DL4ALL
NITDA BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR NIGERIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

Words on Marble

Our goal is to support our people to ensure that we can give them the skill set that they require to participate in the global digital economy.
Dr Bosun Tijani, *Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, during the launch of the second Cohort of 3MTT.*

DL4All initiative is expected to significantly increase Digital Literacy among the Nigerian children and youth, aiding in the rapid achievement of the 70 per cent digital literacy goal by the year 2027.
Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA at the recently concluded Content Development Workshop in collaboration with Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council in Abuja.*

We share the Government's commitment to Nigeria's economic empowerment and growth, and hope this initiative will feed into President Bola Tinubu's agenda on job creation while enhancing technical skills.
Mohammed Darwish, *Chief Executive Officer, IHS Nigeria in statement that announces the partnership between the Ministry of Communications Innovation and Digital Economy and HIS.*

Digital Literacy is no longer luxury. This is serious. It's really a social justice issue. It's a 21st century rights issue.
Cheptoo Kositany-Bukner, *Deputy Director, Strategic Initiative, Kansas City Public Library, USA.*

We need to have an economy where everyone is generally interested in technology and a large population of people has an understanding of technology.
Dr Bosun Tijani, *Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy*

The Nigerian Digital Literacy Framework from NITDA aims to provide a consistent definition of digital literacy and develop a curriculum for digital literacy capacity building training that ensures that everyone, regardless of their background or location, has the opportunity to learn the digital skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.
Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, in Lagos at the Stakeholders' Awareness Session on NDLF.*

The concept of literacy has indeed evolved. In today's digital era, being literate goes beyond reading and writing. Digital Literacy is now a crucial skill set that encompasses navigating and effectively utilising digital tools such as computers, smartphones, and the internet to access, evaluate and create information.

The rapid advancement of technology and its increasing presence in our daily lives have led to a significant shift in the way we live and interact. As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, it is essential to acknowledge that digital literacy is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for full participation today. A quote that resonates with me, from Nicky Verd's book "Disrupt Yourself or Be Disrupted," aptly captures this sentiment: "Having only one skill or relying solely on academic qualifications in an era of exponential change makes you economically vulnerable." This statement underscores the importance of digital literacy and supports the federal government's decision to launch Digital Literacy for All (DL4All.)

It is our collective resolve in the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, as well as NITDA to implementing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's directive to accelerate the diversification of the nation's economy by enhancing productivity in critical sectors among which educational sector is part of. The ministry has emphasized Knowledge as a key aspect in its blueprint - Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency. At NITDA, in our newly developed Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), we give immense importance to implementing pillar one, which is to "Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents." This includes focusing on the National Digital Literacy Framework (NDLF) and supporting the implementation of 3 Million Tech Talents (3MTT). Our goal is to achieve digital literacy for all and bridge the digital divide in Nigeria by training many people in basic digital skills. This initiative aims to help Nigeria attain a 70% digital literacy level by 2027.

This edition of the InfoTech Regulator focuses on Digital Literacy for All, (DL4All) which NITDA is implementing to deepen Digital Literacy among Nigerians to achieve the 70 per cent mid-term target and compliment the government efforts to create job and wealth. With this initiative, we envision that we can unlock numerous benefits, including improved economic opportunities, enhanced education, increased digital inclusion, improved transparency in governance, improved financial inclusion, and more.

For seamless implementation, we have developed the National Digital Literacy Framework, (NDLF) as a guide with the specific objectives of ensuring equitable access to digital literacy education for all population segments, including underserved communities; providing comprehensive digital literacy programs to empower citizens with essential digital skills, from basic to advanced competencies; promote diverse participation in the digital economy, bridging the gender and socioeconomic digital divide; equipping the workforce with relevant digital skills to meet the rapidly evolving job market demands; and fostering a vibrant digital ecosystem by encouraging the creation of locally relevant and culturally significant digital content.

In our approach to make this initiative inclusive and comprehensive to reach the most remote and under-served communities, we have considered translating the contents in indigenous languages to ensure accessibility and cater for diverse audience across Nigeria. We set modalities in place to review the curriculum from the kindergarten to university level with various competencies area.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

WE ARE READY TO UNLOCK NEW POSSIBILITIES WITH DL4ALL

We have recently started implementing the pilot scheme of this admirable initiative through our partnership with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). This collaboration allows us to utilize the NYSC's organisational structure and nationwide presence as a platform for launching this initiative.

It is well known that technology is constantly evolving at a rapid pace and shows no sign of slowing down soon. By providing a substantial number of individuals with digital skills, we are effectively preparing them for upcoming jobs where technological proficiency is highly sought after. Through promoting Digital Literacy for all, we are enabling ourselves to become creators of technology rather than just consumers. This allows us to turn our ideas into reality.

DL4All is a platform dedicated to empowering Nigerians to excel in the digital realm. It provides opportunities for personal growth, creativity, and development of essential skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving. These skills are essential not only in careers but also in various aspects of life, including science, business, and art. At NITDA, we are committed to offering amazing opportunities for developing our digital skills, ranging from basic ICT skills to advanced IT skills. We aim to prepare Nigeria for a prominent position in global digital technology. Let us empower ourselves by embarking on the journey to success together and provide our nation with the digital advantage it rightfully deserves.

Enjoy the read!

Kashifu Inuwa CCIE
DG NITDA/Publisher

In an era where digital technology drives process-es globally, particularly in a nation with over 100 million internet users and a rapidly growing tech ecosystem, Nigeria stands at the threshold of a technological renaissance with its digital landscape expanding at an impressive rate while offering an unparalleled opportunity to harness the capabili-ties of its tech-savvy population.

With the proliferation of smartphones, increasing internet penetration and a vibrant youthful population that form the bedrock of every digital evolution, Nigeria must nurture the expansion of a digitally literate society towards advancing a digitally literate population, an act, that could offer a promising future replete with innovation, economic growth, and social development.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGING EDITOR

DL4ALL: CHARTING THE FUTURE WITH DIGITALLY SAVVY POPULATION

Digital literacy transcends the basic ability to use technology. It involves an array of skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, creating and communicating digital content. A digitally literate population can drive economic growth, enhance civic participation, and improve the quality of life. Digital literacy is a catalyst for innovation and a means to bridge socio-economic gaps.

