

BAASANA NIGERIA JULY 2023 CONFERENCE REPORT



A COMPENDIUM OF THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES ACADEMY OF NORTH AMERICA NIGERIA CHAPTER

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THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF BAASANA CONFERENCE
SUMMARY OF THE 1ST BAASANA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN NIGERIA IN BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY (BIU), BENIN
CITY, NIGERIA FROM JULY 10TH – JULY 13TH

The conference, themed as: HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIGITAL ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, came as scheduled. All the activities were completely and successfully executed. **Appendix I** gave a clear expression to these activities, time, presenters, venues, and anchors.

The Opening Ceremony: It opened with a visit to the BIU Administration consisting the Acting Vice Chancellor and the other Principal Officers. It was also an opportunity to see the Picture of the University Founder, Bishop Benson Idahosa and his wife, Bishop Margaret Idahosa. Next was the Opening Ceremony, which kick started with the Welcome Address from the Chief Host and Chairman of BAASAN Africa, Prof Sam Guobadia. Other activities featured were the Goodwill messages mainly from: Bishop (Dr.) F.E.B. Idahosa (President, Benson Idahosa University), Prof. Ruhul Amin (Chairman of Board, BAASANA International) Prof. Serajul Bhuiyan (President, BAASANA, USA) read by Dr Al R. Din (See **Appendix II**); and an Opening Remark by Prof Alexandra Esimaje, the BAASANA Africa Vice Chairman.

Another main activity of the Conference at the Opening was the inauguration and broadcast of the Board of BAASANA Africa and the Executive Officers of the Academy in Africa, which featured the reading aloud of the profiles of each member. After this, Prof. Ruhul Amin, the Chairman of the Board, BAASANA International and Founder of the Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America, inaugurated the Board members. Please, see **Appendix I: The Event Programme** for the names, positions, and addresses of the Board Members, and **Appendix III** for their Profiles.

The Paper Presentations: The presentations of the academic sessions were done in the parallel mode, classifying each presenter into four Groups in accordance with the laid-out themes of the Conference. Each Group was given a Hall. Again, see **Appendix I** for the details of the Halls, names of the presenters, and the topics of each presenter. For each Group was a Chair, most of who were Professors, who coordinated the presentations. As well, there was an average of two Rapporteurs per Group, who summarised each presentation at the close of each session.

Attendance at the conference was well above the average as the presentations

represented the cross section of Nigeria. Many of the topics were judiciously presented, discussed; and the question-and-answer time was appropriately utilised. This went on for two days, at the end of which was read an eight-point Communique, which formed the major decisions emanating from the whole of the Conference. This was a document that was also presented to the press for broadcast to the public in Nigeria and abroad summarizing the major actionable recommendations from the 1st BAASANA Africa International Conference. Please, read **Appendix IV** for these actionable recommendations.

The 3rd day featured the 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BAASANA Africa. This was attended by over 30 members, physically and virtually. (Please, see **Appendix V** for the list of the attendance). The AGM was Chaired by the President from where emanated some important decisions; the details of which occupy **Appendix VI**.

APPENDIX I: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



**BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES ACADEMY OF NORTH
AMERICA (BAASANA) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
2023**

**THEME: HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIGITAL
ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**VENUE: BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY, UGBOR, GRA,
BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.
(HERITAGE CAMPUS)**

JULY 10TH – 13TH 2023

PROFILES OF BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES ACADEMY OF NORTH AMERICA (BAASANA AFRICA)



Professor Sam Guobadia is a man of many parts. A man who has excelled in both the academic and corporate worlds. Professor Guobadia boasts of innovative ideas in economic development, corporate governance and enterprise development. He has been a strong advocate for the emergence of a stronger Africa since obtaining his undergraduate and postgraduate training, respectively, in the United States of America and Nigeria. Professor Guobadia has utilized his knowledge and skills to make positive changes in the African American and African world communities; always striving to improve the quality of life for African American and the African World. For several community engagements in the United States of America, and at the instance of Hon. Edolphus Towns of the 10th Congressional District in Brooklyn, he was specially recognized in the United States Congress in the Proceedings and Debates of the 106th Congress, First Session. Professor Guobadia continues to lead discussions on restructuring; stressing the role of good governance in economic development.

As an academic, Professor Guobadia has written many high impact articles and chapters in books. As a University administrator, he has forcefully demonstrated ‘doing the little things excellently well’, resulting in great strides in the overall development of Benson Idahosa University. As a Business Leader and Consultant, he has been engaged by the Federal Government, the World Bank, the British Council, and others, in such widely subscribed programs as Grooming Enterprise Leaders, Youth with innovation (YOUWIN), the 774k program, Roundtable on Cultural Orientation, as well as Growth & Employment Projects. Professor Sam Guobadia is, no doubt, a Visionary Leader.



