



Association for  
the promotion  
of African  
Studies

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**2021** APAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Theme:*

African Ideologies and Innovative  
Trends and Advances: Honoring  
the Past and Shaping the Future

By

**PROFESSOR KANU IKECHUKWU ANTHONY, O.S.A**

President, Association for the Promotion of African Studies (APAS)

Distinguished guests, Respected colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning and very warm welcome to the 2021 APAS Online International Conference on “AFRICAN IDEOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE TRENDS AND ADVANCES: HONORING THE PAST AND SHAPING THE FUTURE”.

The year 2021 marks the beginning of a promising decade for Africa. In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the continent continues to be home to seven of the world’s 10 fastest-growing economies. Ours is a continent that has continued to give birth to beautiful and inspirational stories in spite of difficult circumstances. It is on this basis that we have gathered today as African scholars to discuss the innovative trends and advances emerging from Africa.

This year’s conference does not only highlight the triumphs of past years but focusses on strategies for tackling forthcoming challenges in the continent. Our collective action as scholars is representative of the shared energy and excitement around Africa’s potential.

As an association with the objective of asking relevant questions and questioning fundamental answers in search for the truth, after our conference in 2020, we resolved to focus our attention this year on innovative trends and advances in Africa.



This conference was inspired by a retinue of questions that have bordered the inquisitive minds of the members of APAS and beyond. And we are appreciative of all the members of APAS for taking up the challenge to respond to these questions through research.

This notwithstanding, the Association's respectful sentiments of welcome go to:

1. Professor Izu Marcel Onyeocha from Imo State University, Nigeria, who would be giving the Keynote Address;
2. Professor Mahmoud Misaeli from Saint Paul University Ottawa, Canada, who would present the Lead Paper.

As we proceed with the Conference, it is important to remember that today is 25<sup>th</sup> May, that is, AFRICA DAY, which was established by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now African Union (AU) in a bid to enhance change and freedom in Africa. As we mark this day in a grand style, we look forward to the generation of ideas that would bring about greater change and freedom for Africa.

I congratulate all the Conferees as we look forward to a wonderful opportunity to honor our past and shape the future of our dear continent.

May God bless the Association for the Promotion of African Studies (APAS)!  
Chart 2

# About APAS

The Association for the Promotion of African Studies (APAS) was founded by Professor KANU Ikechukwu Anthony, O.S.A. in 2016 to promote and encourage research and scholarship within the parameters of African philosophy, religion, history, culture, social movements, linguistic, literature, arts, science and technology, etc.; to forge intellectual links and network with scholars, policy makers, and activists in Africa and beyond; to participate actively and collaboratively in continental and global debates with interested organizations in Africa and other countries in the world, on issues specifically relevant and correlated to African studies; and to work proactively for the promotion of African language with interested organizations and/ or institutions in diverse regions of the world.

This association has the vision of putting Africa and African scholars on the global map. As a learned society and professional association of teachers and research scholars, the Association for the Promotion of African Studies has members who teach in various higher institutions in Africa and beyond. The objectives of APAS are accomplished through Academy-wide and regional conferences and meetings, publications, programs, and membership services. APAS has members from within Africa and beyond.

# About The President

**Ikechukwu Anthony KANU** is a Professor of African Religion and Cultural Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Tansian University. He is currently the Rector of Villanova Polytechnic, Imesi Ile, Osun State and a Visiting Professor to the University of Jos. He is the Global President of the World Cultural Studies Research Association, based in India. He is the Director of Igwebuike Research Institute and the Editor-in-Chief of IGWEBUIKE: An African Journal of Arts and Humanities (IAAJAH); Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development (JASSD); Villanova Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and AMAMIHE: Journal of Applied Philosophy. Professor Kanu has First Class Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome and a First Class in Religious Studies from the University of Jos. He has Master's Degree in Metaphysics from the University of Nigeria, and a second Master's Degree from Nnamdi Azikiwe University. In addition, he holds a Ph.D in African Traditional Religion from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, and a Post-graduate Diploma in Education. He was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees by London Graduate School and University of America, USA, and certified in different aspects of leadership by the prestigious Harvard University, Boston, USA; Business School of the University of Michigan, USA; HEC International Business School, Paris, France; College of Business, University of Illinois, USA; Wesleyan University, USA, etc. Professor Kanu has to his credit more than 250 journal articles in national and international peer reviewed journals, more than 230 papers presented in national and international conferences, has written and edited more than 65 books and about 50 papers published as chapters in peer reviewed books.