



Exploring Nigeria-Australia Bilateral Relations & Opportunities: Panel Discussion

Tuesday 23 April 2024: 10am – 12pm at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Nigeria stands as the most populous nation in Africa with 223 million people and boasts of being the continent's largest economy, thanks to its abundant natural resources, including oil reserves, and a burgeoning services sector. With a diverse cultural landscape and a young, enterprising population, Nigeria is a hub of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.



Bilateral relations between Nigeria and Australia have historically revolved around trade, education, and technical cooperation. Both nations share common interests in areas such as mining, agriculture, and education, which form the cornerstone of their partnership.

Nigeria's position as Africa's largest economy provides a solid foundation for engaging with Australia in a mutually beneficial relationship. By focusing on key sectors like mining, agriculture, education, energy, and technology, Nigeria and Australia can forge a partnership that not only strengthens their bilateral ties but also promotes economic growth and development.

The Nigerian administration intends to grow the economy primarily via private investment and is aiming for 6% real GDP growth per year. This could lead to a strong rise in incomes, which, combined with the young and fast-growing population, could usher in a new consumer class and several investment opportunities.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a high-level delegation of visionaries, leaders, and innovators from the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in a panel discussion that will shape the future of Nigeria & Australia relations in the focus sectors of Mining, Education, Energy, Fintech, and Agriculture.

Program:

- 10:00am: Registration of guests and networking.
- 10:30am: Panel discussion and Q&A.
- 11:30 am: Networking reception.
- 12:00pm: Event concludes.

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

Entry is free but pre-registration is essential. This event is in-person only.

Refreshments will be provided.



MEET THE SPEAKERS:

- **Senator Osita Ngwu**, Senate Minority Whip and Chairman, Senate Committee on Solid Minerals
- **Dr. Victor Okezie Ikpeazu**, immediate former Governor of Abia State
- **Dr Ugochukwu Chime**, Group Managing Director, COPEN Group, & Chairman Nigeria Land Reforms
- **Prof. Paul Iji**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Fiji National University
- **Mr. Olusegun Olatunji**, MD/CEO DOSH Energy Limited
- **Dr. Kingsley Uzoma**, Snr. Special Asst. to the President on Agri-business & Productivity
- **H.E Mrs. Mercy Clement**, Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria to Australia & the Pacific



Senator Osita Ngwu has had a career that spans over 15 years in the oil and gas industry where he rose from a Trainee Engineer to the Executive Director. In 2018 he decided to enter the sphere of politics and five years later won a seat in the Enugu West Senatorial District. He now holds the position as the Chief Minority Whip and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Solid Minerals.



Dr Victor Okezie Ikpeazu was the Executive Governor Of Abia State in South East Nigeria from 2015 to 2023 as a member of the People's Democratic Party. Prior to his political career, he headed the Biochemistry department at Enugu State University of Science and Technology and served as a lecturer for multiple educational institutions.



Dr Ugochukwu Chime is the Group Managing Director of the COPEN and oversees the actualization of the strategic vision of the group. He is a fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors with more than 43 years industry experience including serving as the Chairman of Enugu Housing Development Corporation, REDAN Capital, and multiple other companies.



Paul A. Iji is a Professor of Animal Science and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at the Fiji National University (FNU), Suva, Fiji. He has been involved in research and tertiary education since 1987, working first in Nigeria, South Africa, Australia, and Fiji. His main area of research is commercial poultry science, with a specialisation in gastrointestinal physiology.



Dr. Kingsley Uzoma is the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Agribusiness, Consultant to PICTT, and Good Agronomic Practices Lead for PACE, where he contributes to major agricultural programs and crafts vital guidelines for crop production. His international experience spans postdoctoral research in Canada, fellowships in the UK, and consultancy roles that highlight his global impact. His previous academic positions include Head of the Soil Science Department at Michael Okpara University (2015-2017) and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen (2019).



Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria



Mr. Olusegun Olatunji is a seasoned energy industry professional with 20 years of experience, known for his visionary leadership and commitment to value creation and business improvement. He has a background in business development and investment, with notable achievements such as managing the acquisition of a significant oil and gas field in the Niger Delta and holding stakes in an offshore field.



HE Mrs Mercy Clement is serving as the Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria to the Commonwealth of Australia and was Chief of Protocol to the former First Lady of Nigeria. Her expertise in diplomatic negotiation and strategic planning, has been honed through roles at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), World Bank, and ECOWAS. Mrs. Clement is a high achiever and exemplar who is committed to promoting fair and transparent processes in global relations.