Afri Heritage

2014 ACTIVITY REPORT
2013 IN RETROSPECT

Consequent to the change of name that was carried out in 2013, AfriHeritage has started taking steps towards achieving the rationale for the initiative. In 2013, several studies were carried out such as “Agriculture as a Potent Economic Growth Driver for the Nigerian Economy”, “Public Financial Management and Fiscal Outcomes in Nigeria: Empirical Evidence” and others. The Institution also actively participated in the National and Thematic Consultation for Post 2015 Development Agenda organized by the United Nations National Working Group in Abuja between February 18 and 19, 2013. The Institution also played host to stakeholders at a Workshop on “Strengthening the Effectiveness of NEPAD in Nigeria: The Way Forward”.

The event was chaired by Senator Mohammed Sanusi Daggash. The Workshop was organized to focus specifically on the current level of NEPAD achievement in Nigeria after 12 years of planning and implementation, and what can and will be done to strengthen Nigeria’s programme and strategy for an effective NEPAD going forward. Besides, several platforms were created to disseminate owned studies, organized policy seminars and also carried out studies on consultancy basis.

In 2013, several studies were carried out such as “Agriculture as a Potent Economic Growth Driver for the Nigerian Economy”, “Public Financial Management and Fiscal Outcomes in Nigeria: Empirical Evidence” and others.

PROSPECTS OF 2015

The Institution would be taking advantage of the Nigeria’s new political dispensation beginning from May 2015 to midwife its new focal areas of governance and politics. Efforts would be made towards conducting studies for agenda setting and bringing stakeholders together to advocate good governance by the political actors. Also, the third cycle of our flagship, BECANS III, would be completed and nationally disseminated across the six geo political zones of Nigeria. Of course, AfriHeritage would not relent on its efforts in intensifying operational sustainability and resource mobilisation through consultancies and capacity building initiatives internally and externally. With the commencement of the core grant as one of the 43 Institutions that were successful in the Phase 2 of the TTI funding opportunities which kicked off in October 2014, AfriHeritage in 2015 would pay serious attention to quality research, organisational development and policy engagement and communication towards gainful advocacy and research output utilisation.
Furtherance to the commencement of the third cycle of the Business Environment and Competitiveness Across Nigerian States (BECANS III), a training programme was organized for the field officers on Thursday October 16, 2014 in Abuja to commence the survey. The training was designed to sensitize the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, National Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission, and others on the methodology, framework and timeline of BECANS III, and to ensure their buy-in. Also in attendance were the Organised Private Sector, relevant Civil Society Organisations; and Non Governmental Organisations. They were all acquainted with the instruments for the assessment of the four traditional BECANS benchmarks, and they promised to utilize their skills and connections for the success of the project. The field officers were selected from the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory.

Earlier, the Institution had met with critical stakeholders and partners on the project. The stakeholders included the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, National Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission, and others to ensure their buy-in. The Organised Private Sector, the relevant Civil Society Organisations; the Non Governmental Organisations also attended the meeting.

F r. Bryant C. Ralph enriched the library of AfriHeritage with world class publications in international journals and textbooks. The resources were received on the 2nd of May, 2014. The Executive Director, Dr. Amobi described the gesture as a welcome development, saying this would be the first time such publications were received through an international personality of a caliber of Dr. Ralph of Brookings Institution. He said the resources, would go a long way in serving the teeming library users, particularly, the associate fellows who have seen AfriHeritage library as the centre of intellectual pursuit in Sub Saharan Africa. These new resources would form part of the new resources that could be accessed through the Institution’s digital library section. A senior fellow in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution, Dr. Ralph’s primary fields of expertise are international economics, monetary economics and macroeconomic policy. Some of Bryant’s books include - Turbulent Waters: Cross-Border Finance and International Governance (Brookings, June 2003) and Crisis Prevention and Prosperity Management for the World Economy (Brookings, June 2004). He is a co-organizer of a Brookings project, the Global Dimensions of Demographic Change, which carries out research on the consequences for the world economy of population aging.
The African Heritage Institution is devoted to economic policy research in line with its mission to promote evidence-based decision-making. Based on its research outputs, AfriHeritage 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 Institution has Board of Directors, comprising internationally accomplished and respected scholars and professionals. Based in Enugu, southeast Nigeria, AfriHeritage is headed by an Executive Director, who works 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 the institution as Associate Fellows. Each expert has at least a Masters Degree in Economics, Social Sciences, Management or related disciplines.

AfriHeritage is a not-for-profit, independent international research organization. It is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Ltd Gte) in Nigeria in 2000, but started operations in 2001.

AfriHeritage is a Renascent Africa that is democratic, prosperous and a major player in the global economy.

AfriHeritage provides intellectual leadership in helping Nigeria and Africa think through the emerging economic renaissance.

What We Do
Our 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.

Thematic Programme Areas
These approaches are applied across the six thematic research areas:

- Trade Regional Integration and Competitiveness
- Macroeconomic Analysis Modeling and Forecasting
- Public Sector Economics and Management
- Poverty Income Distribution and the Labour Market
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Politics & Governance, and
- Foreign Relations

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.

