June, 2026

RESEARCH BRIEF

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION (RIIC)

Research News **Funding Oportunities** **Grants**

RIIC VISION

A research focused department, building capacity in excellent innovative research and development.

RIIC MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for cutting edge ethical research, through interdisciplinary collaboration and joint ventures that impact national and global needs.

EDITORIAL

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AVP RIIC

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RESEARCH LEADERSHIP: RIIC WELCOMES AVP, PROF. FOLUSO OJEWOLE

The Office of Research, Innovation and International Cooperation (RIIC) at Babcock University marked a significant milestone on Thursday, May 7, 2026, as it warmly welcomed its new Director, Prof. Foluso Ojewole, in a heartfelt reception ceremony held at the RIIC office.

The occasion brought together distinguished members of the Babcock University leadership, including the President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Afolarin Olutunde Ojewole, and the Senior Vice President (Academics), Prof. Jonathan Nwosu, whose presence underscored the institution's commitment to research excellence and the importance of this new appointment.

The RIIC team received their new Director with warmth and enthusiasm, setting the tone for a collaborative and productive season ahead. The atmosphere was one of celebration, anticipation, and shared purpose a fitting welcome for a leader stepping into one of the most strategic offices in the university.

Prof. Ojewole assumes leadership of RIIC at an exciting time, as the office continues to build on the strong foundation laid by her predecessor, Prof. Grace O. Tayo, who served with distinction from 2012 to 2026. With a clear mandate to advance Babcock University's research agenda, strengthen international collaborations, and deepen the institution's global research visibility, the new Director brings fresh energy and vision to the role.

The RIIC team looks forward with great confidence to this new season of research leadership, innovation, and impact under Prof. Ojewole's direction.
Welcome, Prof. Foluso Ojewole. RIIC is ready.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE AVP
Prof. Foluso Ojewole | , RIIC | Babcock University

Dear Babcock University Community,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the Associate Vice President of the Research, Innovation & International Collaboration (RIIC). I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the overwhelming support I have received over the past five weeks. Your kindness and encouragement have been truly humbling.

Honoring Our Legacy

We gratefully acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Prof. Grace Tayo, who served as Director of RIIC from 2012 to 2026. Her visionary initiatives, combined with the dedication of her team and our researchers, laid a strong foundation for a thriving research culture at Babcock University.

Our Researchers-The Backbone of RIIC

Your unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit drive our collective accomplishments. RIIC recognizes that fulfilling the GRACE mandate requires a clear mission that emphasizes the critical role of research and researchers in:
Enhancing institutional reputation
Attracting research funding
Producing exceptional graduates

RIIC Mission and Focus Areas

We are dedicated to:
Building capacity for outstanding research
Expanding global research initiatives
Promoting ethical principles and guidelines in research
Actively seeking funding opportunities
Implementing incentives, awards, and mentorship programs

Looking Ahead

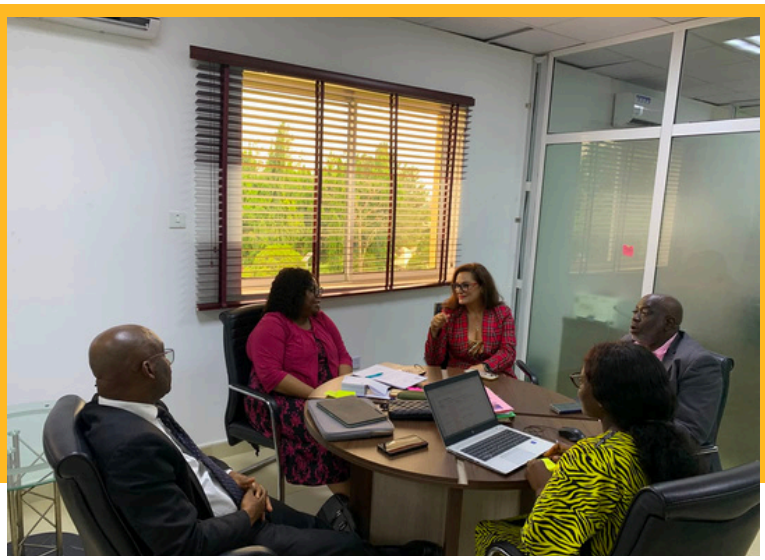
RIIC is committed to working hand-in-hand with all staff and faculty members to advance our mission. Together, we will continue to strengthen Babcock University's position as a beacon of research excellence.
Thank you for your continued dedication to advancing our mission.

