



## Stakeholders Hail BECANS 2010

Stakeholders present at the public presentation of the book on the research reports of the second circle of the Business Environment and Competitiveness Across Nigerian States (BECANS II) have described the document as a welcome development, saying it should be embraced by all for advocacy. The four hundred and two (402) paged publication titled, "Business Environment in Nigeria States 2010: Tackling the Security Challenge" is co-authored by the Executive Director of the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), Prof. Eric Eboh and Dr. Jones Lemchi with contributions from Igbokwe Edwin, Achike Anthonia, Ujah Oliver, Onodogo Vincent, Diejomaoh Ito, Nzeh Celestine and Chukwu Amaechi.

Speaking at the second national Forum on Business Environment across Nigerian States (tagged FOBEANS 2010), held on 23rd September 2010, at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja where the book was presented, the chairman of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa who presided over the occasion said the research report was unprece-

dent and historic in the annals of Nigerian business community, calling on the government, the Organised Private Sector, NGOs, CSOs, the media and other stakeholders to take it up from there as advocacy issue. The report, according to him, has proffered answers to the country's quest for evidenced based and scientific information for informed policy making.

Prof. Eric Eboh, the Executive Director of the Institute, while unveiling the rationale behind the research, noted that Business Environment and Competitiveness Across Nigerian States (BECANS), as a flagship of AIAE is hinged on promoting evidence-based reforms of the business environment in Nigeria, with focus on the subnational jurisdictions.

Prof Eboh stressed that, "The initiative is designed to supply independent research-based evidence on the business environment across Nigerian states, in an ongoing manner. Such evidence is essential to improve the quality of dialogue and advocacy. Also, BECANS provides benchmarking tools for business managers, investors and policymakers to identify specific

competitiveness obstacles, thus stimulating critical thinking about strategies to overcome them. This business environment scorecard of Nigerian states is the second in the BECANS publication series. BECANS runs in successive cycles of research, surveys, dissemination and policy dialogue."

continued on page 2



Prof. Eboh displaying the Report

## ...as South East Standing Committee Inaugurated

The Organised Private Sector (OPS), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs), community leaders, women leaders, town unions and relevant stakeholders in the south east zone of Nigeria have met to inaugurate Advocacy Standing Committee to address issues raised in the BECANS II report.

The coalition, at the first advocacy workshop on the report of the second circle of BECANS II held at Bridgewater hotel in Enugu on November 18th, 2010 urged the governors in the zone to urgently employ workable approach towards addressing issues raised in the report so that the zone could regain its lost glory among its peer in the country.

Engineer (Sir) Chris Okoye the Chairman of South East Economic Commission, (SENEC) who was the chairman of the occasion, decried the situation of things in the zone, saying the states were seriously challenged with failure in investment, infrastructural deficit, insecurity which he noted, "is the reason for mass emigration of our people to mother lands, a terrible bleeding disease of productive manpower, capital and productivity capacity which is equal in its devastating effects to

the slave trade."

While presenting the report as it affects the zone, the Executive Director of the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), Prof. Eric Eboh stressed that the zone performed below average relative to other zones in the country, stating that state governments in the zone need, "an objective, credible and systematized framework for tracking and monitoring the quality of the business environment they create."

Also presenting his paper titled "BECANS based Dialogue and Advocacy: Tools and Methods", Mr Sola Oluwadare, the Communications and Relations Manager of AIAE challenged the stakeholders in the zone to work together so that the zone would not take the back seat on issues related to the business environment.

The Advocacy Standing Committee headed by Eng Chris Okoye has the members drawn from: South East Nigeria Economic Commission (SENEC)

Chamber of Commerce Forum (SECCF), African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), Academic Community, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and representatives of Ohaneze Ndigbo, The Nigeria Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) bodies in the zone would serve as advisory members. The Committee was inaugurated by Governor Sullivan Chime of Enugu State represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Martin Ilo.



Cross section of participants at the event

continued from front page: Business Environment in Nigerian States



Prof. Eboh and others on the high table

The Senior Programme Monitoring Officer of IDRC Dr. Diakalia Sanogo, noted that the report would stand the test of time, urging government to embrace it to better the lives of the citizenry. He gave AIAE a pat on the back, saying the Institute has demonstrated commitment

to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s vision and it runs concurrently with the hallmark of Think Tank Initiative which is to link research with policy.

