



Call for Papers
2nd NigeriaLics Conference,
September 21 – 23, 2026
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Important Dates	
Call for Submission of papers (Open)	15 th March 2026
Deadline for submission of papers	15 th May 2026
Notification of paper acceptance	30 th June 2026
Conference registration deadline	30 th July 2026
Deadline for submission of final paper	15 th August 2026
Conference Date	September 21 - 23, 2026

**Theme: Building Resilient Economies through Innovation, Entrepreneurship
and Digital Transformation**

Background

The Nigeria Network for the Economics of Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (NigeriaLics) was established in 2019 at the sideline event of the 4th AfricaLics Conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with the aim of providing a platform for collaboration on innovation and development research between researchers, policymakers and practitioners in Nigeria, with partners in the global South as well as with the North in general. The network considers the role of academic conferences as germane for showcasing and synthesizing ideas on innovation and development in response to a growing recognition of the need for more support for academic ‘research on innovation’ that had relevance to the Nigerian context. This event aims to bring together leading scholars on innovation and development geared towards coalescing ideas on relevant innovative research for national development and capacity building of relevant stakeholders in Nigeria.

The 2nd NigeriaLics Conference

It is with great pleasure that NigeriaLics is inviting submission of papers from researchers, academics, policymakers and practitioners to her 2nd International Conference to be hosted by the University of Port Harcourt. This is coming up at a critical time when the Nigeria’s economy is witnessing a state of “cautious consolidation” and macroeconomic stabilization following the recent painful reforms, involving removal of fuel subsidies and unification of the exchange rate regimes. Despite the challenges occasioned by these reforms, the economy has witnessed some major upsurge in large scale enterprises in the Energy, Power and Technology space. To maintain this positive trajectory, there is need to build strong resilience within the economic space through entrepreneurial activities and digital transformation being occasioned by various Government policies and initiatives. It is based on this premise that the innovation and development community in Nigeria is organizing the 2nd NigeriaLics Conference with the theme- **Building Resilient Economies through Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation -**

to deliberate on how we can use innovation and technology to build a resilient future for Nigeria and Africa at large.

Conference Location and Objectives

The 2nd NigeriaLics Conference will be hosted by the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

The conference intends to bring together many postgraduate students, early careers and established researchers and scholars from different disciplines with the overall aim of enhancing the quality of innovation studies in relation to development and growth in Africa. The conference specifically aims at providing a space for the presentation and discussion of research findings and for networking between researchers working in the field of innovation and development. It constitutes part of the NigeriaLics efforts to build research capacity with strong links to users including policymakers and the private sector.

The main objectives of this conference are:

- ❖ To present and discuss the state of the art research in the field of innovation and development in Africa with a focus on the promotion of sustainable industrialization.
- ❖ To provide a much-needed arena for researchers in Nigeria, particularly early career researchers, to build capacity in presenting and networking skills as well as learning about new methods and theories
- ❖ To promote networking and create space for new collaborations amongst researchers in the field of innovation and development focusing on Nigeria.

The conference will be held over two days. Activities will involve keynotes addresses and presentation of research papers in parallel tracks with panel discussions and plenary lectures. The programme will be posted on the NigeriaLics web site by early September, 2026

Conference Theme and Subthemes

The 2nd NigeriaLics conference aims at addressing some of the above-raised issues which are of interest, not only to Nigeria but also to the global innovation development community - in the spirit of the SDGs 9 *on Industry, Innovation and infrastructure*. The conference's main theme is **Building Resilient Economies through Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation**. Papers addressing the main topic and sub-themes (see below) are strongly encouraged, but other high-quality papers focused on innovation and development issues may also be accepted.

Sub-themes

- 1. National Innovation Systems (NIS) and building resilience of the Nigerian economy**
- 2. Innovation in the Informal Economy**
- 3. Strengthening the Triple Helix: University-Industry-Government Linkages**
- 4. Entrepreneurship, Youth employment and the "Future of Work"**

5. **Financing Innovation: Beyond Venture Capital**
6. **Gender, Inclusive Innovation, and Social Entrepreneurship**
7. **Harnessing the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) for Local Needs**
8. **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Governance**
9. **Agritech and Food Security Resilience**

Paper Submission and Selection Process

We invite submission of original, unpublished full papers for the conference. Submission of a full paper (in PDF) not exceeding 8,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) can be submitted against any of the themes mentioned above. All papers should be sent to conference@nigerialics.ng. Paper submissions will be accepted up to the 15th May, 2026. NigeriaLics reserves the right to use available software to control for plagiarism and to take appropriate action in severe cases.

All papers submitted will be peer-reviewed by at least two members of the Conference Scientific Committee (to be made up of members of the Local Organizing Committee; members of the NigeriaLics Scientific Board and senior scholars from the NigeriaLics community). Each paper will be reviewed and scored on relevance to the conference themes, originality, research methods and scientific quality. Principal authors of accepted papers will be notified by 30th June 2026. Final papers must be submitted by 15th August 2026. The output of the conference will be developed into a conference proceeding that will be circulated on the NigeriaLics website. It is hoped that selected papers from the conference will be published into a reputable journal after a thorough peer reviewed process.

Conference Registration and Logistics

Registration for the conference will commence on 15th May 2026 through the payment of conference fee and completion of conference registration form. Details of the registration process will be made available to all accepted paper presenters in the email detailing their papers' acceptance. A subsidized registration fee is payable by **ALL** participants of the conference. Delegates who may be interested in participating as non-paper presenters will also be required to pay the prescribed subsidized registration fee. Registration covers participation, lunch, tea-break and conference materials.

