



ADAPTING TO THE TIMES: NAS' TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL MEETINGS

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WHEN C-19 HIT

- Late February 2020
- Late March-NAS Secretariat was closed; called for a national lockdown
- National lockdown
- Working from home and “homing from work”
- Questions:
 - How does the team keep working?
 - How do we keep engaging stakeholders?



THE TRANSITION

- Exploring the options
- Decided on the Zoom platform
- Started using Zoom
 - team meetings
 - other internal meetings
- Learnt while doing



ADAPTING...THE FIRST TEST

- NAS COVID-19 Webinar Series
- Webinar 1- integrating science into the response
- Zoom's Webinar Add-on
- Registration link
- Publicized across our network, social media, traditional media
- Significant interest/ captive audience



THE FIRST WEBINAR

- August 2020
- 140 attendees, 4 speakers , 2 hours
- Format-
 - Practice session with speakers
 - 40 minutes of presentations,
 - Questions and answers/Discussion



ADAPTING....

- Confidence and capacity grew
- Other virtual events in September
 - Virtual Media Roundtable- “The COVID-19 Pandemic and You”
 - separating facts from fiction
 - NAS COVID-19 Webinar 2- “Building a Resilient Higher Education System in Nigeria”
 - discussing the impacts of COVID-19 on tertiary education
 - strategies for building resilience in face of possible future disease outbreaks



ADAPTING....A NEW CHALLENGE

- Bilingual virtual meetings (English and French)
- Disseminating policy briefs on COVID-19
 - October 2020
 - Partners: ANSALB, GAAS, ANSAL-BF, and ANSTS
 - 4 webinars
- Stakeholders' webinar on science advice in health emergencies
 - December 2020
 - Partnered with ANSALB, NYA
- Zoom's interpretation feature
- Interesting first 10 minutes of the first webinar



LESSONS LEARNT

- Total transition might not be the case; but can be just as effective
 - Ease of convening and participation
 - In built support (Zoom)- registration management, meeting reports, reminders, polling, post attendees urls, integrations with social media
- Conversely; cons:
 - Zoom fatigue
 - Distractions /holding attention (time)
 - Cost of participation
 - Some return to normalcy; converting registrants to participants





THANK YOU