

PIONEERS IN CHAMPIONING CLIMATE SERVICES IN AFRICA



PROF. GODWIN OLU PATRICK OBASI

Brief on his Life

- Born in Ogori, Kogi State, Nigeria on 24 December 1933. to Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Patrick Obasi .
- An ardent family man, he married Madam Winifred on 1 October 1976
- Blessed with six children, namely Jane Abisola, Omowumi, Christine Folakemi, Albert Babatunde, Margaret Iyabo and Mary Omotayo Obasi.
- Professor Obasi died in Abuja, Nigeria on 3 March 2007, at the age of 73 years.



Early Education

- early education life was in his **native country of Nigeria**, which included attending ST. Peter's School, Ogori and St. Andrew's School Okene, Kogi State and then moved to a Middle School Okene currently known as Abdul Aziz Attah Memorial College, Okene.
- He then moved to the prestigious Barewa College in Zaria,



Education

- He proceeded for university studies in North America where his distinguished academic record included a Bachelor of Science (1959) with Honours from McGill University in Montreal, Canada
- Master of Science (1960) and Doctorate (1963) in Meteorology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA.
- At MIT, he received the first Carl-Gustav Rosby Award for the best doctoral thesis of his graduating year.

1964 FIRST MIT CARL-GUSTAF ROSSBY PRIZE – FOLLOWED BY WHO IS WHO IN CLIMATE SCIENCE

2013 Jessica Fitzsimmons
2013 Chris Kempes
2012 Laura Meredith
2012 Malte Jansen
2010 Brian Rose
2009 Daniel Enderton
2008 Elke Hodson
2006 Arnico Panday
2005 Takamitsu Ito
2004 Peter Huybers
2003 Pablo Zurita-Gotor
2002 Markus Jochum
2001 Veronique Bugnion
2000 Ann Pearson
2000 Gary Kleiman
1999 Gerard Hugh Roe
1998 Youngsook Huh
1997 Igor Kamenkovich
1996 Marja Helena Bister
1996 Francoise Romain Robe
1995 Sara Tragler Gille
1994 Roger John Atkinson
1993 Dana Hartley
1992 Stanley Heckman
1991 Chantal Rivest

1989 Arlindo Moraes Da Silva, Jr.
1988 John Alexander Barth
1987 Eli Tziperman
1985 Stephen Emil Zebiak
1984 William Joseph Gutowski, Jr.
1983 William Ray Young
1982 Randall Mathews Dole
1981 Lee Edward Branscome
1980 Robald Mark Errico
1979 Charles Augustin Lin
1978 Kerry Andrew Emanuel
1977 Ines Gau-Sheung Fung
1976 John Clark Willett
1975 Antonio Devine Moura
1974 Peter Colvin Smith
1973 Stephen Edward Mudrick
1972 Martin Steven Tracton
1971 Robert William Burpee
1970 John Ellsworth Hart
1969 Kenneth Warren Ruggles
1968 Isidoro Orlanski
1967 John Micheal Wallace
1966 Robert Earl Dickinson
1965 James Samuel Kennedy

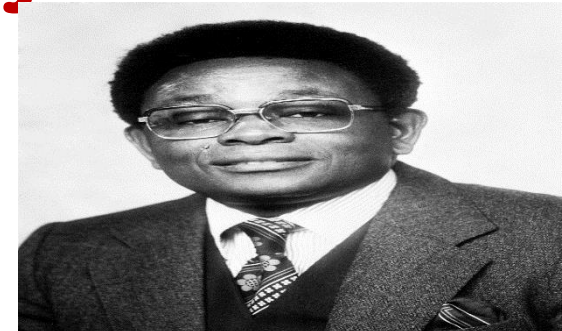
1964 Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi

<https://paocweb.mit.edu/education/Graduate/Rosby>

Career

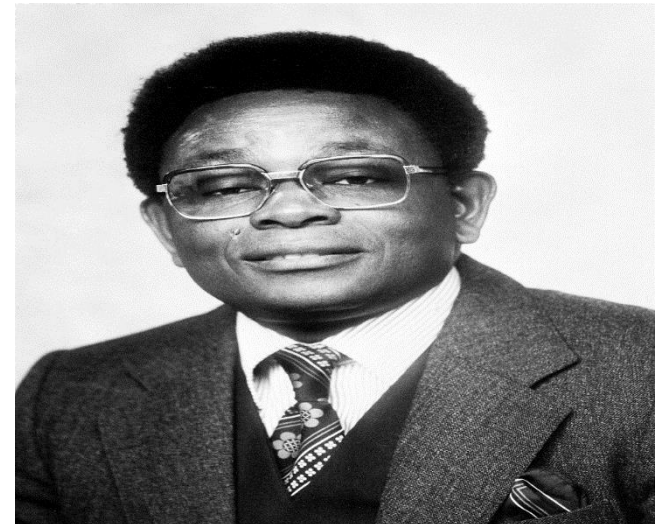
- returned to Nigeria, Professor G.O.P.Obasi joined the National Meteorological Service of Nigeria.
- Served the Nigerian Government in several capacities between 1963-67
- Did not look for political appointment from his classmate with the former Nigeria Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon
- moved to University of Nairobi to start build African capacity in Meteorology