In this digital age which comprises digital natives and immigrants with boundless lucrative jobs, equipping the nation's populace with elementary and complex digital literacy and in-demand tech skills will not only make them useful to themselves but also make them marketable assets to the country and the world in general.

The future of Nigeria hinges on its ability to harness the power of its digitally savvy population. A digitally literate society can drive technological innovation, create job opportunities, and enhance governance and transparency. As Nigeria continues to chart its digital future, collaboration between the government, educational institutions, and the private sector will be instrumental in realizing this vision.

The National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) under the leadership of Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, is playing a pivotal role in aligning human and material resources to bridge the country's digital divide and energise Nigeria's tech ecosystem. Through the creation of enabling policies and guidelines, NITDA is spurring innovation, contributing to the diversification of the nation's economy and the growth of its Gross Domestic Product, GDP.

You will find in this exciting edition of your quarterly Info-Tech Regulator magazine various initiatives and collaborations the

Agency is making toward the implementation of the presidential priority areas particularly in accelerating diversification of the other critical sectors of the economy through industrialisation and digitisation. through industrialisation and digitisation, reforming the economy for sustained inclusive growth, providing inclusive access to technology with a focus on education, health and social investment leveraging Digital Literacy for All, (DL4All) initiative to achieve these goals.

The Agency developed the National Digital Literacy Framework with a target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030 and a mid-term target of achieving 70% digital literacy by 2027 towards the implementation of a pillar in its newly crafted Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2.0 2024-2027 which is to Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents.

NITDA has therefore been collaborating with the Ministry of Education to integrate digital literacy into the curricula of all academic institutions while simultaneously developing standardised training programs with certifications that would be required for securing government employment.

In line with its practice of co-creating policies and frameworks, the Agency has been collaborating with key government and private organisations, which include but are not limited to, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) the National Youth Service Corps, and GIZ, to ensure broad awareness and sensitization of the DL4All, while also promoting the use of digital technologies at the grassroots level.

The Agency has undertaken a structural realignment, system re-calibration, and strategic relaunch, all anchored on principles of clarity, shared responsibility, a commitment to excellence, and challenging the status quo to create digital value for the future. This approach emphasises partnership and collaboration as key to success.

In pursuing this vision, the Agency considered Nigeria's unique strengths, including its population demographics, internet and mobile penetration, and distinct challenges, which are catalysts for innovation.

It is important to note that the Agency has been dedicating significant efforts and resources to collaborating with relevant stakeholders to ensure that DL4All receives widespread publicity.

As stated by Prof. Geoff Mulgan, Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy, and Social Innovation at University College London (UCL), "There is incredible potential for digital technology in and beyond the classroom, but it is vital to rethink how learning is organised if we are to reap the rewards."

Other segments in this edition are "Tech Trends" and "Industry Watch" bring you up to speed on the global trends in the Information Technology sector. "Photo Speak" captures for you, memorable events, and activities the Agency undertook during the quarter under review as well as laurels won by the Agency.

Enjoy this exhilarating edition of your Info-Tech Regulator Magazine while we look forward to your feedback to enable us to serve you better.

Mrs. Hadiza Umar *fnipr, f.apra, mcipr*
Managing Editor

DL4ALL
NITDA BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR NIGERIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

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NITDA PURSUES FG'S AGENDA, ASSURES 70% DIGITAL LITERACY *By Deborah Dada*

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) said it would not relent in its efforts to ensure that the Federal Government's development agenda for the ICT sector is realised in time.

NITDA said on its part, there has been a realignment of structure, recalibration of system and relaunch of strategy, anchored on the principles of clarity,

collective responsibility, commitment to excellence, challenging the status to create digital value for the future through partnership and collaboration to guarantee success.

In realising this, the Agency said it considered Nigeria's factor endowment, which is the population demographics, internet, and mobile penetration and peculiar, challenges which are acceptable ingredients for innovation.

The Director- General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa, disclosed this in Lagos on Thursday at the 2024 Regtech Africa Conference and exhibition with the theme: "Harnessing Partnerships

for Africa's Prosperity—Bridging the Data Trust Gap,"

Highlighting the eight strategic pillars for the sector's transformation, Inuwa said every effort must be made to see that Nigeria achieves targeted plans.

Represented by the Director, Corporate Planning and Strategy Department, NITDA, Dr. Aristotle Onumo, Inuwa said partnerships will be key in bridging the data trust gap in the country, and that this will require government and regulatory cooperation; private sector engagement; academic and research collaboration and civil society and community engagement.

He revealed that NITDA's realignment with the renewed hope agenda of President Bola Tinubu has been anchored on principles including clarity, collective responsibility, commitment to excellence, challenging the status.

"Our Strategy is therefore to create digital value for the future through partnership and collaboration. We considered our factor endowment, which is our population demographics, Internet and mobile penetration, challenges which is acceptable ingredient for innovation," he stated.

He explained that the strategic pillars would be centered on key performance indicators, including achieving 70 per cent digital literacy by 2027 and training of three million tech talents (3MTT); establishment of one special purpose vehicle before the end of 2024; establishment of six technology centres of excellence by 2025.

He said NITDA would strengthen policy implementation and legal framework, which will ensure 100 per cent completion of DPI regulatory instruments by 2025, launch of five sector data exchange frameworks by 2026; 100 per cent completion of PKI framework by 2024 and 100 per cent Cyber-insurance framework developed by 2025.

Inuwa further stressed that Nigeria through NITDA is keen on strengthening Cybersecurity and enhance digital trust, saying that the agency would facilitate Cybersecurity collaboration; implement threat detection and mitigation; launch e-Trust initiative and implement national Public Key Infrastructure.

The NITDA DG said "success indications would be 100 per cent eligible organizations licensed; 100 per cent eligible platforms registered with the e-Trust. We will ensure 50 per cent increase in the number of partnerships with local and international Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) and 40 per cent reduction in successful Cybersecurity attacks by 2027."

