AfriHeritage Glows @ the TTI 2018 Exchange in Bangkok

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AfriHeritage Collaboration
CSOs AND NGOs Network Holds In AfriHeritage
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The African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) has showcased its research and policy engagement success stories at a global forum in Bangkok, Thailand. The event tagged: **TTIX 2018 Bangkok**, with the theme: ‘Sustainable Organizations for Sustainable Development’ was a conference put together by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), a global grantor of think tanks in governance policy research and advocacy engagements. The event which took place between November 12 and 14, 2018 at the Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand was attended by all the 49 grantees currently on the TTI list, major global development partners i.e. William Floral Hewlett Foundation; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Norad; including the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, managers of the TTI. The Think Tank Initiative is a multi-donor program dedicated to strengthening the capacity of independent policy research organizations in the developing world, Nigeria inclusive.

The event which was the third and concluding one in the life span of the TTI, revolved round speech presentations, group discussions, participations and peer interactions. The event provided ample opportunity for detailed discussions as well as questions and peer review on evidence policy formulation, policy engagement and advocacy in different countries. The conversations were quite diverse and allowed ample time for contextual reflections on the various challenges mitigating against policy research and engagement in many countries, particularly in the developing world.

The Communications Manager, Mr. Emeka Odom
Engaging Visitors at the TTIX Marketplace Booth
In his keynote presentation on Day Two of the Conference, Alex Awiti, of the East African Research Institute, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya, canvassed for a **disruptive and innovative approaches** to research development and engagement. He pointed out that given the peculiar position of think tanks as civic actors, occupying the space between the state and the people, the think tanks should therefore push against assumptions driving large developmental state agendas. According to him, without testing these assumptions, think tanks miss opportunities for new kinds of impact.

Using his native Kenya as a case study, Awiti pointed out that while government is an important factor in the policy value chain, it is not the only factor in policy framework. He referred to other development institutions and groups such as churches, mosques, and other sundry groups who use research, as a representative example of the broader and more diverse pool of actors who can implement change.

He also highlighted the importance of using the social media not only as a tool for communication and dissemination of research findings, “but as a resource which can be mined to harvest the collective knowledge of the public”.

However, a major feature of the Exchange was the marketplace presentations. The marketplace afforded the think tanks the opportunity to showcase their works research outputs and success stories in the areas of applied research and policy influence over these years of the TTI funding and support. The African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) showcased the successes recorded with the Business Environment and Competitiveness across Nigerian States (BECANS) project; the Big Ideas Podium (BIP); Train the Trainers (TTT), etc.
The various contributions, policy influence and engagement activities of the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) in the quest to solve Nigeria’s electricity challenges was brought to the fore at TTI 2018 Exchange in Bangkok, Thailand recently. The event was one of the parallel sessions on Access to Energy and Water Resources, a sideline event of the TTI 2018 Exchange. In his presentation, the Executive Director of AfriHeritage, Professor Ufo Okeke-Uzodike highlighted the actions the Institution had taken so far in its resolve to provide an evidence-based indices that will inform a sound and workable policy geared towards solving Nigeria’s electricity challenges by policy makers.

According to the Executive Director, in the three rounds of state-level sub-national surveys carried out by the Institution in 2007, 2010 and 2016, aimed at measuring and ranking business environment and competitiveness across Nigerian States, energy was and has remained one of the key measures of infrastructure with four indicators in each of the surveys. “Beyond measuring and ranking energy/power accessibility and availability in Nigeria, AfriHeritage has interrogated power-related issues (in over 40 sponsored grant research projects) in an effort to offer indigenous and empirically-based policy insights on different aspects of power sustainability in Nigeria.” He said.

