

DR. FRIDAY O. OKPARA

Dr. Okpara started his working career with the then ICON Ltd (Merchant Bankers) before joining Novotel Consults as a Senior Consultant. In 1996, he joined the University of Abuja as a Lecturer. From 2006 to 2008, he was an Assistant Professor (Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management), University of Gondar, Ethiopia. Dr. Okpara was the President, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Small Business Management (CEDSBM). He is the Founder and life Patron of the Entrepreneurship Club, University of Abuja, Nigeria, a club with the burning desire of imbibing and inculcating the spirit and culture of entrepreneurialism among the Nigerian youth- they just have to create their future.

He holds B.S (Finance), M.S (Business Management), PhD (Policy Analysis) and DBA (Entrepreneurship). His Research Interest is on Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. He has a deep passion to develop entrepreneurs that are mentally resourceful, intelligently reinforced, enterprisingly self-dependent, futuristically visionary and responsible-sensitive to the changes demanded for the leadership role of the entrepreneur. In accordance with the paradigm shift, the men/women will be developed to the needed departure from dogmatism to dynamism, knowledge to empowerment, and from form to skill.

Dr. Okpara has published over twenty articles, books of reading, book chapters in both the areas of Entrepreneurship/Small Business Management and Strategic Management. He has presented over 80 papers in conferences, Seminars and Workshops in the same areas both locally and internationally. He has worked with, advised and consulted for thousands of small business owners/managers, entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, and business membership organizations on a variety of issues ranging from marketing, management, business plan preparation, business restructuring, budgeting to cash flow analysis.

Dr. Okpara is a prolific writer and a choice resource person; he has authored four referred books on Entrepreneurship:

- Entrepreneurship (Text and Cases)
- The Practice of Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship Development: A Study Guide
- The Craft of Business Plan

Dr. Okpara has delivered major speeches in workshops and conferences locally and internationally and has worked with a number of well known national and international organizations on developing strategies to assist micro, small and medium entrepreneurial enterprises.

He is presently the Director, Partnership & Coordination Department of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). An Agency saddled with the responsibility of facilitating the development and promotion of MSMEs in Nigeria. He is an Entrepreneurship Educator and a Small Business Development Specialist and also a "Certified PPP Professional" (Foundation).

Dr. Okpara is a member of many professional bodies, including the Institute of Management Consultants, (IMC) International Council of Small Business, (ICSB), United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE), Entrepreneurship Educators Network. He was the past Vice-President, World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME). Dr. Okpara is married with children.