



# Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Newsletter Series

## Special Edition, August, 2025

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August 2025 Special Edition of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Newsletter.

This edition comes at a moment of deep reflection and renewed purpose. While we prepare for the 15th International Conference and General Assembly in Zaria centred on the theme "Interdisciplinary Pathways: Integrating Art, Science, Engineering, Education, Humanities, Health, and Technology for Sustainable Development" we also pause to honour the life and legacy of our Founding President, Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah, whose passing remains a profound loss to the Academy, the nation, and the global scientific community. His exemplary leadership, passion for mentorship, and sacrificial service are legacies we must continue to uphold.

In the face of this loss, the Academy presses forward more, united and inspired than ever. Our members have continued to blaze trails across disciplines, securing international fellowships, publishing in top-tier journals, winning competitive grants, and taking up strategic leadership roles. Working Groups remain vibrant with webinars, leadership trainings, and research-focused collaborations that are shaping national and global conversations. Of particular note is NYA's participation in the recently concluded International Science Council (ISC) Digital Journey, a global initiative exploring the digital transformation of science. I had the privilege of serving as the NYA focal point, alongside our President, Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli. The programme addressed critical topics such as open science, data ethics, AI, and global digital equity, and emphasized the pivotal role of early-career

researchers and academies like ours in driving inclusive and ethical digital innovation. NYA's voice was strongly represented, reaffirming our position in the evolving global scientific dialogue.

This edition also features highlights of NYA's engagements in mentoring, interdisciplinary workshops, the STEAM education advocacy project in partnership with NAS and NAL, and outstanding achievements by members across biological sciences, engineering, humanities, and beyond. The call for manuscripts to our journal, Annals of Science and Technology (AST), remains open, encouraging members to contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

As we look ahead, I encourage all members and stakeholders to remain active and committed. Let us draw inspiration from the giants who came before us, the accomplishments of our peers, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

On behalf of the Publicity Committee, I thank all contributors and readers. May this edition renew our resolve to serve with excellence, integrity, and purpose.

Warm regards,



**Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba**  
*Chair, NYA Publicity Committee*

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**President's Address**

**STAYING FOCUSED ON NYA MISSION AND VISION**

On behalf of the seventh Executive Council, I bring fraternal greetings to members and fellows of NYA. Permit me to start by commending the publicity committee for the painstaking effort towards the production of this newsletter. Amongst other interesting contents of this last edition of the NYA newsletter under the 7<sup>th</sup> EC, the preparation and update on the 15<sup>th</sup> NYA Conference and GA scheduled to take place at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, NYA-NAS-NAL project on STEAM education, the Resolution of the

Controversial award of excellence, the NYA 5-Year Strategic Plan, the NYA activities in the Digital Journey Dialogue, the activities and programmes of the NYA working groups, etc. The contents present an interesting read, as they refresh our minds on some of the achievements, activities, crisis and sometimes drama that defined the current administration of NYA. As humans are known to indulge in life-long learning, I strongly believe that the members have benefited immensely, and learned pertinent lessons. In the spirit of being positive, I believe that our cup is half full, and not half empty. In a special way, this edition of NYA newsletter also dedicated a sizeable section to the memorial of our founding President, Prof Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah, who has impacted generations within his short sojourn on mother earth. There is nothing that is said in the newsletter that will be enough to quantify his impact to the academy. Prof Unuabonah was a gift to the world, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the NYA family and in the countless lives he transformed.

As the seventh Executive Council of NYA winds down and prepare to transmit the baton of leadership in the forthcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Assembly scheduled to hold at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, I would not fail to appreciate the NYA members for their massive support. In this my last newsletter message as the President of this great academy, I encourage us to always reminisce on the mission and vision of the academy.

Our mission is to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations amongst some of the nation's best brains for the benefit of the society and increase interest in research amongst younger minds to sustain national development, while our vision is to improve the quality of life of the Nigerian society through the promotion and application of

In every of our individual acts and actions, I encourage each and every member to gauge the extent the act will help in driving the vision and mission of the academy. From the very beginning, the Academy has operated with the firm belief that an academy is as strong as its membership. In essence, it is you and I, the members, that will drive the activities to actualize the mission and vision of the academy. No single individual, but combined effort of the academy's members can deliver this task. In appreciating the power of team spirit and focus, Alexander Graham Bell stated that the sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus. Our sustainability as an academy, depends on our ability to stay awake to our dream.

Staying focused on your goals requires a combination of clear vision, strong motivation, and consistent effort. It is Eleanor Roosevelt, the former President of the United States of America, who said that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. The founding fathers of NYA had lofty dreams for NYA, which they encapsulated in the mission and vision statement of our great academy. In the last fifteen years of the existence of the academy, though the procedure and approach may differ, all the various administrations that superintended over the affairs of the academy, have made tremendous effort to steer the academy towards progress. We may not be where we desire to be, but the honest truth is that we have made progress.

According to Jim Rohn, discipline is the bridge

between goals and accomplishment. In retrospect, I assure our esteemed members that being disciplined to implement our constitution and staying focused and committed towards our mission and vision is the ultimate ingredient needed for the academy to remain in the path of continuous progress. In the words of Steve Jobs, the only way to do great work is to love what you do. In essence, members commitment is the sine qua non for the full realization of the dream of our founding fathers.

Peter Chukwunonso Okoli (PhD, MNYA)  
President

### NYANEWS

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) announces the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference and General Assembly (Zaria 2025) with the theme: Interdisciplinary pathways: Integrating Art, Science, Engineering, Education, Humanities, Health and Technology for sustainable Development. The Conference is scheduled to hold from Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2025, at the African Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education, (ACENPEE), Engineering Complex, Phase 3, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. This conference will bring together researchers, academics, professionals, and students from diverse fields to share knowledge, present papers, and network.