He revealed that the institution has equally sponsored several policy briefs, research papers, workshops & conferences to further engage stakeholders and provide empirical evidence for policy recommendations. Pro
Professor Okeke-Uzodike informed his audience that in furtherance of the Institution’s determination to assist in laying to rest, the issue of electricity infrastructure and supply challenge in Nigeria, AfriHeritage, in July 2017, took up the electricity issue as a subject in its engagement and public policy debate programme – the Big Ideas Podium (BIP). The guest speaker was Professor Bart Nnaji, former Minister of Power in Nigeria; a man many Nigerians believe can provide a master plan towards solving the nation’s electricity problems. This is predicated on his antecedents and practical achievements while in office as Minister of Power.

The contact/mobilization committee of Civil Service Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations met at the African Heritage Institution on Tuesday, 27th November 2018 at 10:00am. The meeting was home to eight different CSOs/NGOs and a total of ten attendees including the Executive Director of the Institution, Prof. Ufo Okeke-Uzodike. In his remark, he emphasized on the need of voters to understand the critical issues surrounding them, especially in the South-Eastern region of Nigeria. According to him, knowledge of these would enable voters determine the best candidate during elections. He went further to add that the objectives of the candidates should be to solve critical issues which affect our region, “when we think short term, we will achieve short term.” He said.

Members of the committee, during the meeting, sought for issues which threatened the
smooth running of a free and fair election. They also proffered solutions to these issues, one of the solutions being the production of jingles to be aired on radio on or before 25\textsuperscript{th} December 2018. They all agreed that the jingles should contain information which kick against vote buying and shying away from elections. The production of the election education jingle would be their first step towards a massive enlightenment and galvanizing of the South-Eastern region on the importance of voting. Other solutions would follow suit.

### AfriHeritage Board Approves Human Resources Manual

The Board of the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) met on Saturday December 15, 2018 at the Valencia Hotel, Abuja, to deliberate on vital issues on the smooth running of the Institution. The Board also reviewed the activities and programs of the Institution in the preceding year and also approved its work plan for Year 2019.
The African Heritage Institution has commenced actions towards achieving sustainability in the institution’s future. This took place on 30th October 2018 during which a meeting was held at the institution’s seminar room. Present at the meeting was Prof. Joseph Mba, a strategic management specialist and founder of The Chartered Institute of Strategic Managers and Leaders. Others who were in attendance include Prof. Ufo Okeke-Uzodike; the Executive Director of the institution, Mrs. Beatrice Ndibe; Human resource/Admin Manager, Mr. Samson Ezeokeke; the Finance Manager and Mr. Odom Emeka; the Communications Manager. The meeting was centred on creating sustainable management strategies that would maintain the smooth running of activities in the institution in the absence of funds from sponsors and external bodies.
The African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) has welcomed its numerous stakeholders and the entire intellectual and policy community to Year 2019 with the birth of a brand new publication – Journal of Conflict Transformation and Nation Building. The journal which comprises of well-research papers of academic excellence, is educational, engaging and most importantly, it provides very clear insights into some of the contemporary issues in conflict transformation and peace/nation building.

The Executive Director of the Institution, Professor Okeke-Uzodike, who also doubles as the Editor of the Journal, revealed that the African Heritage Institution whose primary mission is to provide intellectual leadership in helping African think through the emerging economic renaissance as the region works towards a renaissance Africa that is truly democratic, prosperous and a major player in the global economy, decided to lead by example by introducing a focal area of intellectual engagement through this new scholarly publication.

According to him, “the Journal of Conflict transformation and Nation Building is inaugurated to serve as a medium through which scholars and practitioners can engage in debates on tropical issues, anticipate and explore solutions for impending problems, and offer evidence-informed ideas and policies for transformative social change, peace, nation building etc”.

The Executive Director revealed further that “for AfriHeritage, the overriding interest is to help reconstruct the African historical heritage of economic, intellectual and cultural leadership across different fields by working to develop or build a critical mass of Africanist scholars to stimulate of generate and share constructive knowledge and critical thinking on issues that affect or shape development across Africa and its diaspora”.

