



**KU8**  
Consortium of  
Universities in Kwara

*Maiden*  
**KU8 CONSORTIUM  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

-  Sunday, 6th August -  
Wednesday, 9th August, 2023
-  9:00am daily
-  University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

**THEME :**  
**TRANSFORMING  
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION  
IN THE 21ST CENTURY:  
THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS**



# Strategies for Synergy between Universities and the Industries in Nigeria

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- Preambles
- Universities: The Global Concept
- Universities: Our Local Concept
- Universities: The Industrial Concept
- A Model that Works: Triple Helix
- Recommendations
- Conclusion



# Preambles

- The Invitation
- The KU8 Consortium
- The Significance of the Day to Me
- My Commitment to Education and Industry
- My Acceptance of the Invitation



# Universities: The Global Concept

- *"The desire to know already presupposes the love of the still unknown truth."* Jean-Luc Marion
- Knowledge
- Education
- Literacy
- Specialization
- Professionalism



# Universities: Our Local Concept

- Nigerian University System today is made up of 264 NUC approved Universities broken down into:
- 51 Federal-owned and funded Universities
- 61 State-owned and funded Universities
- 152 Private-owned and funded Universities
- The issue is not about the quantity (adequacy or inadequacy) but more about the quality (adequacy or inadequacy).



# Are Our Graduates Fit for Purpose?

- As far back as the 1990s, barely 30 years after independence, the quality of the output (graduates) of the Nigerian University System has become questionable.
- Unlike the situation before then, when graduates from these institutions move straight from the university to the industry and fit in appropriately with value-addition that the industry cannot but appreciate.
- The industry began to observe obvious gaps from around 1990 and began to come up with series of tests, trainings, etc before taking in the graduates of the university system



# Nigerian Universities: Disconnected from Reality

- The dynamics of works and society are changing with improvement in technological innovation and information and communication technology (ICT).
- The university curriculum and delivery system are not changing as fast if changing at all.
- These were very significant observations some of us made in 2009/2010 when invited by the newly created Kwara State University, Malete, to help address this disparity, and develop the graduates that will fit into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Society.





# Nigerian Universities Disconnected from Reality

- From an insider's perspective as a member of the Board of The Centre for Entrepreneurship of Kwara State University, created then in 2009, the concept of change promoted through the Centre introduced into the curriculum of Nigerian Universities today topics such as:
- Creativity, Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship, Secondary School Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Competitions, etc.
- As an organization, we also followed it up with sponsorship of the Entrepreneurship Directors Conference, the Train the Trainers, etc



# Universities: The Industrial Concept

- The World has forever been driven by knowledge. Looking back into the various stages of development from the self-subsisting stage to the agricultural revolution stage, to the industrial revolution stage, to technological innovation stage and now the knowledge economy stage.
- Everything that has made the difference from one stage to another is the advancement and improvement in the level of knowledge of the people existing in each of the stages.
- The role of knowledge and education to development cannot be overemphasized.