Registration is still open for non-NYA members. Kindly follow the link and complete the form to confirm your participation. Further information, including the programme schedule, accommodation, and payment details, will be communicated to registered participants. Kindly register here:

<https://forms.gle/ZNUMmV6M91ccYMLh7>

**15<sup>th</sup> International Conference and General Assembly (Zaria 2025)**

**THE NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY**

**Information on nearby hotels and their rates are provided below:**

Hotel	Rate per night	Contact Number
Hotel Continental	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574
Hotel Ibeju	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574
Hotel Ibeju	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574
Hotel Ibeju	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574
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Hotel Ibeju	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574
Hotel Ibeju	₦12,000 - ₦15,000	081-238-4574

**TALK TO YOUR PROFESSOR**

**THEME: DEALING WITH REJECTIONS IN ACADEMIA**

**Date:** Thursday 10th April 2025  
**Time:** 4:00 pm GMT+1  
**Venue:** ZOOM

**PANELISTS:**  
 Prof. Martins Emaje  
 Prof. Halima Chahal  
 Dr. Oluwatosin Balogun

**MODERATOR:**  
 Dr. Peter C. Okali

**REGISTER EARLY TO SECURE A SPACE.....**

On Thursday, April 10, 2025, the Academy's mentorship session (Talk to your Professor) was held virtually. It was themed: “dealing with Rejections in Academia”. It was attended by many participants who are both NYA and non-NYA members. The programme featured questions and answers, and payment details, will be communicated to registered participants. Kindly register here:

sharing of experiences, and gaining insights on dealing with rejections in academic publishing and grants winning. Other insights from the session include building resilience in the face of rejection, developing strategies for overcoming obstacles, and many more.

**Artificial Intelligence and National Development: Building Nigeria's Research Future**

**Facilitator:** DR. GREGORY ONWODI  
**Host:** DR. PETER C. OKALI  
**Moderator:** DR. WADZANI DAUDA

**DATE:** Saturday, 14th June, 2025  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM (WAT)

**REGISTER HERE**

NYA workshop series on “Artificial Intelligence and National Development: Building Nigeria's Research Future” took place on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The programme was virtual and was facilitated by Dr. Gregory Onwudi (Dean, Faculty of Computing, NOUN) and moderated by Dr. Wadzani. The lessons learnt from the workshop on the need to utilize the game changer to revolutionize all sectors of the Nigeria economy, following articulated intelligence, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). In all, knowing the gaps, clearing the misconceptions, prompting the fronts, and catching up with the future, understanding the ethics, limitations, and future applications of AI in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was emphasized.

# ISC Digital Journey: Shaping the Future of Global Science

*By Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba,  
Publicity Secretary of the Academy*

The International Science Council (ISC) recently concluded its Digital Journey Series, a global dialogue on how digital transformation is reshaping science, policy, and society. The series explored key themes such as open science, digital equity, AI, data governance, and the future of scientific collaboration. Representing the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), the Publicity Secretary, Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba, who served as the NYA focal point, and the

## NYA 5-Year Strategic Plan - A Credible Hope for Sustainability

*By Peter Chukwunonso Okoli (PhD)  
President of the Academy*

The import of Strategic Plan (SP) in long-term management of any organization cannot be over-emphasized. Adoption of Strategic planning provides direction, enhances decision-making, improves resource allocation, and increases overall efficiency in organizational management. It allows institutions to anticipate challenges, seize opportunities, and adapt to change, ultimately

leading to long-term success.

President, Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli, actively participated in the programme. Their engagement helped position NYA within the global conversation on equitable and ethical digital science.

The Digital Journey emphasized inclusive digital infrastructures, global cooperation, and the importance of supporting early-career researchers – particularly in the Global South. A full report detailing insights and recommendations will be published soon.



contingencies and unsustainable funding has truncated some of the lofty projects conceived within this time frame, while many of the proposed projects could not even get started.

In its 15 years of existence, NYA has done well, with each administration defining and prioritizing the needs of the academy as it deemed fit. While this has worked well to a certain extent, it has not encouraged efficiency and continuity, as unforeseen risks, contingencies and unsustainable funding has truncated some of the lofty projects conceived within this time frame, while many of the proposed projects could not even get started.

In view of this, the Seventh Executive Council (7<sup>th</sup> EC) set out to develop a strategic plan. The Strategic Plan Development Committee was saddled with the responsibility of developing a 5-Year Strategic Plan (2026 – 2030) for the academy. The SP was aimed at providing a clear direction by syncing the activities of the academy to be in consonance with the vision and mission of the academy. This strategy is believed to provide a clear roadmap for the future. Also, the SP will ensure that all the offices, arms and working groups are working towards the same goals, as this is expected to foster a sense of unity and purpose. This clarity helps in making informed decisions and prioritizing actions that align with the overall strategic direction.

Over the years, the academy has not taken time to evaluate its Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis). This aspect of institutional assessment is critical in designing development plan for any organization, as the success and failure of a key long-term development projects depends largely on proper SWOT analysis. In essence, the SP will enhance systematic and objective decision-making, which will lead to more effective and efficient decisions that contribute to

the academy's long-term success. The newly developed NYA 5-Year Strategic Plan did the maiden SWOT analysis of NYA. The 5-Year Strategic Plan of NYA identified and assessed potential risks, and developed mitigation strategies. By anticipating challenges, the academy can minimize the negative impact of unforeseen events and stay resilient. This proactive approach to risk management ensures continuity and promotes the sustainability of the academy. By identifying key priorities, the newly developed Strategic Plan will help in allocating resources effectively. It ensures that resources are directed towards the most important initiatives, maximizing their impact and return on investment. This will prevent wastage of resources on non-critical activities and promotes efficient utilization of all available resources. The developed SP streamlined the operations of NYA by identifying areas for improvement and implementing necessary changes. It fosters a culture of continuous improvement, leading to increased efficiency and productivity. This efficiency can translate into cost savings, strategic planning is not just a one-time event but an ongoing process that provides a framework for the to navigate the complexities of the running a young academy in developing world.

The NYA President, Dr Peter Chukwunonso Okoli served as the convener, while Dr Alfred Oladele Moses manned the Committee Secretariat. The Committee encouraged fellows and members participation in the ideation, conceptualization and development of the plan, through administration of a survey where the ideas, concepts and opinions on relevant aspects

of the strategic plan were obtained, processed and collated for inclusion. The first draft was availed to the General Assembly for further input, improved upon, and sent out for external review by NAS and other associated stakeholders for expert opinion. The final joint review of the SP was done in hybrid mode at NAS Secretariat, University of Lagos, during the NYA-NAS Strategic Plan and Leadership retreat. The retreat was graciously sponsored by Nigerian Academy of Sciences. It was after this process that the final draft was produced for GA final approval.