PROFESSOR ALEXANDRA ESIMAJE (F. VW; F. AHP; F. CAARS; MNAL)

Alexandra Esimaje is a Professor of English and Applied Linguistics at Benson Idahosa University, Nigeria where she is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Education as well as the Administrator of the Corpus Linguistics and Language Centre. She is also the founding Director of the Centre for Language Research and English Proficiency (Clarep), an independent Research Centre which is a mentoring platform for the continuous development of the academic writing skills of young academics in Africa.

Alexandra Esimaje, a notable corpus linguist, has compiled two corpora, authored some books and pioneered the production of edited volumes including *Corpus Linguistics and African Englishes* published by John Benjamins in 2019 and *African Perspectives on the Teaching and Learning of English in Higher Education* published by Routledge in 2023. She is a multiple grant award winner and member of several professional bodies. Currently, she holds the office of President, Baasana Nigeria and will act as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Baasana Africa.



Demola Jolayemi PhD *cum laude* is a Nigerian Professor of English and Digitised Linguistics, and a German/Netherlands-trained acoustic phonetician. In the last 28 years, he has been engaged in the teaching of courses in the English studies in the Nigerian and European universities. He has applied his skills in the English Phonetics and Phonology to speech training for the stage, film, and broadcasting. He has advocated for the use of the Digitised Linguistics Science Laboratory (DLSL) in Nigeria, where he champions the application of the computer software for the provision of acoustic evidence within the Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) pedagogical philosophy. He is a member of several professional bodies: the Nigerian Academy of Letters (MNAL); the Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America (Baasana); as well as the Amsterdam-based PRAAT Users Association. He is the Immediate Past Dean, and currently the Chair of English, Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Africa, Toru-Orua. He is the current General Secretary, BAASANA Africa.



Chanaz Gargouri is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Administration at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, NJ. She earned her Ph.D. from Walden University in Human Services, an MBA in International Business from Saint Peter's College, and a Bachelor's degree in International Business from ESC (Ecole Supérieure de Commerce) Tunis, Tunisia.

Prior to joining Saint Peter's as a fulltime faculty in 2011, Dr. Gargouri was a partner in several Entrepreneurial businesses, including Technique International, an Import/Export company; a wholesale exporter and processed foods importer to the U.S. and Canada; and Beau Visage, the east coast regional retailer for La Cure Dead Sea Natural Skin Care Products.

Dr. Gargouri research journey started when she discovered her particular interest in human resources management, human services administration, and organizational psychology. Her research and lecturing in some of these topics enabled her to build two online courses for the MBA program: Human Resources Management and Human Behaviors in Organizations.



Charles Ofori Marfo is an **Associate Professor** in the Department of Language and Communication Sciences at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi. He is currently the **Provost** of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. He is also the immediate past President of the University Teachers' Association of Ghana (UTAG) and the immediate past National President of UTAG. He is also a former President of the Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG). Prof. Marfo enjoys teaching and does research on various aspects of language (linguistics), literature and communication. He has published widely in these disciplines.



Daniel Nkemleke is professor and Chair of the Department of English language at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), University of Yaoundé I. He is an Alexander von Humboldt and William J. Fulbright senior scholar. He is an Award Winner of the prestigious Humboldt Alumni Prize for Innovative Research Initiative in 2014, and currently runs an academic mentorship network involving scholars and junior scientists from in Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania and Germany (www.academicwriting-network4africa.org). He heads the African component of Our Mythical Childhood project—a European Union funded research (2016-2022) which aims to investigate the reception of classical antiquity in children’s and young adult’s literature/culture in response to regional challenges. The project is a consortium of five universities across the world with the Principal Investigator based in the University of Warsaw, Poland. His major research interest is compilation of databases in linguistics, and analysing and comparing these texts for teaching academic writing at the tertiary level. His publications in major international peer-reviewed journals cut across linguistics, academic writing, English language teaching, African culture and literature.



Dunlop Ochieng is a senior lecturer and dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at The Open University of Tanzania. He received his Ph.D. for his research on the indirect influence of English on Kiswahili from TU Chemnitz in Germany. He teaches and researches language contact, language and new media, communication skills, language and culture, language and technology, and language in contemporary literature. He also writes novels, reviews and edits academic documents.