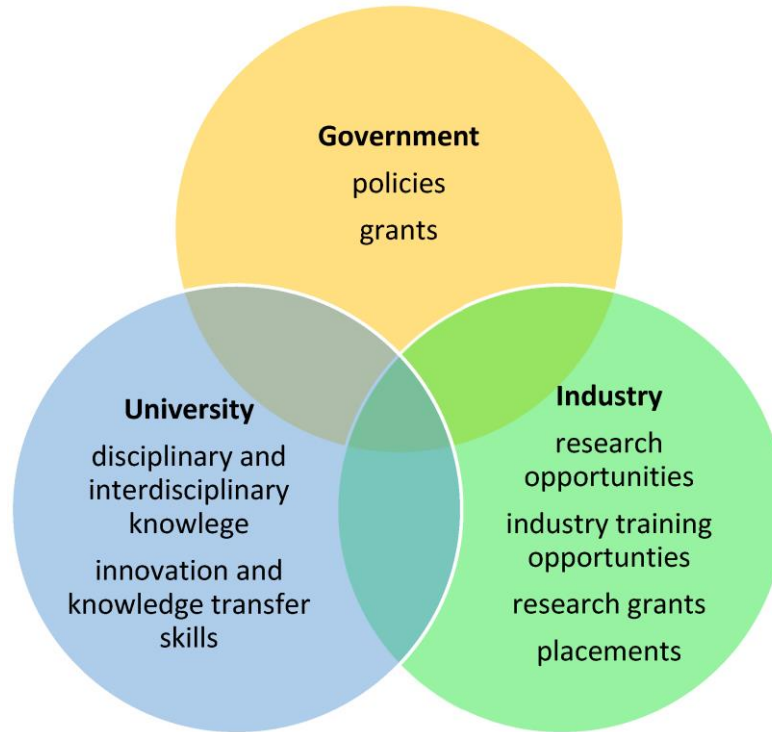


# Universities: The Industrial Concept

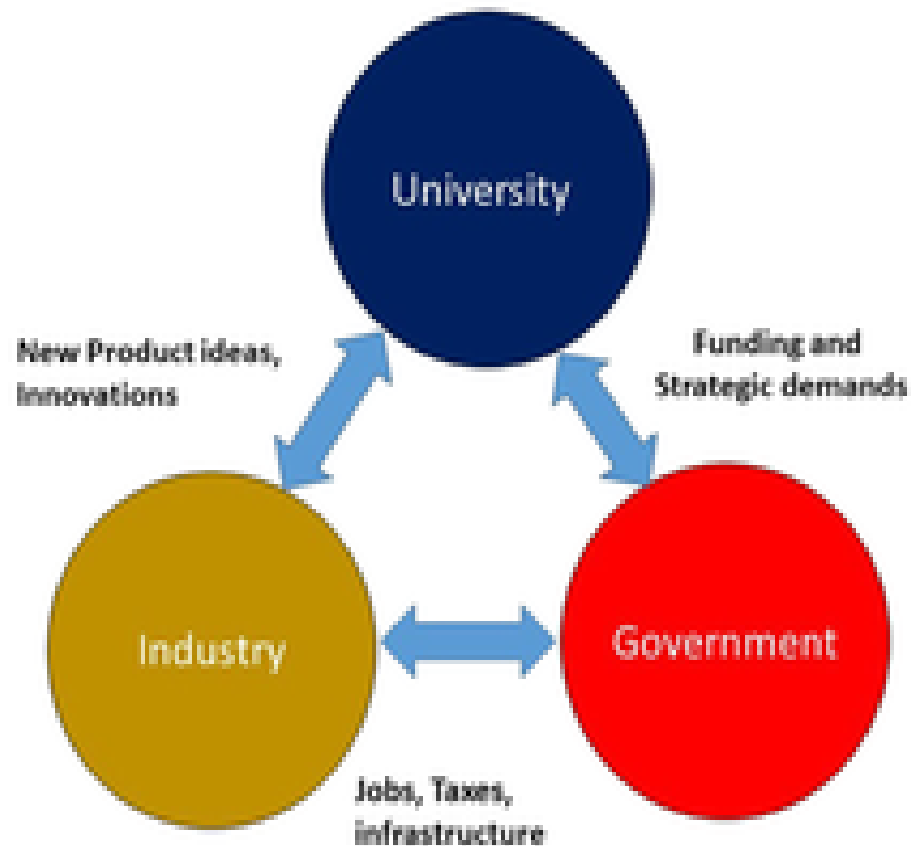
- The Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) Human Capital Policy Commission, in 2019, in collaboration with the National Universities Commission (NUC) adopted the concept of the Triple Helix (university-industry-government relationship) Model as the core operating framework for setting and delivering University Education Reform Agenda with the aim of repositioning the University Education Sector in Nigeria to deliver national outcomes and impact.
- This is a confirmation of my long-standing position on a solidly built town and gown relationship between the universities and the private sector in Nigeria.



# The NESG Triple Helix Model



# The Triple Helix Model for Innovation



# Issues from the Triple Helix Model

- Review curriculum to meet industry required competencies
- Produce graduates to meet national development mandates
- Retool research and learning to fit graduate workforce
- Cross-fertilisation of competencies and skills across university and industry
- Explore innovative resource opportunities, options and reforms
- Create a more entrepreneurial university ecosystem, and
- Respond to the demand-side to supply only acceptable products



# Implications for Teaching, Learning and Research

- Universities must be compelled for exchange with the industry to acquire real experience in their fields.
- Research needs to be not for promotion only, but to address the challenges of our environment.
- There's a gap between the industry and academia in the area of research. Neither the industry nor the academia makes efforts to communicating or understanding the problems being faced in the industry to the academia for research



# Implications for Teaching, Learning and Research

- TETFund needs to de-emphasise investment in physical infrastructures to capacity building and other areas such as research.
- There is also need to deepen funding windows.
- The industry should channel some of the funds they use for retraining of graduates into their university education through providing funds, equipment, projects, and teaching hours.



# Actionable Solutions/Recommendations

- Be data driven: Our universities should be centres for accurate data relating to industry and government.
- Deliberate funding for ICT in our universities as the world is more driven by technology and our universities are behind.
- Explore the potential of shared service. For example, use of a common software and only customising to each school instead of each school building theirs.



# Actionable Solutions/Recommendations

- Government and industry players/technology corporations subsidising laptops, internet, software, etc. for students and lecturers.
- Digitisation of university initiatives.
- Be data driven: Our universities should be centres for accurate data relating to industry and government.
- Deliberate funding for ICT in our universities as the world is more driven by technology and our universities are behind.



# Actionable Solutions/Recommendations

- Explore the potential of shared service. For example, use of a common software and only customising to each school instead of each school building theirs.
- Free access for students and lecturers to ICT on campus



# Actionable Solutions/Recommendations

- Setting of minimum requirements on services to force universities to automate. For example, transcripts requested must be provided at least in soft copies within 3days.
- Benchmark against best practices e.g. China for access to schools and laptops, Israel for cyber-security, etc.
- Investment in research and development with intentional collaboration between the industry and the universities through policy initiatives by government.



# Marshal Plan 5.0

1. Nigerian Universities Research Commercialization
2. Funding/Investment of ₦250 Billion to place University Innovation and Industry Collaboration for Nigeria Economic Recovery. TETFUND, MoFI, OPS, RMAFC (Recovery fund), DFIs (AfDB, Afrexim, IsDB).
3. Industry PhD and Research Fellowship Program
4. Intellectual Property Augmentation.
5. Accelerated Priority Economic Projects. (DIGITAL)
6. Emphasis – Leapfrog Technology (AI, ML, Robotics, Big Data, Digital Economy)



# TO DO LIST FOR KU8 [2023 – 2030]

1. Digital skill for students
2. Strategies for DONE (Diversification Of Nigeria Economy)
3. Strategies for Export Led Growth (Including JAPA)
4. Conceptualize Digital Knowledge Centres in participating institutions.
5. Work with AfDB to Pioneer-Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Bank to produce more Nigerian UNICORNS (\$618 million I-DICE Program)



Industry



Universities

Government

**Thank You**