NYA is indeed grateful for the guidance of the Nigerian Academy of Science, with special gratitude to Prof Sani Sambo, the NAS President, Prof. Ekanem Braide, the immediate past President of NAS, and the Executive Secretary, Dr. Adedoyin Odubanjo. The academy is highly appreciative of the Strategic Plan committee members namely: Dr. Peter C. Okoli, Dr. Oju R. Ibor, Prof Akindele J. Akindele, Prof. Auwal Muhammed Ibrahim, Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun, Dr. AbdulAzeez Anjorin, Prof. Temitope Onuminya, Prof. Cynthia Ibeto, Dr Alfred O. Moses, Dr Temitope Sogbanmu, Dr. Isaac L. Animasaun, Dr O. Olalere, Dr Akeem Sikiru, Dr O. Oyebode, Dr Abdulhakeem Bello and all the EC members for the painstaking effort. It is hoped that the Strategic Plan will serve as veritable springboard towards sustenance of academy.

## STEAM Education Project

*By Dr. Abubakar Abubakar Khaleed, Vice President of the Academy*

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education has evolved globally, integrating the Arts into STEM Education to become Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education. STEAM Education promotes interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, problem-solving and hands-on activities. Despite its benefits, STEAM education in Nigeria lacks the necessary national priority and support for its full implementation due to the lack of a policy framework. Addressing these issues is crucial for Nigeria's competitiveness in a science and technology-driven world.

The Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) in collaboration with the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), and the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) proposed ways to advance STEAM education at primary and secondary education levels in Nigeria for technological growth and advancement. This concept which was accepted and sponsored by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) was later embraced by the Federal Ministry of Education (FMoE), National University Commission (NUC), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), and the All-Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS). The collaborating academies and JAMB mapped out strategies for accomplishing this initiative. It included advocacy visits at the National level, and in the six pilot states

stakeholders in the six-pilot state. The visits were aimed at raising awareness and advocating for the integration of STEAM education in schools' foundational framework and STEAM Education implementation. Considering the poor performance of UTME candidates, the sensitization workshop included implementation of strategies to improve students' UTME performance, as well as aiding career choices.

The Team engaged stakeholders and fostered collaborative efforts towards promoting STEAM education, and facilitation of teachers and students training on improving UTME performance. The stakeholders engaged included policy makers in the state education ministries, SUBEB officials, school administrators, teachers and learners.

Some of the key outcomes of the sensitization workshop included the following;

- Development of fact sheet on the need for STEAM Education
- increased awareness of the benefits of STEAM education at both National and State levels which resulted to the addition of STEAM Education in the National Education Roadmap (2024); see Chapter 6 Education for Renewed Hope: Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector 2024 - 2027.
- Advocacy meetings with government educational stakeholders and agencies which resulted in the increase in the number of partners for implementation of STEAM

Education such as UBEC, NUC, and ANCOPSS.

- Sequel to the advocacy and implementation workshops, draft STEAM Education Policy was developed.
- Increased interest on resource mobilization, teachers' capacity building and community awareness for STEAM implementation
- Creation of relevant awareness and successful sensitization of teachers and students on the registration modalities and other issues relating to success for UTME
- feedback and insights on possible challenges on the implementation of STEAM Education

Based on the project achievements and potential benefits of STEAM education in the foreseeable future, the team recommends the replication of the activities in the remaining 30 states and FCT, in view of the increased interests shown by the government, various educational stakeholders and agencies. Also, there is high expectation on improvement of UTME results in the 6-pilot states based on the interest expressed by the teachers and learners during UTME teacher's sensitization workshop and students UTME training.

In conclusion, the project delivered on its set goals and objectives which imply that the implementation of STEAM education in Nigeria is achievable.

## Secretariat Report

By Dr. Abdulaziz Anjorin, General Secretary of the Academy

The NYA Secretariat is pleased to present this report highlighting the Academy's key activities, engagements, and achievements for the 2024/2025 academic year.

- **Strategic Planning & Leadership:** The Secretariat successfully coordinated the NYA–NAS Strategic Plan and Leadership Retreat at the NAS Secretariat, University of Lagos, with the participation of all Executives and members of the Strategic Plan Committee.
- In line with General Assembly resolutions, the Secretariat conducted a bye-election, ushering in Dr. Akeem Bello as the new lead of the Biological and Health Sciences (BHS) Working Group.
- The General Secretary also spearheaded a collaborative project that resulted in the publication of a systematic review on Mpox virus in Africa in the *Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science (PNAS)*.



NYA representatives with the NAS ES, Dr Doyin Odubanjo

The Secretariat has successfully launched a new NYA official website, following the conclusion of the hosting contract with De Gruyter, Germany. The Annals of Science and Technology (AST) Journal continues under a newly appointed Editorial Board, chaired by Prof. Obinna Nwinyi, FNYA, inaugurated by the 7th Executive Council.

- **National & International Representation:** NYA was represented at the International Science Council Assembly 2025 in Muscat, Oman, by the President, Dr. P. C. Okoli.
- The General Secretary and colleagues represented the Academy at the Boston University–UI–NAS Quadripartite AMR Stakeholders' Workshop (April 2025), themed “*Lessons Learned for AMR from Previous International Science Panels.*” The Secretariat also participated in the NAS Artificial Intelligence Stakeholders' Workshop (2025) held in Maryland, Lagos. NYA was duly represented in NAS annual events, including the Mentorship Programme, where the General Secretary delivered a lecture titled “*Mentorship: Passing it Forward.*”



Members with the NAS President, Prof. Sambo

Finally, I would like to assure you that the Secretariat remains committed to supporting the vision of NYA by ensuring effective coordination of programmes, representation at national and international fora, and strengthening the Academy's visibility through research, mentorship, and innovation.

# Report of NYA Working Groups Activities

## I. BIOLOGICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES



### Biological and Health Sciences Working Group Activities – 2025

The Biological and Health Sciences Working Group held a highly impactful webinar on June 25, 2025, aimed at equipping early-career researchers with practical strategies for global scientific collaboration and accessing One Health-focused funding opportunities.