Other stakeholders who paid glowing tributes to the Institute on the research work at the forum included, Mr Muda Yusuf, the Director General of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr John Isemde, the Director General of the Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mines and Agriculture, (NACCIMA), Iyalode Alaba Lawson, National Vice President of NACCIMA, Alhaji Sanusi Maijama'a president of National Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI), Dr. Ike Abugu President of the Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) and

Chief J.A.C Ifechika who stood in for the Director General of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN.)

Close to thirty states of the federation were represented by senior officials of their Planning Commissions, Investment Promotion Councils and Companies, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Internal Revenue Boards and other related Ministry Department and Agencies from the six geopolitical zones. Representatives of Federal, States Private Universities and other higher institutions also graced the occasion.

The presentation, which led to serious useful debates, was also graced by members of the diplomatic communities, international development partners and donors agencies in Nigeria. 140 participants attended the forum.

## BECANS II: AIAE Visits Stakeholders in Lagos

In order to strengthen existing relationship with its stakeholders, a team of AIAE management between September 6 and 10, 2010 paid familiarisation and courtesy visits to the Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The team led by the Executive Director; Prof. Eric Eboh, also included Mr Uba Chiwuikwe, the Finance and Administrative Manager, Mr Sola Oluwadare, the Communications and Relations Manager and Miss Gloria Eboh, the Communications Assistant

AIAE team also visited the Rutam House Isolo of the Guardian Newspapers, Alagbado office of the Daar Communications owners of African Independent Television (AIT), Lagos office of the African Newspapers of Nigeria, publishers of the Tribune Titles and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Broadcasting House, Ikoyi, Lagos. In all the places visited, the Institute was commended for all its research initiatives and was particularly praised for the BECANS initiatives. They all promised to give AIAE the support needed towards the realisation of its vision and particularly in giving needed publicity to BECANS II.

On Tuesday September 7, AIAE organised a workshop for select members of the press. The team was inaugurated to survey BECANS II publicity activities. The workshop ably supported by Enhancing Nigeria Advocacy for a Better Business Environment (ENABLE), was facilitated by Mr Goddy Ikeh, a veteran journalist and the Chief Executive Officer of Forthright Communications. The forum which took place at Aquatic Water Parks Hotel, Toyin Street, Opebi road, Ikeja, Lagos was attended by 17 media practitioners. It was designed to examine and adopt the best professional strategies to disseminate the findings of BECANS II report and be part of the advocacy group for the project.



AIAE team with the editorial board of Guardian Newspapers during the visit

## IDRC, ENABLE Commend AIAE

African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) has been applauded for commitment to its vision and robust growth in research, networking and using its approaches to advance policy issues. The Institute was also applauded for making itself a role model among its peers.

This commendation was given by the delegates of Enhancing Nigerian Advocacy for a Better Business Environment (ENABLE) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC) who visited the Institute recently. Dr Diakalia Sanogo, IDRC Senior Programme Monitoring Officer who came for monitoring and evaluation purpose on July 8, 2010, noted that the Institute was doing well based on different IDRC monitoring tools, administered independently between 11th November 2009 and 20th April, 2010. The survey, according to him, was carried out among the 24 Think

Tanks grantees, adding that the exercise was the hallmark of the Think Tank Initiative Policy Community Survey Africa of the IDRC.

Dr. Sanogo particularly expressed delight at the Institute's relationship with the media which he said, "has made your visibility very robust compare with other Think Tanks in the West African sub region". He stressed that AIAE website had been seen to be properly updated, urging the Institute not to relent on its oars which would make it to continue enjoying the opportunities offered by IDRC.

He described Prof. Eboh as a visionary leader, whose startling leadership qualities have rubbed off on the staff for excellent performance. "I observed an impressive level of commitment of the staff and their will to contribute to the achievement of the vision, missions and objectives of the Institute. Your leadership has been able to induce a spirit of evaluative thinking", Dr Diakalia noted.

continued on page 3



Dr. Sanogo poses for a photograph with AIAE staff during his monitoring visit

## 2010 Associate Fellows Retreat

Associates Fellows of the Institute were on 31st August and 1st September 2010 at the retreat held at Bridgewater's Luxury Suite and Conference Centre Enugu exposed to the modern day rudiments of communicating policy research.

The Institute's network of Associate Fellows is a novel scientific networking arrangement that provides rich opportunities for intellectual self-enhancement, academic interaction and mutual learning. The Institute provides needed peer networking facilities, training and capacity building, quality assurance, administrative coordination and scientific supervision.

The annual event attended by researchers and professionals from the academics, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC), Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) and other research and professional sister Institutes and civil servants was facilitated by Valerie Rhoe, the Programme Coordinator of the Nigeria Strategy Support Programme of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Rhoe took time to educate the participants on how research results could be communicated to intermediate and end users.

