Progress Report: SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) – Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU)

2024/2025 Session

Executive Overview

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) advances **Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals)** by building cross-sectoral collaborations across international institutions, private industry, public sector agencies, civil society, and alumni networks. Anchored on the university's **"3Vs Agenda" (Values, Viability, Visibility)** under Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, COOU leverages multi-stakeholder partnerships to drive innovation, fund high-impact research, expand physical infrastructure, and enhance academic visibility across Anambra State and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key Areas of Progress & Implementation

1. International Academic Partnerships & Bilateral Linkages

COOU expands its global footprint by executing strategic academic agreements that facilitate joint research and international knowledge exchange:

- **Global University MoUs:** The university has established bilateral agreements with international partners, including Kentucky State University (USA), and executed a landmark intra-university partnership with Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK) to promote joint research, faculty exchanges, and student mobility.

- **Consortium Leadership & Global Forums:** COOU actively participates in the Inter-University Consortium Africa (IUCA), bringing together African and European higher education institutions to address regional development challenges. COOU academics regularly represent the institution at international scientific conferences across Europe, North America, and Asia.

- **Competitive International Research Grants:** COOU researchers have secured competitive international funding, including a British Council research grant for smart waste innovation and digital circular economy infrastructure.

2. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) & Industry Collaborations

To bridge academic research and commercial technology deployment, COOU enters into formal enterprise agreements:

- **Industry Innovation Hubs:** COOU signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Orbital Creations Technology Limited to align university research with market solutions, collaborate on technology transformation hubs, and modernize curricula across engineering, health sciences, and environmental studies.

- **Social Capital & Campus Infrastructure PPPs:** The university entered into a structural partnership with Chuno Nigeria Limited to develop and expand student residential hostels, deploying private capital to upgrade campus living conditions.

- **Agricultural & Commercial Off-Take Agreements:** COOU maintains commercial agricultural MoUs—such as plantation development agreements with SARBJJACK FARMS and technical partnerships with fish production teams—to scale campus farming, enhance food security, and deliver hands-on practical training.

3. Civil Society, Professional Bodies & Government Engagement

COOU aligns its institutional strategies with state governance frameworks and national professional bodies:

- **State & Development Governance:** COOU maintains close operational alignment with the Anambra State Government under Governor Charles Chukwuma Soludo, positioning university research and technical expertise as advisory tools for state-level urban planning, erosion control, and environmental policy. COOU maintains a strategic alignment with the Anambra State Fire Service Command Headquarters for human capital development, campus protection, and disaster preparedness.
- **Professional Associations:** The university collaborates with bodies such as the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), and the National Universities Commission (NUC) to maintain educational standards and professional accreditation.
- **Cultural & Community Town-and-Gown Networks:** COOU leadership actively collaborates with traditional authorities and host communities—such as participating in cultural preservation initiatives with the Iduu Eri Kingdom—to maintain community harmony and land stewardship.
- **Civil Society / NGO Collaboration:** Joint operations with the **Nigerian Red Cross Society** (Anambra State Branch) for rapid response training, environmental protection, and public safety campaigns.

4. Alumni Networks & Philanthropic Mobilization

- **Alumni Social Capital Campaigns:** The university administration actively engages regional alumni chapters (e.g., Lagos Alumni Network) to channel alumni investments into institutional development.

- **Departmental Alumni Gifts & Bursaries:** Departmental alumni sets regularly return to campus to donate academic materials, construct specialized departmental facilities, and launch direct student scholarship funds.

Performance Summary against SDG 17 Targets

SDG 17 Target Area	COOU Operational & Academic Contribution	Impact Level
17.6 Knowledge Sharing & Science/Tech Cooperation	Bilateral university MoUs (Kentucky State University, NSUK) and international conference presentations.	**High** (Global Academic Integration)
17.9 Capacity Building in Developing Countries	British Council grant projects, ICT staff testing, and IUCA consortium activities.	**High** (Institutional Capacity)
17.16 Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Development	Collaborations with Orbital Creations Technology, Chuno Nigeria Ltd, and agricultural firms.	**High** (Public-Private Ecosystem)
17.17 Encourage Effective Public, Private & Civil Partnerships	Town-and-gown programs with Anambra State Government, NIPR, and alumni network investments.	**High** (State & Community Level)

Strategic Recommendations for Acceleration

1. **Establish a Dedicated Directorate of Internationalization and Linkages:** Expand the operational capacity of the linkages directorate to maintain a digital tracking portal for all active MoUs, monitoring milestones, student exchange metrics, and joint publication outputs.

2. **Create an Annual Industry-Academia Collaborative Summit:** Host an annual regional summit bringing together manufacturers, technology firms, government agencies, and university researchers to co-create funding proposals and address state manufacturing challenges.

3. **Institute a Global Alumni Endowment Fund:** Formalize a structured, transparent endowment platform allowing global alumni and corporate partners to fund long-term research chairs, student hardship grants, and renewable energy infrastructure.

Signature:  Date: 24/09/2026

Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, Fnipr

Vice Chancellor