, which led to growth opportunities being mismanaged. More so, as Hirsch (2017) argues, most growth accelerations -- especially those in Africa -- are often short-lived and incapable of providing the foundation for a long-term step-change to a more diversified growth path.

Notwithstanding the rapid growth recorded between 1998 and 2013, vast numbers of people in many African countries remain unemployed, and extremely poor and malnourished. Those conditions are compounded further by poor health conditions, low literacy levels, chronic corruption, and some of the world's highest inequality rates. Unsurprisingly, the net effects are often as sordid as they are shameful or dehumanizing: high rates of child mortality and maternal deaths; 70% of population without access to acceptable sanitation facilities; 41% of population still living on less than \$1.25 a day; and 33 million of 57 million of global out-of-school children of primary school age (in 2015) living in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The high level of fluctuations in the economic growth rate of African countries and the associated growth without qualitative improvements in most socioeconomic indicators are strong signs that continental economic growth rates have remained unsustainable. According to Jeffery James, the current growth path in Sub-Saharan Africa is not following the Lewis model where labour moves from low-productivity agriculture to higher productivity manufacturing. Instead, it is moving directly to import and labour-saving methods, which makes the entire growth process unstable.

Conference Structure and Objectives

The conference is designed not only to draw on lessons and experiences from other developing countries with relatively sustainable growth and development, but also to assess Africa's potential for real sustainable growth. In this regard, the African Heritage Institution hopes to attract a broad spectrum of participants including academics, political officeholders, policymakers and implementers, development practitioners, and representatives from local and international civil society and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the general public.

This conference aims to contribute to the global efforts to improve the growth rates of African countries while also making them more sustainable by:

1. Identifying the policies and programmes that are most effective in supporting Africa's sustainable economic growth and elaborate on the key features underpinning their documented successes;
2. Raising awareness of all key stakeholders on the need to prioritize and join efforts to rally behind the actions required to respond to the sustainable growth needs of African countries as articulated in the SDG agenda.

Based on the foregoing, therefore, AfriHeritage welcome abstracts that include, but are not limited to, the following thematic areas:

- Theories of sustainable economic growth;
- Sustainable economic growth in the developed world: Lessons for Africa;
- How can Africa achieve sustainable growth;
- Drivers, threats and challenges of sustainable economic growth in Africa;
- African growth path and the sustainability of her growth;
- Energy and sustainable growth in Africa;
- The ICT and sustainable economic growth of the African economies;
- Climate change effect on sustainable economic growth
- The green economy and the sustainable growth in Africa;
- Natural resources and sustainable economic growth.
- Foreign aids and Sustainable growth
- Human capital development and sustainable growth;
- Infrastructure development and economic growth
- Economic diversification and sustainable growth
- Agricultural development and sustainable economic growth
- Industrialization and economic growth in Africa
- The labour force and economic growth in Africa;
- Politics and sustainability of growth in Africa;
- Corruption and sustainable economic growth in Africa
- Education and sustainable growth in Africa;
- Brian drain and sustainable growth in Africa.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Interested persons are requested to send an abstract of not more than 200 words to conference@afriheritage.org.

The abstract should contain five keywords, title of the paper, author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation(s), email address and phone numbers.

Critical Timelines / Dates

Last date for submission of abstracts: May 30, 2018

Notification of accepted abstracts: June 5, 2018

Last date for submission of full paper: July 30, 2018

Submission: All submissions and enquiries should be sent to conference@afriheritage.org

Conference Date:

August 30-31 2018

Venue:

African Heritage Institution, 54 Nza Street, Independence Layout, Enugu State, Nigeria.

Time:

9.00 am - 4.00 pm each day