The first session, titled *"From Local Weeds to Global Solutions: A Nigerian Scientist's Playbook for Building Low-Cost International*

*Collaborations,"* was delivered by Dr. Makinde, a Senior Lecturer at Federal University Gashua. He shared a compelling narrative on how localized environmental challenges—such as Typha weed proliferation in Northern Nigeria—served as a springboard for building international research collaborations across the USA, Spain, and Nigeria. He emphasized innovative strategies to navigate bureaucratic hurdles, visa restrictions, and infrastructural limitations, highlighting the value of under-researched ecosystems as attractive leverage for global partnerships.

The second session, *"One Health Research Ecosystem in Nigeria: Funding Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers,"* was led by Dr. Ismail Ayoade Odetokun, Associate Professor at the University of Ilorin. He provided insights on positioning Nigeria's disease burden as a global health concern to secure competitive grants, citing the example of IDRC Canada's \$1.3 million AMR grant. Dr. Odetokun outlined accessible funding opportunities including EDCTP and the Fleming Fund and offered practical guidance on low-cost collaboration models such as "zero-cost data swaps." He also shared strategies for targeted publishing and networking to boost research visibility and funding potential.

## 11. SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH)

The SSH-WG as part of their cardinal objectives have conducted series of activities as summarized below:

The Social Sciences and Humanities working Group held a webinar for budding researchers titled “**Collaboration Skills for Bridging Research Gaps**”, where 58 participants were mentored and trained on the rudiments of innovative research. The seminar was chaired by Dr Omotayo Olalere and facilitated by **Prof. Olurotimi Taiwo**. The participants were trained to understand that strong communication, a shared understanding of research goals, and clear roles are parts of the essential ingredients needed for bridging research gap and for effective collaboration. Again, the participants were trained to understand that engaging stakeholders in the research process can ensure relevance and practical application of the research.



Each member of the SSH WG is mentoring at least 2 postgraduate students.

## III. PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (PSciETech)

**Leadership Training Course:** As at April 2025, the WG Leadership Training Course has 16 participants who have completed Stage 11. These participants will start to Stage 12 very soon.

In November 2024, the Working Group developed stage 11 leadership training materials and commenced stage 11 leadership training with a total 120 participants. Of the 120 participants, 20 have finished stage 10 and are expected to move to stage 11. The title of stage 11 and its learning objectives are as follows

### Stage 11: Change Management Strategies

- Understanding the Need for Change: Identifying Drivers and Benefits
- Stakeholder Engagement and Communication: Gaining Buy-in and Managing Resistance
- Change Models and Frameworks: Implementing Structured Approaches (e.g., Kotter's 8-Step Process, Lewin's Change Management Model)
- Leadership in Change Management: Roles and Responsibilities for Effective Change
- Monitoring and Sustaining Change: Tools for Measuring Success and Maintaining Long-term Change

## MEMBERS AND FELLOWS' NEWS

§ Dr. Omotayo Olalere has secured a TETFUND Conference Attendance grant to for the 11th Congress of the European Society for Translation Studies at the University of Leeds in June 2025.

§ Dr. Benjamin Okorie Ajah won a conference grant from the National University of Lesotho to attend the Nigerian Society of Criminology, 2025 Annual Conference in June.

§ Dr Clara Ifeanyi-obi successfully completed the INGSA-Africa Science Advice Skills Development Program (SASDP-3). INGSA Fellowship targets to build the capacity of early and mid-career African scientists across the continent for the effective practice of science advice. She also convened a Validation Meeting at the Minister's Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Abuja on the 5th of June 2025 to validate the G-SMART Monitor (A tool she developed for assessing gender responsiveness in agricultural policies in agriculture). She was as well selected as a mentor by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Sciences in April 2025.

§ Dr Toyin Olowogbon won Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA) Displaced Persons Initiative (DLI) Exploratory Grant in April 2025.

§ Dr. Oluwabunmi Adejumo has served as a Panellist at the 13th annual Africa Evidence Summit, focusing on “Better Data for Decision-Making” in Nairobi, Kenya, held in June 2025. This was co-hosted by the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) and the Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA).

§ Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba alongside one of his PhD students have participated at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physicist in Medicine at Washington DC from 27-30, July, 2025. In which they were specially recognised among the 2024 winners of the AAPM-GREMP fellowship. They further presented a paper title " "Local DRLs for Head and Neck CT Protocol and U-Net model design for Brain Metastatic predictions".

§ Dr Chikodiri Nwangwu commenced the second year of his postdoc fellowship at the University of Johannesburg. He has also published a paper in the Society journal titled: Political Financing and Vulnerability: Social Protection and Election Campaign Financing in Nigeria., and had as well presented a lead paper at the 2nd Annual Hybrid International Conference of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Madonna University. The paper is titled: The Retreat of Liberal Internationalism? Democratic Recession and ECOWAS Responses to Military Coups in West Africa.

§ Dr Michael I. Ugwueze has successfully produced his second Ph.D. graduate. He also published two sole authored and one multi authored papers in ISI journals in June, 2025, and he also won a Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) fellowship award which will start in September 2025.

§ Dr. Chukwu Emelda: Dr. Chukwu was the invited Keynote speaker at Amity University-India's International Seminar on Current Trends in Life Sciences organised by Amity Institute of Technology in April 2025. This was titled "Harnessing Life Science Solutions to Overcome the Global AMR Crisis." Awarded travel grant to the "Vaccines to control Respiratory Pathogens and AMR (VacAMR)" Workshop in Ghana in May 2025. She was also Inducted into the Global Young Academy (2025 Cohort) at IIT Hyderabad in June 2025.

§ Dr. Kale E. Oluwafemi has received the ASPET Travel Grant to participate at the 2025 ASPET Meeting in Portland, USA.

§ Dr. Saba AbdulWakil has secured a travel grant for the FSBI/IFM Joint Symposium in Belfast, UK in July 2025.

§ Dr. Akeem Babatunde Sikiru has joined the Laboratory of Vaccines and Biomolecules at UPM, Malaysia as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He was also selected for the 24th International Vaccinology Course by the International

Vaccine Institute in Seoul, Korea.