The retreat's theme, "Scientific Writing and Research Communication" was particularly aimed at approaches for consulting with stakeholders, writing winning proposals, understanding principles of policy communication, developing skills for communicating policy research to the media, the policy makers, and the general public among others. Valerie Rhoe also taught the participants how to use Mendeley software for different purposes.

While welcoming the Fellows to the retreat, the Executive Director of AIAE, Prof. Eric Eboh appreciated them for coming and reiterated the Institute's commitment to ensuring a timely, proper and adequate capacity



Valerie Rhoe during her session on Research Communication

building for its network of Fellows.

Giving the progress report of the Institute since the last retreat, Prof. Eboh said AIAE had made significant progress which included but not limited to sending of research staff on international training, fortifying the communication units by employing full fledge professionals, scientific peer review and quality assurance mechanism, team based and task oriented research projects, development of electronic research databank, intensified staff training, building up internal audit unit, organisational strengthening through networking, and introduction of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system; all as contained in the 5 year strategic plan 2009 – 2013 project leading edge.

During the Retreat fellows visited the proposed permanent site of the AIAE office complex still under construction and paid glowing tributes to the management and staff of the Institute for the progressive move. The Retreat was embellished with a lecture on 'Total Wellness' by Dr. N. N. Kizor Akaraiwe, renowned medical personnel of the Enugu State University Teaching Hospital (ESUTH). Eight five (85) people participated in the retreat

continued from page 2: AIAE receives commendations

Professor Eric Eboh, the Institute's Executive Director dedicated the success recorded by the AIAE to its hardworking staff, saying the Institute would continue to forge ahead to surpass its present position. He thanked Dr Sanogo for the commendation and promised that AIAE would continue to measure up to the expectation. He disclosed that the Institute was presently working on the Monitoring and Evaluation policy document which would be a veritable yardstick to measure performance. He added that the policy would be domiciled in the Communications and Relations Unit of the Institute for implementation.

Also during ENABLE's visit on the July 9, 2010, Mr Henry Ademola who led the crew said his organisation was ready to work with AIAE in the area of advancing advocacy issues, and particularly averred that ENABLE had made it a matter of priority to see to building advocacy for the Institute's BECANS II research output. He charged the Institute to work steadfastly on raising awareness, saying the major area of collaboration with the Institute is in offering technical assistance.

Prof. Eboh appreciated the organisation for the assistance promised, noting that the Institute's door was wide open for fruitful collaboration on BECANS II.

## AIAE equips Professionals on Multivariate Analysis

In line with its strategic plan in the project leading edge, the AIAE has successfully trained professionals in various fields on the Multivariate Techniques in Economic and Social Analysis. The Technique enables policy makers, NGOs officers, corporate managers as well as researchers to sharpen their decision making tools. The one week training course held between July 26 and 31, 2010 took place at Bridgewater's hotel, Enugu. The course was facilitated by Prof. Araar Abdelkrim of Universite Laval, Quebec, Canada.

The general appraisal of the course showed that it was highly successful in terms of the quality and diversity of professional background of the course participants as well as the quality of instruction offered. The delivery of the course was largely hands-on as it was STATA based. The course succeeded in exposing participants to a wide array of recent literature, analytical techniques and software on welfare analysis.

The overall goal of the training was to increase skills, expertise and knowledge for the appreciation, use and application of multivariate techniques in social and economic analysis using the STATA and DASP software. This is keeping with the vision and mandate of the Institute in upgrading the analytical and research capacities of professionals engaged in social and economic processes of decision making in Nigeria and the African continent. Forty-seven (47) high and mid-level professionals from sixteen (16) organizations participated in the course which was rounded off with a cocktail party.



Participants during the course held in Enugu

## Staff News

The Communications Unit was in September 2010 more strengthened with the appointment of Miss Gloria Oyiyechukwu Eboh as the Communications Assistant. Miss Eboh is a graduate of Political Science/ Sociology of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and she is highly proficient in information technology. She will use her skills to assist the Communications Manager.



Dr. Moses Oduh, the Databank Coordinator, emerged the best Ph.D. graduate, of the Faculty of Social Sciences, (2007/2008) at the 2010 Convocation of University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He also received three distinguished awards from the institution.

## AIAE, UNN, British Council, Others Tackle Agric Adaptation to Climate Change

African Institute for Applied Economics would continue to collaborate with stakeholders to promote research-based understanding of policy and pragmatic choices for climate change in Nigeria. The Institute would particularly partner institutions to address climate change as it affects agriculture, food security, ecosystem, forests, water resources, health, energy, disaster risks and urbanization.

