

NEWS

AUN, 8 Others To Build Database On Boko Haram Insurgency

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The American University of Nigeria (AUN) and a consortium of nine universities in Canada and the Lake Chad basin countries of Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon has secured a preliminary grant of C\$198,000 to build a massive database on the Boko Haram insurrection in the Lake Chad basin.

This was contained in a statement signed and made available yesterday by the executive director, Communications and Public Relations of AUN, Daniel Okereke. The grant according to him is to fund an international scholars' partnership that can design a significant research initiative and gain the approval of the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) that is providing the preliminary grant.

He said the grant will fund logistic support for a series of planned meetings in Yola, elsewhere in the Lake Chad basin countries, and in Canada. These meetings will eventually produce a comprehensive proposal for the actual research that may require more funds.

The consortium led by York University, Toronto, Canada, is assembling more than 20 scholars on Africa from places like York, McGill, University of Ottawa, and those in Nigeria, Chad, far north Cameroon, and Niger.

"The intent is that it will create the most complete and comprehensive collection on Boko Haram and the entire Lake Chad basin."

President of AUN, Dr Dawn Dekle, who congratulated Prof Hansen and his fellow international scholars, said the choice of AUN was as much a statement of endorsement of the university's leadership in research scholarship and humanitarian intervention as it was a recognition of Professor Bill Hansen's essential contributions to global understanding of the origins of the insurgency.

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