

DIGITAL BRIDGE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

Your guide to activities in the DIGITAL knowledge ecosystem



DIGITAL BRIDGE INSTITUTE

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) was launched in the wake of the phenomenal Worldwide growth of the Telecommunication(Telcoms) and information communications technology (ICT) sectors, which was especially well noted in Nigeria . Led by the successful auction of Digital Mobile Licensing by Nigerian Communications Commission(NCC) the government regulator , and the subsequent roll out of mobile services , increased number of operators, and significant increased private capital investment , the sector as whole has been challenged by dearth of trained and suitably qualified human resources. Aknowledging the need to continue to foster the rapid development and growth of the Nigeria Telecommunication marketplace as well as the potentially significant vulnerability as lack of human resources could , the Nigeria Communiactions Communications (NCC) established DBi in May 2004

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From the Editor

Dear readers,

HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY to all our upcoming Captains of industries, Administrators, Presidents, Governors in short our Leaders of tomorrow.

Relax and enjoy as we present to you the 25th edition of DBI newsletter.

This edition covered a goodwill message delivered by the President/ CEO, Prof. Mohammed Ajiya at the Information Technology Professionals' Assembly organised by the Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria) CPN.

In the same vein, DBI participation at the 4th IEEE International Conference and both story and pictorial illustrations of DBI participation at High- Level FINTECH and Financial Inclusion Roundtable Event were presented for your reading pleasure.

Also, in this edition, you will find a report of visitation to DBI by Morgan State University to partner with DBI on specialized programmes for knowledge base economy in Nigeria.

Moreso, I would like to implore you to stay in touch with us as we are fully prepared in making each edition of this newsletter highly impactful, informative and educative.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us on info@dbi.edu.ng. We will surely attend to you.

On this note, on behalf of the entire management team and staff of DBI, led by our respected President/-CEO, an erudite scholar, Engr. Prof. Mohammed Ajiya, you are all welcome on board.

Once again, thank you for staying with us.

Sincerely,
Mr. Akin Ogunlade,
Managing Editor.

IT PROFESSIONALS' ASSEMBLY: DBI PRESIDENT DELIVERS GOODWILL MESSAGE.

The CEO, Engr. Prof. Mohammed Ajiya, of Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) was invited as the special guest of honour at the Information Technology Professional Assembly, organized by the Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria) CPN on Thursday, 19th May, 2022 at the NAF Conference Centre, Kado, Abuja. In his goodwill message, Prof. Ajiya highlighted the criticality of ICT to all aspects of life in the modern world. Stressing further, he pointed out that "the DBI as a training Institute established by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is focused on capacity building and manpower development for both government and private organizations, especially in the evolving areas of ICT, Telecoms and general skills development for self-sustenance." The President and Chairman of Council, Mr. Kole Jagun, fncs gave the welcome address. He stated that, "this is an annual function by the CPN, the 2022 IT professionals' assembly programme " Leveraging information Technology (IT) for National Security and Economic Stability." He noted that the digital Innovative product presentations will be based on presentations on new IT trends, IT solutions and product with enhancing networking/Bridging The digital divide. The keynote speaker, Dr. Vincent Olatunji, National Commissioner/CEO, Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB) discussed the emergent issues in information technology, on the importance of leveraging IT for National security and economic stability and also the role of strengthening national security and economic stability. The programme was graced by Information Technology Practitioners in Nigeria and Diaspora. Notably, the Hon. Minister of Communication and Digital Economy ably represented by Prof. Sahalu Balarabe Junaidu, Representative of the Min. Of Education and other dignitaries. The President/CEO was accompanied by the Head and a member of staff of Public Affairs unit Mr Akin Ogunlade and Temidayo Babansulaimon respectively.