God bless you
Hail Babcock!

GLOBALLY RELEVANT: Romanian Based Institution Seeks Partnership With Babcock

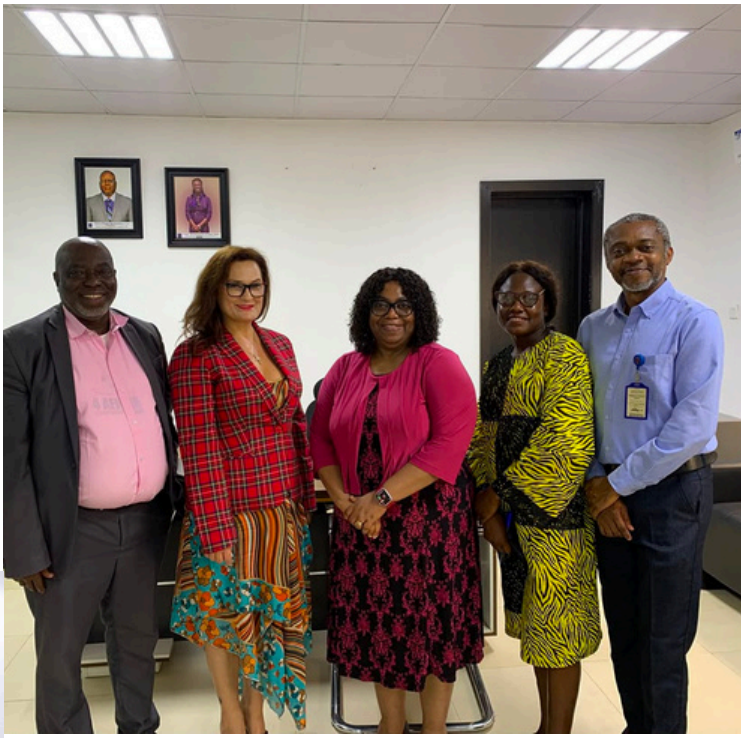
June-1, 2026

In a significant step toward strengthening Babcock University's global research footprint, the President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Afolarin Olutunde Ojewole, received Dr. Ec. Sanda Maiduc from the Universitatea Nationala de Stiinta si Tehnologie, Romania, in his office on June 1, 2026.



The distinguished visitor was led to the President/Vice Chancellor's office by the Associate Vice President, Research Innovation and International Cooperation, Prof. Foluso Ojewole, alongside her team, for strategic discussions centered on fostering collaboration and partnership between Babcock University and the Romanian-based institution.

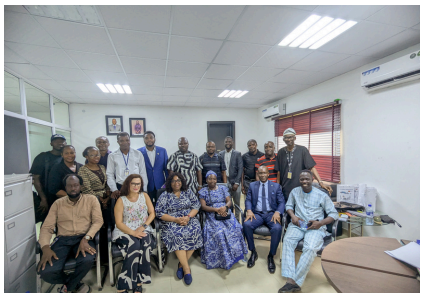
The meeting underscored Babcock University's growing appeal as a preferred partner for internationally recognised institutions, and reflects the institution's unwavering commitment to building cross-border academic alliances that advance research, innovation, and knowledge exchange on a global scale.

