

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE 2023 APAS CONFERENCE

**Prof. Kanu Ikechukwu Anthony, OSA**  
**President, Association for the Promotion of African Studies**

Distinguished guests, respected colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and very warm welcome to the 2023 APAS Conference. You are welcome to Nsukka, known for her deep cultural sensitivity; and to the University of Nigeria, famous for her world-renowned scholars.

We were attracted to the University of Nigeria Nsukka for this year's conference for a retinue of reasons. This distinguished institution is the first full-fledged indigenous and the foremost autonomous University in Nigeria. She is among the most reputed universities in Africa. Since its establishment on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1960, UNN has consistently manifested itself globally as a citadel of great multidisciplinary learnings and a centre of academic excellence.

It is, therefore, *apropos* that the 2023 APAS Conference, aimed at facilitating conversations across a broad spectrum of scholars and disciplines, for the generation of robust engagements and the forging of ambitious but concrete paths that will catalyse Africa's prosperity should take place in the University of Nigeria Nsukka.

The theme of this conference: AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, has been shaped by the varied depictions of Africa. Our continent has been presented and described in the global space, most times negatively and by non-Africans. We have convened at this conference to tell the story of Africa from within Africa and in rare African voices. And as progressive academic visionaries of Africa, to reflect critically and discuss theoretical and empirical perspectives in African landmark achievements, setbacks and future developments.

Our profound sentiments of gratitude go to the Chief Host of this conference, Prof. Charles Arizechukwu Igwe, the Vice Chancellor of this great university; and to our Host, Prof. Ike E. Onyishi, the Dean of the Faculty of the Social Sciences. Subtle minds like Bertrand Russell made a classification of Professors into three categories:

1. those who are figures of fun, who are totally out of their element in the academic environment, who see professorship as a retirement benefit to be enjoyed and indeed exploited;
2. those who are technically competent but uninteresting;
3. those, usually a minority group, whom inquiring minds admire wholeheartedly and enthusiastically.

Of the third group, there are few indeed. And it is a matter of joy that in the front rank of that small group of dedicated intellectuals, we have Prof. Ike E. Onyishi, the Dean of this prominent faculty.

I convey the Association's affectionate, but respectful sentiments of welcome to the keynote speakers, Prof. Samuel Ntewusu, the Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra; and Prof. Mahmoud Masaeli, the President of Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns; and the Lead Paper Presenter, Prof. Umar Habila Dadem Danfulani of the University of Jos, Plateau State.

I thank the members of APAS for annually supporting the creation of this academic atmosphere, which is a living and dynamic potential of energies always ready to be dynamized, as it provides us a wonderful opportunity to encounter valuable insights and fresh ideas.

On behalf of the members of the association, I appreciate the Local Organizing Committee Chaired by Dr. Chidi Ugwu, and membered by Dr. Johnbosco Chukwuorji, and the Executive Secretary of APAS, Dr. Ejikemeuwa Ndubisi. We thank you for a job well done. You have not only been committed to this course, but have been exceptionally innovative.

As we begin the 2023 APAS conference, it might be important to know that the Board of Trustees of APAS has scheduled the 2024 APAS Conference to take place at the Center For African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

May God bless the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria Nsukka!

May God bless the Association for the Promotion of African Studies!!

Thank you, and do have an interesting conference ahead.