He said NITDA would forge strategic partnerships and collaboration, saying the target is to have six global platforms participation by 2027 and ensure that about 400 diaspora Nigerians are engaged by 2027.

On her part, Policy Advisor to DG

NITDA, Bashira Hassan, said the A Agency is doing a lot to ensure that policies of government are implemented adding that the issue of trust is critical to bridging gaps in Nigeria and other parts of Africa.

According to her, NITDA engages in advocacy programs to educate the populace about their rights, saying the agency would in few weeks unveiled a digital literacy framework.

She revealed that NITDA is working with some other organisations including the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian Data Protection Commission, and Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to see how some of the laws governing trust in the country would not be abused.

According to her, NITDA's collaboration also involved working with the academia to deepen research and create awareness on issues that bother on trust.

"We realised that in 2019 when we issue the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation, we were able to make some wins. It is one of our most celebrated regulations in Nigeria. Learning from that, we realized that we had to renew our social contract with the Nigerian populace, and we equally realised that we were looking at regulation in Nigeria from a rule-based approach, but we discovered that regulation should influence business and enable the business environment to boost trust. So, we issued a regulatory intelligence framework that guides us in deploying regulatory interventions and initiatives in Nigeria, which will scale businesses.

"The regulatory intelligence framework was built on three pillars of awareness, intelligence and dynamism," Hassan stated.

The event ended with a dinner in honour of the partners and stakeholders with awards and recognition for NITDA and others.

DIGITAL TRADE: NITDA, WORLD BANK SET TO ENHANCE CROSS-BORDER DATA SERVICES

By Oluwole Alao

In its continuous effort to propel Nigeria into a future where digital technology and economic growth uplift the nation, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is set to collaborate with the World Bank and World Trade Organisation to implement the presidential priority areas of reforming the economy for sustained inclusive growth as well as accelerating diversification through industrialisation and digitisation.

This was made known when the DG NITDA Kashifu Inuwa CCIE played host to a delegation from the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation led by Mr. Aleksandar Stojanov at the agency's corporate headquarters in Abuja.

The meeting was centered on fostering deep collaboration between the two organisations to enhance digital trade, cross-border data services and sharing ideas on developing regulatory policies that would accelerate economic growth through technological innovations.

Speaking on the agency's move to review most of its regulations, Inuwa outlined the agency's comprehensive plans and encapsulated the agency's newly re-crafted Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2.0 for 2024-2027 as part of efforts toward implementing the presidential renewed hope priority areas in enhancing the country's digital economy.

"We started with re-crafting our Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2.0 for 2024-2027 which has 8 strategic pillars among which is Strengthening

Policy Implementation and Legal Framework and what we need to put in place to make sure we create an enabling environment for the digital economy and digital trade", he noted.

He further highlighted key regulatory advancements and revealed that NITDA is at an advanced stage of establishing a National Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) which will underpin the nation's electronic signature framework. He disclosed that the framework's development has involved extensive research into international best practices and substantial investment in necessary infrastructure.

Noting the agency's legal advancements, the NITDA DG said that efforts are underway to push for the enactment of a comprehensive digital economy bill that will incorporate the electronic signature framework and other critical regulatory instruments.

While emphasising the importance of Blockchain technology in enhancing the security and efficiency of digital transactions, he averred that a broader Blockchain policy is being developed, particularly to focus on the implementation of smart contracts.

Enunciating the upcoming data exchange platform designed to streamline and enhance messaging systems, Inuwa said "We have the Nigerian Data Strategy which will create a balance between the protection and the viability of open data to promote innovation. Because even within the country, we need to allow people to have access to open data for them to innovate and for decision-making."

The Director General disclosed that NITDA's regulatory department is working on streamlining its regulations in addressing the plethora of existing regulatory instruments to tackle major challenges effectively.

While underscoring the necessity of digitalising Nigeria's single window and customs procedures, he asserted that NITDA is actively participating in cross-border digital trade protocols which has been enhancing Nigeria's role in the global digital economy.

"The EU just developed a Cyber Resilience Act which covers all these software and hardware testing issues so we can also have one instrument that can look at the cyber resilience, the software, hardware, firmware issues and even the national Cybersecurity architecture could be part of that" he opined.

He expressed the agency's willingness to collaborate with individuals, organisations and experts to refine and implement all these strategic initiatives in optimising Nigeria's digital landscape.

In his earlier address, Mr. Stojanov shared their initial findings from the digital trade regulatory gap analysis conducted by the World Bank on the continent, particularly in Nigeria and how regulations can play a critical role in enhancing it.

He however gave assurances of the World Bank's eagerness to collaborate and support NITDA in propelling digital trade and cross-border data services.

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NITDA, OTHERS LAUNCH INITIATIVE TO BOOST DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTH

By Kinyiose Nwabuokei

In a significant move to implement the "Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents" pillar of the Strategic Road Map and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0) of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, NITDA, and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) have announced a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy among Nigerian youth. The announcement was made during a meeting at the NYSC Secretariat in Abuja, highlighting the strategic importance of this partnership to Nigeria's digital future.

The Minister of State for Youth, Mr. Ayodele Olawande Wisdom, set the tone for the collaboration, emphasizing the unity of purpose in achieving shared goals. "I appreciate this collaboration because I believe we are one family and we are working towards the same goal," the Minister stated.

"And I also believe that if there is anything we can give, it is our commitment. Regardless of where you come from, if at the end of the day, the Nigerian youth are in a better position from where they are coming from, that is what is important''

The Minister acknowledged the dedication of all involved and expressed gratitude towards the NYSC's leadership, commitment, and availability to the cause.

The Director General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, emphasised the importance of leveraging technology to enhance productivity and digital skills. "We have set up the team working with your team to explore how you can infuse technology into your process" he stated. Inuwa highlighted the ongoing collaboration, including experimenting with emerging technologies like Blockchain to secure NYSC certificates and building digital skills capacity among Corp Members. "Today we are here on the bigger mission," he added, outlining the ambitious targets set under the National Digital Literacy Framework.

