

Lagos, Owó-Rüdiger (Rüdiger's Money)

UNILAG ACC

“Owó-Rüdiger” literally translates as “Rüdiger’s money,” though in context, it refers more accurately to research grant funding associated with Professor Rüdiger Seesemann. To spend *owó-Rüdiger* is, for many, to embody the ideal academic life, one marked by rigorous research, access to travel support, and consistent scholarly productivity. This has been the experience of researchers at the University of Lagos African Cluster Centre (Unilag-ACC), who are often recognized for their commitment and achievements. When colleagues commend them, the light-hearted response is often: *owó-Rüdiger ni à nnó*—“we are spending Rüdiger’s money.” This way of life represents the aspirations of numerous African scholars who dream of conducting research under such supportive conditions.

It is important, however, to clarify a common misconception. Many assume that *owó-Rüdiger* is easily accessed and freely spent. In reality, it demands a rigorous process: first, one must undergo a thorough application and approval stage; second, one must design a clearly defined fieldwork schedule; and third, there must be a transparent reporting plan—both financial and academic—guided by the principle of “no loss, no gain.” Despite these challenges and the apparent rigidity of the “no gain, no loss” framework, *owó-Rüdiger* remains highly sought after. It symbolizes opportunity, academic growth, and institutional trust. It is, therefore, fitting that we at Unilag-ACC celebrate the vision and tenacity of Professor Rüdiger Seesemann, who has remained steadfast in his mission to reshape the field of African Studies.

On the occasion of his 60th birthday, we extend our warmest wishes to Professor Rüdiger Seesemann. We wish him continued good health, long life,

and many more achievements, so that future generations of researchers may continue to benefit from *owó-Rüdiger*. Remain the determined visionary and the calm, principled advocate of the “no gain, no loss” ethos. We admire and deeply appreciate your contributions.

Warm regards,
From all of us at Unilag-ACC