President/CEO Digital Bridge Institute Prof. Mohammed Ajiya during his Goodwill message at the occasion



During the exchange of pleasantries at the occasion



DBI PARTICIPATES AT THE 4TH IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

As one of the strategic partner in the advancement of capacity building and knowledge development in Nigeria, the Digital Bridge Institute's CEO, Engr. Prof. Mohammed Ajiya was invited to the public presentation of "4th International Conferences" organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) on Tuesday, 17th May, 2022 at the Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja. In his remarks, the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami who was the Keynote Speaker, noted that "the fifth generation (5G) network will play a vital role in improving the security situation in the country. Stressing further, he noted that the 5G networks is a viable platform for security institutions to leverage in tackling the security challenges that has bedeviled the country by harnessing the potential of Digital technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR) Robotics, Artificial intelligence (AI) Augmented Reality (AR) which explore real time information for maximum efficiency". He further disclosed that "5G network will enhance transparency and economic development as it's potential for job creation is unprecedented". He thanked the organisers of the event for such a brilliant and laudable programme. With reference to the theme of the programme, "Disruptive Technologies for Sustainable Development" the Minister was applauded for his keynote presentation at the event by the host, Nile University of Nigeria and other invited guests from all walks of life. The occasion was graced from different organisations notably, the Chairman of Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) Prof. Adeolu Akande, Director at NCC who double as Adviser to the Honourable Minister on Technical matters Prof. Sahalu Balarabe Junaidu and a host of others. The President/CEO was accompanied by the Head and a member of staff of Public Affairs Unit Mr Akin Ogunlade and Temidayo Babansulaimon respectively.



From left: Minister of Communications and Digital Economy Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, DBI President/CEO Prof. Mohammed Ajiya and NITDA Director General Inuwa Kashifu Abdulahi and others at the occasion.



From the extreme left: The Director General, NITDA Inuwa Kashifu Abdullahi, Board Chairman, NCC Prof. Adeolu Akande Director at NCC who doubles as Adviser to the Minister on Technical matters Prof. Sahalu Balarabe Junaidu, and the DBI President/CEO Prof. Mohammed Ajiya during the events.

DBI PARTNERS WITH MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ON SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMES FOR KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY IN NIGERIA

The Management of the DBI led by the President/CEO Engr. Prof Mohammed Ajiya and Dr. Niran Oyekale, member DBI Governing Board hosted the Executive Director, Office of Global Partnerships-Africa for Morgan State University (MSU), Prof. Hakeem Tijani at the DBI Head office in Abuja on Tuesday, 24th May 2022. The meeting discussed a proposed partnership between the DBI and MSU to seek areas of mutual benefits in the areas of evolving technology, capacity building and offering of graduate and post graduate programmes to students all over Africa. One of the key highlights of the meeting is the goodwill message from the MSU leadership to the DBI on the dedicated contributions of the DBI to youth empowerment and continuous education for a knowledge-based economy in Nigeria. He noted the commitment of MSU to work DBI and assured of a truly beneficial relationship to the country through this arrangement. Prof. Mohammed Ajiya, CEO of DBI expressed the appreciation of the Management to MSU for choosing DBI as its right partner in Africa and noted that the DBI is ready to give this partnership the needed support for the benefit of Nigerians. The management team in attendance at the meeting include: Ms. Viola Askia Usoro, GHCS, Tonia Ansa-Otudor, Institute Secretary, Paulinus Ugwoke, Head, RIC, Ngozi Nwoche, Head, L&D, Mrs. Peace Okere, Acting Head, F&A and also in attendance were Ifeacho Nwokolo, TA, PDBI and Abiola Jimoh, SA, PDBI.



Prof. Hakeem Tijani, President/CEO DBI, Ms. Viola Askia-Usoro and Mrs Ngozi Nwoche at the occasion.



Prof. Hakeem Tijani, Executive Director Global Partnerships-Africa for Morgan State University, (MSU) and Engr. Prof Mohammed Ajiya, CEO Digital Bridge Institute during the visits..



Governing Board Member, Dr. Niran Oyekale and Prof. Hakeem Tijani

DBI PRESIDENT/CEO PARTICIPATES IN THE HIGH-LEVEL FINTECH AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION ROUNDTABLE EVENT.

