



THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN URBANIZATION AND HABITABLE CITIES UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS.



Background:

The United Nations estimates that between 2015 and 2050, an additional 790 million people will reside in Africa's urban areas. This implies that our Continent will play host to over 12 cities with between 5 to 10 million people by 2030, from three (Cairo, Kinshasa and Lagos) in 2014. The institutional capacity to cope with the attendant need for basic infrastructure, housing and social facilities for residents is already under considerable strain. This is evidenced by the relatively high percentage of African urban dwellers living in slum conditions-the UN Habitat projects that more than 50% of Africa's population are likely to live in slums by 2025.

On the other hand, addressing these urbanization issues will unleash vast opportunities that will propel and consolidate Africa's growth and development. To achieve this, it is imperative that impactful, trans-disciplinary is carried out in the short term; and that such research outcomes are tied into governance and policy frameworks to ensure implementation and impact.

The Centre for Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities is a research hub for bringing together researchers from other African Countries to address the salient and often intractable problems associated with urbanization in African Cities, therefore impacting on spatial efficiencies, the well-being of urban dwellers and city sustainability.

It is coming under the designate of the existing University of Lagos Centre for Housing Studies (UNILAG-CHS) <http://chsunilag.com/> which was established in December 2013 as a result of MOU between the University of Lagos, Nigerian-UK Housing Society (NUHS) and its partner, UK's Chartered Institute of Housing, England (CIH). The Centre's core activities are in Housing research, urban regeneration and advocacy, Postgraduate education and capacity building for practitioners. Activities are centred around multi-disciplinary groups from academia and industry.

Description of the Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities:

Vision Statement: To be the hub for world class, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, applied research on urbanization and habitable cities; connecting researchers for the purpose of initiating, developing, disseminating and affecting change in Africa's cities.

Mission Statement: To attract, through collaborative actions; active researchers and funders, across all cadres, from within and outside Africa, that would work together with stakeholders from academia, private sector, government and non-government organizations to solve the diverse problems evident in African cities.

Collaboration with Other Universities

The CoE has been structured around seven thematic areas which are organized as research clusters to attract and sustain funding for active catalytic research. Each Cluster is composed of work groups in relevant sub-thematic areas. In collaboration with ARUA Institution partners, the cluster will initiate, absorb and sustain strong platforms for the utilization of research outputs in these research areas, while providing strategic opportunities for ensuring the growth of early career researchers, postgraduate students and undergraduate students across Africa. Under the dynamic leadership of its Director, Professor Timothy Nubi and Deputy Director, Dr Taibat Lawanson with a core theme of experts, themselves experienced researchers and mentors well-grounded in the integration of the principles of sustainable development in their key areas of expertise, the CoE will establish a high visibility for Africa's peculiar urbanization issues and offer profound, workable solutions for ensuring that Africa's urbanization leads to generative, habitable

cities rather than dysfunctional cities. As the clusters focus on specific research activities, they serve as platforms for partnering universities and other members of the research communities.

CoE Research Clusters

1. Sustainable cities and African urbanization dynamics cluster led by Professor Adeleke Oduwaye. This cluster works around issues relating to resilient cities, city development policy, environmental changes in cities amongst others.



Professor T. G. Nubi
CoE Director/Research Leader (Housing and regeneration)

2. Housing and regeneration cluster led by Professor Timothy Nubi. This cluster researches towards housing regeneration and Housing market analysis.

3. Urban health and livability cluster led by Professor Immaculata Nwokoro. The work of this research cluster is centered on environmental evaluation and quality of living and urban health policy and planning.

4. Sustainable urban design and infrastructure cluster led by Professor Michael Adebamowo. This cluster researches on issues relating to sustainable buildings/housing, sustainable communities and sustainable infrastructure.



Professor 'Leke Oduwaye
Cluster Leader (Sustainable cities and African urbanization dynamics.)

5. Land management and administration cluster led by Professor Modupe

Omirin. This research cluster focuses on Land rights, geospatial information system, land markets and accessibility and land valuation and taxation.

6. Sustainable construction and construction skill development cluster led by Professor Olumide Adenuga. The cluster researches on issues relating to sustainable facilities maintenance, African construction capacity and local content, Artisans' skills acquisition research, construction materials, technical and process innovation, energy, efficiency and indoor air quality of building, sustainable design management and sustainable waste management.



Professor Immaculata I. C. Nwokoro
Cluster Leader (Urban health and livability.)

7. Pro-poor governance and management in Africa cluster led by Associate Professor Taibat Lawanson. This research cluster is centered on informal economy work group, informal settlement work group and urban governance work group.



Professor Modupe M. Omirin
Cluster Leader (Land management and administration.)



Professor Olumide A. Adenuga
Cluster Leader (Sustainable construction and construction skill development.)



Dr Taibat O. Lawanson
CoE Deputy Director; Cluster Leader (Pro-poor governance and management in Africa.)



Professor Michael A. Adebamowo
Cluster Leader (Sustainable urban design and infrastructure.)



Dr. Basirat Oyalowo
CoE Research Manager