§ Dr. Wadzani Dauda was honoured with the JANE International Cooperation Research Award by the American Phytopathological Society, recognizing global contributions to food security. The fund supports international cooperation related to research on and management of plant diseases between a person or institution in the U.S. and a person or institution outside the U.S. with funding priority to developing economy countries. He has also won TWAS-DBT Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India.

- **Dr. Bartholomew Saanu Adeleke** has been selected for the Vice Chancellor Publications Grant of the Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa, Ondo State, Nigeria. He also won TETFund Institutional Based Research Grant (TETFund/IBR) 2022/2024 merged award and got enlisted among top 2% scientists globally by Elsevier/Stanford University, 2024.

▪ **Dr. Olufunso Abosede** has secured the CCDC Engagement Grant for his outreach project titled “Crystallize Your Future: A High School Workshop in Structural Science.” This initiative introduced students in selected secondary schools to the science of crystallography, crystal growth techniques, and 3D molecular modelling. The outreach culminated in a competition held in July 2025 at Federal University Otuoke, where trophies were awarded to the top three performing schools. He was also awarded the 2025 ACS Global Innovation Imperatives (Gii) Grant by the International Activities Committee of the American Chemical Society. His funded project, “Green Chemistry and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta,” aims to tackle environmental and technological challenges in the region through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in June 2025.

▪ **Dr. Abubakar Abubakar Khaleed** was selected as a fellow of the Nigeria Science Leadership Programme (N-SLP) by the Africa Science Leadership Programme (A-SLP). Following his selection, he attended N-SLP Cohort 3, 3-day fellows' workshop at Redeemers University. The workshop provided him with an enriching, inspiring, and truly transformative experience. Dr. Khaleed

expressed his gratitude to N-SLP and A-SLP for providing him opportunity to explore new ideas, engage with prominent experts, mentors and fellow fellows of N-SLP Cohort 3. The valuable lessons he learned, the networking with like-minded individuals, the renewed energy ignited within him, and the fresh perspectives he gained on leadership and life in general, will certainly shape his future endeavours.

### APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND INAUGURAL LECTURES OF MEMBERS AND FELLOWS OF THE ACADEMY

\* On Tuesday April 15, 2025 Prof. Jaiyeola Temitope Gbolahan, 3rd Occupier of the “Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye Professorial Chair of Mathematics” Department of Mathematics, University of Lagos, Nigeria, delivered a seminar to the Algebra and Logic Research Group of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The seminar entitled: “A study of non-associative hyper-structures and algebraic analysis of selected physical system” was commended to be very insightful and inspiring.

Dr. Adeniyi Stephen Adefegha and Dr. Ezra Gayawan of Federal university of Technology, Akure, Nigeria, were both promoted the rank of full Professor of their respective field of expertise.

Prof. Olusola Nathaniel Majolagbe, a fellow of the academy, was elevated to full professorial chair of Environmental Microbiology at LAUTECH, Ogbomoso, Nigeria, effective from October 1, 2023.



The immediate past president of NYA, Dr. Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim, was promoted to the position of a full Professor of Biochemistry at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The effective date of the promotion was from October 1, 2023.



The promotion of Dr. Kingsley Ukwaja to the rank of Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases was announced by the Senate of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, NdufuAlike.



In the same vein, Dr. (Mrs.) Isoken Henrietta Igbinosa was promoted to the full rank of a Professor by University of Benin, Nigeria. The promotion culminates to her years of unwavering dedication, scholarly excellence, and impactful collaborations and contributions to academia.



In June 2025, Prof. Charles O. Adetunji, a fellow of the academy, presented a public lecture at the Nadine Gordimer Auditorium, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. The lecture was titled: “Harnessing Biotechnology for a Sustainable Future: Emerging Innovations and Cross-sectional Applications in Agriculture, Environment, Health, and Industry. The lecture was widely accepted and commended by all attendees to be inspiring.



Dr. Ibrahim Malami, an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacognosy and Ethnopharmacy, was appointed as the new Director of the Centre for Advanced Medical Research and training (CAMRET). Dr. Malami is a seasoned cancer researcher and academic. He leads multiple research grants focused on prostate and breast cancer biology and alternative therapies.



In July 2025, Dr. Kingsley Eghonghon Ukhurebor was appointed as the Director of Open Distance Learning (ODL) at Edo State University, Iyamho, Edo State.



Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun was appointed as Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Sustainable Development at the De Montfort University. Dr. Egbetokun has a robust portfolio that includes €1.3 million as research funding, 60+ international co-authored publications that span Q1 journals, books, policy briefs, and technical reports. He is a leading voice in translating research into real-world impact.



Dr. Obianyo was promoted to Lecturer I at the Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja in June 2025.



Dr. Akeem Babatunde Dauda was Appointed Director of Linkages and International Relations at Federal University Dutsin-Ma in May 2025.



Prof. Adeniyi Stephen Adefegha was promoted to the rank of Full Professor by the Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.



Prof Akintayo Ogundajo has been promoted to the rank of full Professor of Chemistry, Lagos State University, Nigeria. The effective date for the promotion is 1st October 2024.



Prof. Ezra Gayawan of the Department of Statistics was promoted to the rank of a full professor, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.

## **NYA MOURNS THE DEMISE OF IT'S PIONEER PRESIDENT**

### **Biography of Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah**

Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah was a man of rare distinction—an accomplished scientist, a global thought leader, a mentor to many, a loving family man, and above all, a devout Christian. His life was an extraordinary journey marked by faith, purpose, integrity, and a deep commitment to human and institutional capacity development. Born on January 16, 1975, in Edo State, Nigeria, he lived a life that profoundly impacted Nigerian science, the African academic space, and the global scientific community.



### **Education and Early Career**

Professor Unuabonah attended Nifor Staff School, Benin, for his primary school education before proceeding to Adolor College, Benin, where he obtained his Senior Secondary School Certificate. Prof. Unuabonah's passion for science began early. He obtained his B.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry from the University of Benin in 1999. His academic brilliance earned him a postgraduate scholarship in the University of Ibadan, where he completed his M.Sc. in 2003 and Ph.D in 2007 in Industrial Chemistry. He began his academic journey as a lecturer at Bells University of Technology in 2007 and subsequently joined the Federal University of Petroleum Resources in June 2008. From November 2008, he found a lasting home at Redeemer's University, where he served until his passing in 2025.