These thematic groups and operational approaches are geared towards the fulfillment of the Institution’s Vision which stands on the tripod: Inspire Inform and Influence.

Management and Human Resources

Staff: Other Management and staff positions include the Research Programme Director, Finance and Administrative Manager, Communications Manager, Deputy Administrative Manager, Programme Officers, Research Associates, Research Assistants, Internal Audit Officer, Communications Officer, Administrative Assistants, Finance Assistant and the Librarians. The Institution also engages interns as part of its contribution to capacity building and the development of frontier of knowledge.

Associate Fellows
Much of the substantive research work of AfriHeritage is carried out through a network of experts within and outside Nigeria who are affiliated to the Institution as Associate Fellows. The Institution has two hundred and four (204) Associate Fellows each with at least Masters Degree in Economics Social Sciences and related disciplines.

Board of Directors
AfriHeritage is governed by a Board of Directors headed by Prof. Chukwuma Soludo and Dr. Ifediora Amobi, the Executive Director, heads the Management.
Mr. Chinedu Osasai and Mr Ogodu Kalu Uko (Research Assistants) attended the regional course on Basic Statistics, Econometrics and Research Methods organized by West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM), Lagos between 10 – 18 March, 2014. The general objective of the course was to deepen understanding of the key areas in Basic Statistics, Econometrics and Research Methods. Experts from Universities, think tanks and international organisations across Africa exposed the participants to skills and competencies needed to understand various economic relationships as they affect the performance of the economy.

Miss Chizoba Obidigbo a Research Assistant attended a Gender Analysis Training Workshop For Social Science Researchers organized by the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, between April 7-11, 2014. This workshop was organized to highlight the blind spot amongst researchers when dealing with gender related issues. The general objective of the course was to deepen understanding of the gender analysis, creating gender analysis frameworks, incorporating statistical methods into gender analysis.

Mrs Beatrice Ndibe, Deputy Administrative Manager attended training on Practical Training Management Skills for Administrative Professionals at African Capacity Development and Research Institute (ACADRI), Kampala, Uganda from 19 – 30 May, 2014. The knowledge acquired will be used to manage and track projects using project software.

Mr. Sola Oluwadare and Gloria Favour of the Communications Unit attended the TTI PEC Anglophone Africa Regional Peer Learning Workshop held in Ghana between July 15-16, 2014. The goals of the workshop were to provide hands-on, practical support on M&E tools, data visualization and social media; and to allow opportunities for hands-on mentorship support and peer learning among think tanks in Ghana and Nigeria.

Staff at the TTI PEC peer learning in Accra
African Economic Research Consortium (AERC):

AfriHeritage in collaboration with Senegal based Consortium Pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES) organised a workshop that brought together TTI's funded and non-funded institutions operating in West Africa with the focus on their financial and administration management. The Workshop, with the theme: "Managing Think Tanks: Role and Importance of Financial and Administrative Management", was held between July 8 to 10, 2014 at Dakar, Senegal and attended by 10 participants from 10 think tanks in West Africa including Dr. Diakalia Sanogo and Gladys Githaiga of TTI, Kenya. The Workshop was conducted as a result of the recognized need to enhance the credibility of TTI’s in the eyes of their stakeholders especially their donors and beneficiaries as a result of poor financial management. Linked to the challenges surrounding the need for TTI’s to ensure independence in their work, was the related need to promote the organization's financial sustainability.

Collaboration with Government Policymaking Agencies:

In line with the key research programming principle of building and harnessing links with government’s policy authorities the Institution participated in the Federal government’s quest for entrepreneurship development tagged: Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P). Through it, three interns were posted to the Institution for one year capacity building initiatives. AfriHeritage also continued to collaborate with Federal and States Governments’ Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs). Notable among them are the National Planning Commission (NPC), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Office of the SSA-P 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), Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

PARG’s Visit to AfriHeritage:

As a way of demonstrating its commitment to extending the frontier of knowledge, AfriHeritage on June 24, 2014 played host to the Policy Analysis and Research Group of the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

In a pep talk, Dr. Ifediora Amobi charged the students to begin to prepare for the world ahead of them by developing soft skills that would equip them for the tasks ahead. He said such skills would make them employable in the future, adding that their work experience starts from whatever they could do during their schooling. He said, “you have the responsibility to develop soft skills for the highly competitive work environment in Nigeria. You should learn how to mix academic with life as it is in the developed countries, that is my charge for you today”.

A research assistant, Mr. Chinedu Ossai who took the students on “Green Growth and Sustainable Development: A Review” was ably assisted by his colleagues, Miss Chizoba Obidigbo and Mr. Ogudu Kalu Uko to enlighten the students on issues related to Green Economy and Development. Earlier, the students were taken through the different department of the Institution by Mr Ogudu Kalu Uko to familiarise them with the process of research, library, administration and communications.

In another development, the Executive Director was also at the Department of Economics, UNN on the invitation of PARG to speak on "Graduate Employment and Employability Challenges" on August 15, 2014.

Private Sector Organisations:

In 2014, AfriHeritage intensified working relationships and collaboration with the Nigeria’s leading private sector organizations. 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 (NASIISI), Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), the City Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Nigerian Association of Women Entrepreneurs (NAWIE).

