

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING EDUCATIONAL CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP – LESSONS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM NIGERIA

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NIGERIA AT A GLANCE



Area

- 923,768 km²

States

- 36 and 1 FCT

Location

- West Africa

Capital city

- Abuja

Borders

- Republic of Benin (West)
- Chad and Cameroon

(East)

- Niger (North)

Coast

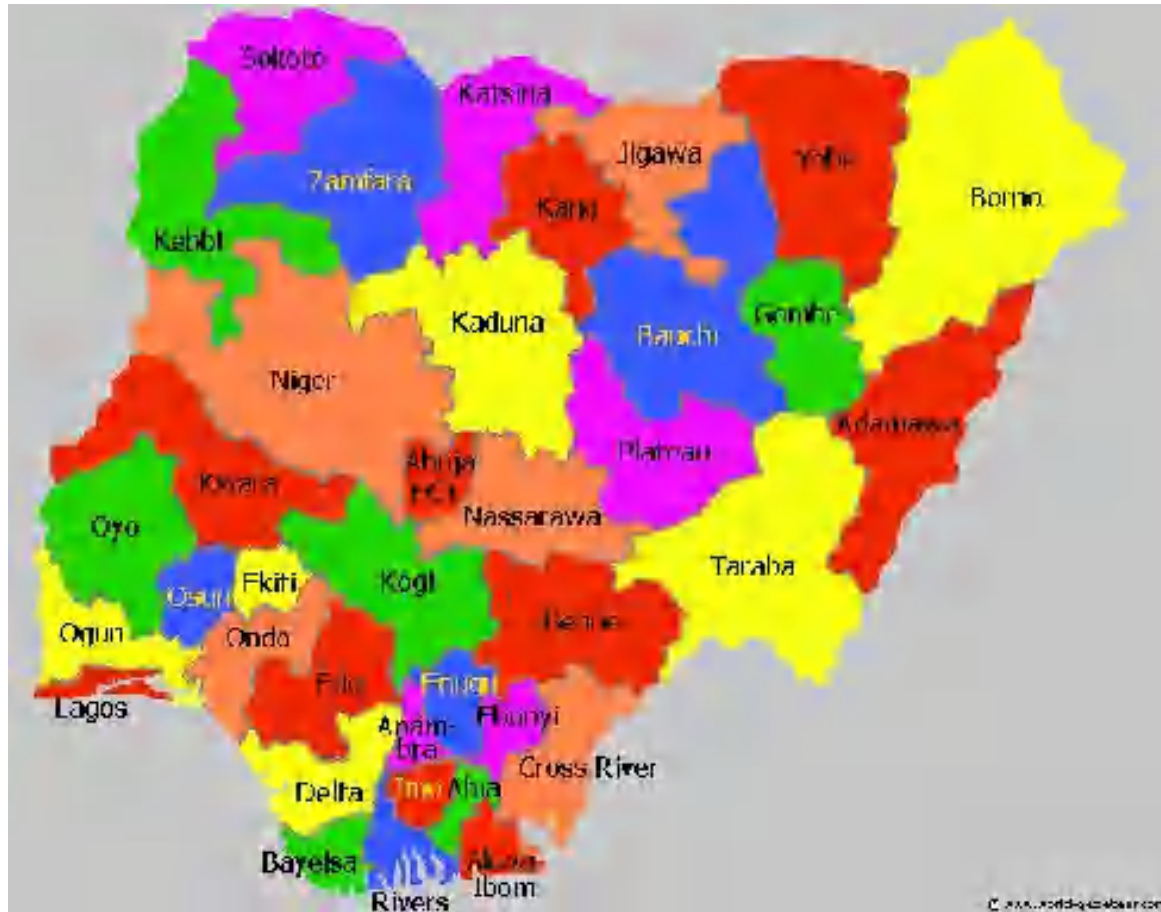
- Gulf of Guinea

Currency

- Nigerian Naira (₦)



NIGERIA AT A GLANCE



- Africa's most populous country is multi-cultural with over 250 ethnic groups.
- 1 in 4 Sub-Saharan African resides in Nigeria
- 42.5 million (1960)
- 222 million (2023)
- UN estimates 399m (2050)

THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- University Education began in 1948 with the establishment of University College Ibadan as a branch campus of the University College, London.
- Four regional universities were established in 1962 following the Ashby Commission's white paper of 1961 - 1st Generation Universities.
- The National Universities Commission (NUC) was established in 1962, also following the Ashby Commission's white paper of 1961.

THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Between 1975 and 1980, the Federal Government established the 2nd Generation Universities, followed by seven (7) specialized universities of technology and agriculture.
- The first set of state universities were established between 1980 and 1992.
- Licensing of private universities began in 1999.
- At present, the Nigerian University System comprises of 270 universities; consisting of 60 Federal Universities, 63 State Universities and 147 Private Universities.