### **Academic Leadership and Research Impact**

Prof. Unuabonah rose through the ranks to become a full Professor in the Department of Chemical Sciences. He also served as the Director of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance and was the Founding Director of the African Centre of Excellence for Water and Environmental Research (ACEWATER), where with keenly contested international grants, fellowship, partnership and personal fund he is building one of Africa's most respected centres of excellence in water and environmental research. His research – focused on functional materials for water treatment – was widely published in leading journals, earning him over 100 peer-reviewed papers, several patents, and more than 6,000 citations. His h-index stood above 30, a testament to the quality and relevance of his work.

## **Mentorship and Capacity Building**

Prof. Unuabonah was passionate about nurturing the next generation of scholars. He mentored scores of postgraduate students – many of whom are now academics, scientists, and professionals making significant contributions worldwide. Many of these mentees received international exposure during their graduate training through fellowships and collaborations brokered by Prof. Unuabonah himself. His mentorship was marked by patience, clarity, and a commitment to seeing others succeed.

## **Contributions to the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) and Beyond**

Prof. Unuabonah was the Founding President of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), where he served from 2010 to 2014. He was instrumental to establishing the vision, values, and operational structure of the Academy, which today boasts hundreds of early-career scholars across Nigeria. He later served as a Fellow and Board of Trustees Member from 2016 until his passing, continually mentoring and supporting the leadership and members. He was also a Pioneer Member of the Global Young Academy (GYA), where he contributed to international science dialogues and the promotion of early-career researchers worldwide.

## **Fellowships, Grants, and International Engagements**

Prof. Unuabonah was a multiple fellowship awardee, including the prestigious Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 2011), TWAS Young Affiliate

Fellow (2009–2013), Fellow of the African Science Leadership Programme (2015–2019), and Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science (2023) – the first NYA fellow to receive this distinction. He was also elected Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences shortly before his passing in 2025. His international research engagements included visiting fellowships at the University of Potsdam (Germany), the São Carlos Institute of Physics (Brazil), and research collaborations across the UK, South Africa, and China.

He secured multiple high-impact research and equipment grants, including the AvH Equipment Grant (2021), Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund, TWAS-UNESCO Research Group Grant, and Seeding Labs in Boston, USA.

## **Awards and Distinctions**

- NAS Gold Medal Prize in Physical Sciences (2017)
- Dhirubhai Ambani Chemical Engineering Innovation Award, IChemE (2014)
- Highly Commended Project for Water Management, IChemE (2014)
- SCOPE–Zhongyu Young Scientist Environmental Award (2012)
- TWAS-ROSSA Young Scientist Prize (2012)
- African Union–TWAS Young Scientist Award (2011)
- TWAS-ROCASA Young Scientists Prize (2011)
- Redeemer's University Best Researcher of the Year (2013)
- IAP/WEF Summer Davos Young Scientist Prize (2009)

and numerous bilateral initiatives, all of which he used not for personal gain, but to develop infrastructure, fund students, and build networks

that outlive him.

### **Editorial Roles and Professional Networks**

Prof. Unuabonah served as Associate Editor of Green Chemistry Letters and Reviews and was an Editorial Board Member for Heliyon (Environmental Sciences section). He was a familiar face at global scientific events and served on numerous steering committees and review panels. He contributed actively to the EuroScience Open Forum (UK), TYAN Meeting (Chile), and the Nobel Laureates Meeting in Lindau (Germany, 2010).

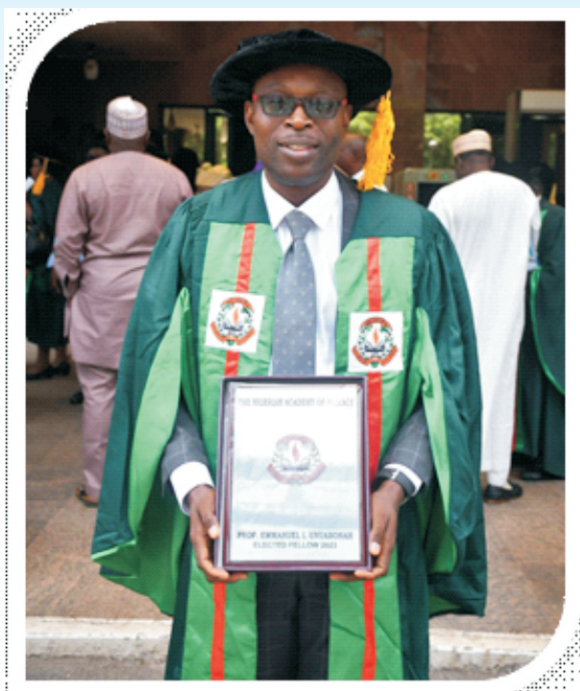
### **Personal Life and Enduring Legacy**

A man deeply rooted in faith, Prof. Unuabonah was a devout Christian who modeled integrity and humility in every aspect of his life. Professor Unuabonah is a faithful follower of Christ even unto his last breath. During his undergraduate days, he went on several village evangelism programmes and was a Children's Bible School teacher in his first church, Calvary Baptist Church, Nifor in Benin City. He was also a part of a Christian singing group during his service year in Kontagora. He served the brethren, sharing the word of life and distributing to needs as a Sunday School and discipleship teacher, Chairman of the church's scholarship committee, Coordinator, Corper's fellowship, and Deacon at his home church, United Baptist Church, Ede, Osun State. During his stay at the University of Ibadan, he served as the 4th President of the Redeemed

Christian Postgraduate Fellowship, University of Ibadan, from 2004 – 2006, where the Lord, through his hand, wrought great works transforming the life of brethren and always in the pursuit of raising men for the kingdom agenda. He also wrote two Christian books, *Journey to the Banquet* (2015) and *Broken Walls* (2019), which focused on the story of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 and the book of Nehemiah, respectively. His departure from this world of struggle and pain is an excellent gain and overwhelming joy to heaven that Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah has now met His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom he committed his life to in deep submission and reverence many years ago.

