

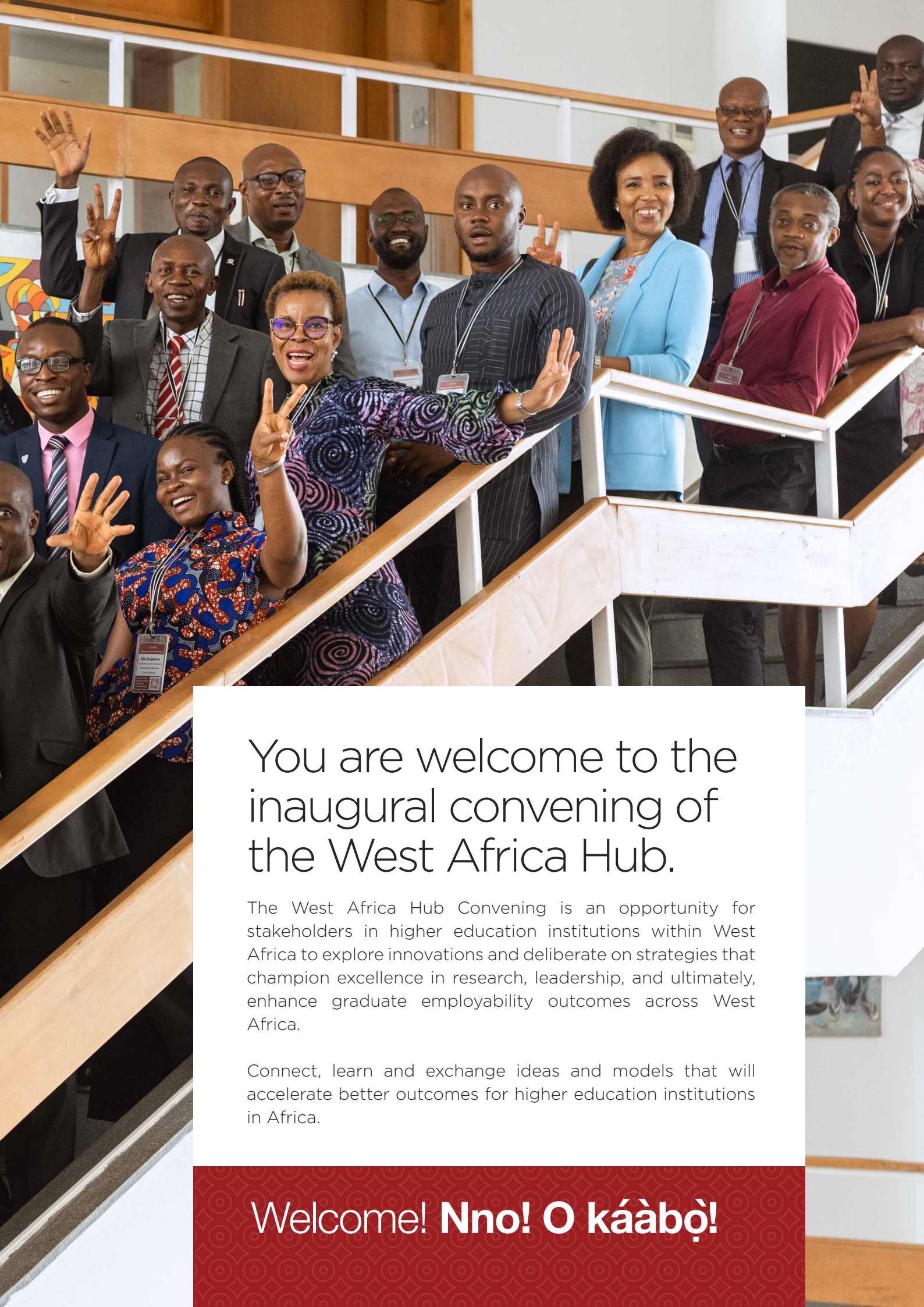
THE EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

Inaugural West Africa Hub Convening

Building an Ecosystem of Excellence
for Research, Leadership, and Graduate
Employability.







You are welcome to the inaugural convening of the West Africa Hub.

