

# THE BRIDGE DIGEST

December 2020, Vol. 08



## NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE HOLDS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP



In October and November 2020, the Trade Facilitation Desk collaborated with the Federal Ministry for Industry, Trade and Investment's Trade Department to organize stakeholder cluster workshops in Lagos and Abuja. The workshop was organized to strengthen and update the Trade Facilitation Roadmap document to capture the current realities in view of the recent global pandemic. And also to assess any gaps with regards to the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement which aims at increasing the transparency and efficiency of customs and other administrative procedures involved in trading goods across international borders. The Lagos workshop was from 12th to 15th, whilst the Abuja workshop was held over a 2 day period on 17th and 18th November. Both workshops collated information on the level of activity implementation of the key Ports and Border stakeholders including regulatory agencies and key obstacles to trade such as the absence of hard infrastructure. The members of the NTFC also paid visits to the Ports and Airports in Lagos to assess processes and monitor progress with regards to Trade Facilitation. This is part of PDF Bridge support to the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment with high quality technical advice to drive policy reforms that will foster trade and enterprise growth in the non-oil sector of the Nigerian economy.

## PDF BRIDGE SEMI-FORMAL EVENT

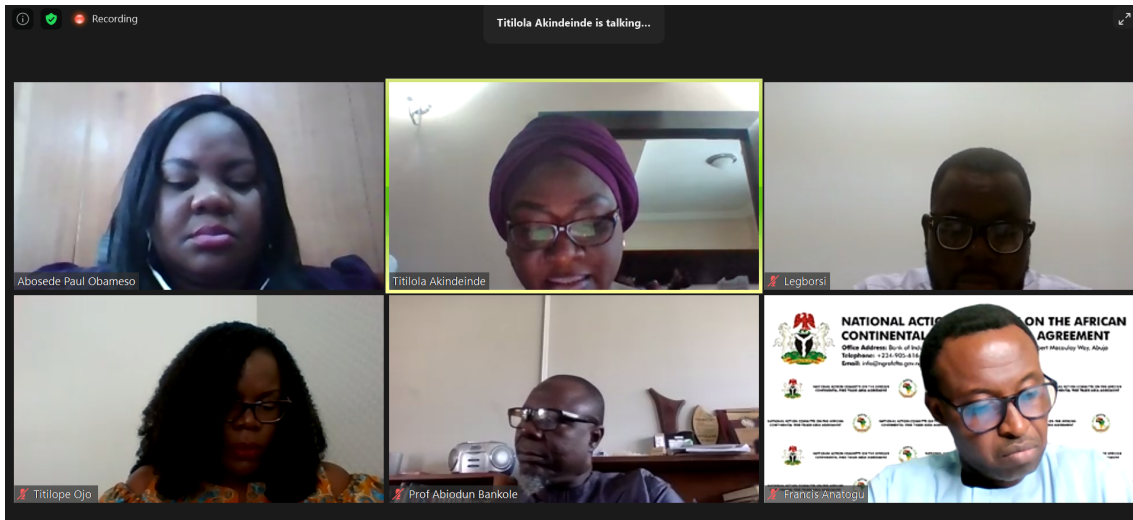


PDF Bridge annual semi-formal event for the year took place at Sheraton Hotel in Abuja on the 3rd of December 2020. The theme for this year's event was 'Lifting 100 million people out of poverty; the way forward' as such presentations and deliberations were focused around this theme. The event provided the much needed opportunity for PDF Bridge Embedded Advisors to interact and benefit from the experiences and knowledge of their colleagues who are outside their circle. At the event, success stories emanating from the ongoing trade mentoring programme were shared, PDF Bridge support through the journey to African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) ratification and all the enormous benefits it holds for Nigerians, The Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan which when put in place will help take the economy out of recession. A representative of the FCDO was also on ground to explain the DFID-FCDO merger to participants. Learning and feedback from EAs will be captured in an event report and shared with FCDO and other relevant stakeholders.

## OAUGF 2018 AUDIT REPORT MEETS ALL AFROSAI-E CRITERIA

The office of the Auditor General of the Federation (OAuGF) has presented the "Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation on the accounts of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the Year ended 31st December 2018 (Part 1) to the National Assembly. The 2018 Audit report which represents an improvement over 2017 report and other reports are acknowledged by AFROSAI-E to have met all 5 assessment criteria set by it which are Structure, Context, Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and quality analysis. Other reports presented to the National Assembly include Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports, and an interim report on the special audit of the Federal Government of Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the period, 1st March to 30th June 2020. The support from PDF Bridge Programme through embedded advisors and collaboration with other development partners, has led to this feat and other significant reforms and re-structured operational changes in the Supreme Audit Institution such as IT Audit unit, International desk, audit academy, etc. This has strengthened the OAuGF technical ability to operate more effectively, leading to increased attention on timely and quality performance audit reporting across all levels of governance and increase in audit coverage.

## SERVICES EXPORT ROUNDTABLE



A Trade Policy Roundtable to discuss the findings and recommendations from the study on “Analysis of Potentials of Nigeria’s Services Sector for Economic Diversification, Employment and Foreign Trade” took place on the 3rd of December 2020. To ensure an inclusive and balanced discussion, key stakeholders drawn from Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Nigeria Private Sector Alliance (NiPSA), Network of Women in Export Services and National Action Committee on AFCFTA were panelists at the discussion. A presentation on the study was made by Prof. Abiodun Bankole which paved way for discussion by relevant stakeholders on findings from the study and the best approach to utilize the output to support diversification efforts of the Government of Nigeria. A key takeaway from this event is the plan by stakeholders present to quickly collaborate and organize a services export capacity building aimed at throwing more light to the sector.

