



WELCOME ADDRESS

By

the Vice-Chancellor,
National Open University of Nigeria

On a

National Stakeholder Summit on Community-Led Academic Book Publishing

October 6–7, 2025
Conference Centre, NOUN, Abuja

Protocols

The Executive Secretary of TETFund,
Distinguished Vice-Chancellors and Rectors,
Directors of Academic Publishing Centres,
The International Partners on this initiative,
Colleagues from across Nigerian universities,
University Librarians, Editors, Authors,
Students,
Members of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning, distinguished guests.

On behalf of Council and Senate of the National Open University of Nigeria, it is my singular honour to welcome you all to this select National Stakeholder Conference on Open Access Books taking place today Monday, October 6th, through Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, at the National Open University of Nigeria's Conference Centre here in Jabi, Abuja.



This conference, convened under the theme: **From Pilots to Policy: Advancing a National Framework for Open Access Books in Nigeria**, has been organised by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund, in collaboration with the NOUN Press, Darasphir, the Open Book Collective (OBC), and the Directory of Open Access Books.

We regard it as both an honour and a privilege for the National Open University of Nigeria to host this pivotal national summit. As Nigeria's foremost open and distance learning institution, NOUN has continually championed the foundational belief that knowledge fulfills its purpose only when it is shared widely and equitably across every community. Our main delivery strategy focuses on the creation and development of content by teams comprising varied expertise and subsequent publishing of the content in varied media formats and across multiple media platforms. This ensures that our students, wherever they reside, can access learning resources without barriers. Through this operational mode, we advance both Equity and Equality in the acquisition of knowledge. Hosting this distinguished gathering is therefore a natural extension of our core mission: to democratise access to higher education; deepen scholarship and promote lifelong learning throughout our communities and across our dear nation.

I wish to emphasise that this summit is much more than being about the subject of academic publishing alone. At its core, it is about ensuring that the knowledge produced within our universities and tertiary institutions truly benefits our students, our society, and our nation.

Like Open Access publishing, Community-led academic publishing is an emerging and transformative model that prioritises collaboration among scholars, practitioners, and community members for the production and



dissemination of academic resources for the good of all. It is characterised by inclusivity, shared ownership, and responsiveness to evolving community needs. Another vital aspect of community-led publishing is that it provides an enabling environment for young and early-career scholars to participate in publishing, learning from seasoned academics. This initiative is a reaffirmation that Nigerian scholarship should be visible, accessible, and impactful—both nationally and globally. By bringing together authors, editors, librarians, policymakers, and partners, renewed collective commitment to build a stronger and more resilient academic publishing ecosystem.

I wish to commend the visionary leadership of TETFund, whose forward-looking programmes consistently advance transformative initiatives within our occupational sector. The fact that TETFund is driving this community-led initiative for the publishing of academic works, is an assurance that the initiative will receive the necessary support for a sustained mechanism via grants and other vital funding channels under the able leadership of Arc Sonny Echono, OON.

I warmly welcome and acknowledge our valued partners—local and international—whose collaboration and presence here today, demonstrates the transformative power of working together. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to colleagues and participants from across Nigeria, and to those who have travelled long distances to join us. Your dedication reminds us of the common purpose we share as custodians of knowledge.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, over the next two days, let us dedicate ourselves to listening thoughtfully, learning generously, and envisioning boldly, so that together, we can help shape the future of Nigerian scholarship.



On behalf of the National Open University of Nigeria, I again warmly welcome you all to Abuja, and to our university.

I wish us an engaging and productive deliberations.

May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you

Professor Olufemi Peters
Vice-Chancellor