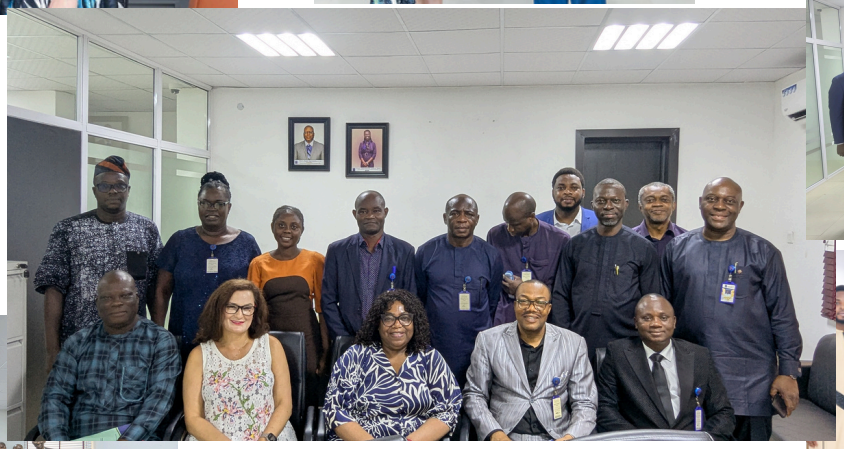


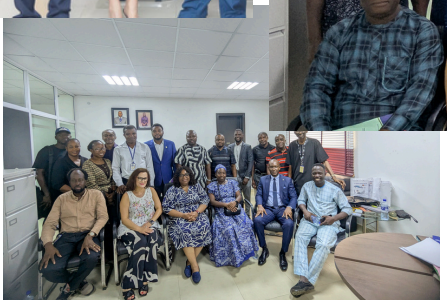
This visit marks a promising new chapter in Babcock University's international cooperation agenda, as both institutions explore areas of mutual interest that could yield impactful research collaborations, faculty exchanges, and joint academic programmes in the near future.

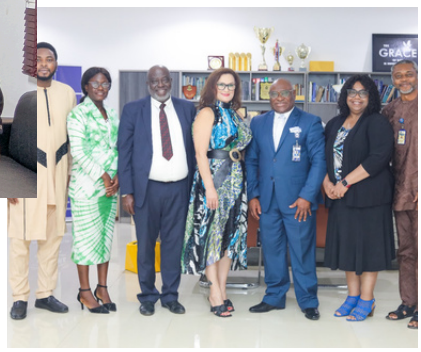
PICTURE STORY

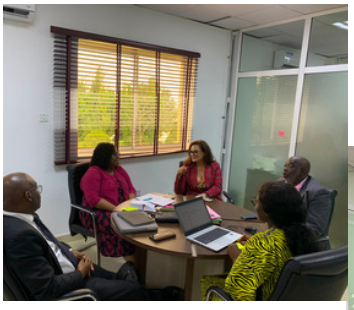
Paving the way for research collaboration

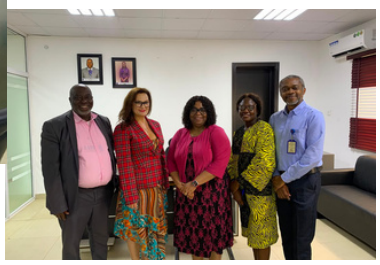


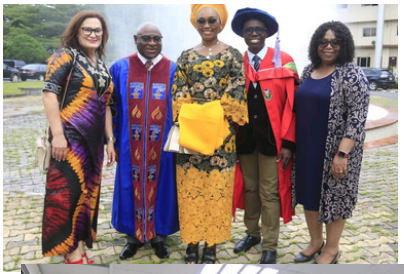


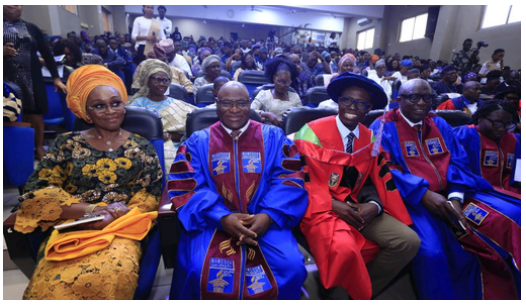












RIIC RESEARCH BRIEF

BU 59th

INAUGURAL LECTURE

MARCH 5, 2026

THE QUEST FOR RETURN TO EDEN: BALANCING TECHNOLOGICAL ACCELERATION WITH LEGAL SAFEGUARDS FOR LONG-TEARM SOCIETAL SUSTAINABILITY

BY

Prof. Olubukola Adeyemi olugasa

Summary of the Inaugural Lecture

The lecture uncovered and developed some theories under technoprudence - the jurisprudence governing law and technology. This insight has given rise to novel legal theories designed to scrutinise the relationship between law and technology, particularly to establish sustainable regulatory and governance frameworks for emerging technological developments. It addresses the multifaceted challenges posed by various technological phenomena and seeks to propose legal structures for their governance, concentrating on select areas. Drawing from almost two decades of research, it proposes that new technologies should be evaluated through a sequential decision matrix.

