



## **WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA, UCHE MESSIAH OLOWU, Ph.D., FCIB AT THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BANKING AND FINANCE CONFERENCE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 24 - 25, 2019 AT CONGRESS HALL, TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banking and Finance Conference organized by The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, Learning and Development Department.

As you may already be aware, the Conference is a significant event held annually to provide a stimulating forum for the discussion of a wide range of issues facing the banking and finance industry. This year is no different as we tackle the theme **The Future of Banking: 360°** with faculty from of a wide array of sub-sectors including practitioners from both the public and private spheres.

### **2.0 PROTOCOL, RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION**

Let me take a few minutes to acknowledge the presence of our special guest of honor, His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, GCON, SAN, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria for taking the time out of his particularly busy schedule to be with us. I also wish to especially welcome as our keynote speaker, Mr. Adjiedj Bakas, a visionary speaker and author of the book “The State of Tomorrow” among many others. Based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Mr Bakas is a friend of the Institute who consistently supports our activities. It may interest this august audience to note that in 2017 Mr Bakas was one of the esteemed resource persons who facilitated the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Conference of Banking Institutes (WCBI) held at the Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos. We are pleased to have him here in Nigeria once again sharing his insights and expertise with us.

For this year’s conference we are also delighted to be welcoming over 40 (forty) facilitators from diverse range of disciplines which include, Economics, Banking, Technology and Taxation. Given the short amount of time I have to deliver this address, it would be impossible to acknowledge them all however, it is pertinent to mention that all facilitators were specifically handpicked and would no doubt add significant value to the Business Sessions.

### **3.0 The Conference Concept, Agenda and Purpose**

It cannot be reiterated enough; the so-called traditional norms of banking are being redefined. While the products and services on offer remain the same, the form and shape of what a bank is and how it appears would be drastically altered. As popularly noted by the Author and Futurist, Brett King, *“banking is no longer where you go, but what you do”*.



Before delving into the future of banking, permit me take a few minutes to mention the past, as it was the great author, poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou who said, *“If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going.* According to Wikipedia, the earliest practices of banking can be traced back to 2000 BC in Assyria and India and Sumeria. Then, banking was essentially carried out by merchants who made loans primarily to farmers and traders carrying goods between cities. The medium of exchange then being commodities such as grain, cowry shells and livestock. Then came formalized banking pioneered by the Roman Empire. According to Investopedia, the Romans took banking *“out of the temples and formalized it within distinct buildings”*. Disruption also came with the invention of standardized coinage in 1000 BC and paper money by the Chinese in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century as a means to facilitate large commercial transactions. Despite this disruption, loans remained the primary source of business for banks.

The present day dominance of financial technology and digital currency was conceived David Challum in 1983. Innovations such as ATM machines, credit/cards and POS machines were released unto the market. However, it was not until the early 1990s and the emergence of the Dot Com bubble that the first digital currencies such as E-gold were released to the market. Further disruption came to the industry in 2008 with the launch of the Bitcoin. It became the first widely used decentralized, peer-to-peer cryptocurrency. Banking processes became digitized with the emergence of mobile banking and USSD codes as well as the entry of Fintech firms whose major services were payment services. In the present form of banking technologies such as Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning are increasingly being adopted. This as described by Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum are the beginnings of the 4th economic revolution which is characterized by a fusion of technologies which are blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres.

The future of banking would see further digitization of bank processes. Digitization is gaining more and more significance in the banking industry. According to the 2018 report from Global Market Insight, the Digital Banking Market would cross the \$9 trillion mark by 2024. As expertly suggested by Brett King in his latest book, *Bank 4.0 Banking Everywhere, Never at a Bank “your bank is no longer an island but a platform of services...”* and *“If you want to be Bank 4.0 ready, you need to strip back to the basics and rebuild. If not, it is largely a matter of time before your business is no longer economically viable”*

Such alterations in the banking terrain will contribute to efficiency and greater financial inclusion would also have significant effects on issues such as the skills and competencies required, risk management processes, financial inclusion efforts and inter-trade processes. For example, according to the World Economic Forum<sup>1</sup> by 2055, nearly half of all work in all occupations would be automated.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)



The theme of this year's conference “**The Future of The Banking Industry: 360°**” was selected to identify these changes and provide robust discussions and enlightenment particularly as they pertain to Africa's most populous nation. The Business Sessions which are being led by distinguished subject matter experts such as Amb. (Dr) Adeyemi Dipeolu, Special Adviser to the President for Economic Matters, Office of the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Prof. Benedict O. Oramah, President, Afrexim Bank; and Mr. Robert Taiwo, Managing Director, Phillips would discuss the Continental African Free Trade Agreement, trends in Digital Innovation, Governance Risk Management, Shared Services and Macroeconomics. I have no doubt whatsoever that over the two-day period of the conference participants would gain exclusive insights which would lend not only towards further enlightenment on the aforementioned topics but towards intelligence based decision making.

#### 4.0 **Our Role and Brand Impact on Conference Agenda**

In line with my 5-point agenda as outlined in my acceptance speech delivered in May, 2018, I am pleased to mention that the Institute has achieved the following.

##### **a. Skills and Competences**

- i. The CIBN, duly aware of the changing banking terrain has taken several steps to expose Nigeria's young and budding talent. It may interest you all to note that last year, over 70 students from 53 linkage institutions across the country were flown (all expenses paid) to Abuja attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Banking & Finance Conference. The aim of this is to provide would be banking professionals with the opportunity to attend a world class conference, learn from subject matter experts and network with their peers. This year the number of students flown in to attend the Conference has increased to....
- ii. In 2019, 7 linkage institutions were linked to the Institute bringing the total number of linked institutions to 65
- iii. The CIBN had engaged the services of PwC Nigeria to develop the content for the CIBN Flagship qualification, the ACIB Certification Programme. This is with the aim to ensure a contemporary syllabus with content on emerging relevant issues.
- iv. In the course of reviewing the syllabus for the Chartered Banker Certification Programme, proposed modules to be added to the intermediate level of the Certification include Digital Banking and Fintech. These modules would tackle themes in cryptocurrency, digitization of financial services and disruptive innovation
- v. The Introduction of Ethics Compliance Certification in conjunction with the Subcommittee of Bankers Committee in Competency and Industry Standards.



## **b. Technology and Resources**

- vi. As of June 2019, the CIBN inaugurated the Community of Practice on Fintech (Processes & Technology Payment Systems). The Community of Practice is a collaborative, interactive network of individuals and subject experts within a generally defined topic of knowledge and experience. The network was set up to assist in the implementation of the Competency Framework.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

Distinguish ladies and gentlemen let me close this address by appreciating the Banking & Finance Conference Committee ably led by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, Managing Director/CEO, First Bank of Nigeria for their painstaking efforts in ensuring we hold nothing less than a world class event.

I also warmly welcome you all once again to this notable event. To all who have travelled from far and wide to attend, I thank you for making the journey to attend this conference.

Thank you for your kind attention, I wish you an enlightening Conference.

**Uche M. Olowu, Ph.D., FCIB**

President/Chairman of Council  
The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria  
September 24, 2019