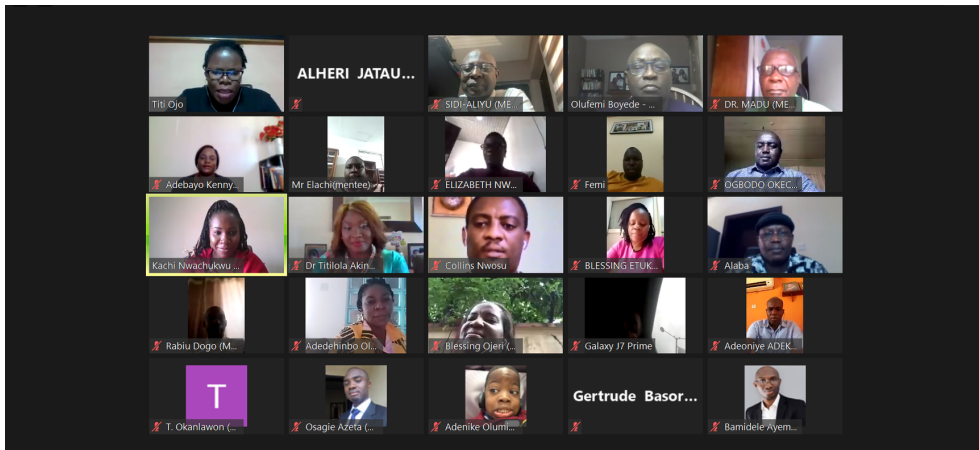
## KM NETWORK LUNCH MEETING



The KM Network held its first physical lunch meeting since the pandemic on the 27th of November 2020. At the meeting, the network which is a professional network of Knowledge management, monitoring, evaluation, learning and communication teams across Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) programmes discussed modalities to expand the network across other donor funded programmes. Conversations around selecting a specific focus that fits all programmes in the network were held. Members were reminded to always facilitate knowledge exchange across programmes as well as leverage from other programmes. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 29th of January 2021.



# EXPORT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - INDUCTION OF MENTORS AND MENTEES

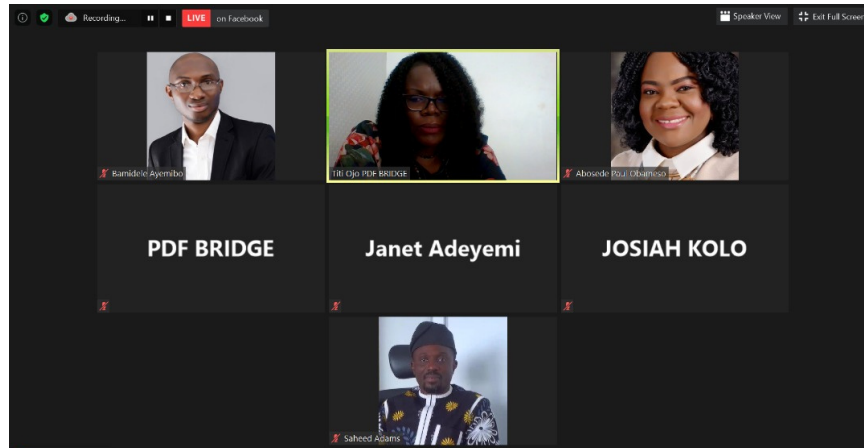


On the 17th of November 2020, the PDF Bridge Trade Policy Workstream inducted its export mentors and mentees. The Export Mentorship Programme is an initiative of the Policy Development Facility Bridge Programme (PDF-Bridge) in collaboration with the Network of Practicing Non-oil Exporters of Nigeria (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. It consists of a pool of experienced non-oil export practitioners who are committed to building the Nigerian export sector by mentoring the next generation of exporters and will avail start-up exporters with a support system necessary for them to avoid initial pitfalls. This will support in effectively bridging the gap that currently exists between training and actual practice of export through a structured program. At the meeting, 7 mentors and 26 mentees were inducted.

## IT'S THE YULETIDE SEASON...



# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS



The PDF Bridge Trade policy workstream hosted a targeted capacity building series to strengthen the leadership of export related trade associations and create opportunities for a more effective participation in Export. The event was spread over the 26th and 27th of November 2020 with topics 'Improving the capacity and potential of trade associations for effective export business strategies' for Day 1 and 'Strengthening the structure of trade associations in the non-oil export sector for better governance and leadership' for Day 2. During the event, Trade associations were encouraged to have an agenda for collective progress of its members and leverage on the strength of togetherness as this will push members especially Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to grow. Forming cooperatives for export also provides goods and services to its members and thus enable them to attain increased income and savings, investments, productivity and purchasing power. Nigerian SMEs and trade business associations will need to collaborate in a number of ways in order to reduce cost and become more competitive. Collaboration among export trade association will help them to overcome the challenges of export business and this will lead to great business breakthroughs. Present at the event were the leadership of potential and registered Trade & Commodity Associations, Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA - National, Regional & State level chapters), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN - National & State level chapters), Commodity associations at state and national levels and Grass root associations engaged in the non-oil export value chain.



## 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)*