The President/CEO, Engr. Prof. Mohammed Ajiya of Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) was invited to discuss improvements on digital inclusion of women and minority groups on Thursday, 26th May 2022, at The Envoy Hotel Abuja. The event which aims to provide financial literacy support to women and minority traders in Nigeria who are major players in the informal sector of the Nigerian economy. Professor Lawrence Ezemonye, Vice Chancellor Igbinedion University Okada, Dr patience Ozor and Dr Alison Lui from the Liverpool John Moores University presented a Campfire session of the project titled: 'Enhancing access to digital financial payment services for women and Minority groups in urban-rural areas of Nigeria. In their report, it was stated that 36.8% of the Nigerian adult population is financially excluded. According to their survey in 2021, amongst 600 women and minority members of urban-rural region in south-south Nigeria it was revealed that they seek support in financial and digital literacy. Stressing further, the session was concluded on the event being another form of campaign to increase financial and digital literacy for Nigerians. The President/CEO, Prof. Mohammed Ajiya discussed on improving digital inclusion of women and minority groups. He stated that, Infrastructure and tools for easy access to Digital penetration and Broadband increases the skill of players for the improvement of Digital Inclusion training in Nigeria. The event was graced by different Financial Sectors and Digital Telecom Industries. Notably, Federal Ministry for Finance, Budget & National Planning, Federal Ministry of Woman Affairs, Nigerian Communications Commission, and representatives from diverse banks in Nigeria. The President/CEO was accompanied by the head Public Affairs Mr. Akin Ogunlade and members of the unit.



Prof Mohammed Ajiya and other dignitaries at the event.



The Vice Chancellor Igbinedion University Okada (IUO) Prof Lawrence Ikechukwu Ezemonye

