



Brief Review of the 4th Annual Centre for African Research on Enterprise and Economic Development (CAREED) Conference (29th and 30th August 2019).

10 September 2019

The University recently hosted the fourth Annual Centre for African Research on Enterprise and Economic Development (CAREED) Conference within the School of Business and Enterprise.

The conference, which was delivered at the Paisley Campus over the 29th and 30th August, saw over 70 delegates in attendance from a range of African countries represented as well as those based within the UK.

With a key focus on overcoming the challenges encountered in enterprise and economic development in Africa, the programme saw 39 papers presented across four major tracks: *African Enterprise*; *African Economic Development Issues*; *Governance and Institutions*; and *Logistics and Supply Chain*.

The programme also included the annual 'Africa Debate' where attendees were involved in an interactive discussion surrounding the key challenges and opportunities facing African economic development in the years to come; and a workshop which focused on the role of Diaspora and NGO organisations in Africa's economic development, with contributions from practitioner organisations based in Scotland and the UK.

Two keynote speakers were welcomed within this year's programme. Professor Jacinta Nwachukwu of the University of Central Lancashire gave this year's keynote address on '*Building Sustainable Social Enterprises: The Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Areas in South Eastern Nigeria*'. Professor Norris F. Kreuger of Entrepreneurship Northwest, Idaho, was the conference's second keynote speaker whose keynote on the topic of '*Growing Healthy Entrepreneurial Ecosystems*' was delivered by CAREED's Deputy Director Dr Dina Nziku. Professor Nwachukwu was also a recipient of our *CAREED Fellowship*, only the fourth to be offered in the Centre's short history.

Among the African countries represented were: Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, South Africa; Ethiopia, Egypt and Algeria. Delegates engaged fully with all the papers presented, as well as the annual Africa Debate and Diaspora and NGO workshops which are always highlights of our conference. This year the Africa Debate focused on whether there exists a phenomenon referred to as *Africapitalism*. This was led by Professor Kenneth Amaeshi of



Edinburgh University based on his recent publications on this topic. This was coupled with a discussion on the accuracy of national economic statistics based on a recently published book on the economy of Ghana by Dr Mike Tribe and Dr Mozammel Huq of Strathclyde University.

The Diaspora and NGO Workshop on Day 2 of the conference generated lively debates around such issues as: Fairtrade pricing; supply chain constraints in bringing African commodities to western markets; governance and management structures in-country; the future of smallholder farmers; infrastructure and transport constraints; and training and capacity building. Some interesting case studies from countries such as Malawi were highlighted during this session.

The conference closed with two interesting presentations by CAREED colleagues Dr Allan Moore and Dr Stephen Collins who spoke about their respective funded projects on...*"Inclusive growth in the cultural sector in Kenya"*... (jointly with Mount Kenya University); and the...*"Anti-modern slavery knowledge network in Ghana"*...based in Jamestown, Accra. These presentations also stimulated lively debates among the delegates.

Commenting on the event, Professor John Struthers, CAREED Director, said... "This year's annual CAREED conference attracted a broad range of delegates and academics, and with almost double the number of papers compared with last year's conference, provided stimulating debates and discussions throughout the two-day event. I'd like to thank everyone involved in ensuring the event was a great success, especially the many delegates who travelled from Africa to be with us in person. We are grateful to our sponsors for helping to support the conference: *Eagle Scientific Ltd, Coffee Conscience, Ferguson Cardo and Calabash Restaurant*. We are also grateful to our PhD students who helped greatly at registration and acting as guides for the delegates over the two days. I am pleased to say that our conference received high impact media coverage, including an interview with one of our delegates by *Radio France International* which has a listening audience of many millions, especially across the Francophone countries. Other delegates were also interviewed by *Splash FM* based in Nigeria, who were also represented in person at the conference..."

Delegates were delighted to participate in the two organised tours of *Paisley Abbey* and the UWS campus based studio of *Professor Alexander Stoddart, the Queen's Sculptor in Ordinary in Scotland*.

Finally we were also delighted to be able to support a newly opened African restaurant in Paisley who provided the venue and food for our conference dinner.



Looking forward, the CAREED team, especially the management committee composed of myself, Dr Dina Nziku, and Dr Adebisi Adewole, will be meeting soon to start the planning for next year's conference and we will be in touch with you about that in due course. Meanwhile, to remind you of our conference, see the attached photographs.

Professor John Struthers
Director of CAREED



John Struthers with a group of the conference participants



Conference participants with their certificates



Conference participants at the opening session