Inuwa cited global research, noting a predicted 85 million talent deficit by 2030, which could result in a loss of 8.5 trillion US dollars in annual value if unaddressed. "Our human capital is our greatest resource. If we harness it well, it will help us to thrive and develop," he said.

The collaboration aims to leverage the extensive reach of the NYSC to deepen digital literacy. "We developed the National Digital Literacy Framework with an ambitious target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030, with a mid-term target of 70% by 2027," DG NITDA explained.

The framework promotes universal access to digital literacy, skills development at various proficiency levels, and workforce readiness for future digital demands.

Inuwa further detailed the implementation plan, which includes training Corp Members during their service year and using them as digital literacy ambassadors across Nigeria. "Our target is how can we leverage your platform to deepen that digital literacy," he said.

The initiative will involve on-boarding corp members on digital platforms, providing continuous learning opportunities, and selecting ambassadors to teach digital skills in their communities.

The collaboration reflects a united effort to equip Nigerian youth with the digital skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. As Inuwa concluded, "We need to build a tailor-made solution that will address our challenges, harness indigenous talents to promote digital solutions, and this requires the collective efforts of the government, private sectors, and all stakeholders."

The Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, in his response, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative and the corp's readiness to fully engage the corp members. "This process for us in NYSC is a very good one, and there is not any iota of doubt we are going to fully collaborate with NITDA to grab the process," he assured.

This historic partnership between the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, NITDA, and NYSC marks a significant step towards positioning Nigeria as a leader in the global digital economy, ensuring that its youth are well-prepared for the future.

NITDA, ACEPHAP TO LEVERAGE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING HEALTHCARE SECTOR

By Oluwole Alao

In its continued effort to implement the presidential priority areas, particularly Focusing on Education, Health and Social Investment by strengthening their capacities through digital innovation and inclusive access to technology, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is set to collaborate with the Africa Centre of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) in transforming the healthcare delivery in Nigeria through technological innovations.

This was made known when a delegation from the ACEPHAP led by its director, Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci visited the DG NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE at the Corporate Headquarters of the Agency to discuss areas of collaboration.

Inuwa outlined a comprehensive plan to leverage technology as an enabler across all critical sectors in Nigeria, with a particular focus on healthcare while emphasising that technology is not a standalone sector but an essential tool that enhances productivity and innovation across all sectors.

While enumerating the Agency's pillars of its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0) in creating a thriving digital ecosystem that benefits all sectors, he stated that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR has prioritised healthcare by utilising technology to achieve significant development in the sector.

"Healthcare is key to us, and the President is also big and loud on it, so we have crafted our strategic roadmap and action plan which has 8 pillars to achieve significant milestones in the sector," he noted.

Speaking on the first pillar which is to Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents, he said that the agency has set an ambitious target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030 with a mid-term target of 70% by 2027 and has consequently rolled out the Digital Literacy for All programme which aims to infuse digital skills into the national academic curriculum in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

He also noted additionally that there are plans to train 3 million Nigerians in high-demand IT skills through various initiatives including partnerships with platforms like Coursera.

"We aim to increase the digital fluency of our citizens. Everyone should be able to use digital devices safely and responsibly as well as to build our proficiency so that we can build our digital offerings in the country," he added.

Inuwa gave valuable insights on various strategic initiatives the agency has been implementing which the visitors can leverage to create a vibrant healthcare sector in alignment with the other SRAP pillars which are to Build a Robust Technology Research Ecosystem, Strengthen Policy Implementation and Legal Frameworks, Promote Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services, Strengthen Cybersecurity and Enhance Digital Trust, Nurture Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Forge Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations and lastly, Cultivate a Vibrant Organisational Culture and an Agile Workforce in NITDA.

While noting that the Agency is investing in the research of 6 emerging technologies; Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Robotics, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Blockchain and Additive Manufacturing, he mentioned that the goal is to establish centres of excellence in geopolitical zones to foster innovation and collaboration.

"Based on that, we would do the site readiness assessment for the equipment you need, and you can do it for any or all of the identified

emerging technologies with your focus on healthcare," he stated.

While emphasising the importance of ensuring the privacy of patients' data, Inuwa averred that "Cyber security is critical to whatever you do because even the patients need to be sure of the integrity, availability and confidentiality of their information because as you digitise, you need to make sure their data are secured."

He also disclosed that through the Nigeria Startup Act, NITDA has been supporting startups with incentives and resources to foster innovation. He added that the Agency encourages startups to register and benefit from those initiatives to boost their growth and scalability.

Speaking on forging strategic partnerships and collaboration, he hinted that the Agency engages with academia, corporate organisations, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and government entities to build a cohesive innovation ecosystem.

The NITDA boss added that the multi-stakeholder approach ensures diverse perspectives and resources to contribute to Nigeria's digital transformation.

While noting that the collaboration between is a transformative step in the right direction, Inuwa asserted that adoption of AI tools in enhancing medical research and diagnostics is an innovative approach towards transforming healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

Inuwa mentioned recent collaborations, such as with E-Health Africa, which utilises AI tools like ChatGPT to enhance medical research and diagnostics. This innovative approach is part of a broader strategy to develop local AI-driven solutions that can transform healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

In her earlier remark, Prof. Galadanci expressed optimism about the future while envisioning a long-lasting relationship with NITDA that will

drive transformative change in the healthcare sector.

Highlighting the centre's focus on healthcare entrepreneurship and innovation, she shared success stories from their healthcare entrepreneurship boot camp and pitching event in 2023 where young innovators were identified in Kano and supported with seed grants to further develop their ideas.

The centre's Director noted that the collaboration would translate research into impactful policies and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students, faculty, and healthcare professionals.

"We sincerely hope this will be the beginning of a long-lasting relationship and partnership that will translate to the true meaning of the Quadruple Helix in the quest to address the rights of healthcare challenges through technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in Nigeria and Africa," she remarked.