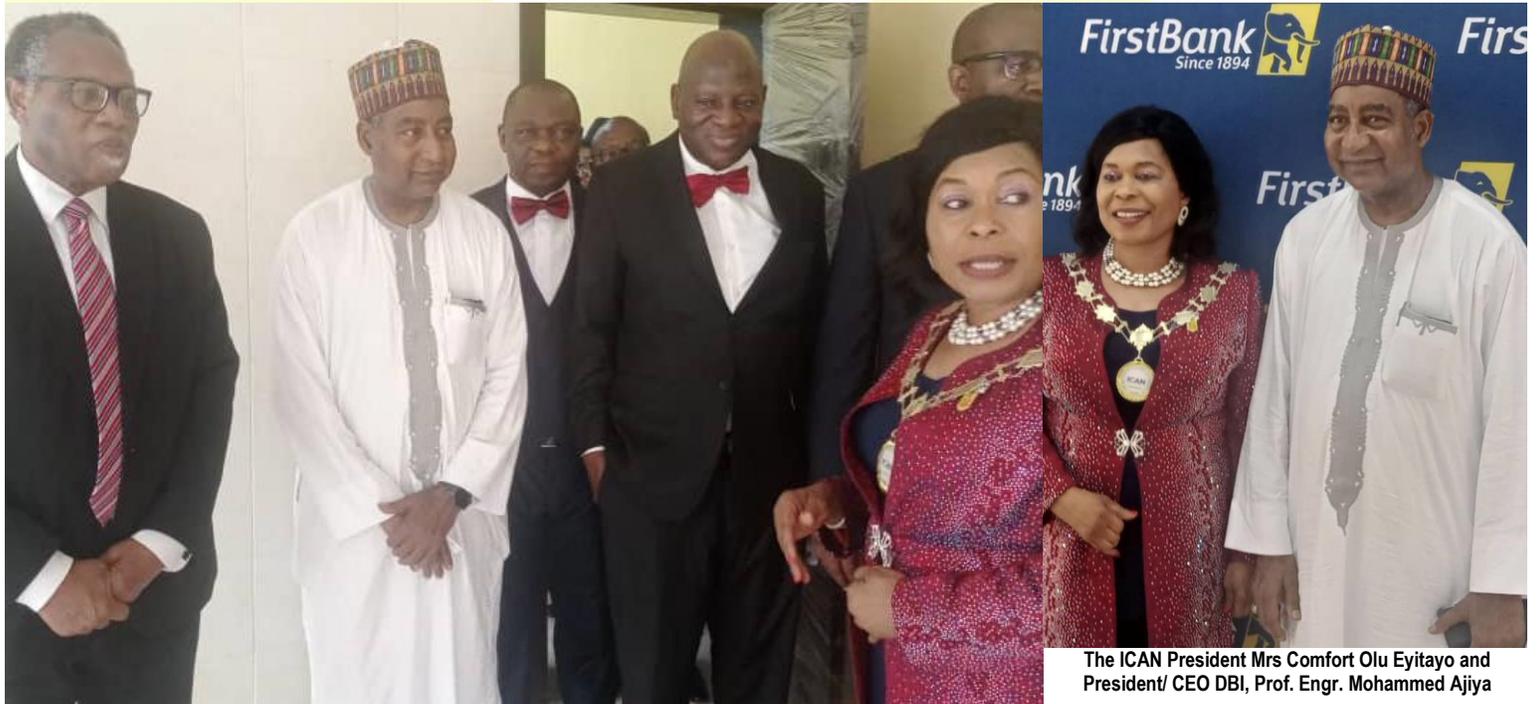
DBI President Prof Mohammed Ajiya

DBI PRESIDENT/ CEO PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMISSIONING OF ICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ICAN EDC) AND MAIDEN GRADUATION CEREMONY OF PARTICIPANTS.

The President/ CEO Engr. Prof. Muhammed Ajiya of Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) was invited to the commissioning of ICAN Entrepreneurship Development Centre (ICAN EDC) and maiden graduation of participants at Amuwo Odofin, Lagos. The event was chaired by the 57th president of the ICAN Mrs. Comfort Olu Eytayo, CFE, CFA, Mni, FCA. In her keynote address, she stated that ICAN established the centre as part of its efforts to support the government in capacity building for self-reliance. She also said that the objective is to ensure that ICAN members and other participating members of the public are equipped with skills and competences required to become job creators and not just job seekers. The initiative of the institute is aimed at contributing to the needed improvement in the job and employment generation value chain to address the worrisome unemployment rate in the country, particularly among the young generation. The ICAN President accompanied by the President/ CEO DBI and other council members embarked on a tour of the newly commissioned facility. The event was graced by different financial institutions and capacity building organisations. The President/ CEO DBI, Prof Muhammed Ajiya was accompanied by the Head of DBI Lagos Campus, Mr Sani Tsoho Yakawada. – *Article by Mr Sani Tsoho Yakawada*



Group Photograph of the ICAN President Mrs Comfort Olu Eytayo, President/CEO DBI, Prof. Mohammed Ajiya, past ICAN Presidents and Council members.



The ICAN President Mrs Comfort Olu Eytayo and President/ CEO DBI, Prof. Engr. Mohammed Ajiya

The ICAN President accompanied by invited guests on the facility tour

DBI LAGOS COMMENCES 1ST SEMESTER 100 LEVEL NID EXAMINATION.

The DBI Lagos Learning Centre commences 1st semester examination for the National Innovation Diploma program currently in session. The examination commenced on the 23rd of May and ends on 3rd June 2022. The DBI in a bid to create a knowledge based information society, through human capacity building in Telecommunication, Networking, Multimedia and Software Engineering with the support of faculty experts from the academia and industry committed to the delivery of every course have leveraged the Unmatched modern facilities to offering cutting edge ICT education and training to its students. These programs are approved by the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Board for Tertiary Education (NBTE) and the qualifications obtained on completion is the National Innovation Diploma (NID) which is equivalent to the Ordinary National Diploma (OND). The Institute's teaching facilities include multi-media teaching aids, technology laboratories and workshops, fully equipped classrooms and digital resource library guarantee a fulfilling learning experience. *Article by Isreal Baiye*



ICT IN NIGERIA DIGITAL ECONOMY

Information communication technology (ICT) has become an indispensable part of the Nigerian digital economy, playing a critical role in the growth and development of various sectors.