The Executive Director of AIAE, Prof. Eric Eboh disclosed this while welcoming participants to the international conference on how to enhance agricultural adaptation to climate change held in Enugu, Nigeria. The conference, held in Enugu on July 27, 2010 at Bridgewater Hotel, was co-organised by AIAE, the British Council, Development Partnerships in Higher Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the University of Reading, United Kingdom. Prof Eboh maintained that climate change, as an integral element of the sustainable development facing developing countries, including Nigeria must not be handled with kid's glove. He stressed that for Nigeria to attain its vision 20:2020 there must be a paradigm shift involving change towards sustainable development.

"The reasons why poor countries are most vulnerable to climate change impacts are the extant structural weakness of the economy, low

institutional capacity for economic growth and of requisite infrastructural and technological capabilities. Adaptation strategies must therefore be context- specific, holistic and dynamic. Adaptation design should be multi-sectoral, multidimensional and multilevel approaches. There should also be policy and programmatic synergies across implicated sectors including health, agriculture, urban development, water resources, science and technology and public finance", he noted.

Dr. Nicholas Ozor, project coordinator, Development Partnership in Higher Education (DeLPHE) Project 326 while presenting the research report stressed the need for development interventions that would jointly boost the resilience capacities of vulnerable people at local, regional and international levels to climate change. Dr Ozor averred that the overall objectives of the study was to develop a framework for agricultural adaptation to climate change, saying the study among others identified the problems that communities encounter in adapting to the effects of climate change and develop a framework for agricultural adaptation to the phenomenon.

Speaking at the event, Prof Chris Gafort of the University of Reading, UK, challenged the media to take reorientation of the public as a major task, saying

without such programmatic steps developing countries would continue to suffer adversely from the effects of the change.

The study was carried out by the team of professionals including; Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Project Coordinator, Department of Agricultural Extension, UNN, Prof. Eric Eboh, AIAE, Prof. Michael Madukwe, Department of Agricultural Extension, UNN, Prof. (Mrs.) P.C. Onokala, Department of Geography, UNN, Dr. Anselm Enete, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNN, Prof. Chris Garforth, International and Rural Development Department, the University of Reading, UK, Mr. Oliver Ujah, AIAE and Miss Ebele Amaechina, AIAE. The conference was attended by 260 people made up of researchers, professionals, NGOs, traditional chiefs, students and the media.

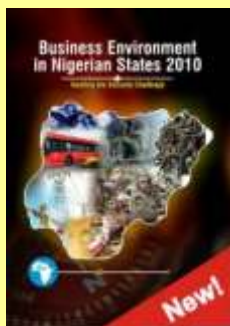


Cross section of Participants at the seminar

## New Publications

### Business Environment in Nigerian States 2010 - Tackling the Security Challenge

This book is the second in the research publication series under the Business Environment and Competitiveness across Nigerian States (BECANS) programme.



This publication should become the basis for business environment reforms in the respective states and Abuja FCT and the evidence used to dialogue and advocate for a better business environment.

### BECANS Policy Brief 1 & 2

These Policy

Briefs are drawn from the larger and more comprehensive Report: *Business Environment in Nigerian States 2010- Tackling the Security Challenge*.



They are meant to highlight different aspects of research findings of the BECANS programme of the African Institute for Applied Economics and serve as soft read supplements to the 2010 report.

## Press Clips

Policy seminar on community health and conference on climate change were reported in FRCN Network, Daily Trust, NTA Network, FRCN Lagos (3times), Nigerian Tribune, Thisday, Daily Trust, Businessday, Daily sun (3), July 8, 15, 19,28,29,30, 31.

BECANS media team inauguration and BECANS courtesy visit to stakeholders in Lagos and preparations featured in Raypower FM, Daily Independent, NAN, Nation (5), Pointer, Vanguard (4), Champion (2), Punch, Thisday (3), The Guardian (2ice), Tribune (3), Compass (2), Leadership, Daily independent, FRCN Network, Daily Trust, AIT, FRCN Lagos (3times) on August 24, 25, 26, 30, September 1, 2, 7, 11, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 14, 16, 22.

Also, post BECANS launch analysis Raypower FM, Vanguard, Guardian, Businessday, Nation, Guardian, Nigerian Tribune, Champion, Nation (2), Raypower FM Network, AIT, Channels (2ice), STV, Thisday, Leadership, Punch and Daily Independent on September 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 28, 27 and October 3, 5, 7 and 8.