BRIDGING THE INDUSTRY--ACADEMIA DIVIDE

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Outline of Presentation

• Introduction
• Concepts
• Industry-Academia Divide
• Bridging the Divide
• Conclusion
Introduction

- The bridge between the academia and the industry has been under ‘construction.’
- Nothing exists in a vacuum (interdependence and interconnectivity)
- Local materials available to ‘construct’ the bridge
- The construction is context dependent
- Bridging the divide is the responsibility of every stakeholder
- The exercise is cost effective in most cases
Concepts

• Industry
• Academia
• Bridge
• Divide
Industry-Academia Divide

Plausible Indicators

- Low interaction among stakeholders
- Low industry investment in research activities
- Alleged failure of Universities to equip graduates with the relevant competencies
- Unemployable graduates
- High youth unemployment
- Training and retraining of entry level graduates
- Low economic development
- Inequality
- Portfolio of vices
- Cynical questions (what do you teach? etc)
Reasons for Industry-Academia Divide

- Misunderstanding of the purpose of Universities
- Closure Policy (industry and academia guilty)
- Weak and Ineffective Policies
- Unbalanced Curriculum
- Unholy Pride (both sides of the divide)
- Universities have Multiple Stakeholders
- Low *capitalization* of Universities
Balanced Curriculum

Developing and implementing a balanced Curriculum

- Social/environmental/Needs
- Country development needs
- Local and international demands
- Labour market needs

Country development needs

Local and international demands

Labour market needs
Bridging the Divide

- Redefine the traditional Mission of Universities*
- Run Higher institutions on Business Models (Academic Enterprise)*
- Town and Gown Seminars*
- Collaborative Syllabus Design (eg MSc/ACIB)*
- Compulsory and well organised Staff/Students’ Internship Programmes*
- University-industry (business partners) networks*
- Enterprise Creation(entrepreneurial route to commercializing knowledge)*
- Investment in the Private Sector*
- Stakeholder Engagement (annual stakeholder advance)
  - Industry support and funding of relevant research
  - Industry Based Sabbatical for Lecturers
- * Activities through which Covenant University is bridging the divide
Cont’d

- Dual Vocational Training (German model: 25% theoretical and 75% practical)
  - Patents and Licensing (Commercialization)
  - Alumni Affairs
  - Constant interrogation of industry-academia link
  - Specialized Universities
  - Innovative and entrepreneurial approach to teaching and learning
  - Anticipating, assessing and determining industry needs
  - Joint publications
  - Membership of professional bodies and associations
  - Enabling environment
# Some Possible Gains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Academia</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>The Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Enhanced visibility</td>
<td>Competent labour force</td>
<td>Unemployment reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Robust industry income</td>
<td>Lower cost of training</td>
<td>Reduction in inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Better quality academics</td>
<td>High Quality products and services</td>
<td>Decrease in crime wave</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Better quality graduates</td>
<td>Better and faster decision making</td>
<td>Sustainable economic growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>High quality research output</td>
<td>Waste reduction</td>
<td>Better business and academic space</td>
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Conclusion

- Covenant University is a fountain of light.

- In her shall the rest of the academic world see light in industry-academia relationship (Psalms 36:9)

- Unusual commitment to bridging the industry-academia divide is needed and

- The best time to do that is now.