This matrix provides a structured approach to technological governance that is both principled and practical, adaptable to different contexts while maintaining core commitments to justice and human dignity. The lecture submits that Nigeria, alongside the entire Global South, should not simply trail or replicate Western technological pathways but is instead position to forge innovative, alternative trajectories. It highlights the limitations, which among others, include inadequate infrastructure, the enduring legacy of colonial institutions, and struggling informal economies but assures they however can, counter-intuitively, enable the emergence of more resilient, equitable, and culturally attuned models for integrating law and technology.

The lecture argues that the human society has a huge task of taming the dynamism and acceleration of technological advancement for his insatiable quest for a utopian world.

It may seem to be moving fast towards that illusive utopia through technological phenomena, but a closer look at the trend beckons need for critical reappraisal of the drift through the instrumentality of well thought out legal infrastructures. It is recommended as follows:

· Interdisciplinary research think-tank for indigenous technological policy and strategies;

· A legal framework to enable identified stakeholders gather, harmonise and consolidate data of the people within Nigeria for planning and security.

· Provision of critical infrastructures for running digital platform exclusive for Nigeria for data sovereignty.

· Need for strong energy capacity to meet the demands for independent digital platform through integration of different sources of energy on the national grid supported by formidable legal infrastructure.

· Amend the Constitution to recognise and develop our indigenous laws and integrate them.

· Overhaul of the respective legislation for update to meet with at least the basic considerations of digital governance.
· Enact legislation for control of agriculture for better yields through natural farming and limit the use of GMFs.

Finally, it admonishes that Nigeria, alongside the entire Global South, should not simply trail or replicate Western technological pathways but instead position to forge innovative, alternative trajectories.

BU 60th

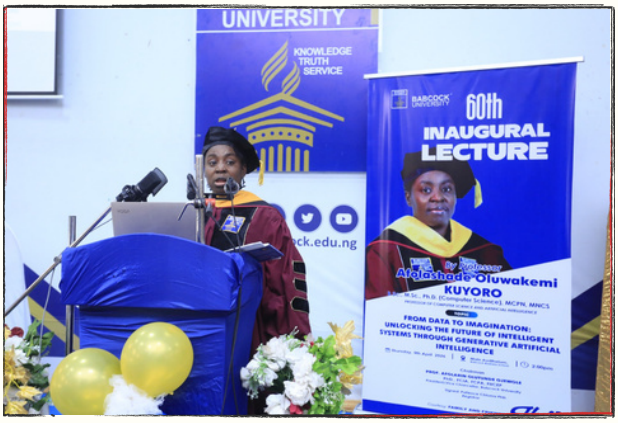
INAUGURAL LECTURE

APRIL 9, 2026

FROM DATA TO IMAGINATION: UNLOCKING THE FUTURE OF INTELLIGENT SYSTEM THROUGH GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BY

Prof. Afolashade Oluwakemi Kuyoro



The inaugural lecture, From Data to Imagination: Unlocking the Future of Intelligent Systems through Generative Artificial Intelligence, is a profound narrative of transformation tracing a journey that moves from adversity to purpose, from constraint to possibility, and from knowledge to vision. Beginning on a deeply human note, it reflects a path shaped by loss, resilience, faith, and perseverance. In many ways, this personal evolution mirrors the trajectory of artificial intelligence itself, which has progressed from modest beginnings into a force of remarkable depth and potential.

For many years, artificial intelligence operated within the domain of data. It was designed to learn from existing data, identify patterns, and generate predictions. Its contributions have been significant, advancing fields such as healthcare, education, finance, and scientific research. Yet, despite its precision and utility, it remained fundamentally constrained. It could interpret the past and optimize the present, but it lacked the capacity to transcend the boundaries of what was already known. It was, in essence, intelligent without being imaginative. That limitation is now being redefined.

We are entering a transformative era in which artificial intelligence is no longer confined to analysis. Through the emergence of generative AI, machines are increasingly capable of creation. They can produce text, generate designs, simulate complex systems, and propose solutions that extend beyond prior data. In doing so, they are not merely reflecting reality but actively reshaping it. This shift signals a redefinition of intelligence itself, one that now encompasses creativity, exploration, and the capacity to envision what does not yet exist. Central to this evolution is the concept of machine imagination.

Historically, imagination has been regarded as a uniquely human faculty, the driving force behind innovation, discovery, and artistic expression. Today, however, machines are beginning to approximate aspects of this capability. By synthesizing vast bodies of knowledge and identifying abstract relationships, they can generate new possibilities and explore previously uncharted directions. Nevertheless, an essential distinction remains. While machines can produce possibilities, they do not ascribe meaning to them. The responsibility for interpretation, intention, and purpose continues to reside with human beings.