The West Africa Hub Convening is an opportunity for stakeholders in higher education institutions within West Africa to explore innovations and deliberate on strategies that champion excellence in research, leadership, and ultimately, enhance graduate employability outcomes across West Africa.

Connect, learn and exchange ideas and models that will accelerate better outcomes for higher education institutions in Africa.

Welcome! **Nno! O káàbò!**

Take a look at who is in the room

33

Higher education
institutions

4

Non-higher education
institutions

3

Student
volunteers

11

Countries across
Africa



Convening
Host



Convening Schedule

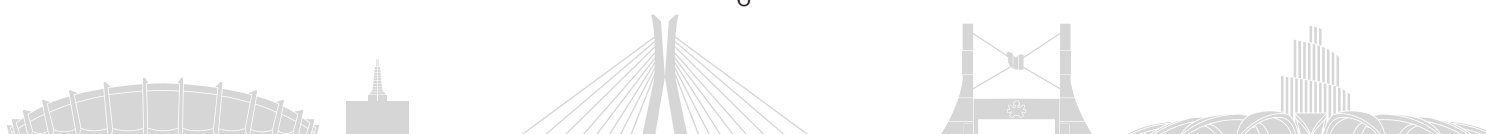
Thursday, March 14, 2024 - Marriott Hotel | Lagos - Ikeja

09:00 - 13:00	Registration / Exhibition
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Location: Meeting Room 3
13:00 - 14:00	Side Meetings: Leading Innovation in Large Complex Public University Systems: The Case of the University of Cape Coast Career Service Center Prof. Rosemond Boohene, <i>Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast</i> In her capacity as Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, a reputable public institution with a student population of at least 70,000, Dr. Boohene has led the establishment of its first career service center working to reach at least 70% of the student body per year. Today, the University of Cape Coast serves as a mentor for other large institutions, leveraging their tried and proven models for developing systems and structures that prepare students adequately for the changing job market. In this session, participants will engage Prof. Boohene to learn about how she worked with her team to leverage various existing structures in the university as pillars and partners to create excitement around an innovative and improved system.
13:00 - 14:00	Building an Enterprise Development Center Dr. Peter Bamkole, <i>Chief Operating Officer Pan-Atlantic University and Chair of West Africa Hub Strategic Committee</i> The Enterprise Development Center (EDC) at Pan-Atlantic University is dedicated to offering comprehensive business development and support services to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. Established in January 2003 under the leadership of Dr. Peter Bamkole until 2023, the center has evolved into one of the premier enterprise development centers in Africa. In this session, he will share his experience in leading the establishment of the center and the ingredients for its success. Location: Ballroom 3
14:00	Opening and Welcome session Speaker: Dr. Peter Bamkole, <i>Chief Operating Officer, Pan-Atlantic University, Nigeria, Chair, West Africa Hub Strategic Committee</i> Location: Ballroom 3
14:15 - 15:00	Keynote address: Building an Ecosystem of Excellence for Leadership Speaker: Dr. Patrick Awuah, <i>President, Ashesi University</i> The keynote by Patrick Awuah will discuss the crucial role of The Education Collaborative network in advancing quality higher education in Africa within the context of the AU's sub-regional theme. It will highlight the urgent need for effective leadership in the West African region and stress the importance of Higher Education Institutions to foster a culture of excellence in leadership. Location: Ballroom 3

15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:30	<p>Unveiling the West Africa Hub Strategic Plan: A Fireside Chat</p> <p>The West Africa Hub’s Strategic Plan was developed collaboratively by its strategic and technical committees. Underpinned by data and research, the two-year plan prioritizes the development of systems in the hub’s institutions to foster ethical leadership, track graduate employability, and promote collaborative research capacity development. Ultimately, the goal is to improve the quality of the hub’s institutions to be globally recognized as centers of excellence in the development of graduates in the region for the next two years.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rose Dodd (Moderator), <i>Executive Director, The Education Collaborative</i> » Dr. Peter Bamkole, <i>Chief Operating Officer, Pan-Atlantic University, Chair, West Africa Hub Strategic Committee</i> » Prof. Justice Bawole, <i>Dean, University of Ghana Business School</i> » Dr. DeBrenna LaFa Agbényiga, <i>Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, International University of Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast</i> <p>Location: Ballroom 3</p>
17:30 – 19:00	<p>Cocktail & Networking</p> <p>Location: Azure</p>