Mary K. Pratt(2019) "ICT, or information and communications technology, is the infrastructure and components that enable modern computing". Nigeria's information and communications technology (ICT) sector stayed relatively active in 2020 as most of the nation's industries embraced virtual work conditions. Data from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) shows that telecommunications contributed as much as 12.45% to the GDP in the last quarter of 2020, up from 10.60% in the same quarter of the preceding year. This growth is attributable to increased demand, several years of policy implementation, and investment drive in the sector. The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has overall responsibility for the ICT sector. The ministry also has purview over three different agencies including the NCC as the regulator for the telecoms industry; the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) regulates the broadcast industry, and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is responsible for policy implementation. Under the leadership of the visionary Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, the re-designated Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has seamlessly expanded its responsibilities to cover the entire field of ICT innovation and entrepreneurship, as it applies to the digital economy. The Minister attributes the huge strides recorded in the ICT sector to the focused and committed effort of the Federal Government to successfully diversify the economy through strategic policy directions outlined in the National Digital Economy Policy for a Digital Nigeria and the Nigerian National Broadband Plan, among others. The Nigerian government is committed to the development of a strong ICT sector, which is essential for the country's economic growth and social development. The government has been investing in ICT infrastructure and supporting the growth of the sector through several programs and initiatives.

Digital Bridge Institute (2004)

The Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) was established in May 2004, to bridge the digital divide gap in the country and its launching marks the wake of the phenomenal worldwide growth of the Telecommunications and Information Communications Technology (ICT), which was well noted in Nigeria led by the successful auction of Digital Mobile Licensing by Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

To maintain a Center of Excellence in Nigeria and Africa, the NCC took the lead in establishing the Digital Bridge Institute, a tertiary institution with three central objectives in mind. The first is to provide students with quality education and training; the second is to engage in world-class research, and the third is to engage in outreach and public services.

National Broadband Plan for 2020-2025

The Broadband Plan is designed to deliver data download speeds across Nigeria of a minimum 25Mbps in urban areas, and 10Mbps in rural areas, with effective coverage available to at least 90% of the population to deepen broadband penetration across the country, the NCC granted licenses to telecommunications infrastructure companies (infractions) to provide telecommunication broadband infrastructure across the various geopolitical regions of the country, especially the rural populace. Nigeria is regarded as Africa's largest ICT market with 82% of the continent's telecom subscribers and 29% of internet usage. The NCC estimates that the country has about 76 million subscriptions on broadband (penetration of 40%) and 187 million lines in the voice segment as of May 2021, representing 97.9% teledensity. The Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (EVC/CEO) of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Danbatta, has emphasized the commitment of the Commission to continually drive initiatives that accelerate the deployment of digital infrastructure to enhance economic the transformation of Nigeria. Aside from accelerating digital infrastructure, NCC is also paying attention to ensuring a level-playing ground for operators to promote investment and the delivery of innovative services to individual consumers, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and big business owners by ensuring enhanced consumer quality of experience.

Partnership With Local & Private Sectors

The Nigeria Government recognizes ICT as the enabler for developing other critical sectors including education, healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing. In its drive to diversify the economy from oil and gas, the government is encouraging partnerships between local ICT companies and foreign investors. To promote these partnerships and grow an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the technology sector, the government has supported creating government- or private-sector-led incubator hubs, youth innovation programs, and science-technology parks. Abuja Technology Village received the Abuja government support to become a destination for research, incubation, development, and commercialization of ICT. Prominent among the partnerships with the private sector are collaborations with local accelerators like iDEA and the Co-Creation Hub (CC-Hub) in Lagos. Information communications technology (ICT) is not only an important enabler of innovation and development it is also one of the fastest-growing industries in the last decade. The influence of technology is immense and can't be overstated. An innovative idea from one man not only contributes to the progress of others but also creates conditions permitting people to advance even further. Technology Innovations do not simply replace other products. Rather, they develop new and expanded markets of their own.

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Published by the Public Affairs Dept of Digital Bridge Institute, 8 P.O.W Mafemi Crescent off Solomon Lar Way Utako

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MODE OF APPLICATION: Application form can be obtained at our offices in Lagos, Kano and Abuja, upon payment of N5,000 non-refundable application fee

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