As a consequence, the relationship between humans and machines is undergoing a fundamental transformation. Artificial intelligence is no longer simply an instrument of execution; it is becoming a partner in thought and creativity. Its applications are already reshaping diverse sectors. In medicine, it supports diagnostic processes and enables predictive modeling of patient outcomes. In education, it facilitates personalized learning experiences tailored to individual needs. In scientific research, it accelerates discovery at an unprecedented pace. In the creative arts, it expands the boundaries of expression. This is not a process of replacement, but one of augmentation, where human capability is extended and enriched.

However, this expanding capability introduces equally significant challenges. Generative systems possess the ability to produce highly convincing yet potentially misleading content. They may perpetuate or amplify biases embedded within their training data. They also raise complex questions regarding authorship, ownership, and authenticity. As such, the implications of this technological shift extend beyond the technical domain into ethical, social, and philosophical territory. The critical questions are no longer limited to what machines can achieve, but must now address what they ought to achieve.

BU 61th

INAUGURAL LECTURE

MAY 14, 2026

FROM REACTION TO PREVENTION: SHAPING NIGERIA'S HEALTH FUTURE

BY

Prof. Motunrayo Florence Olarewaju

Nigeria currently faces a double burden of disease, where infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cholera, and Lassa fever remain widespread, while non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and mental health disorders are rapidly increasing. This is further complicated by the triple burden of disease in many developing contexts, where infectious diseases, NCDs, and social-behavioural conditions (including mental illness and substance abuse) coexist. The situation is worsened by weak health systems, inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, shortage of health workers, and heavy reliance on out-of-pocket payments, which push millions into poverty.

Public health is defined as the organized effort of society to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote health. It differs from clinical medicine by focusing on populations rather than individuals. Central to public health practice are surveillance, policy development, and ensuring equitable access to healthcare. Health promotion extends this further by encouraging environments and behaviours that support healthy living across communities. Importantly, health outcomes are shaped largely not by healthcare services alone, but by social determinants of health (SDOH)—including income, education, housing, environment, and social conditions—which account for up to 80–90% of health outcomes.

Nigeria's health indicators reveal significant gaps. Maternal and child mortality remain among the highest globally, immunization coverage is low, and millions of children remain unvaccinated. Health expenditure remains below international targets, while insurance coverage is limited. Recent outbreaks of cholera, diphtheria, Lassa fever, and mpox demonstrate systemic weaknesses, particularly in surveillance, sanitation, funding, and emergency preparedness. These outbreaks highlight the country's continued reliance on reactive responses rather than sustainable prevention systems.

Key challenges include weak subnational capacity, poor water and sanitation infrastructure, inadequate surveillance systems, misinformation, insecurity in conflict regions, and low community trust in health interventions. Despite improvements such as the establishment of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the National Mental Health Act, implementation gaps persist, especially in rural and underserved areas.

To address these issues, the lecture emphasizes a necessary shift toward proactive prevention, which is more cost-effective, sustainable, and impactful than reactive care.
Prevention reduces disease burden, improves productivity, enhances safety, and strengthens long-term health system resilience. Evidence shows that preventive strategies yield significant returns on investment compared to treating advanced diseases.

Transforming Nigeria's health system requires several actionable strategies. These include strengthening digital health systems, adopting AI-driven surveillance, integrating health data systems, and expanding telemedicine. Workforce development is essential, particularly training community health workers and integrating public health specialists into frontline care. Addressing social determinants through multisectoral collaboration such as linking health with education, housing, and agriculture is critical. Health equity must be prioritized by targeting vulnerable populations and reducing structural inequalities.

Nigeria's health roadmap is anchored in the Health Sector Strategic Blueprint (2023–2027) and the Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative, which aim to strengthen primary healthcare, expand health insurance coverage, improve governance, and boost local pharmaceutical production.

BU 62th

INAUGURAL LECTURE

JUNE 4, 2026

FOOD AS MEDICINE, FOOD AS POISON NAVIGATING THE DOUBLE EDGED PLATE

BY

Prof. OLUTAYO SUNDAY SHOKUNBI

Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry & Toxicology

A summary of the lecture delivered on June 4, 2026, is presented below:

His thesis is at once simple and urgent: Nigeria already holds, within its own indigenous food systems, the nutritional and pharmacological toolkit needed to confront malnutrition and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases. Where we fall short, he argues, it is not science that has failed us, but the will to act. He developed this around a single, memorable image the double-edged plate.

