

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## *Special issue: African Entrepreneurship*

Guest editors: **Professor Jay Mitra (University of Essex, UK) and Professor Murtala. S. Sagagi (Bayero University, Nigeria)**

Africa has begun to capture the imagination of business and policy makers in a new light. While poverty and economic disadvantage continue to dominate television screens, there is growing evidence of new opportunities for technological change, the development of new business models, poverty alleviation and economic development. As real GDP has risen by 4.9% a year from 2000 through to 2008 and at more than twice the pace of GDP in the 1980s, substantial interest has focused on the growth of telecommunications, retailing, construction and banking, on private investment flows and the contribution of the African diaspora to the growing vibrancy of the economies of a large number of states on the continent. At the heart of such change lies opportunity, its identification through the marshalling of resources and the productive outcomes of creative endeavour – or entrepreneurship and innovation. Yet researchers have only lately begun to respond. Some recognition of these new developments is evident in publications on technological absorption, knowledge production and innovation (IBRD, 2011; World Bank, 2011; 2010; 2008; Radawan and Pellegrini, 2010); economic management and business growth (Radelet, 2011); new African enterprises (Okonjo-Ikewela, 2010); and international investment (Kaplinsky, 2008).

Entrepreneurship in the African continent reflects many different indigenous patterns of innovative endeavour. The emergence of South Africa as a BRICS partner, the rapid adoption of mobile technology for money transfer in Kenya and market information provision for farmers in Ghana, and strong economic management in Ghana are just a few examples of how technologies, institutions internationalization and new ventures are changing the economic environment of African countries. There is anecdotal evidence of the involvement of the highly educated and economically powerful African diaspora in Europe and the USA in investments in and support for business opportunities in Africa through, for example, the creation of new investment funds. These changes help with the realization of opportunities for both economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The involvement of African businesses in the global supply chains, cross-border exchanges of intermediary goods, and open, networked innovation are as critical to African economies as are the Millennium Development Goals and the need to overcome hitherto intractable problems of environmental devastation, hunger and poverty. These issues pose interesting theoretical and empirical challenges. They raise fundamental questions about the nature, scope and meaning of entrepreneurship and innovation in a developing economy context and the possible inadequacy of models borrowed from developed economies. But African entrepreneurship cannot thrive in splendid isolation. Inherent in the emergence of African enterprise is the evolution of technologies, skills, organizations, markets and people connected to counterparts and networks across the world.

This special issue seeks to explore these issues in their appropriate contexts of African entrepreneurship on the continent and beyond it within diaspora communities. Themes that may be explored by researchers for submitting papers for this special issue are given below, but these are intended to be illustrative, not comprehensive:

Theme 1: Entrepreneurship, innovation and economic development.

- Theme 2: Globalization and the role of diaspora communities.  
Theme 3: Foreign Direct investment, technology alliances and the entrepreneurial growth.  
Theme 4: Entrepreneurial African women.  
Theme 5: New technology and entrepreneurial opportunity.  
Theme 6: Entrepreneurship and the Millennium Development Goals.

Papers should preferably be empirically-based, but conceptual papers that present significant advances in theoretical perspectives are also welcome. Moreover, papers that employ non-conventional methodological approaches and offer an international dimension with valuable cross-country/cross-sectoral comparisons are especially encouraged. Case studies that illustrate unconventional and effective practices relating to any of the above topics may also be submitted.

Expressions of interest in the form of an abstract and authors' full contact information should be e-mailed by **5 June 2012** to [jmitra@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jmitra@essex.ac.uk). Based on a review of the abstracts, authors will be invited to submit their full papers, upon which they will be required to format their manuscript according to the journal guidelines (see <http://www.ippublishing.com>). Full papers will need to be submitted **1 November 2012**. All papers will be subject to a double blind review.

#### **Contact Details of Guest Editors:**

Professor Jay Mitra, Centre for Entrepreneurship Research, Essex Business School, University of Essex, Elmer Approach, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1LW, UK; Tel: +44 1702328390; Fax: +44 1702328387; e-mail: [jmitra@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jmitra@essex.ac.uk).

Professor Murtala, S. Sagagi, Head of Department of Management, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; e-mail: [mssagagi@yahoo.com](mailto:mssagagi@yahoo.com).