NITDA REITERATES AMBITIOUS STRATEGIC ROAD MAP TO PROPEL NIGERIA'S TECH SECTOR *By Oluwole Alao*

The Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) Kashifu Inuwa CCIE has reaffirmed the Agency's new comprehensive Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0) 2024-2027, aimed at propelling Nigeria's tech ecosystem to new and sustainable heights in alignment with the implementation of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda's priority areas of accelerating economic diversification through industrialisation and digitisation.

The DG made this affirmation when he received the Country Director of the Social Good Fund, Mr. Joledo Oyewole and his team who were on a working visit to the Agency, to establish collaboration on supporting tech innovators for local and international job opportunities.

While expressing his gratitude for the visit, he emphasised the benefit of the collaboration which reflects a total alignment between NITDA's vision of making Nigeria a Digitally empowered nation, fostering

inclusive economic growth through technology and innovation with the goal of the visitors at sponsoring and developing projects that will help impact and develop local communities.

Highlighting the agency's newly crafted SRAP 2.0 which is anchored on 8 pillars with the first pillar being to Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talent, Inuwa said that "we look at digital literacy from the perspective of getting Nigerians to use IT safely and responsibly and we have a target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030."

"The second part of it is Talent, and we have started training with the 3MTT initiative. Our target is to reach 3 million by the end of 2027 and the goal is not just to train but to connect them with jobs," he added.

He urged the visitors to be part of the 3MTT programme where a robust ecosystem of Nigerians can be trained, empowered with soft skills, and provided with jobs.

The NITDA DG then gave further insights into the other pillars which include; Building a Robust Technology Ecosystem, Strengthening Policy Implementation and Legal Framework, Promoting Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services, Strengthening Cybersecurity and Enhance Digital Trust, Nurturing an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Forging Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations and lastly, Cultivating a Vibrant Organisational Structure and an Agile Workforce in NITDA.

He noted that the Agency is focused on investing deeply in research in areas of Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Robotics, Internet of Things, Blockchain and Additive Manufacturing while developing policies and legal frameworks that will create enabling environments for startups and investors.

Asserting that efforts are being made to digitise government processes to earn the trust of citizens, he added that interventions such as learning centres and innovation hubs are being created in all the geopolitical zones of the country to particularly unserved and underserved areas.

While agreeing to a strategic partnership between the 2 organisations, Inuwa averred that "we can do a lot in the area of investments because it is an area where we can explore possible partnerships to bring more investments into Nigeria for social and economic impact."

Earlier in his remark, Mr. Jolade said that Social Good Fund is a 501(c) organisation that had been engaging in a lot of humanitarian work in the United States, Rwanda and across the world.

He however noted that the organisation is focusing on building a model in Africa where employment can be increased, and Africans would be able to take care of Africans.

Mr. Jolade announced that his office is organising a 2-day conference scheduled for June 2024 where government agencies, international organisations and the local tech ecosystem will be able to interact and proffer solutions to challenges being faced in the country.

While presenting an award to the DG NITDA, he stated "This is to officially present to you from Social Good Fund, California for your meritorious work and achievement in Nigeria in the tech space and for us to extend the hand of partnership and support to anything you are doing in the tech space in Nigeria."

FG ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

By Oluwole Alao

As part of efforts to align and implement the priority area of the present administration's Renewed Hope Agenda of Accelerating Diversification through Industrialisation, Digitisation, Creative Arts, Manufacturing and Innovation, the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy has organised a workshop that would co-create National Artificial Intelligence Strategy which will leverage Human-Centered Design (HCD) approach to formulate a strategy that focuses on the needs of not only Nigeria but the world in general.

The 4-day stakeholders' strategy workshop with the theme "Developing the High-Level Strategy and Implementation Plan for a National AI Strategy in Nigeria", had in attendance, key industry players from the private sector, public and global experts who brainstormed on the transformative potential of AI in reshaping societies worldwide.

In his opening remark, the Minister, Ministry of Communications,

Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr 'Bosun Tijani reminded participants of their collective responsibility in harnessing the power of AI for the betterment of humanity and urged them to embrace a future where connectivity and innovation serve as catalysts for national and global development.

While highlighting the profound impact of digital technology on human interactions and societal norms, he emphasized the need for inclusive participation in shaping the trajectory of AI development.

"Digital technologies are also quite transformational because of their scope. Not only do they connect, but they allow us to transform every aspect of our lives as humans," he added.

The Minister emphasised that inclusive dialogue and cooperation are essential elements in shaping a future where AI serves the collective good. He called for unity among the participants to embrace conflicting views that could emanate from their brainstorming on AI development.

While challenging participants to rise above ideological differences and embrace a vision of AI that transcends national boundaries, Dr Tijani averred that "I'm challenging each one of us that will participate in this workshop not to be too focused on strategies in building AI that is limited to Nigeria or Africa but to the world."

"Let us show leadership globally so that the world could be converging and not diverging when we talk AI because these set of technology tools and products that will be built from this workshop can be used across borders," he noted.

In his remark, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Engr. Faruk Yusuf Yabo stated that AI has the potential to transform the Nigeria's economy in different sectors from enhancing

healthcare to increasing productivity in agriculture and government operational efficiency as well as increasing educational development.

"As we gather here, we are not just proud of this strategy for Nigeria, we are laying the foundation for the future where AI is going to be an integral part of all aspects of Nigerians' lives."

He said, "It is essential that we develop a strategy that is not only theoretically sound but also practical and implementable within the general context, while taking into cognisance, our cultural values, traditions, norms and specific needs to increase our national security and sovereignty."

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, emphasised the significance of leveraging AI not only as technological tool but as a catalyst for broader societal change.

The DG underscored the imperative of harnessing the transformative potential of AI for the betterment of Nigerian society with emphasis on not only developing a strategy for AI but also developing a strategy with AI.

"Our vision for this strategy is clear. It is to harness the power of AI to derive values from it while harnessing its potential and avoiding its errors," he noted.

While stating that technology is like a double-edged sword with its promises and pitfalls, Inuwa said that the uniqueness of the workshop is not only to discuss but to actively share ideas through cognitive processes.

"This approach is fundamental because it will help us to use our diverse insights and expertise in creating a strategy that will be inclusive as well as reflecting our national consensus," he averred.

