



Professor Dr. Reuben A. Alabi  
Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria

## **The Importance of Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Fellowships for my Researches and for my Career – A Personal View**

I received an award for 18 months (in 2007 to 2009) from AvH to carry out a study on progressivity of education spending in Nigeria. The award enabled me to work in IWIM under the amiable and amicable supervision of Professor Karl Wohlmuth at the University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. This gave me the opportunity to have access to development economics issues. This was very new to me because my primary area of specialization is Agricultural Economics and Rural Development. This knowledge was applied to issues of public spending for human capacity development and distilled into some important publications as indicated below:

1. Reuben Adeolu Alabi (2010), Progressivity of Education Spending in Nigeria, Monograph/Discussion Paper Series 119, Institute for World Economics and International Management/IWIM, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. Pp. 1-57. Also available on the internet <http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/Dorow/Alabi%202010%20-%20Progressivity-1.pdf>
2. Reuben Adeolu Alabi (2010), Redistribution and Redistributive Effects of Education Spending in Nigeria, Monograph/Discussion Paper Series 120, Institute for World Economics and International Management/IWIM, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. Pp. 1-80. Also available on the internet at <http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/Dorow/Alabi%20Layout%202010%20-%20Redistribution-1.pdf>

On my return to Nigeria, I was also assisted by AvH Foundation to carry out a study on 'Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis of Public Spending on Health Services in Nigeria' under the supervision of Prof Karl Wohlmuth from the University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. The study also emanated on publications such as:

3. Alabi Reuben Adeolu (2011), Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis of Public Spending on Health Services in Nigeria, Monograph/Discussion Series 121, Institute for World Economics

and International Management, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. Pp. 1-53. Also available on the internet at [http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/Tchokam/Alabi-MBI-Health-1-2011%20\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/Tchokam/Alabi-MBI-Health-1-2011%20_2_.pdf)

Based on the major findings of my important studies at the Institute of World Economics and International Management (IWIM), at the University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany, we organized an important International Conference in Ekpoma where I presented the paper on Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis of Public Spending in Nigeria. The recommendations from the conference were presented in important electronic and paper press media to get to the attention of policy makers in Nigeria and worldwide. I have also edited and published a book on Public Spending in Nigeria. All these activities have culminated in my assessment to the position of Professorship in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2012 I was given another three months award from the AvH Foundation to carry out a study on '**An Analysis of the Impact of Foreign Aid in Nigeria: A Dynamic Specification**'. The study has been conducted and important recommendations have been made to improve the welfare impacts of government expenditure and of ODA in Nigeria.

For future collaboration with Prof Karl Wohlmuth, IWIM, University of Bremen, we intend to work together in the following two themes:

1. The Dynamic and Sectoral Analysis of the Impact of ODA in Aid-dependent African Countries.
2. Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis of Food Aid Distribution in Selected Sub Sahara African (SSA) Countries.

Envisaged is for these two research projects a cooperation period up to end of 2013.