Friday March 15, 2024 - Marriott Hotel | Lagos - Ikeja

08:30 – 08:45	<p>Welcome and Recap</p> <p>This session is a brief moderator-guided stretch that will recap the activities and learnings of the first day and walk participants through the scheduled activities of the second day.</p> <p>Facilitators</p> <p>Dr. Koffi N’DA, <i>Dean of School of Business and Social Science & Interim Vice President for Operations, International University of Grand-Bassam</i></p> <p>Grace Amponsah, <i>Programs Coordinator, The Education Collaborative</i></p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 1&2</p>
08:45 – 9:45	<p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>Strategic Positioning of Higher Education Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa for Global Impact</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Abiodun Adebayo, <i>Vice Chancellor, Covenant University</i></p> <p>This address by Prof. Abiodun Adebayo, Vice Chancellor, Covenant University, Nigeria, will highlight the importance of strategic positioning of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) globally, emphasizing the impact of institutional rankings in shaping perceptions and projecting the excellence and distinctive contributions of Sub-Saharan African HEIs. The talk will explore how a strategic alignment among HEIs in the region can enhance the significance of Sub-Saharan African rankings on the global stage, with a special focus on the role of The Education Collaborative.</p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 1&2</p>



9:45 – 10:45

Careers and Employability Session 1

Systems for improved graduate employability outcomes in the West Africa Region of The Education Collaborative – A presentation on the status, goals, and gaps for improvement

Speaker: Dr. Edward Amarteifio, *Project Lead, Systems Change Program - Employability, University of Cape Coast*

The strategic goal of the West Africa regional hub is to ensure that all member institutions in the region track and report their graduates' employability rates. To achieve this, the University of Cape Coast, and the International University of Grand Bassam, conducted a study to assess the state of career and employability development systems within the network.

The study's outcomes will determine the average employability rate within the regional hub's member institutions, informing future goals and training to address resource and capacity gaps and collaboratively improve employability rates.

Location: Meeting Room 1&2

10:45 – 11:15

Networking & Coffee Break

11:15 – 11:30

Transition Break

MC: Grace Amponsah

Careers and Employability Session 2

11:30 – 12:30

Outcomes from the Career Strategy Workshop 2023

Facilitator: Abigail Welbeck, *Director of Career Services, Ashesi University*

The Career Strategy Workshop, an initiative by The Education Collaborative, is designed to offer institutions a structured framework for enhancing and optimizing their career centers. This workshop provides institutions with the necessary guidance, resources, and support throughout the program, assisting them in developing and refining their career strategies.

In this session, participants will interact with the career strategies developed by leads from four institutions from West Africa who participated in the workshop in November 2023, namely, Pan-Atlantic University, Akenten Appiah-Menka University, and Ho Technical University.

Institutions:

- » Pan-Atlantic University, Mrs. Nkiru Ukachukwu, Director of Careers and Alumni Offices Pan-Atlantic University
- » Akenten Appiah-Menka University, Dr. Lydia Takyi, Acting Head, Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Education
- » Ho Technical University, Mr. Edem Honu, Director, Directorate of Career Placement and Guidance

Location: Meeting Room 1

11:30 – 12:30

Panel on Technical and Mainstream Universities

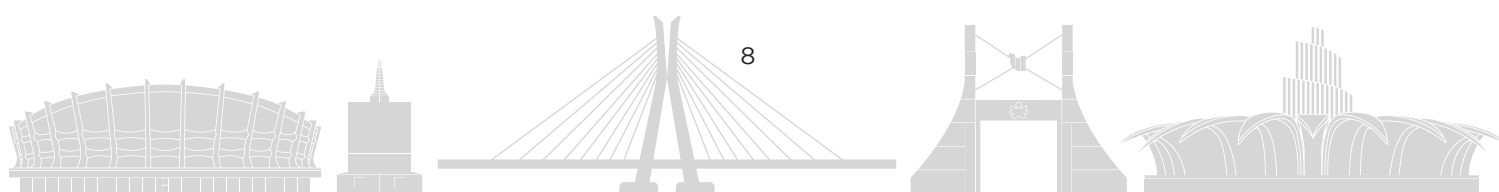
Synergies in Education: Fostering cross-learning between Technical and Mainstream Tertiary Institutions