Professor Ernest Klu is a product of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the Rand Afrikaans University (now University of Johannesburg, South Africa). He has taught at the University of Namibia and the Medical University of Southern Africa. He is former head of English and a former Vice – Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Venda, South Africa. He specializes in Educational Linguistics, English Language, and Academic Literacy. He has graduated 20 doctoral and nine master’s students. He has served a PG supervision mentor in various universities. He also works on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation programmes.



Dr. Gerry Ayieko, lecturer of English language and linguistics at Kenyatta University, Mombasa Campus, Kenya. He has previously served as lecturer at Kigali Institute of Education (KIE), the present-day University of Rwanda College of Education (2004-2009) where he developed an interest in education and social sciences. He has published widely in different areas of theoretical and applied linguistics, as well as education and other social sciences.



Dr. Jet Mboga is an Assistant Professor of Management and International Business at Commonwealth University of PA - Bloomsburg University. Research Interests include: International Business: Sub-Saharan Africa; Organizational Leadership Impact on Business and Society; Organizational Behavior: Ethical Decision-Making; Cross-Cultural Management; and Corporate Governance (Strategy). Her education is credited to PhD, University of Bolton - United Kingdom; Doctor of Business Administration Walden University –Minneapolis, MN.



Joyce A. Akosa, is a Professor of English that has served in various capacities as an English examiner, a head of Dept at HNAUB, as the Dean of Post graduate studies at ESCAE University, Benin Republic. Joyce also holds a PhD in Educational Technology and another PhD in Personal and Human Resources Management.

She is a prolific writer who has written sixteen books, a collection of poems, and publications. Joyce is the Editor-in-Chief of the Outreach Magazine. Proprietress of a Nursery, Primary and Secondary School. She is a co-founder of World Outreach Missionary Centre, a TV Celebrity and a regular speaker at conferences, marriage and single seminars in different countries. She sits on the board of some Educational Institutions. She is also the CEO of BJ La Comida Ventures. Her marriage is blessed with four children and grandchildren. Joyce helps widows and orphans.



John O. Okpara is a Professor of Management and International Business at the Zeigler College of Business, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg. He received his Ph.D. degree from New York University. He teaches courses in, Global Business, International Management, Business Policies and Strategic Management to undergraduate and MBA students. Dr. Okpara's research interests include cross-cultural management, corporate governance, and strategic management. He has published scholarly articles in a number of journals, including *Journal of World Business*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Management Decision*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Thunderbird International Business Review*, *Corporate Governance*, *Journal of Management Development*, *Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*, *SAM Advanced Management Journal*, *Journal of Globalization and Small Business*, among many others. He is the immediate past President of BAASANA USA.



Personal profile of Prof Dr. M. Ruhul Amin, Founder of BAASANA, Emeritus President, and Chairman of the Board

Prof Ruhul Amin's Educational background include a BA (Hons) and MA in Bangladesh; an MA, and DPA in Canada; another MA, and PhD in the USA. He had the following professional accomplishments in Bloomsburg University, USA between 1986 and 2020. He was a Professor (Retired) of Management and International Business; Director of Accreditation (Retired), Zeigler College of Business' Former Department Chair, Department of Marketing and Management and Department of Management and International Business. He, as well, taught in Universities in Bangladesh, India, China, Taiwan, Canada, and in the US, especially, at the Universities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Furthermore, Prof Amin was Former Director of MBA Program; Former Co-Founder and Director of ICIMS (Institute of Comparative and International Management Studies)- Managed BU MBA Program in Taiwan and the East Asia, MBA Program for Upper Management; Former Interim Associate Dean, Zeigler College of Business; Former Assistant VP and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; and Former Director of the Center for Management Development (CMD), College of Business.

Prof Dr M. Ruhul Amin was the Professional Strategic Academic Planner, State University System Manager 4, where he developed the first Strategic Plan of Bloomsburg University in 1987. He also helped the College of Business achieve initial AACSB accreditation in 2004; Reaccreditations in 2009, 2014, and reaccreditation of (the newly named) Zeigler College of Business in 2019.

Prof Amin Founded BAASANA in 2008 as a non-profit organization, and helped to Establish BAASANA Regional Chapters in the UK, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Nigeria; he now earns, Emeritus President status; and currently serves as the Chairman of the International Board of BAASANA.