His struggle spanned over many years and contributed greatly to CIS in Africa and world over

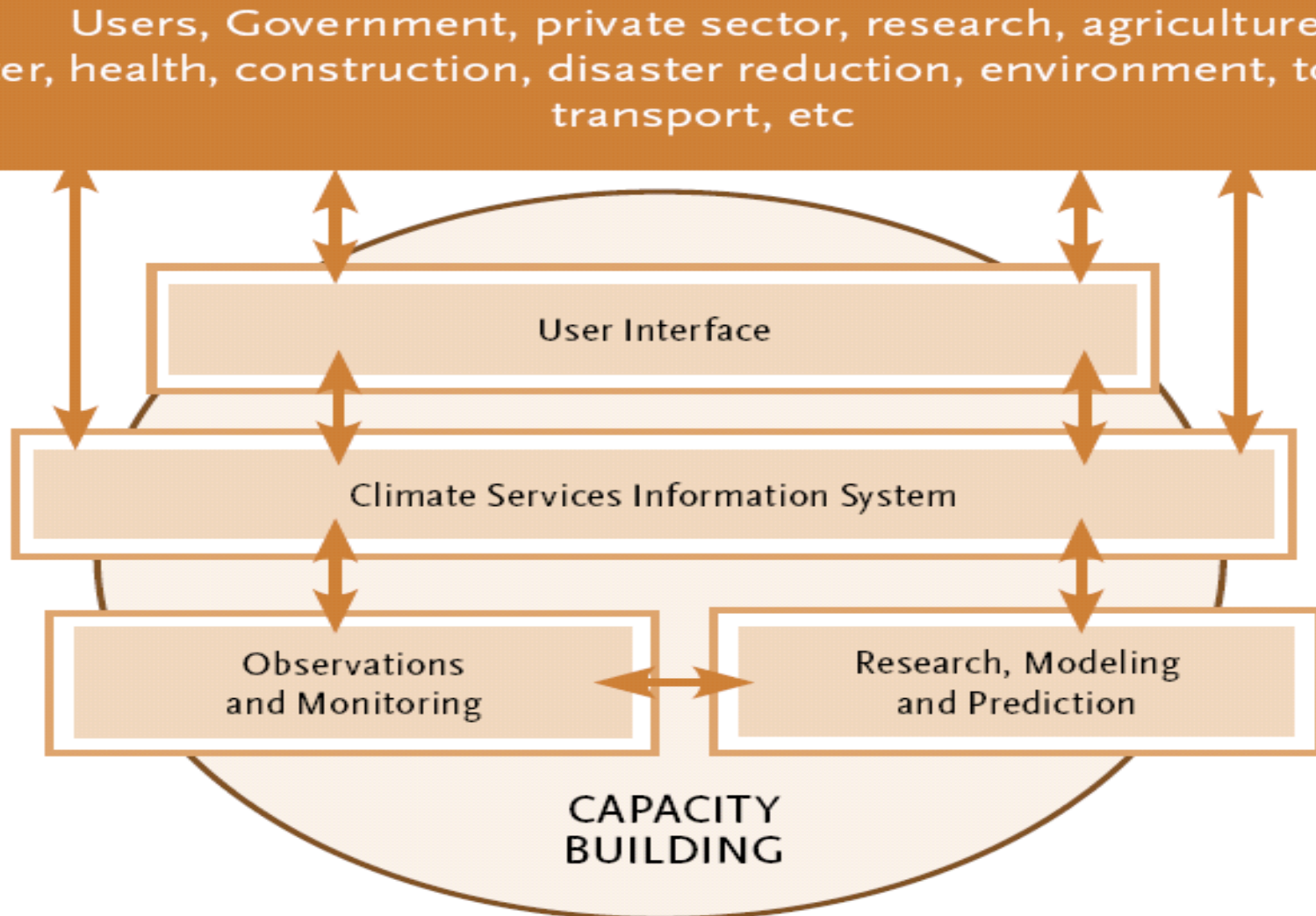


Career at University of Nairobi

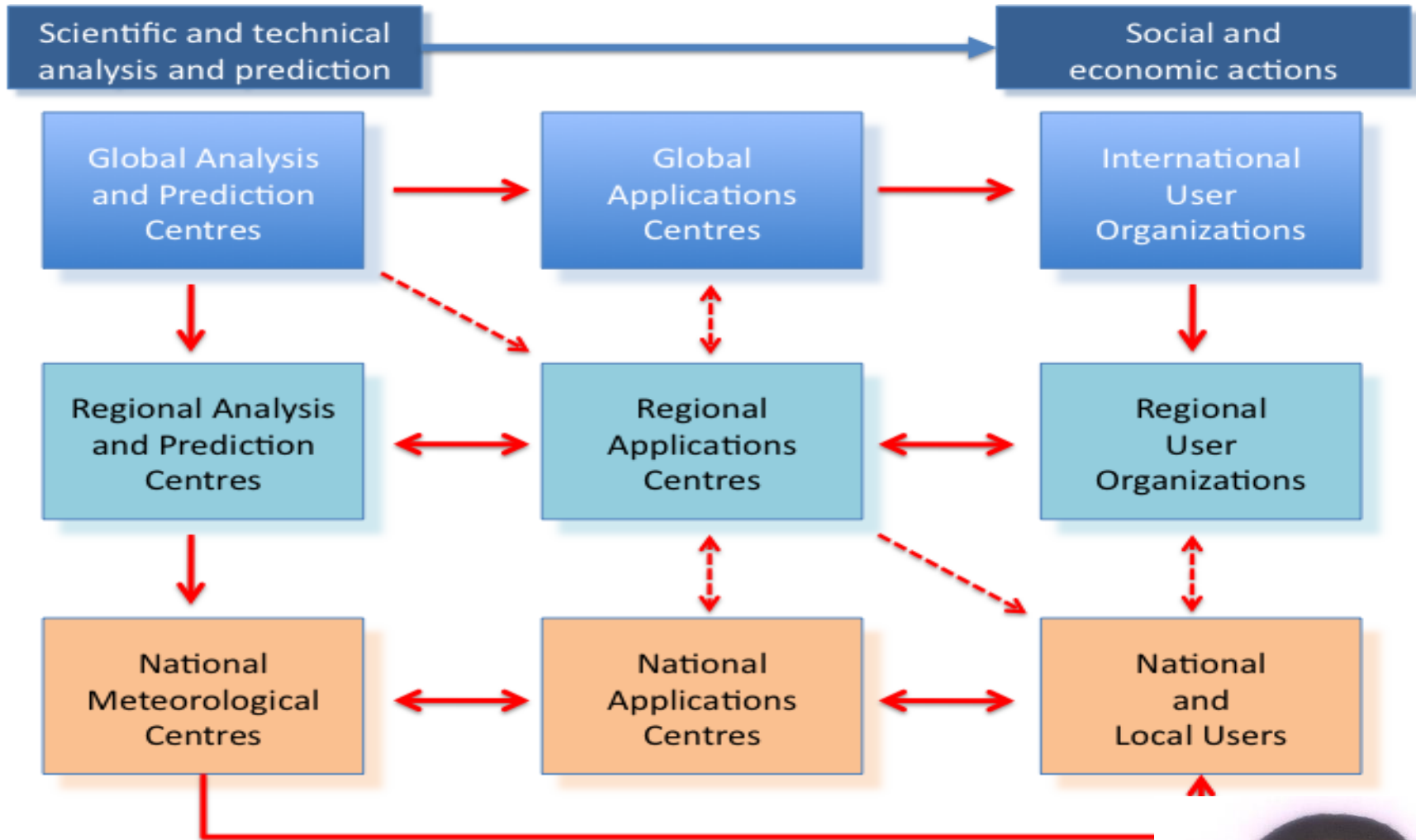
- **Chairman** of the Department of Meteorology
- **Dean** of the Faculty of Science at UON
- **Introducing undergraduates and postgraduates, pioneered new research, developed foundation of staff training of staff for African NMHSs and the Universities**
- **Yearly UON award to Best student**



Framework for Climate service; GFCS



Global, Regional & National Partnerships



A model foreseen and supported by Prof obasi over many years



- **Career at WMO: Legacy pillar**
 - **Awards** Received many award and honours world wide
 - **Membership: Member of many professional societies world wide**
 - **Publications: Scientist per excellence; had over 150 publication**
- , inspired and mentored
Many African youth**



Key legacy highlights

- No meteorologist in history of Africa has done more to promote the role and influence of Meteorological information and services on development.
- Contributions will stand tall for many generations to come in Africa and beyond.
- **How to keep the legacy fire burning** , eg through **recognition of other relevant pioneers** and **motivation of young scientist to be future Prof Obasi**

