

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue: Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

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In 2012, the Nigerian government launched the Nigerian Science, Technology and Innovation (STi) Policy in a bid to fast track national development. This policy which was later reviewed and redesigned in 2013, was broken down into four main stages: (a) infrastructural development, capacity building and utilization for development, (b) development of sectoral strategies, (c) policies for interacting with international communities and (d) implementation strategies. The development and implementation of the four stages of the STi policy are driven by 14 distinct technologies: biotechnology, technology incubation, space science and technology, renewable energy technology, laboratory technology, leather technology, natural medicine science and technology, materials science and technology, chemical technology, food science technology, engineering infrastructure technology among others.

Since the inception and implementation of the STi policy and related interventions by the Nigerian Ministry of Science and Technology, a lot has changed in the entrepreneurship and innovation landscape of Nigeria. While the majority of the developments recorded has been very positive, especially with regard to the volume of entrepreneurial activities recorded, the number of innovation hubs active in the country, and the volume of patents registered; the nation's STi policies alongside those of other African countries have faced criticisms over the years. Chief among these criticisms is the lack of inclusiveness of extant policies especially from a gender perspective, which led the African Development Banks (AfDB) to call for more STi policies that benefit women in across the continent in 2018.

While the majority of extant but non-empirical evidence point to positive outcomes for innovation across the country and year-on-year improvements in Nigeria's ranking in the Global Innovation Index, insufficient empirical evidence exists in recording the nation's successes, and most importantly, in documenting its unique approach to innovation. The latter argument is timely as a lot of empirical evidence exists to suggest that approaches to innovation might differ depending on the level of development of a nation or region.

Moreover, elsewhere in literature evidence exist to suggest that the adoption of innovation approaches and systems from developed countries might not be the optimal approach for fostering innovation in developing (especially emerging or transitioning) countries.

For the past three years, the Nigerian Innovation Summit (NIS) has been at the forefront of unwrapping the unique innovation landscape in Nigeria by convening an annual summit of policy makers, industry practitioners, academics and educational institutions aimed at fostering the innovation discourse.

This special issue done in conjunction with the Technology Innovation Management (TIM) Review- a publication of the TIM program at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, is not only inspired by the work done by the summit's conveners but its launch will be timely as it coincides with the 4th edition of the Nigerian Innovation Summit (NIS) to be held in Lagos, Nigeria in August 2019.

Through this issue, we intend to invite presenters of interesting articles at this year's Nigerian Innovation Summit, as well as external academics/scholars to publish articles and papers which provide empirical evidence of a qualitative or quantitative nature regarding the dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Of particular interest are papers which examine the unique approaches to innovation peculiar to Nigerian scenarios across sectors. Quantitative and qualitative papers documenting historical and/or contemporary approaches are welcome while systematic reviews and meta-analytic papers are also welcome.

We therefore invite submission which fit the description above and provide innovation insights from the Nigerian context which are expressed in manners that are readily accessible and digestible by policy makers, industry practitioners and scholars alike from all around the world.

To contribute to this special issue, please send your paper to papers@innovationsummit.ng before September 1, 2019.

Important dates:

- June 28th: Release of Call for papers
 - August 20-21: Nigerian Innovation Summit
 - September 1: Paper submission deadline
 - Early 2020: Special Issue Publication
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