The NITDA DG asserted that the strategy would help in making significant advancements toward achieving Mr. President's economic transformation in priority areas of national security, boosting agriculture to achieve food security, increasing the nation's GDP, unlocking energy and transportation potentials as well as improving the healthcare sector among many others.

"Our success depends on our ability to work together across government, academia, industry and civil society

in bringing our unique perspectives to this strategy which will help us craft not just an innovative strategy but a practicable and implementable strategy that will lay a foundation for a prosperous nation for Nigerians," he concluded.

The highlight of the workshop was the breakout sessions with industry and global experts sharing insights on contextualising AI strategy, setting directional beacons for Nigeria's AI, developing a national vision and goal setting for AI in Nigeria.

At the end of the workshop, participants who were grouped into syndicates which include; AI Ethics and Social Impact, AI Infrastructure and Ecosystem in Talent, AI Talent and Workforce Development, AI Research and Innovation, AI Adoption and Sector Focus, AI Policy and Governance, AI International Collaboration and Engagement, AI Safety and Regulations gave presentations on various strategic initiatives, roadmap development and thematic visioning needed for the development of a robust AI Strategy document.

While giving his vote of thanks, Dr Tijani thanked NITDA, Nigerian Communications Commission, Galaxy Backbone, Nigeria Data Protection Commission, Data Science Nigeria, Microsoft, Google, Meta, the academia, and a host of other public and private organisations for their invaluable contribution to the success of the workshop.

Expressing his excitement at the active engagement by participants at the workshop where in-depth ideas and experiences were shared, he said that he was confident that a robust National AI Strategy which Nigerians can derive value from will be developed for the benefit of the nation and the world.

AI ADOPTION WILL ENHANCE NATIONAL SECURITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
By Oluwole Alao

Similarly, in a continued effort to align with the present administration's redefined priority areas of strengthening national security for peace and prosperity, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, has highlighted the profound impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) In bolstering national security and enhancing socio-economic activities of the country.

The DG made this pronouncement at the office of the National Institute of Security Studies in Abuja where he delivered a lecture to 92 participants from various security agencies undergoing training at the institute.

In his presentation titled "Impact of Artificial Intelligence Deployment on Security and Emerging Economies: A Global Perspective," Inuwa shared valuable insights on how the adoption and deployment of AI by security agencies in the country can enhance national security and socio-economic activities.

The DG spoke on the types of AI, the principles guiding it, recommendations for policymakers, its applications in security and counter-terrorism, ethical and privacy considerations, responsible use of AI by security operatives and initiatives developed by NITDA to ensure responsible and unbiased AI development.

Speaking passionately on the subject, Inuwa underscored the transformative potential of AI in shaping a future where scarcity is mitigated, mundane tasks are automated and breakthroughs in healthcare revolutionise human longevity.

"Imagine a world without scarcity of resources, where all human beings have access to basic needs such as food, clean water, shelter, a world where all terminal diseases are cured, genetic disorders and aging can be reversed. That is the world we are today," he stated.

Emphasizing the power of technology in addressing some of the challenges faced in the country, the DG noted that AI has produced innovations such as lab-grown meat and genetically modified crops which can help enhance food production and alleviate hunger.

Stressing the importance of every nation developing its AI capabilities to ensure digital independence and sovereignty, Inuwa said that "the best way to predict the future is by creating it."

"We want to democratize this technology whereby the technology will be accessible to the common man, and we cannot depend on any country to come and build our digital offerings, so we need to build it ourselves," he added.

Reiterating the increasing connectivity of the modern world, the NITDA boss averred that AI facilitates seamless integration across various sectors from homes and devices to critical infrastructural sectors and defense systems.

While urging the participants to harness the potential of AI responsibly and ethically by understanding and applying AI to critical sectors, Inuwa opined that Nigeria can secure its digital future and unlock unprecedented socio-economic growth through the deployment of AI in all its processes.

Disclosing the Agency's vision for Nigeria as digitally empowering the nation, fostering inclusive economic growth through technological innovation, Inuwa enumerated the National AI Research Grant Scheme, Talent development, National AI Strategy Co-creation workshop, Nigerian Multilingual Large Language Model, International Collaborations such as the Remodelling of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) in partnership with CISCO as some of the initiatives deployed in the adoption of AI.

"Our strategy has a clear vision to harness the power of artificial intelligence to address our most pressing challenges and achieve sustainable development while avoiding its perils," he concluded.

While appreciating the DG for the well-delivered presentation, the Commandant of the Institute, Alhaji AS Adeleke, gave assurances of the institute's willingness in adopting AI in all its processes.

He expressed appreciation to the DG for the infrastructural support that NITDA had given the institute so far but called for strengthened support to the already existing partnership between the 2 organisations.

"We want to align with your goal of making Nigeria a leading exporter of tech talents in the entire world which will increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as increase Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)," he said.

Participants at the event ranged from the Nigerian Army, Department of State Services, Nigerian Police Force, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Federal Road Safety Corps, Nigerian Correctional Service, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Defence Intelligence Agency, Office of the National Security Adviser, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and many others.

NSA: NITDA INAUGURATES STARTUP LABELLING COMMITTEE

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has taken a significant step towards driving the implementation of the Nigeria Startup Act (NSA) with the inauguration of a Startup Labelling Committee. The committee, inaugurated by Director-General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, comprises representatives from both the public and private sectors.

The NSA, enacted on October 19th, 2022, established a legal and institutional framework to foster the development and growth of Nigerian startups. A critical provision within the Act is the Startup Label. This label recognises eligible startups, granting them access to the numerous benefits outlined in the NSA.

The issuance of the Startup Label hinges on a thorough assessment and validation process to ensure a startup meets the eligibility criteria as defined by the Act. The newly formed committee will play a pivotal role in overseeing this process.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony, Inuwa emphasised on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's

administration's unwavering dedication to fostering an environment conducive to the growth and success of young Nigerian innovators.

