



KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

Special Features

KASU Marching to Excellence: Motivation and Utilizing Emergent Technologies

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ACADEMIC DIPLOMACY IN ACTION: KASU TRIO CONSOLIDATES GLOBAL EXCELLENCE IN RUSSIA

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MSU

It is often said that the pursuit of knowledge does not favour the comfortable traveller. Rather, it rewards those willing to journey beyond familiar horizons. For the trio of Kaduna State University's (KASU) distinguished scholars: Professor Yusha'u Ibrahim Ango, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic); Professor Muhammad Bashir Ali, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration); and Director, Digital Integration and Social Informatics, former Dean, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Professor Joseph

Ayodele, stepping outside the university's comfort zone is a familiar academic tradition.

Their recent 3 day academic mission to the Russian Federation was therefore not merely a search for knowledge, but a well timed, judicious and strategic engagement aimed at strengthening institutional partnerships and aligning with global best practices in higher education.

The longstanding relationship between KASU and Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) has continued to deepen under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa. Initiated more than one year ago, the partnership has opened new frontiers for academic cooperation between the two institutions. While MSU was established nearly 271 years before KASU, founded in 2004, the engagement between both universities reflects a growing bridge between historical academic excellence and emerging scholarly innovation.

Formalisation of Academic Partnership:

One of the key outcomes of the visit was the formal consolidation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KASU Faculty of Communication and Media



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Studies and Moscow State University, particularly its Faculty of Journalism. The agreement is designed to promote research collaboration, academic training, conferences, and exchange programmes for both students and staff.

During the mission, the delegation, led by Professor Yusha'u Ibrahim Ango, alongside Professor Bashir Ali and Professor Joseph Ayodele, completed the formal signing process in Moscow, following an earlier online agreement. The visit was also built on a previous engagement that included the Vice Chancellor and other senior staff.

According to Professor Ayodele, the Faculty of Journalism at MSU is exceptionally large, comparable in scale to an entire university, making the partnership even more significant for KASU's media and communication studies.

The MoU is already yielding tangible benefits. During the visit, three KASU staff members including Saratu Hayat, participated in academic training programmes, as she successfully completed her course and received certification.

A major highlight of the partnership is the proposed trilateral academic conference involving KASU, MSU, and RUDN University. According to the delegation, this would be a groundbreaking academic convergence. As such, a three university collaboration has never been previously recorded between the institutions. The conference is expected to attract global scholars and foster interdisciplinary exchange.

Academic Engagement with Master's Students:

As part of the engagement, Joseph Ayodele, who is a visiting Professor, delivered a special lecture for Master's students of Mass Communication at MSU on the course "Current Issues in Mass Media."



The session also featured contributions from Professor Yusha'u Ango and Professor Muhammad Bashir Ali, creating a rich academic exchange between Nigerian and international scholars.

Professor Ayodele's engagement became one of the first foreign lecturers in years to physically interact with MSU Master's students in a structured classroom setting. The hybrid lecture model, involving over 100 to 150 students from different countries, further strengthened KASU's global academic footprint.

Russian-African Media Forum Participation:

The delegation also participated in the IV International Forum of Journalists from Russia and Africa, held at the Faculty of Journalism, MSU. The forum brought together media practitioners, academics, and experts from over ten countries including: Russia, Ghana, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Chad etc.



His lecture, titled "Public Diplomacy and Peace Journalism in Forming a Multipolar World," explored the role of media in promoting cross-cultural understanding and conflict resolution in an increasingly complex global system. He referenced the 2025 Global Peace Index, noting a continued decline in global peacefulness over recent years.



Key discussions focused on information sovereignty, digital media innovation, artificial intelligence in journalism, soft power, and strengthening Russia-Africa media relations. KASU scholars presented papers that contributed meaningfully to the dialogue on peace journalism, media entrepreneurship, and international communication.

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Notably, the KASU delegation received commendations for the intellectual depth of their contributions.

The Russian engagement, for KASU represents more than a diplomatic academic visit. It consolidates its

growing reputation as a globally connected institution committed to research excellence, international collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

