



MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING: LESSONS FROM UIRESDEV, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA



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HIGHLIGHT OF PRESENTATION

- **UIRESDEV DEFINED**
- **IDENTIFIED GAPS-UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**
- **IDENTIFIED GAPS-TOWN**
- **BUILDING A BRIDGE**
- **FINAL THOUGHT**



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (UIRESDEV)

- **UI VISION: To be a world-class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs**
- **UIRESDEV is Mandated to bridge UI-Town gap:**
 - **Industry,**
 - **Government,**
 - **Populace-Community service/engagement**



THE GAPS-UNIVERSITY

- 1. Research Conceptualization**
- 2. Science Communication**
- 3. University Reward System**
- 4. Staff turnover (Brain Drain) weaken capacity to fulfil role**
- 5. Researchers often lack hard data and quality analysis: Verifiable evidence is key- without it researchers have little claim to policy & societal influence**



THE GAPS-TOWN

- Governing/Governance in Africa is largely unstructured:**
 - unstable and unpredictable institutional arrangements**
 - Democratic institutions and customs often precarious**

- Foreign Funding sources limits autonomy and the ability to focus on locally impactful research**

- Missing policy influencers: think tanks, NGOs, advocacy groups, independent media to play the role of “*transactors*” to connect research findings to policy issues**

- Implementation challenges:**
 - Weak Policy design capabilities**
 - deficient management, administrative capacities**
 - Lack and/or insufficient monitoring and accountability**

- Lack confidence in own researchers; demand for research and institutionalized interaction between researchers and policy-makers is missing**



BUILDING A BRIDGE BY UIRESDEV: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

1. Identifying and Cultivating lively and critical intermediate organizations :

- **The DAWN Commission:** is an inclusive development strategy in Western Nigeria; leveraging on communal assets, talents and resources located within the Region, by side-tracking limitations placed on all by Nigerian federalism.





BUILDING A BRIDGE

2. Disseminating research results strategically, pro-actively & effectively (policy brief, mass media etc) to foster ongoing interaction

- **Science communication Unit**

3. Fostering inter-, multi- and trans- disciplinary fundable research with community impact as focus

- **UIRF: provide grants to competitive multidisciplinary research, training and capacity building**

- **Collaborative Workshop for early career scientists: Fostering inter-disciplinary collaboration**



BUILDING A BRIDGE.....

4. Promote public private partnerships that can facilitate translation and use of research results for sustainable development

➤ **Exploring Venture capital investment to fund proof of Idea**

5. Strategic creation & utilization of networks for knowledge to policy

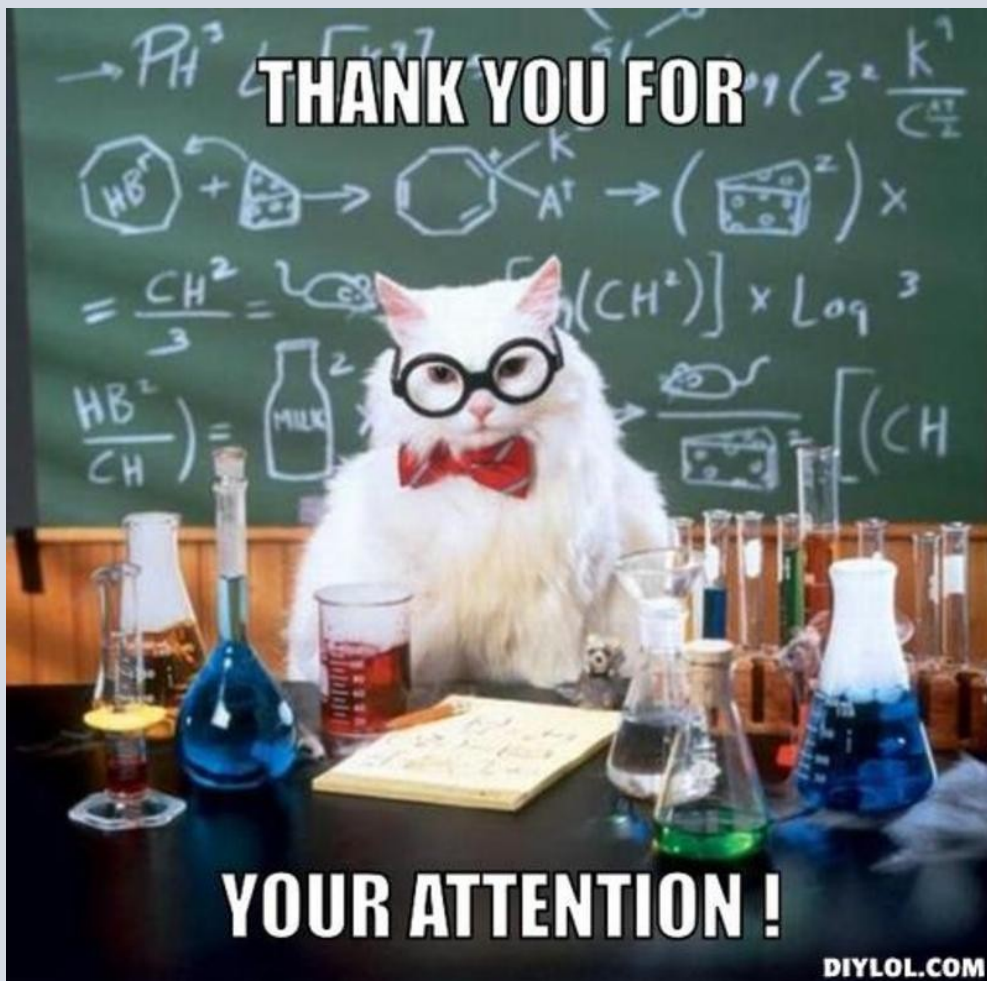
➤ **E.g., Fostering Interchange of individual between research and policy making domain**



FINAL THOUGHT.....

Researchers need to:

- **Build a relationship of trust, which is based on a good reputation**
- **Anticipate issues: far-sighted, working on issues before they trigger policy interest**
- **The research agenda, and its relevance to policy, must be strong and vigorously promoted**
- **Communicate evidence clearly to policymakers as well as Policy influencing network (advocacy groups, the media, affected communities, and the private sector)**
- **exercise leadership in designing implementation**



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