On the first edge, food as medicine. From over 141 commonly consumed Nigerian foods, he and his team have mapped the mineral wealth in our stockfish, walnut, locust bean and tofu. Yet his dietary surveys deliver a sobering verdict: the average Nigerian adult consumes barely 40 percent of the calcium their bones require, while taking nearly double the recommended sodium a quiet driver of the hypertension now reaching even our adolescents. From this work has come a patented complementary food, GROWSTAR, and fresh evidence affirming the lacto-ovo vegetarian pattern that defines our own campus table.

On the second edge, food as poison. The same plate, he warned, can carry lead and cadmium in everyday staples, microplastics in our table salt and bottled water, and pesticide residues across the supply chain. But here he offered hope rather than alarm: how we wash, soak, peel and cook our food directly determines how much harm reaches us. Knowledge, properly applied, is itself a remedy.

And on a third dimension, food as pharmacy. Through two decades of patient research, he and his colleagues have scientifically validated the healing claims of our biodiversity anti-obesity activity in Phragmanthera incana, anti-ulcer properties in Phyllanthus amarus, lactogenic power in Pentadiplandra brazzeana, and anti-diabetic benefit in the Doum palm fruit. These are not folklore; they are findings, now moving toward products and partnerships.

His conclusion rings clearly in this hall: the toolkit exists, the science has been done, and what remains is our collective will to turn discovery into policy, product and practice. He has called on government, on industry, on his fellow scientists, and on this University, each to take up our part and he has committed himself to commercialising these validated products, extending his contaminant surveillance across all six geopolitical zones, and raising the next generation of nutritional scientists.

Professor Shokunbi, you have honoured the calling of a teacher: to make the complex plain, and to make knowledge serve life. You have done so with rigour, with faith, and with a deep love for our nation's children, mothers and most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Senate and the entire Babcock University community, I congratulate you most warmly on this milestone. May the work continue to bear fruit, and may we, as you urge us, learn together to turn the double-edged plate into a healing table for every Nigerian.

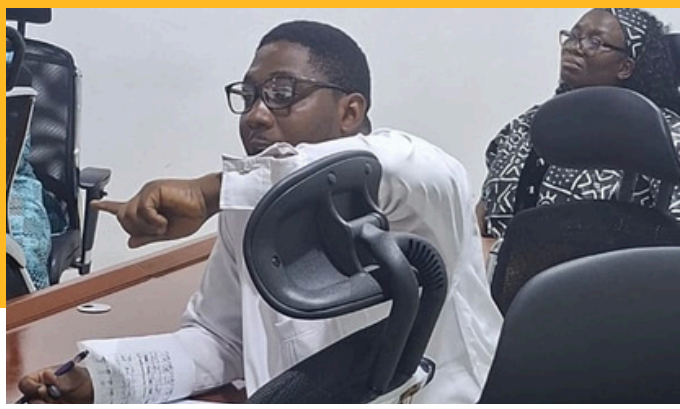
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

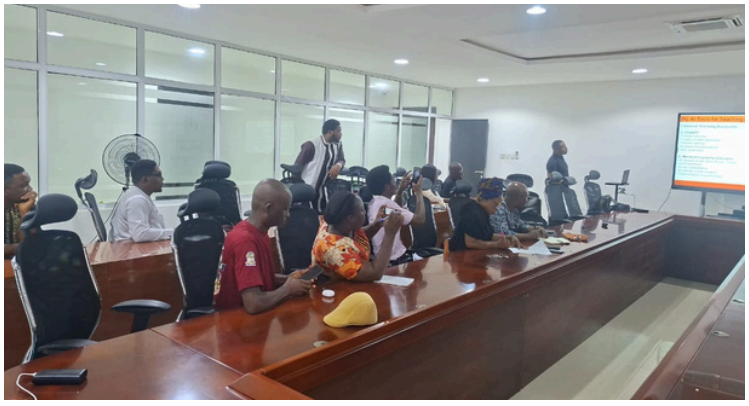
Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries Open Date: 12 May 2026 Deadline: 23 September 2026 Funding type: Grant HORIZON Lump Sum Grant	This call seeks to gather evidence on local democratic practices in low- and middle-income countries to combat global democratic backsliding. Research focuses on how decentralization and efficient public service delivery impact citizen trust and democratic resilience. It emphasizes the involvement of local stakeholders and investigating governance forms in fragile contexts. The goal is to provide policymakers with science-based tools to promote human rights and inclusive democratic societies **Learn More**