**COMMUNIQUE ARISING FROM THE 1ST BAASANA AFRICA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BENSON IDAHOSA
UNIVERSITY, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA FROM JULY 10TH – JULY 13TH**

Conference theme: HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIGITAL ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. The Government should be sincere as well as transparent in leveraging on the use of technology in this digital age. As this will engender sustainable development.
2. Synergy among tertiary institutions; Private, Federal and State owned, because it has the ability to promote the human capital development and sustainable economic growth in the Nation, and in Africa.
3. The teaching staff, professionals, media, irrespective of age should be bold and knowledgeable on how to hold our leaders accountable, especially in Africa, with Nigeria in particular where corruption is high. Not until this is done, the human capital development in this part of the world will continue to deteriorate, and this will affect sustainability of economic development in this part of world.
4. In all of our academic presentations and endeavours, there must be the media presence to harness and broadcast the critical projects, discussions, and issues raised in such ventures.
5. The Nations in Africa should expedite digitalization, especially, in the tertiary institutions.
6. There should be a massive review of African education curriculum, to reflect the current trends, and needs.
7. The Government should use the instrumentality of education, technology, and economic empowerment to fight insecurities in the Nation and in Africa. This is because it will help to build confidence and attract more investments, both foreign and local investments, and discourage brain-brain from the country and across Africa, which will engender the human capital development and sustainable economic growth in the long run.
8. Conferences like this should be encouraged among tertiary institutions in the country and across Africa to trigger more robust discourse on human capital and digital economy for sustainable development.

APPENDIX V: BAASANA AFRICA AGM ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAMES	ADRESS & EMAIL
1.	Prof Sam Guobadia	VC, BIU (Virtually)
2.	Prof Alexandra Esimaje	alexandra.esimaje@live.com
3.	M. Rahul Amin	BAASANA
4.	Din Ali Rashid	BAASANA dinvin1979@gmail.com
5.	Prof. 'Demola Jolayemi	demola.jolayemi@uat.edu.ng
6.	Prof. Margaret I. Abikwi	BIU mabikwi@biu.edu.ng
7.	Dr. Michael I. Elikwu	michael.elikwu@bazeuniversity.edu.ng 07085524075
8.	Dr. Chimezie Nwosu	chimezie.nwosu@bazeuniversity.edu.ng 07032113612
9.	Cynthia Momoh Adesanya	omoney25@gmail.com 09128310362
10.	Ruwan David Shadrach	shadave79@gmail.com 08122988879
11.	Emmanuel Amarachi	emmanuelamarachi55@gmail.com 08144994562
12.	Dr. Theo Nwano	tnwano@gmail.com 08033372420
13.	Dr. (Mrs.) Ejuonor Jennifer Oleabhiele	eoleabhiele@biu.edu.ng 07051905660
14.	Prof. Rotimi Taiwo	rtaiwo@oauife.edu.ng 08034069746
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19.	Dr. Okeibunor Ngozi B.	nokeibynor@biu.edu.ng 09067210469
20.	Dr. Chamberlain Egbulefu	Chamberchi1965@yahoo.com 08032910751
21.	Dr. Orobosa A. Ihensekhien	oihensekhein@biu.edu.ng 08035813175
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23.	Dr. Ehiaghe Joy Imuetinyan	jehiaghe@biu.edu.ng 08060138954
24.	Dr. Chkuyindu Joyce Okafor	cokafor@biu.edu.ng 08034099423
25.	Jennifer O. Agho	jagho@biu.edu.ng 08068930555

26.	Dr. Stella O. Idehen	sidehen@biu.edu.ng 08170289130
27.	Mr. Adesanya Joshua Shina	sadesanya@biu.edu.ng 07036728070
28.	Dr. Josephine O. Adeyeye	j.enobakhare@biu.edu.ng 08058730591

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCINECES ACADEMY OF NORTH AMERICA AFRICA CHAPTER

VENUE:Theatre Hall, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Nigeria

DATE: Wednesday, 12. 07. 2023

TIME: 4:00 PM

AGENDA:

- 1) Members take seats
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Welcome and Opening remarks: Chairman
- 4) Supporting remarks: Prof M. Ruhul Amin (BAASANA Founder)
- 5) Announcement/Information Sharing i.e. New York meeting:
V. Chairman
- 6) Matters on meetings and Annual dues: V. Chairman.
- 7) Brainstorming for the next Conference: host, etc. Chairman
- 8) Membership drive: Everyone
- 9) Date of next meeting
- 10) Adjournment

1) Members seat with the following in attendance:

ATTENDANCE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Prof Sam Guobadia | Chairman (The Vice Chancellor of the host University who joined Virtually) |
| 2. Prof Alexandra Esimaje | Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Prof M. Juhul Amin | International Chairman |
| 4. Dr Al R. Din | Rep of BAASANA President USA |

See **Appendix IV:** The AGM Attendance for the details of the other people that were at the meeting.

