UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

CENTRE FOR LOGISTICS &amp; TRANSPORT STUDIES (CELTRAS)

ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION:  
The University of Port Harcourt was founded among other things to contribute to national  
development, self-reliance and unity through the advancement and propagation of knowledge,  
and humanity.  
This University has been achieving this not only through the conventional Faculties and  
Departments but through specialized Centers and Institutes. As is the case in many other  
universities all over the world, specialized Centres and/or Institutes focus specifically on aspects  
of socio-economic phenomena which gives the university concerned an advantage in promoting  
the existential realities of its immediate and wider environment. In addition to the academic and  
practical objectives of such Centers/Institutes, they have added value by generating some funds  
for the University. Against this background, the University of Port Harcourt established the  
CENTRE FOR LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT STUDIES (CELTRAS) in 2012 following a  
memorandum of understanding with the University as approved by the Senate.  
RATIONALE and PHILOSOPHY:  
The Centre shall be made up of five programmes in tandem with the five modal agencies in  
transportation viz: Road, Rail Maritime/Inland waterways, Air and Pipeline transportation  
instead. This is to produce graduates in a specific mode of transportation of generalists in  
transportation. Moreover, most donors/sponsors are usually more comfortable with identifying  
with the specific modal agency in their relationship with the Centre.  
The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies will offer that desire to improve on the general  
absence of proper planning, coordination and efficient management of logistics activities in both  
public and private sectors of the economy by preparing and training qualified transport and  
logistics professionals.  
The different areas of specialization reflect and emphasize the dynamic nature of the  
programmes while allowing for the flexibility of the graduates to move from one  
transport/logistics-oriented job to another.  
VISION:  
CELTRAS envisages the professionalization of the logistics and transport sector of the Nigerian  
economy such that in the not-too-distant future, the transport and logistics sectors of the Nigerian  
economy will be managed by well-trained and better-qualified persons.

MISSION:  
The mission of CELTRAS is to produce qualified professionals in Transport Planning and  
Logistics/Supply Chain Management, for the Nigerian economy in particular and Africa in  
general. The idea is to provide adequate knowledge and practical skills for understanding and

solving transportation and logistics and supply chain problems in Nigeria as well as generate  
international support in funding for intellectual exchanges through conveyances, seminars and  
publications.

ACHIEVEMENTS  
The Centre was among the Institutes/Centres hit hard by the protracted university-based unions’  
industrial action in the area of student enrollment. Notwithstanding the challenge above, the  
centre recorded laudable achievements within the periods under review. These include:  
• The Centre, to contribute its own quota to the mission and vision of the University in the  
area of development, purchased and installed ten (10) solar-powered flood lights and four  
(4) solar-powered street lights along Ghana-Ama/Gambia-Ama area of the University.  
• In our quest to migrate fully to e-learning in the Centre, we executed a multi-million-  
naira project to have the Centre connected to an unlimited and uninterrupted network  
through the World Bank ACE-CEFOR of the University of Port Harcourt.  
• Installation of E-Learning/Learning Management System (LMS) Portal/Automated  
Admissions System worth over eight million Naira (₦8,000,000.00) which is at 98 per  
cent completion with features and Capabilities including in-house Custom Learning  
Management Platform (LMS) hosted on the cloud, automated admissions application  
system developed to suit all forms of blended and E-Learning as well as full distance  
learning capabilities (handled by SpeedLink Nigeria Limited).  
• Recall that the NIMASA Building including the brand-new Toyota Corolla and Hilux  
Pick-up Van were attracted by then Director, Professor Osi Akpoghomeh. Through a  
series of communications between the Centre/University and the Director-General of the  
Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency on the completion of the NIMASA  
(CELTRAS) building which the construction work was stalled for quite sometime now,  
the University received cheering news that the contractor has been mobilized back to the  
site and to complete the project within 24 months period from December 2022  
• In the area of academics, the Centre recorded more than sixty (60) PGD, seventy (70)  
MSc, and twelve (12) PhD graduands respectively during the just-concluded 33 rd  
Convocation (combined) held on 2 nd and 3 rd December 2022.  
• To tell how strategic the Centre is in the area of economic development of Nigeria, the  
Centre played host to a Panel from the Federal University, Lokoja, Kogi State who were  
at the Centre to understudy it with a view to establishing it in their school.  
• Replaced a non-serviceable multi-purpose address system with a modern and digitalized  
one.  
• Purchased executive table and chair for the Director  
• A modern Boardroom with state-of-art facilities like a 12-seater Boardroom table and  
chairs, 65 inches smart television to facilitate defences, seminars/proposals and electronic  
gadgets for zoom webinars.  
• Internet-enabled multipurpose digital HP LaserJet photocopier.

• Recruited three (3) temporary/ad-hoc staff – Office Clerk, Cleaner/Messenger and driver  
with reasonable monthly allowances.  
RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/INNOVATIONS  
• In the area of research, we have produced ground-breaking research in the Maritime  
industry and have to our credit two (2) journals which the Centre floated last year.  
Presently, we have published two (2) series of journals and will be releasing the next  
volumes (Volume 3) before the year run out. The Journals are International Journal of  
Transportation Research, and International Journal of Transport, Environment and  
Society.  
CHALLENGES  
As a self-funding Centre, among the major challenges of the Centre are, but not limited to,  
paucity of funds to open study areas close to the majority of our applicant’s catchment towns like  
Onne in Rivers State, Abuja and Lagos State, lack of adequate staff seconded from the  
university. Accommodation which shall soon be a thing of the past)  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
We recommend that the Centre be supported to have a study outlet close to the applicants for the  
sale of admission forms and studies in addition to propagating the good name of the Centre nay  
the University of Port Harcourt  
CONCLUSION  
We cannot end this report without appreciating the University Management for their continued  
support and provision of enabling environment to run the Centre and the programmes. We shall  
keep reaching out to good-spirited individuals and agencies for more support for the University.  
Thank you, sir.

Professor Osi S. Akpoghomeh  
Director, CELTRAS