



**THE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR:
URBANIZATION AND HABITABLE CITIES
&
AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY SOLUTIONS (AEDUPS)**

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

PRESENT:

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE LAUNCH AND
INNAUGURATION OF THE ARUA COLLABORATION
WORKSHOP**

TITLED:

SETTING THE RESEARCH AGENDA FOR:

- 1. URBANIZATION AND HABITABLE CITIES IN AFRICA; &**
- 2. UNEMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

1.0 BACKGROUND:

In February 2018, the University of Lagos was awarded the hosting right of the ARUA CoE in Urbanization and Habitable Cities and in March, 2018, the second Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Unemployment and Skills Development was won as the second Centre of ARUA to be hosted in University of Lagos. As such, the University becomes a hub for coordinating these two Centres and collaborating with ARUA member Universities in carrying out cross-cutting research in these thematic areas.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRES:

2.1 URBANIZATION AND HABITABLE CITIES IN AFRICA

The first objective of this Centre of Excellence is to promote Research/knowledge production in 7 key research areas:

- (i) Sustainable cities and African urbanization dynamics,
- (ii) Housing and regeneration,
- (iii) Urban health and liveability,
- (iv) Sustainable urban design and infrastructure,
- (v) Urban land management and administration,
- (vi) Sustainable construction and construction skill development and
- (vii) Pro-poor governance and management.

2.2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP, UNEMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The primary objective of this Centre is to be dedicated to Entrepreneurship Development Research that provides sustainable solutions to unemployment, poverty and skills development for global competitiveness of Africa. Research focus areas will include:

- a. Sustainable Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- b. Employment Relations & Graduates Unemployment
- c. Family Biz, SME & Gender Entrepreneurship
- d. Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Dev. Goals
- e. Production Management and Industrial Economics
- f. Micro Financing & Venture Capital
- g. International Entrepreneurship & Biz Development
- h. Talent Management & Skills Development
- i. Entrepreneurship Development for Poverty Eradication

In achieving the objectives of these two Centres, it is important to ensure:

- The co-identification of priority research needs in the key research areas through rigorous, multi-faceted stakeholder engagement with ARUA collaborative centres;
- Initiation and implementation of policy-driven and evidence based research in the priority areas;
- Identification of research opportunities and funding mechanisms that would connect ARUA university researchers across disciplines and methods for successful project execution.

In view of this, this inauguration workshop becomes the first avenue to bring together interested researchers and collaborators in these two **Thematic Areas** across African. There is no doubt that in fulfilling of the objective of the CoEs, it has therefore become imperative to convene a general meeting of ARUA Universities to chart a common, mutually beneficial research focus to find solutions to critical and often intractable challenges associated with urbanization and habitable cities in Africa as well as the huge challenges associating with entrepreneurship, unemployment and skills development in Africa. In order to carry out these roles effectively, a clear and common vision amongst ARUA participating Universities is then required.

3.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together ARUA institutions across the thematic areas to improve research collaboration
2. To identify common challenges across ARUA Universities and foster innovative and solution focused research
3. To determine a common research agenda for each thematic area
4. To chart a common pathway for promoting research capacities and implementation of research agenda

DURATION:

Two Days: Thursday, September 6th and Friday September 7th, 2018.

ELIGIBILITY:

- (i) Each ARUA University is to nominate teams to the workshop: teams are to be composed of a senior researcher and an early career researcher.
- (ii) However, as hub leader, UNILAG will have 3 representatives across the defined thematic areas in the two Centres of Excellence.

PARTICIPATION:

(i)	15 ARUA member universities	(15 x 2 participants) = 30
(ii)	UNILAG ARUA teams	(16 x 3 team members) = 48
(iii)	2 ARUA member universities in Nigeria (for each Centre)	= 4
(iv)	ARUA Secretariat	= 5
(v)	UNILAG Management	= 5
(vi)	UNILAG Research and Innovation Office	= 5
(vii)	Funding Organisations: UN Habitat, Henrich Boll Foundation, Ford Foundation	= 3
(viii)	Entrepreneurship & Empowerment Initiative of Nigeria	= 5
(ix)	Lagos State Governments: Federal Ministry of Housing, Lagos State Physical Planning & Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Environment, Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority (LASURA)	= 6
(x)	Ministry of Trade, Labour and Employment	= 5

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE:

DAY 1

1.0 Opening ceremonies – UNILAG CoEs & UNILAG R & I

2.1 Plenary I

ARUA University Highlights: Each university gives a brief overview of

- Its research interest as it relates to the CoE
- The current platform under which research in this area can be undertaken in their University

2.2 **Round up:** Emerging themes relevant to existing CoE thematic clusters plus cross-cutting areas.

2.3 Parallel Session 1:

In each parallel session, discussion shall center around identification of

- Priority research topics within the context of the national challenges, University research interest and CoE theme.
- Pathways to achieve necessary projects
- Potential platforms to achieve research projects
- Potential Funders to sponsor researchers

DAY 2

3.0 Recap of previous day's activities

4.0 Parallel Session 2:

In each parallel Session, the discussion shall center around identification of

- Priority research topics within the context of the national challenges, university research interest and CoE theme.
- Methodologies to achieve necessary projects
- Potential platforms to achieve research projects
- Funders and case studies to sponsor researchers

5.0 Plenary II: Feedback from Parallel Sessions

- UNILAG ARUA Leaders will present the outcomes of their parallels.
- The general body will discuss and agree on research priorities for each sub-thematic area.
- These forms the broad research agenda for the ARUA Universities.

6.0 Roundtable with External Partners.

This will be in form of interactions with potential funders and research partners to identify the purposes, funding opportunities, research methodologies and institutional framework relevant to each thematic area.

7.0 Round up and next steps

- Next line of actions to be carried out
- Deadlines within which this should be achieved.