The National Universities Commission

The National Universities Commission (NUC) began as an advisory agency within the Cabinet Office in 1962 and later evolved into a statutory agency in 1974, with a clear mandate to oversee the orderly development of university education in Nigeria. Other functions of the Commission include:

- Approval of programmes in Nigerian Universities
- Determination of Minimum Academic Standards for all universities
- Accreditation of academic programmes
- Monitoring the activities and operations of both public and private universities
- Provision of guidelines as well as processing of applications for the establishment of private universities in Nigeria.
- Advise Government on policies related to improving higher education in the country.

Focus Areas for the Education Sector

- Central to the Education Roadmap of the Federal Government under the “Renewed Hope” Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is the exploitation of government-industry-academic partnerships to develop an education system that responds to the demands of society.
 - *In a rapidly evolving world where the rapidity of change creates more uncertainties, it has become more urgent to develop innovative partnerships to drive educational development and global and local leadership.*
- Additionally, all curricula according to the roadmap, are expected to meet the demands of the current realities and needs of society.

Translating the Education Roadmap into Action – Utilising Partnerships

- Knowledge knows no borders, and by embracing win-win international collaborations, we can tap into a wealth of expertise, resources, and opportunities for our students and faculties.
- **One of such collaborations is exemplified in the recently launched guidelines for the implementation of Transnational Education (TNE) in Nigeria.**
- In the internationalization of education, the flow of movement for higher education has mainly been from the South to the North, with developing nations expending much of their resources to develop talents that end up remaining in the North.
- This has aggravated the brain drain and talent migration from the South to the North.
- TNE becomes one of the means of solving this problem.

- TNE presents a wide range of opportunities such as increasing access to higher education for our youth and promoting strategic alliances between countries and regions.
- These partnerships must however be built on mutual respect, shared objectives, and a commitment to nurturing talent and promoting global citizenship.
- The Commission's role is to ensure that quality is not compromised in the Country's pursuit of internalisation of higher education.
- It is for this reason that the NUC - TNE framework provides clear regulatory guidelines that will govern the operations of each model of TNE for the benefit of the nation, while ensuring that the risks are minimized if not eliminated.

- Through TNE, Nigeria is open to:
 - Collaborations between foreign and Nigerian universities to offer courses, staff and student exchanges, enrich curricula, pedagogy, and offer degrees with joint or dual certification and/or have articulation arrangements, which involve study on host and home campuses.
 - Opening branch campuses of foreign universities within Nigeria.
 - Provision of online learning through ICT-Enabled Support Blended Learning.
 - Acquisitions of existing Nigerian universities.
 - Provision of teaching institutions within Nigeria for students enrolled into programmes in foreign universities.

Risks and Challenges of TNE Programmes

- Difficulties in managing TNE programmes
- Ensuring quality assurance of TNE programmes
- Adapting curricula to fit local contexts
- Accommodating offshore students' learning styles
- Ensuring preparedness of academic staff to deliver TNE programmes
- Facilitating knowledge transfer in host countries
- Partnerships can become a tool for hegemony
- Nigeria simply becoming a recruitment ground for foreign universities.
- TNE leads to lack of interest in Nigerian universities

Factors for Sustainable Development of TNE Programmes

- Academic leadership that will ensure effectiveness of the operations of TNE programmes.
- Internalization of curricula
- Positive transnational experience of students and other stakeholders
- Development of a firm regulatory framework in host countries
- Development of system-wide data collection for quality assurance
- Upskilling of staff of quality assurance agencies for effective monitoring and evaluation of TNE programmes.
- Effective utilisation of funds

Translating Education Roadmap into Action – Curriculum Re-engineering

- In cognisance of the need to enhance student learning, engagement and outcomes and place Nigerian graduates to compete in the modern world, the NUC took steps to re-engineer the curricula of programmes in Nigerian Universities.
- The new curriculum is a product of sustained stakeholder interactions of over two years. The Commission discussed extensively with the Academia, Nigerian Professional Bodies and the private sector, through the Nigeria Economic Summit Group, to develop curricula that is fit-for-purpose for the training of 21st century graduates.
- A key feature of the curriculum review is the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset among our students, with the view of fostering a culture of innovation, creativity, and problem-solving that will drive economic growth and social development.

Translating Education Roadmap into Action – Curriculum Re-engineering

- The NUC curriculum strove to create this mindset in Nigerian graduates by ensuring that for each programme offered in any Nigerian university, there was a **programme-specific** entrepreneurship course that was compulsory.
- Requisite skills are introduced in each programme to make graduates versatile and competitive for employment nationally and globally.

For Questions, Feedback and Comments:

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