AfriHeritage and CRES held Capacity Building on Financial Management:

AfriHeritage in collaboration with Senegal based Consortium Pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES) organised a workshop that brought together TTI’s funded and non funded institutions operating in West Africa with the focus on their financial and administration management. The Workshop, with the theme: "Managing Think Tanks: Role and Importance of Financial and Administrative Management", was held between July 8 to 10, 2014 at Dakar, Senegal and attended by 10 participants from 10 think tanks in West Africa including Dr. Diakalia Sanogo and Gladys Gilhaiga of TTI, Kenya. The Workshop was conducted as a result of the recognized need to enhance the credibility of TTI’s in the eyes of their stakeholders especially their donors and beneficiaries as a result of poor financial management. Linked to the challenges surrounding the need for TTI’s to ensure independence in their work, was the related need to promote the organization's financial sustainability.

Think Tank Initiative:

AfriHeritage is one of the of the 43 network of Institutions taking part in the Phase 2 opportunity funding of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) programme which commenced in October 2014. Eighteen (18) of the Institutions were from Sub Saharan Africa. The TTI is a multi door program dedicated to strengthening independent policy research institutions - or "think tanks" - in developing countries with the goal of enabling think tanks to better provide sound research that informs and influences policy. The programme is supported by the International Development Research Centre-Canada, Department for International Development-UK, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett, Foundation, Ministry of foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Government of Canada. Also, in 2014, AfriHeritage staff participated in the TTI Policy Engagement and Communications Programme.

AfriHeritage is one of the of the 43 network of Institutions taking part in the Phase 2 opportunity funding of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) programme which commenced in October 2014. Eighteen (18) of the Institutions were from Sub Saharan Africa. The TTI is a multi door program dedicated to strengthening independent policy research institutions - or "think tanks" - in developing countries with the goal of enabling think tanks to better provide sound research that informs and influences policy. The programme is supported by the International Development Research Centre-Canada, Department for International Development-UK, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett, Foundation, Ministry of foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Government of Canada. Also, in 2014, AfriHeritage staff participated in the TTI Policy Engagement and Communications Programme.

In another development, the Executive Director was also at the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter Series:
AfriHeritage Newsletter is published in electronic and printed versions. Three editions were published in 2014. These are:
- Volume 9 No 23 April 2014
- Volume 9 No 24 July 2014
- Volume 9 No 25 November 2014

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

Research Papers Series:
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. AfriHeritage Research Paper Series seeks to engender high quality scientific and intellectual discourse on key development questions and hence, enhance strategic understanding of policy and programmatic options.

Policy Discussion Paper Series:
Discussion Paper Series attempt to review and analyze in a neutral and objective way the main economic, political, social, governance and international issues towards sustainable economic development and transformation of countries in Africa in a way that will help generate debate to improve and increase understanding of the rationale behind these various policies so as to improve the contents and implementation.

Policy Research Working Paper Series:
The AfriHeritage Policy Research Working Paper Series disseminates the findings of work in progress to encourage exchange of ideas about development issues. This series is aimed at getting the findings out quickly even if the presentations are less than fully polished.
COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE & MEDIA

Working with the Media:
With continued cordial relationship with the media, all AfriHeritage programmes, analysis, seminars and workshops and other in-house developments enjoined wide coverage and reportage by print, electronics and online media in the year under review. These platforms would continue to be used for the purpose of policy advocacy in the coming years. Several of the media organisations made request to broadcast and publish the views and position of the Institution on some important national economic issues.

WEBSITE REPORTS
The website has been a focal point for the dissemination of the Institution’s vast research activity and public policy dialogue. In 2014, there was an upgrade and change of the host of the Institution’s website. This was accompanied with the redevelopment of the website in order to increase its user friendliness and easy accessibility.

Our domain name remained www.afriheritage.org
Also, the twitter handle of the Institution is @Afri_heritage
The library received an enormous collection of recent literature in economics from Dr. Ralph Bryant of Brookings Institution on May 2, 2014. This is the first of its kind since the establishment of AfriHeritage Library in 2002. These publications and books have been documented and processed accordingly, and are now accessible to users. In addition, we received 47 copies of books under 30 titles from different donors and 2 CD ROMs from Levy Economics of Institute of Bard College and journals from the Center for the Study of African Economics (CSAE). The Library Unit appreciates the donors for these noble gestures. Another important milestone of the library unit is the continuous update of the automation section of the library with LibPlus digitalization software. The users can browse and access the digital library within some minutes.

Registration and Renewal
The library had a total of 11 registrations; 2 renewals and 9 new registrations.

Automation
The librarians continue to update the digital library periodically throughout 2014. Though the preparation of the newly acquired publications from Dr. Ralph halted the process because of the bulk of work involved, the update will continue after the Christmas break next year.

New Equipment
The Management purchased 7 units of steel shelves and 30 pieces of book ends based on the request of the unit to accommodate the new collections. We look forward to a brighter 2015 where the library unit will overcome its challenges and serve its clients in a better way.