This inaugural edition (Vol. 1 No. 1) of the Journal of Conflict Transformation and Nation Building has seven articles dealing primarily on issues of separatist agitations and the challenges of nationhood; proffering workable solutions that lead to long lasting peace and socio-economic development. The journal’s editorial board comprises of distinguished erudite scholars of who ply their trade in some of the best universities in the World – USA, Uk, Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria, thereby enriching the qualities of its articles before publication.

The journal which actually left the printer’s shop late December, 2018 is another of Afri-Heritage’s intellectual contribution to sound policy and good governance through the impeccable recommendations contained in the evidence-informed ideas in its various well-researched articles. It would be recalled that
AfriHeritage has in the past published series of governance policy recommendations contained in intellectual materials in the form of books, journals, policy briefs, working papers, etc.
The African Development Bank (ADB) on Friday November 23, 2018 paid a familiarization visit to the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), Enugu. The ADB team led by one of its senior directors, Professor Kelvin Urama, held a strategic meeting with the Institution. The meeting which centered on collaborative engagement in capacity building and knowledge development, provided opportunity for AfriHeritage to make brief presentations on some of its current research works.

Professor Urama who commended AfriHeritage for its giant strides in applied research and policy advocacy in Africa and Nigeria in particular, revealed that the ADB is willing and therefore seeks to identify Civil Society organizations (CSOs) that can collaborate with the bank to achieve its five strategic line objectives – Electricity; Climate Change; Agriculture; Trade and Industry. According to him, they would welcome collaboration and partnerships from CSOs and research Institutions to enable it develop Africa which is ultimately the goal of the ADB.

In his speech at the meeting, the Executive Director of the African Heritage Institution thanked the bank for recognizing the efforts and contributions of AfriHeritage in the area of applied research and the advancement of evidence-based policy formulation in corporate and public governance. He however made case for the empowerment and development of home grown publishers to ensure that research findings make their way to their targeted beneficiaries in the various fabrics of the African societies.

Other members of the team from ADB include: Mr Ofosu Foster Nicholas and Ann Sow Dao.
The Africa Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) felicitates with one of her own - Emeka Charles Iloh, of the research unit (Governance Desk) on his recent convocation and the award of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Political Science. Dr. Iloh’s journey to academic excellence started with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Political Science. He later proceeded to study International Relations in his Masters and now he has obtained a PhD in International Political Economy, all from the prestigious University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Despite his tight schedule and work load, Dr. Iloh was dogged and made sure he completed the program in record time. It is interesting to note that Dr. Iloh has more than 21 publications to his name in local and international journals; he also has several works that are still in peer reviews stages. From all of us at AfriHeritage, we say a big congratulations to Dr Emeka Charles Iloh.
He said BECANS series which have for several years been at the forefront of tracking the ease of doing business and competitiveness in Nigeria provides a veritable tool for policy evaluation and redirection towards the overall institutionalization of ease of doing business in Nigeria.

Taking an overview of the BECANS series, the Executive Director of the Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Authority (ANSIPPA), Dr Ifediora Amobi, revealed the positive contributions of the BECANS study in improving the overall policy direction of the Anambra State government in her quest to ensure direct investment and ease of doing business in the state. He said part of the present challenge is to translate the report into policy action by various governments.

Dear Sir/Ma,

Compliments of the Season

The yuletide is here once again, and the end of year 2018 is around the corner. The African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) would like to thank you for your support participation in our programs and activities, and for being a dependable stakeholder in the task of fulfilling our mandate of ensuring good governance through evidence based research, policy recommendations and advocacy. This couldn’t have been possible without you.

Your contributions are immeasurable and they are helping us to improve on our deliverables. Please be informed that the Institution will as usual observe a break from Wednesday December 19, 2018 to Friday January 5, 2019. Our staff will utilize this period to rejuvenate and prepare themselves for the activities of the upcoming year - election year. As usual, our offices will remain shut throughout this period.

From the Board, Management and Staff of AfriHeritage, do have a peaceful, restful and joy-filled holiday season.

Thank you.

AfriHeritage Team

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