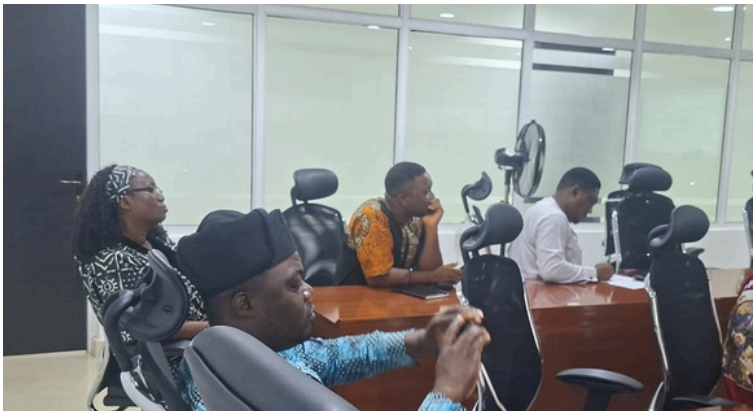
International cooperation in AI Open Date: 17 November 2026 Deadline: 18 March 2027 Funding type: Grant	This initiative focuses on accelerating the uptake of AI solutions in low- and middle-income countries through digital partnerships and north-south cooperation. It establishes Living Labs and innovation hubs to adapt European AI research to local needs in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and education. The goal is to empower local communities through sustainable, responsible AI development and real-life validation of technology prototypes **Learn more**

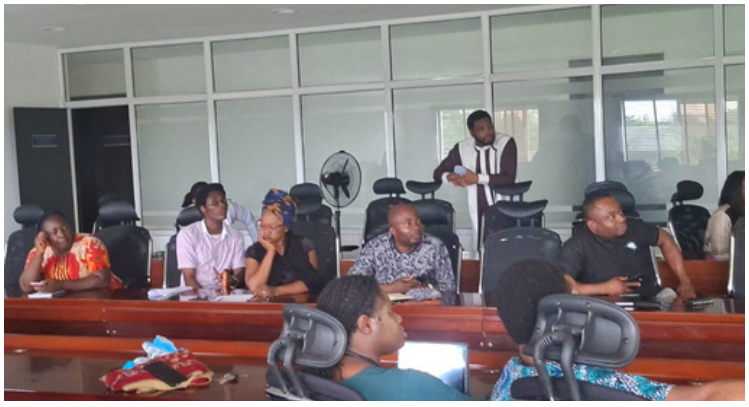
Research Office Encourages Internal And External Collaboration On Various Calls For Proposal

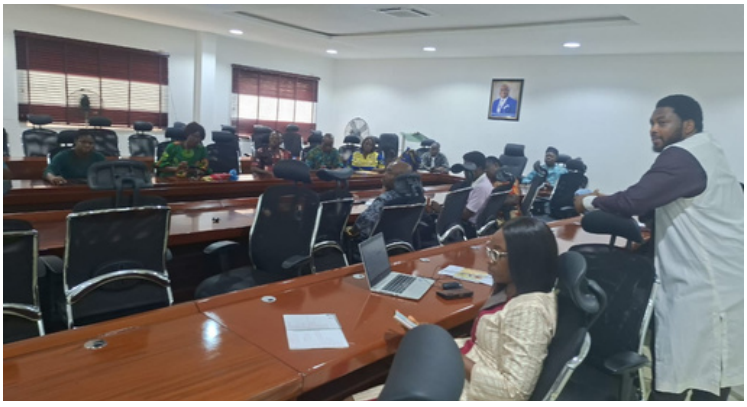
Research is an expression of faith in the possibility of progress. The drive that leads scholars to study a topic has to include the belief that new things can be discovered, that newer can be better, and that greater depth of understanding is achievable. Research, especially academic research, is a form of optimism about the human condition.











DO YOU KNOW?

Just one session of moderate exercise immediately reduces your blood pressure and anxiety? Not after weeks. Same day.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If We Knew What it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

– ALBERT EINSTEIN

OUR TEAM

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