

The president's address

It gives me a great pleasure, on behalf of the Trustees of Association of Entrepreneurship Scholars (AES), to extend my warm and cordial greetings to all of you as we address one of the most critical and urgent challenges of our time.

Nigeria's population has a large percentage of young inhabitants, and there is a high demand for educational opportunities for its young populace, churning out hundreds of thousands of graduates every passing year.

Challenges of skill mismatch between formal education and job market requirements have negatively affected the social and economic well-being of these youths, impeding their economic contribution potential, resulting in loss of qualitative human capital for national development, to say nothing of accelerating rate of poverty.

The population growth coupled with limited economic opportunities and livelihood options for Nigerian youths has resulted in significant increase in crime and magnitude of out-migration to different countries in the last few years in the face of growing unemployment.

It is on the heels of these uncertainties that Association of Entrepreneurship Scholars was conceived for the purpose of educating its members and others with entrepreneurial mind-set in the intricacies and beauties of entrepreneurial adventure and obligations, as well as, a forum for the exchange of ideas, adapting the global entrepreneurship programs that will emphasize our environmental situation, in addition to offering advice in curriculum development in the field.

Besides self-employment, entrepreneurship education will make young people more employable and more ‘entrepreneurial’ in their work within existing organizations, across the social, public and private sectors. The high unemployment rate has become characteristic of the Nigerian economy. This situation has generated some extra burden and undesirable consequences not only for economic development but also for sane socio-cultural co-existence of our people. Entrepreneurial mind-set will definitely change issue of unemployment to self reliance in Nigeria.

The Association of Entrepreneurship Scholars (AES) is gravely concerned and strongly believes that recourse to Entrepreneurship, as has always been touted, is a possible antidote for confronting the situation rather than endless hope for formal employment. However, rhetoric and oratory about self-employment is not just enough. A prerequisite to self-employment is entrepreneurial intention.

AES believes that Entrepreneurship education would fuel entrepreneurial drive if strategically aligned. Entrepreneurship education will seek to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to entrepreneurial success in a variety of setting. It will create opportunities, ensures social justice, instils confidence and fuels the economy. Entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning process that spans all levels of education from primary school through graduate university level.

Teaching modules will introduce different aspects of both theoretical and practical entrepreneurial knowledge that will support innovative thinking and start-ups along with innovative teaching methodologies. More importantly, AES carries along other related disciplines in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria and beyond.

In furtherance of our good intentions, the association has been registered as a legal entity with corporate affairs commission (CAC). On the clime, the focus of AES includes:

1. Establishment of Journal of Entrepreneurship Scholars;

2. Organizing of conferences and workshops for sharing ideas about research outcomes and innovations;
3. Collaborating with government agencies and entrepreneurship foundations on projects and global linkages; and
4. Providing consultancy services on entrepreneurial intentions.

Membership into AES is a minimum qualification of PhD in related discipline. AES will continue its capacity building until it impacts all higher institutions in Nigeria.

Finally, I wish to appreciate every member of this association. My special thanks to the entire Board of Trustees for your confidence and support. I know how much time and energy that you have devoted to helping this Association advance and succeed, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to carry on that task.



Professor M. I. Nwoye