He acknowledged the pivotal role startups will play in propelling the nation's economic development, and the significance of the committee's work in nurturing and supporting these enterprises.

He elaborated on the various initiatives and support mechanisms the government plans to implement, aimed at reducing hurdles and providing financial assistance and mentorship opportunities to young entrepreneurs.

Inuwa expressed optimism about the future, asserting that with the right support, these budding innovators could transform their ideas into thriving enterprises, thus contributing significantly to job creation and the overall economic prosperity of Nigeria in in line with President Tinubu's priority area to "reform the economy to deliver sustained inclusive growth."

He urged stakeholders to join hands in creating a robust ecosystem that would empower the next generation of entrepreneurs to flourish and contribute to the country's progress.

Inuwa added that the committee will be instrumental in establishing a robust legal and institutional framework for the successful implementation of the Startup Act. Their collaborative efforts will ensure a participatory approach that benefits all stakeholders within the Nigerian startup ecosystem.

"The composition of the committee reflects the emphasis on collaboration. Representatives from government agencies, industry experts, investors, and startup founders will bring their diverse perspectives and experiences to the table. This collaborative approach is expected to lead to a more efficient and effective labelling process, benefiting the growth of Nigerian startups," he stated.

Speaking on the roles and responsibilities of Committee, the National Coordinator, Office for Nigeria Digital Innovation, Victoria Fabunmi, listed the terms of reference for the advisory committee which include the following:

Review and evaluate start-ups' applications for label based on criteria defined in the Act and any additional criteria that may ensure quality for the label; periodically review and update additional labelling criteria to ensure alignment with industry trends; Conduct an impartial evaluation of submitted applications for Startup Label.

Furthermore, the committee will recommend on issuance or otherwise of startup label based on defined criteria; provide feedback,comments and or recommendations on areas of improvement where a startup's application is rejected; where necessary, dedicate time to further engage startups for more clarity and details on information provided.

It will also periodically review its previous activities and data on labelling, to identify and recommend opportunities and gaps that policymakers may need to place added emphasis on periodically review workload capacity and recommend a fair ceiling for the number of applications to be considered per period. This is in consideration of the fact that the Committee is not in a full-time position; and Members shall be subject to a Code of Conduct and must duly sign this prior to commencement of duties.

She also stated that the Labelling Committee comprises nine members from the following; four representatives of incubators (ISN Rep, North and South); two representatives of the public sector (NITDA, NSIA); two representative of the civil society and portal coordinator – to serve as secretary.

The inauguration of the Startup Labelling Committee marks a significant milestone in the implementation of the Nigeria Startup Act. With a multi-stakeholder committee guiding the process, the Act has the potential to unlock the immense potential of Nigeria's startup ecosystem and contribute significantly to the nation's economic development.

DIGITAL LITERACY: NITDA TO DELIVER INITIATIVES THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

By Nneka Blessing Ukachukwu

In a strategic move to boost digital literacy and drive technological advancements in Nigeria, the Director General of National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa CCIE has said the Agency is committed to achieving 70% digital literacy level by 2027 through innovative approaches in delivering initiatives, continuous collaborations, and stakeholder engagement.

Inuwa stated this at the Agency's Corporate Headquarters, Abuja, while receiving representatives of Afre.lib Academy, led by the Executive Director of Operation, Mrs. Joice Gomina.

The purpose of the visit was to seek NITDA's partnership as co-host of Afre.lib Academy's boot-camps in August; 2024 Tech and Career Expo with the theme "Tech for Earth" in September; to have the DG as a Keynote Speaker and sponsorship support for their Tech Challenge Winners.

The Director General said, "From the digital literacy perspective, we have three key areas, firstly, is the Formal Education where we are working with the minister of education to review curriculum and infuse all these skills in formal education, but we have a lot to do to achieve that in terms of training the teachers, getting the equipment available for them to use and so on."

"Secondly, for those outside the formal education, that is the informal sector, we have an initiative which we call the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) Initiative which we are working on building an Edtech platform (a learning Management System) where people can learn at their own pace. We are looking at translating it to Nigerian Languages, so that people who cannot read and understand English can do so in their own local languages."

"We are exploring partnering with the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) as they are in 774 local government areas, to be on-boarding people and making the content as simple as possible. So that anybody who listens or watches these contents can pick something from it. We believe going through the NYSC will help use reach the critical mass we are looking at."

"Finally, we also have the formal workforce, which is to train people working for the government and private sector because the workforce needs to be digitally literate to increase productivity at work.

Inuwa assured the Academy of the Agency's full support as both organisation share the same vision of fostering IT development and digital literacy.

"We need to review your curriculum to make sure it aligns with the National Digital Literacy Framework (NDLF)."

He added that NITDA is working hard to fulfil President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda by establishing at least one Innovation Hub in each state, providing a place where individuals can further develop their proof of concept after acquiring new skills. Noting that both organisations can work together in the aspect of having tech clubs across schools in the country.

On her part, Mrs. Gomina stated that the Academy, comprised of a team of expert and passionate educators, has observed a significant gap between young children, who are digital natives, and their teachers, who continue to use outdated methods to prepare these children for an ever-evolving future.

She said the Academy is working on building a platform where these children will be mentored and given a safe space to explore technology within the ethics of morality.

"We want to reduce that entitlement mentality and increase that mentality of citizenship, responsibility, and showing them that they can contribute to nation building using technology," she said.

She mentioned that some of the activities of the Academy include boot-camps for children, summer tech challenges teacher training as she appreciated the Agency for its willingness to support and partner with the Academy.

The Academy did a demo of some of the prototypes developed by children who have undergone training with them.

NBP: NITDA RECONSTITUTES STEERING COMMITTEE, COMMENCES WORKSHOP FOR IMPLEMENTATION   *By Rukayyat Sadauki*

To put effect to "Nurture an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem pillar of the re-crafted Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan, SRAP 2.0 of the National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) the Agency has inaugurated the reconstituted the National Blockchain Policy Steering Committee and commenced a co-creation workshop for the implementation of the policy initiatives.**

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu, Inuwa, CCIE while reconstituting the steering committee disclosed that the committee would play a crucial role in overseeing the successful implementation of the various initiatives related to Blockchain technology in the country.