Categories of researchers	Registration Fees
Senior Researchers	₦30,000 (USD100)
Early Career Researchers (PhD less than 5 years)	₦20,000 (USD75)
MSc/PhD Students	₦10,000 (USD50)

All participants will be expected to make their own transportation arrangements and cover the costs of their own hotel and subsistence. Details of local hotels will be made available on the conference website nearer the time of the conference. **Further information on registration and conference logistics** will be made available on the conference website.

Contact Details

For further information on the call and submission of papers, please visit our conference website: <http://nigeria.lics.ng/> or send email to: conference@nigeria.lics.ng

Background to NigeriaLics

The NigeriaLics Network brings together scholars, researchers and policy analysts who study development, innovation, learning, and competence building in a Nigeria context with emphasis on interactive learning and promotes plurality in terms of research approach, methodology and theoretical perspectives. This is a multidisciplinary field which includes researchers from a range of disciplines often studying innovation studies, the economics of innovation, innovation management, technology management, science and technology studies. However, the network also includes those from other fields such as education, engineering, economics and political science.

It was envisioned that the NigeriaLics network could facilitate the production and use of high-quality research in the field of innovation and development with a view to promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Nigeria. As such, it was established to support Nigerian scholars, especially early career researchers, to produce research in the field of innovation studies that is at the global frontier and is relevant for policy and practice including resolving developmental challenges of Nigerian communities. For more information about NigeriaLics, visit <https://nigeria.lics.ng/> or send email to secretariat@nigeria.lics.ng

About the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

The University of Port Harcourt is one of the top tier universities in Nigeria. Established in 1975, it has been dedicated to fostering intellectual curiosity, academic excellence, and a vibrant campus community. At University of Port Harcourt, we believe in the transformative power of education and the boundless potential within every individual. The University of Port Harcourt, is an entrepreneurial University acting in consonance with the regulations of the National University Commission (NUC). The University of Port Harcourt is situated in Choba/Aluu town in Rivers State, Nigeria in the South-South geo-political zone. Currently, the University has one (1) College, twelve (12) Faculties, and seven (3) Schools with over 60,000 undergraduate and post graduate students and over 4,000 Faculty members and staff.

Confirmed Speakers: TBA

Our Sponsorship Packages

Please see below the sponsorship categories and associated benefits for your kind consideration.

Platinum Sponsors - ₦5,000,000.00

- ◆ Promotion of brand in all conference promotional materials and channels for the event as a Platinum sponsor
- ◆ Opportunity for twenty of your top officials/representatives to attend the event
- ◆ Opportunity to display up to two promotional videos of your product and services to all attendees for a total of 2.5 minutes
- ◆ Opportunity to address all attendees as a Platinum sponsor for up to 5 minutes
- ◆ Sponsorship acknowledgement in all communications to members of NigeriaLics nationwide and across West Africa.
- ◆ All other unique benefits included in other sponsorship categories.

Gold Sponsors - ₦3,000,000.00

- ◆ Promotion of brand in all conference promotional materials and channels for the event as a Gold sponsor
- ◆ Opportunity for fifteen of your top officials/representatives to attend the event
- ◆ Sponsorship acknowledgement in all pre-event communications to members of NigeriaLics nationwide and across West Africa
- ◆ Opportunity to display a promotional video of your product and services to all attendees for a total of one minute only.
- ◆ Inclusion of logo on the backdrop and other printed materials for the event.
- ◆ Inclusion of flyers and logo on digital screens at the event.

Silver Sponsors - ₦1,500,000.00

- ◆ Promotion of brand in all conference promotional materials for the event as a Silver sponsor
- ◆ Opportunity for ten of your top officials/representatives to attend the event
- ◆ Sponsorship acknowledgement in all pre-event communications to members of NigeriaLics nationwide and across West Africa
- ◆ Inclusion of logo on the backdrop and other printed materials for the event.
- ◆ Right to one exhibition booth at the event.

Bronze Sponsors - ₦1,000,000.00

- ◆ Promotion of brand in all conference promotional materials for the event as a Bronze sponsor
- ◆ Opportunity for five of your top officials/representatives to attend the event
- ◆ Sponsorship acknowledgement in all pre-event communications to members of NigeriaLics nationwide and across West Africa
- ◆ Inclusion of logo on the backdrop and other printed materials for the event.
- ◆ Inclusion of a promotional flyer in the event brochure.

Local Organizing Committee

Chairpersons: Engr Joseph Otejere (Modutek Engineering / Uniport), Prof Eseosa Omorogiwa (University of Port Harcourt), **Members:** Dr Johnson Okorhi (Denis Osadebey University, Asaba), Dr. Ajewole Oluwaferanmi (Gofree Global Inc)

Conference Scientific Committee

Conference Scientific Committee is made up of members of the Local Organizing Committee, the Nigerialics Scientific Board and members of NigeriaLics who are senior scholars in the field of innovation and development in Nigeria.

The NigeriaLics Scientific Board

General Secretary: Prof Abdulkareem Oloyede (University of Ilorin), **Members:** Dr Maruf Sanni (National Centre for Technology Management- NACETEM, Ile-Ife),, Dr. Manir Garba (Bayero University, Kano), Prof. Kemi Omotesho (University of Ilorin). Dr Jumoke Oladele (University of Ilorin) Dr Okorhi Johnson (Denis Osadebey University, Asaba), Prof Julie Ukonze (University of Nigeria, Nnsuka), Dr Tosin Ilevbare (University of Ilorin), Dr Oluwatosin Edafe

The NigeriaLics Secretariat office is housed at Deputy Vice-Chancellor Office (Research, Technology and Innovation) PMB 1515, University of Ilorin, Nigeria