2) Opening Prayer

At exactly 4:00 PM, the Chairman called the meeting to order; and the opening prayer

was rendered by Prof Rotimi Taiwo.

3) Welcome and Opening remarks: Chairman

Next was the Opening Address by the Chairman, which bordered on welcoming all the old and new members to the first of its kind meeting. He gave a brief introduction on BAASANA, explaining the continental needs of the human existence, and how technology must be tapped, as much as possible, in order to achieve a global sustainable development. He expressed his gladness that Prof Amin was in attendance. He emphasised the need for the human capital development in order to sustain the economy. To achieve this, he recommended, all the BAASANA members must work together. He then went on to call for a master plan by BAASANA Africa. He was certain that, with the assistance of Prof Amin, the Master Plan would be chartered. After him was the Vice Chairman, Prof Alexandra Esimaje, who also supported the Road-Map call, as well as Drs Ayieko and Dunlop, who joined the meeting virtually.

4) Supporting remarks: Prof M. Ruhul Amin (BAASANA Founder)

Next to speak at the meeting was Prof Amin, who explained how he started the Academy in 2008, and how the Academy had become enlarged through the organised trainings, seminars, conferences, and publications, as it was done in the conference over three days earlier. He explained the other methods of expansion as: problems solving in the society; anything educated-oriented activity, which might be interdisciplinary, or international collaborations to solve problems. The other on his list were: sharing of innovations on different issues and themes; young scientists' inventions to track drug smugglers, and identification of policy to improve the society. To achieve some of these expansion models, Prof Juhul Amin challenged all the young professionals, and professors, who should rise to the situation starting from their immediate societies in China, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameron, etc. He called the formation of more Chapters in: Siri Lanka and Pakistan. In his contribution, he referred to the lack of finance to embark on research and collaborations; thus, he suggested the evolution of a new paradigm that must be engaged in order to do it right. "BAASAN must identify the change agents, through our movement with full recognition of the economy and the sociology of the societies of the various member States" he concluded.

After this entreat, the Chairman further echoed the need for information sourcing and sharing, which was supported by the Vice Chairman and many other members of the Academy. It was, thus, agreed that to achieve the BAASANA objectives, it was crucial the Academy developed a road-map that would be looped with the establishment of more Chapters in Africa. Through this, successful academic, social, and economic collaborations would be engendered with the sole mind of picking up

the social issues that were common to the members in Africa, and find ways to tackle and solve the problems.

To build such collaborations as mentioned above, the AGM agreed on the creation of an opportunity of a network that would connect all the members to a Platform. To this, the Chairman suggested the use of the Telegraph network App. This, it was certain, would give all the members the needed opportunities to source, share, develop, and use information that would enliven the Africa regions to tap into the world social order for the improvement of the African life through the BAASANA alternative.

5) Announcement/Information Sharing i.e. New York meeting:

The Vice Chairman explained the impending meeting taking place in New York in November. Arrangements were in the top gear, she explained; and more gratifying was that some of the BIU students had shown interest in the Conference in NY.

6) Matters on meetings and Annual dues:

The Vice Chairman explained that money was needed to run the BAASANA Africa. For clarification on this, the Chairman requested Prof Amin to advise on dues issue. Prof Amin, emphatically, supported the call for dues and grants explaining that the success of the Academy was dependent of the amount of funds generated; after which he suggested the sums of \$50 or \$80 as contributory dues from the members. Other means of funds agreed were to talk to the professionals like medical doctors to join; and meet corporation for funds. Prof Amin said that he was also going to contact the UN on Sustainable development for funds in order to help sustainable goals. Global, International, and Regional BAASANA, it was suggested, could also be contacted to raise funds. The Chairman requested to know the number of BAASANA Chapter we had; it was explained that we had BAASANA Africa, alone at that moment. BAASANA Africa was also advised to lean on the USA BAASANA to tell us some more of the processes of chartering more transnational Chapters .

7) Brainstorming for the next Conference: host, etc.

The Chairman requested the Vice Chairman, Prof Alexandra Esimaje to lead the discussion on this item; who explained that there were, usually, Biennial Conferences, which normally held regionally; but Conferences at the Global level, held yearly. Nigeria will still host the next conference until the regional chapter stabilizes.

8) Membership drive:

The Chairman sought for information on membership, and it was explained that we had members from: Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa and Benin Republic and agreed that we gave them time to organise and populate these other

regions

9) Date of the next meeting:

Quarterly. Particular date **not fixed**

AOB: None

10) Adjournment:

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating in the first Conference and the first AGM. He wished everybody mercies of the journey.

Closing Prayer: 5.04pm by Dr Stella O. Idehen