He was a loving husband to Professor Foluke Unuabonah and a doting father to their sons, Samuel and David. Despite his towering academic achievements, he lived simply, gave generously, and stood firm in his convictions. He believed in justice, pursued excellence relentlessly, and never compromised on principle. He is survived by his parents, siblings, lovely wife, Professor Foluke Unuabonah, and two lovely sons, David and Samuel Unuabonah. Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah leaves behind a legacy that lives on in the minds of the countless students he mentored, the institutions he served, and the global scientific community he helped to shape. He was, and will always remain, a torchbearer of integrity, excellence, and sacrificial leadership. Adieu!

## Tribute to Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah



With hearts heavy with grief yet filled with immense gratitude, the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) pays this tribute to our **Founding President, Professor Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah**— a man whose life radiated purpose, brilliance, and selfless service to science and humanity.

Prof. Unuabonah was not only a visionary scholar but also the cornerstone upon which the NYA was built. In 2010, he led a team of young scientists across Nigeria to form a platform that would become a beacon of hope, inspiration, and excellence for early-career researchers. His courage, intellect, and unwavering belief in the potential of young Nigerian scientists birthed an institution that continues to shape the future of science leadership in Africa.

To many of us, he was more than a colleague— he was a **mentor, guide, role model, and brother**. He poured himself into the lives of others, nurturing talents, reviewing proposals late into

the night, providing personal and professional counsel, and tirelessly advocating for opportunities that would uplift young scientists. His mentorship style was firm yet compassionate, always encouraging, and deeply empowering. Because of his influence, many NYA members today are fellows of international academies, recipients of globally competitive grants, and leaders in their fields.

Yet, what set Prof. Unuabonah apart even more was his **unflinching integrity, sacrificial lifestyle, and unmatched commitment to duty**. He was never driven by titles or accolades, but by the joy of seeing others grow. In August 2024, at a time when many members were absent from the NYA Annual Conference and General Assembly due to inflation, security concerns, and funding challenges, Prof. Unuabonah travelled a great distance, spent his resources, **showed up and stayed throughout the program, serving as a motivation for members and inductees**. He participated fully— **not out of convenience, but out of a deep sense of responsibility and love for the Academy he helped to build**. It is a story that defines who he was: a man who showed up when it mattered most, even when others couldn't.

Prof. Unuabonah's academic legacy was matched by an unshakeable moral compass. He believed in God, served his community, and lived with integrity. As the **first NYA Fellow to be elected into the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS)**, and recently selected as a **Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS)** shortly before his passing, he showed us all that excellence knows no bounds.

We deeply mourn this loss, but we take comfort in the fact that **his life was impactful, his work enduring, and his legacy secured.** To his beloved wife, children, parents, and extended family—we grieve with you, but we also stand proud of the life he lived. He was a gift to the world, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the NYA family and in the countless lives he transformed.

Thank you for sharing him with us. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

**Farewell, dear Professor. Your light shines on.**

**Signed:**  
Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli  
*President, Nigerian Young Academy (NYA)*

## Opportunities

### TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) 2025 Grant cycle call for Concept Notes



**TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND**

**TETFUND NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND (NRF) 2025 GRANT CYCLE CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES**

#### INTRODUCTION

Following the successful completion of the processing of the research proposals submitted to NRF under the 2024 Grant Cycle, culminating in the total award of close to ₦4.25 billion to support 158 Research Projects, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) wishes to inform the Nigerian research community, in particular, and the public in general, that the Federal Government has approved a total sum of ₦7.50 billion for the NRF 2025 Grant Cycle. The process of accessing the 2025 NRF Grant starts with the response to this Call-for-Submission-of-Concept-Notes by Principal Investigators of the proposed Research Projects. This will be followed by the submission of Full Proposals by only those whose Concept Notes have been evaluated and the Research Projects are considered fundable.

#### THEMATIC AREAS FOR THE 2025 GRANT APPLICATION

The thirty prioritized thematic areas of research are in three categories: Humanities & Social Sciences, Science, Engineering, Technology & Innovation and Cross-Cutting

Category 1	Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)
Thematic Area 1	Citizenship and National Integration
Thematic Area 2	Conflict, Defence and Security
Thematic Area 3	Economic Development and Globalization
Thematic Area 4	Education and Human Capital
Thematic Area 5	Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion
Thematic Area 6	Governance, Politics, Law and Ethics
Thematic Area 7	History, Culture and Identities
Thematic Area 8	Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology and Business Interface
Thematic Area 9	Languages, Literatures and Media
Thematic Area 10	Population and Migration
Thematic Area 11	Social Development and Welfare
Thematic Area 12	Tourism, Sports and Recreation
Category 2	Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI)
Thematic Area 13	Agriculture and Food Security
Thematic Area 14	Geosciences
Thematic Area 15	Health and Social Welfare
Thematic Area 16	Industry and Innovation
Thematic Area 17	Information Technology, Computing and Telecommunications
Thematic Area 18	Power and Energy
Thematic Area 19	Science and Engineering
Thematic Area 20	Space Science and Technology
Thematic Area 21	Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Thematic Area 22	Transport and Infrastructure
Thematic Area 23	Water and Sanitation

Category 3	Cross-Cutting (CC)
Thematic Area 24	Blue Economy
Thematic Area 25	Clean and Affordable Energy
Thematic Area 26	Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation
Thematic Area 27	Environment, Housing, Urban and Regional Development
Thematic Area 28	Innovation and Technology in National Defence Capabilities
Thematic Area 29	Resource Governance
Thematic Area 30	National System of Innovation

#### ELIGIBILITY

Lecturers in Public Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria are eligible. Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary researches, comprising researchers from various disciplines, are encouraged. The Principal Investigator (PI), who must not be below the rank of a Senior Lecturer in a University or Principal Lecturer in a Polytechnic or College of Education, will lead the Research Team and be personally responsible and held accountable for the conduct of the research. An added requirement is that the PI must be institution-based, with the PI's institution regarded as the Coordinating Institution and guarantor of proper application of the funds for the project.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

