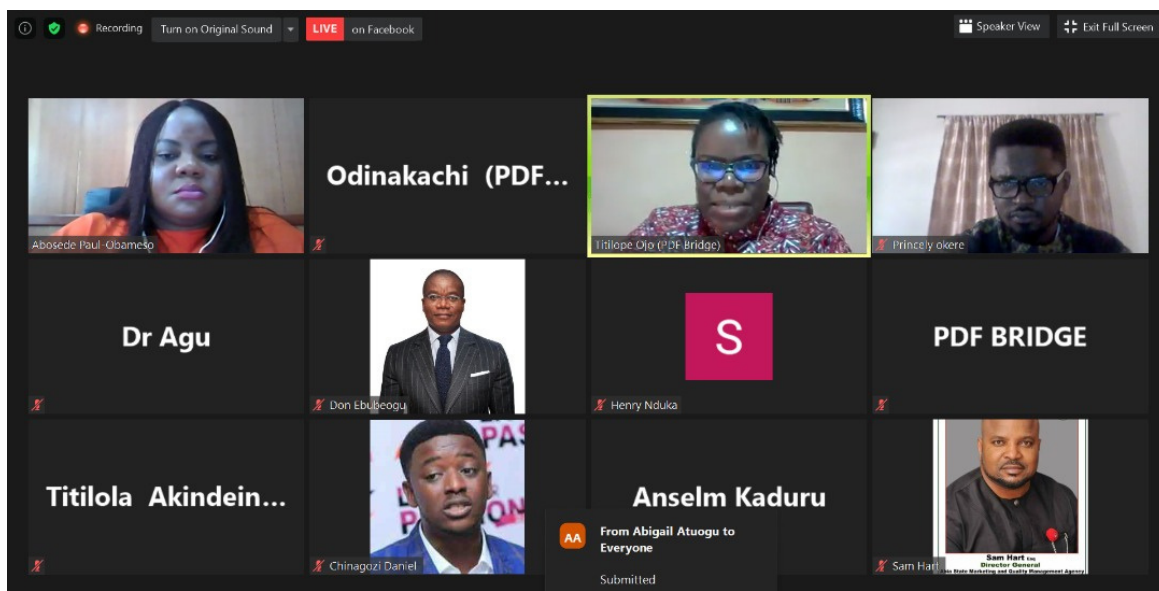


# THE BRIDGE DIGEST

November 2020, Vol. 07



## SOUTH EAST REGIONAL DIALOGUE



The South East Regional dialogue held on the 29th of October 2020 with the theme “Improving Market Access through Digital Trade”. Discussions on how Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters in South East Nigeria can acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate in digital trade effectively thereby enhancing their competitiveness in international markets were at the front burner. At the dialogue, the exporters were encouraged to register and set up an e-commerce store for their products where they can register and sell to customers within and outside Nigeria. Participants were informed about secured online payment platforms that they could integrate into their business for seamless transactions. Modalities on how to partner with logistics company for product delivery was also discussed. Industrial city and hubs in South East Nigeria constitute ready structures to achieve economic diversification ambition of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) as highlighted in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. The PDF Bridge is consolidating on support to create market access and improve business competitiveness provided to south east governments through the Trade Policy Workstream. The PDF programme began engaging with south east markets from the PDF II programme. Read more [here](#).

## MINIMIZING THE RISK OF MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

The Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation (OAuGF) in collaboration with Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) organized a virtual workshop with the theme 'Audit Processes and Engagement Procedures: Functional Responsibilities of Accounting and Chief Executive Officers of MDAs'. The event which took place on the 12th of October 2020 provided a window to share information on reforms achieved, and on-going initiatives in the implementation of the OAuGF 5-year strategic development plan with chief executive officers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and development partners for effective service delivery to citizens. Nigeria's Vice President Professor Yemi Osinbajo who was present at the interactive workshop revealed that providing an audit law for the country is crucial to any meaningful strategy aimed at curbing waste or misappropriation of public resources. According to him, this will enable the OAuGF achieve the robust external framework that the Nigeria public service environment requires. As a contribution to the ongoing economic reforms, PDF Bridge is providing technical support to OAuGF to help build the capacity of Federal and State auditors. This support has yielded some major reforms like the creation of the Audit Academy and the ongoing IT audit of MDAs. More details [here](#)



## N75BN NIGERIA YOUTH INVESTMENT FUND KICKS OFF

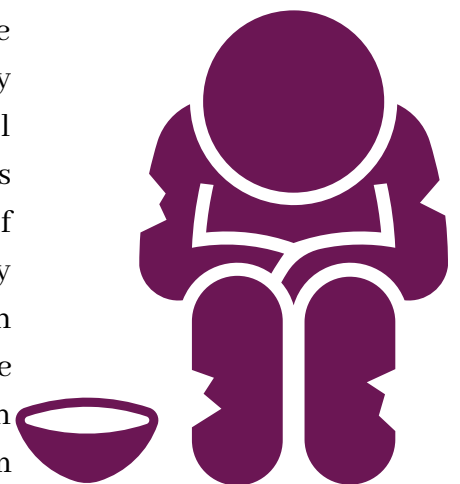


The N75bn Nigeria Youth Investment Fund (NYIF) portal officially opened for registration on the 20th of October 2020. The NYIF is an initiative of Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and PDF Bridge's support to the Presidency on Jobs and Youth Employment has contributed to the commencement of the fund. The Federal Executive Council had on the 22nd of July, 2020 approved the sum of N75,000,000,000.00 (seventy five billion naira) for the establishment of the NYIF to financially empower Nigeria youth to generate at least 500,000 jobs between 2020 and 2023. The fund is dedicated to investing in the innovative ideas, skills and talents of Nigerian Youth, and to institutionally provide them with a special window for accessing much needed funds, finances, business management skills and other inputs critical for sustainable enterprise development. President Muhammadu Buhari has disclosed that over one million online applications have been received so far. Details can be found [here](#).



## NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE

The PDF Bridge programme is supporting the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) with high quality research and capacity building of secretariat staff. This helps PEAC provide evidence based advisory to the President on economic initiatives that lead to poverty reduction. This support has generated a draft National Poverty Reduction Initiative policy document which is currently under review by the President. This initiative if approved will lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030 and will focus on implementing conditional cash transfer to the neediest households in the country. The framework recommends reforms of agriculture, human capital and infrastructure as a way of increasing farm income. A Social Protection Network, made of representative of States and Federal agencies responsible for social protection was recommended.



# TRADE EXPORT MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The Export Mentorship Programme is an initiative of the Policy Development Facility Bridge Programme (PDF-Bridge) in collaboration with the Network of Practicing Non-oil Exporters of Nigeria (NPEN). This initiative has been set up to support start-up exporters with mentorship and hand-holding that will lead to export readiness and successful exporting. Consequently you can register to be a mentor through this [link](#) or register to be mentored [here](#).

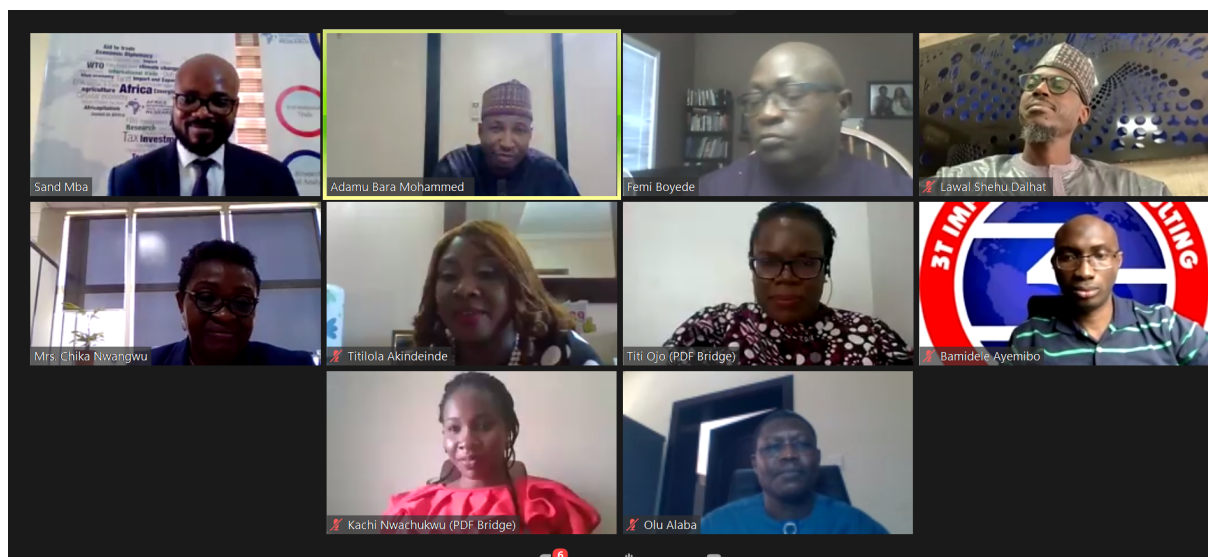


Do you consider yourself 'export ready' and only need some hand-holding to export your products?  
If yes, then participate in the PDF-Bridge Export Mentorship Program in collaboration with NPEN  
To apply click here <http://bit.ly/ExportMentees>

## POLICY INNOVATION AND MONITORING UNIT (PIMU)

A new unit called the Policy Innovation and Monitoring Unit (PIMU) has been formed in the National Assembly's office of the speaker. This unit is the strategic engine that drives a lot of the work within the office of the speaker and handles all the high-level priority projects. It develops, executes, track and monitor projects and also serves as the center of all research, analysis and recommendations provided to the leadership of the house. This is to enable legislators carry out their jobs to the best with evidence-based expert analysis and information at their fingertips. The speaker has also given the unit the responsibility of monitoring progress and reporting back on the implementation of the legislative agenda. PDF Bridge provides technical support to the National Assembly through the Special Adviser to the Speaker on Development Planning & International Affairs who facilitated the set up of this unit.

# EXPORT EXPANSION GRANT



PDF Bridge organized a roundtable on the 27th of October 2020 in a bid to identify and address the content and recommendations from the study on “Analysis and Impact of Export Expansion Grant on Export Potential, Market Access and Export Competitiveness in Nigeria”. This study was conducted by PDF Bridge's predecessor programme, the Policy Development Facility II (PDF II). The report reveals the positive impact of the EEG in promoting non-oil export of Nigeria's origin, nonetheless there are still challenges associated with the implementation of the grant. The EEG roundtable brought together trade related Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other relevant stakeholders to discuss these challenges and make recommendations on the way forward. At the roundtable, Mr Ede Dafinoe a panellist stated the need for institutionalization of the EEG to ensure sustained long term funding as this will encourage export growth. For more details [click here](#)



## ABOUT US

*The PDF Bridge programme provides direct technical support to the Federal Government of Nigeria, its agencies and independent regulators in key economic sectors. Read more here: [www.pdfnigeria.org/bridge](http://www.pdfnigeria.org/bridge)*