This panel discusses the practical ways by which technical and mainstream tertiary institutions can improve their outcomes by leveraging the core competencies and positions of one other. The collaborative approach not only enhances graduate employability but also enriches the overall educational experience and is crucial in preparing students for the complexities of the modern world

Location: Meeting Room 2



	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prof. Jeremiah Ojediran (Moderator), <i>Vice Chancellor- Bells University of Technology, Ota</i> » Dr. Alhaji Sankoh, <i>Director of Research Innovation and Linkages, Milton Margai Technical University</i> » Dr. DeBrenna LaFa Agbényiga, <i>Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, International University of Grand Bassam</i>
12:30	<p>Group Photo</p>
12:45 – 14:00	<p>Lunch break</p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 3</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Ethics and Leadership – Part 1</p> <p>Creating an Ethical University in West Africa - Insights from Research</p> <p>Presenter: Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah, <i>Director, Institutional Advancement University of Ghana</i></p> <p>Research leads from the University of Ghana and Bells University of Technology will share insights from the study conducted among West Africa Hub institutions to answer the question “What is an Ethical University?”. The research studied cases of exemplary institutions with proven excellence in maintaining an ethical campus and culture. At the end of the session, participants will gain insights into the concept of an ethical University in the sub-region and valuable perspectives on practices for an ethical culture.</p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 1</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Panel Session: Building Mutually Beneficial Relationships Between Universities and Their Communities: The Case of Pan-Atlantic University, Ashesi University and Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>There are so many intricacies in forging mutually beneficial relationships between universities and their surrounding communities. Through an exploration of successful initiatives, community engagement programs, and strategic partnerships, Ashesi University and Pan-Atlantic University will share with participants the transformative power of their alliance. The discussion will span academic research endeavors to social impact projects, emphasizing how universities can actively contribute to community development while enhancing the academic experience for students.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mr. Jude Acquah (Moderator), <i>Assistant Director - Outreach and Experiential Programmes, Ashesi University</i> » Mr. Frank Wiggle, <i>Head, Community Relations, Pan-Atlantic University</i> » Dr. Bruce Damons, <i>Director, Academic engagement and collaboration Nelson Mandela University</i> <p>Location: Meeting Room 2</p>



15:00 – 16:00	<p>Ethics and Leadership – Part 2 Scenario/Work based activities on Research Outcomes</p> <p>Presenter: Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah, <i>Director, Institutional Advancement, University of Ghana</i></p> <p>This is a practical session designed as a follow-up on the session ‘Creating an Ethical University in West Africa - Insights from Research’. Participants in this session will practice hands-on some of the concepts learned to model systems for an ethical campus as well as actionable insights and strategies to contribute meaningfully to an ethical campus development.</p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 1</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>The Advocate: Building Impactful Alumni Connections</p> <p>Gillian Asafu-Adjaye, <i>Alumni Relations Officer, Ashesi University</i></p> <p>This session delves into the strategic utilization of alumni advocates to forge meaningful connections and boost graduate employability. By pinpointing and engaging influential advocates within the alumni network, institutions can unlock several advantages, including heightened employer engagement, access to exclusive job opportunities, soft skill development for students, professional growth, and heightened loyalty to the alma mater. Through practical insights and examples, attendees will discover how leveraging advocacy can create a thriving ecosystem geared towards graduate employability.</p> <p>Location: Meeting Room 2</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Plenary: Closing Session</p> <p>Reflections and Commitments</p> <p>After two days of learning, sharing, and asking, the closing session will crystallize all the learnings. Participants will reflect on their takeaways and the key roles they can play within their institutions to contribute to the realization of the West Africa Hub’s vision.</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Chinedu Anokwuru, <i>Deputy Director, Research Innovation and International Cooperation (RIIC), Babcock University</i></p> <p>Closing Keynote: Leadership Commitment to Meeting Institutional Goals</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Rosemond Boohene, <i>Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Coast</i></p> <p>Prof. Rosemond Boohene, will conclude the convening by sharing highlights of how the University of Cape Coast has evolved and benefited from being a member of The Education Collaborative. Drawing from the last two days, Prof. Boohene will highlight the significant role that executive leaders play in driving outcomes in institutional and collective goals in the West Africa Hub.</p> <p>Location: Meeting Rooms 1&2</p>
17:00-17:30	<p>Acknowledgements and Expression of Gratitude</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Peter Bamkole, <i>Chief Operating Officer, Pan-Atlantic University and Chair, West Africa Hub Strategic Committee</i> Rita Dugbenu, <i>West African Hub Coordinator, The Education Collaborative</i></p> <p>Location: Meeting Rooms 1&2</p>
17:30	<p>Networking and Snacks</p>

Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00 - 12:00

Checkout & Departure

About The West Africa Hub

The West Africa Hub started in June 2022 to bring together institutions based in West Africa to collaborate, share ideas and inspire one another to achieve excellent student outcomes for the sub-region. The mandate of the hub is to drive West African-centered and context-specific engagement within The Education Collaborative. The hub is driven by anchor and exemplar institutions that commit resources, share their blueprint of success and expertise to support other institutions in the sub-region to develop their systems and operations. The hub's initiatives are governed by its Strategic and Technical Committees.

So far, the hub has reached thirty-six institutions from seven countries in West Africa.

The hub is hosted by Pan-Atlantic University.



Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) – Nigeria

The objective of education at Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) is the well-rounded formation of the human person. The University aims at nurturing individuals who are professionally competent, creative and enterprising, zealous for the common good and able to make free and morally right decisions and who thus act as positive agents of change in service to society.

The founders of Pan-Atlantic University were inspired to begin this educational project by the teachings of Saint Josemaría Escrivá, who was the founder of Opus Dei, an institution of the Catholic Church. PAU has seven main units: Lagos Business School (LBS) , Enterprise Development Centre (EDC), School of Media and Communication (SMC), School of Management and Social Sciences (SMSS), School of Science and Technology (SST), Institute of Humanities (IOH) and Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA).

West Africa Hub Strategic Committee Members

Dr. Peter Bamkole, Chief Operating Officer, Pan-Atlantic University – Nigeria and Chair, West Africa Hub Strategic Committee

Prof. Rosemond Boohene, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast – Ghana

Prof. Peter Osei Boamah, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Bolgatanga Technical University – Ghana

Prof. Enase Okonedo, Vice-Chancellor, Pan-Atlantic University – Nigeria

Prof. Abiodun Adebayo, Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University – Nigeria

Prof. Justice Bawole, Dean, University of Ghana Business School – Ghana

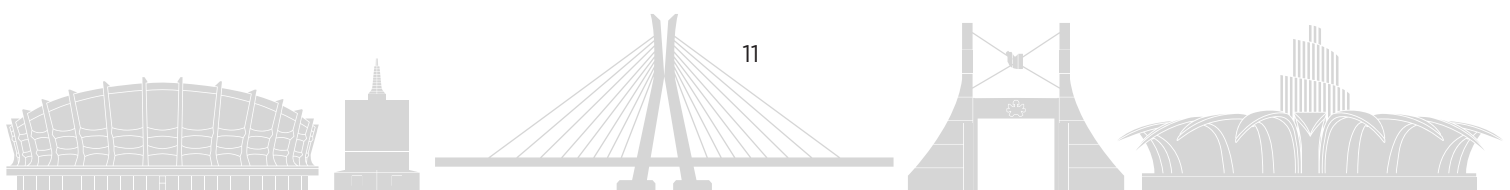
Prof. Jeremiah Ojediran, Vice-Chancellor, Bells University of Technology – Nigeria

Mr. Abdul Mahdi Dean, Ashesi University – Ghana

Dr. DeBrenna LaFa Agbényiga, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, International University of Grand Bassam - Côte d'Ivoire



Mr. Maurice Gnamatsi, Director General, ISLA International Language and Business School – Togo

Prof. Gordon A. Awandare, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, University of Ghana – Ghana



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