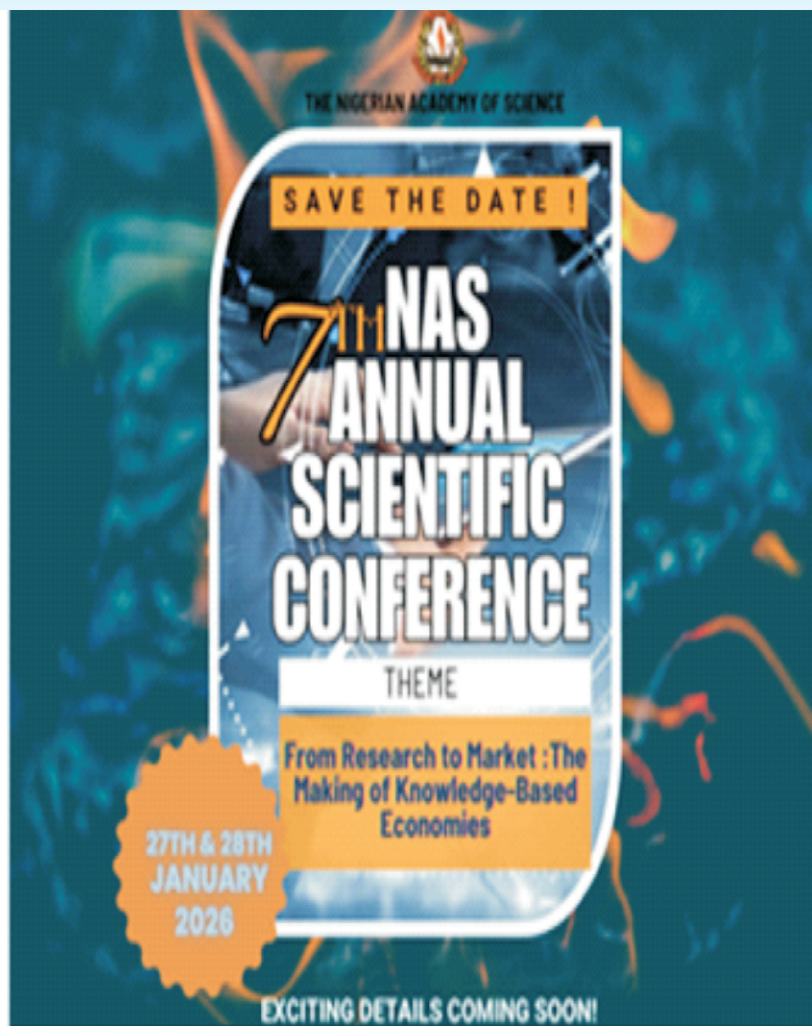
The process of application is entirely on an online platform. The Principal Investigator is expected to visit [nrf.tetfund.gov.ng](http://nrf.tetfund.gov.ng), where he or she will be closely guided on the preparation and final submission of the Concept Note as well as the Research Proposal. Applicants are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the Research Brief and the Guidelines for the application.

All the submitted Concept Notes will be evaluated by the National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC). The PIs of the successful Concept Notes will be communicated to proceed to the preparation of the Full Proposals, which will also be processed online. The PI and, at least, a member of the Research Team of a proposal that has been screened and adjudged fundable, shall be invited to defend their proposal before the NRFS&MC. Thereafter the successful proposals for the award of grant will be presented to the Board of Trustees of TETFund for approval and disbursement of funds.

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT NOTES

The Portal will be open for the submission of Concept Notes from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Deadline for submission of Concept Notes shall be on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Nigerian time. For enquiries, please contact the TETFUND NRF Secretariat using the following email addresses: [safhugb@tetfund.gov.ng](mailto:safhugb@tetfund.gov.ng), [odoju@tetfund.gov.ng](mailto:odoju@tetfund.gov.ng), [aboutlahh@tetfund.gov.ng](mailto:aboutlahh@tetfund.gov.ng), [zanginas@tetfund.gov.ng](mailto:zanginas@tetfund.gov.ng), [ugwubs@tetfund.gov.ng](mailto:ugwubs@tetfund.gov.ng)

Signed:  
**Prof. S.T. Echono PhD, CGP**  
 The Executive Secretary  
 Tertiary Education Trust Fund No. 6 Zambazi Crescent  
 Maitama, Abuja



The Nigerian Academy of Science is pleased to announce its **Seventh Annual Scientific Conference**, scheduled for **Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th January, 2026**.

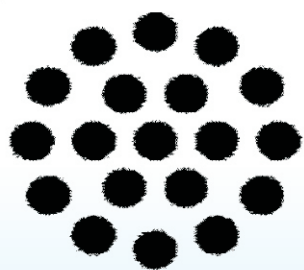
Theme: “From Research to Market: The Making of Knowledge-Based Economies”

This year's conference will feature:

- Invited presentations
- Oral and poster sessions showcasing original research
- Networking opportunities with leading scientists, policymakers, and innovators

We invite researchers, industry stakeholders, and the broader scientific community to **save the date** and join the conversation on translating research into real-world impact.

**THE ISC GOVERNING BOARD HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT TO UNDERSCORE THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN GLOBAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE.**



# International Science Council

The ISC Governing Board has issued a statement to underscore the urgent need to protect and strengthen global cooperation in science.

# AST PLATFORM



## ***Call for Submission of Manuscripts!***

The *Annals of Science and Technology (AST)*, a journal of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), hereby calls for submission of manuscripts for publication in its next issue. The journal is indexed and abstracted by many reputable outlets including Google Scholar, EBSCO Discovery Service, J-Gate, ReadCube, Baidu Scholar, CNKI Scholar (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), Naviga (Softweco), KESLI-NDSL (Korean National Discovery for Science Leaders), Naviga (Softweco), Promi Central (ExLibris), Summon (Serial Solutions/ProQuest), TDNet and WorldCat (OCLC).

AST publishes high-quality theoretical and experimental articles twice a year. It publishes research articles, state of the art reviews and short communications in the field of biological, health, chemical, mathematical and physical sciences, as well as engineering and technology. More information on the journal such as guidelines on submission of articles can be found in the link below: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/ast/ast-overview.xml> .