He maintained that the reconstitution of the steering committee has become imperative to leverage the dynamic potentials and ensure the continues effectiveness of the National Blockchain Policy.

Inuwa noted that continuous evolving nature of Blockchain technology and its increasingly transformative application across diverse sectors necessitate a commensurate evolution in the leadership.

The Director General, who was represented by the Director, Information Technology Infrastructure Solutions, Mr. Oladejo Olawunmi said the reconstitution of the committee brought together fresh waves of experienced professional and leading minds in the Blockchain space adding that their diverse expertise would be instrumental in crafting a robust implementation plan for the National Blockchain is Policy.

He averred that parts of the committee's responsibilities are to provide strategic guidance, monitoring progress, and addressing any challenge that may arise during the implementation of the policy initiatives.

He said, "Additionally, the committee serves as a platform for collaboration, dialogue, knowledge sharing, and decision-making on all matters related to implementation, adoption, and integration of Blockchain technology across different sectors of the Nigerian economy."

On the co-creation workshop, the NITDA boss described it as a springboard for propelling Nigeria forward adding that "through collaborative efforts within this open forum, we intend to translate the National Blockchain Policy's visionary aspiration into a concrete implementation plan."

While quoting a report from PwC, the Director General stated that

Blockchain technology could boost the global economy by 1.76 trillion USD by the year 2030, Inuwa noted that it has become strategic imperative to unlock the immense economic potential of Blockchain technology.

The NITDA boss acknowledged that Nigeria needs to be strategic and take advantage of the offerings from the potentials in Blockchain technology. He said, "This robust plan will serve as the key to unlocking the immense potential of Blockchain technology, propelling it to drive innovation across diverse sectors, enhance transparency and efficiency in government processes, and empower Nigerians through secure and inclusive digital solutions."

Inuwa, who was confident that the newly reconstituted Steering Committee, in collaboration with the participants at the workshop, would help in forging a comprehensive and forward-thinking implementation plan for the National Blockchain Policy observed that leveraging the potential of Blockchain Technology would propel Nigeria's socio-economic engine, enhance the transparency and efficiency in governance, and empower citizenry and businesses with secure and inclusive digital solutions in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

Earlier, the Director, Digital Economy Development Department, Engr. Salisu Kaka in his remarks emphasised the

importance of the Blockchain steering committee and the need to align the implementation of the National Blockchain Policy with its overall goals and objectives.

The members of the committee were drawn from representatives of relevant government agencies, industry experts, academia, and other stakeholders involved in the Blockchain ecosystem.

It could be recalled that the National Blockchain Policy Steering Committee was inaugurated in May 2023 and tasked with overseeing the implementation of the National Blockchain Policy and ensuring its alignment with the overall goals and objectives of the policy.

DIGITAL LITERACY: DG NITDA CALLS FOR CURRICULUM OVERHAUL

By James Ishaku

In a bid to foster digital literacy and cultivate talent through collaboration, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, has emphasised the urgent need to work together to review the existing school curriculum and develop a comprehensive one that incorporates digital skills at all educational levels. According to him, this is in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda to create millions of jobs by leveraging digital technologies and achieving a digital literacy rate of 70% by 2027.

Inuwa made these remarks during a meeting with the management team of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), led by its Executive Secretary, Professor Ismail Janaidu, at NITDA's Corporate Headquarters in Abuja.

He said digital technology has a vital role in curriculum design, content, and processes due to technological evolution. This disruptive technology has substituted the way of doing things worldwide and Nigeria as a country is not to be left behind.

"We must lead in developing a competency-based, outcome-focused curriculum that addresses the demands of the 21st century. This will enable us to produce a skilled workforce capable of meeting the needs of the Nigerian market and attracting investment from other countries. Integrating digital skills into the curriculum is crucial for national development and economic growth," Inuwa stated.

He further asserted that government policies and objectives especially that relate to sustainable development, 21st-century skills, digital economy, creative arts. and digital technology will create a pathway for nation building.

Inuwa also explained that things have scaled up to meet up the new normal, like computer precision to digitalisation which is the central focus of the curriculum to provide citizens with the required knowledge and skills and digital technology for growth and development.

In his earlier remarks, the Executive Secretary of NERDC Prof. Janiadu stated that their institution is charged with the primary responsibility of curriculum development for the country at all levels and this cannot be done without the infusion of digital literacy as a critical area for the development of any country.

The ES noted that the visit was to scale up the existing relationship, partnership, and engagement and to explore potential areas that both organisations will have a tie towards national development.

Prof. Janaidu added that the institution is also responsible for undertaking and promoting book development, and local authorship for quality assurance, conducting educational research for public policies formulation and implementation and developing Nigerian languages and promote other languages to enhance education delivery and for public use.

The Professor also commended NITDA for its significant contributions to advancing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) across Nigeria. He praised the Agency's efforts, which span across all states, and highlighted the impact these initiatives have had on driving growth and development in the ICT sector.

DL4ALL: NITDA BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR NIGERIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

By Lukman Oladokun

In a research conducted by Management Consulting Firm, Korn Ferry in Los Angeles, USA, it has been projected that there will be a shortage of over 85 million tech workers worldwide by the year 2030. This shortage is estimated to result in a loss of $8.5 trillion in annual revenue. Various countries around the world are now working to address this issue and bridge the tech skill gap, and Nigeria too is not an exception.

And in response to this imminent global shortage of digital tech workers and the need to boost the tech skills of the workforce, nations worldwide are ramping up their initiatives to shift towards enhancing digital literacy capabilities of their citizenry to remain competitive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and prepare them for the future work. It has become imperative to understand that digital literacy and skills are becoming increasingly important in today's technology-centered society. Just like traditional literacy, mastering these skills is necessary to navigate the digital world effectively.

This includes being able to evaluate information, navigate online platforms responsibly, and understand how to use technology to communicate and collaborate. Essentially, being digitally literate is about being able to use technology to access, analyze, and create information in a meaningful way.

In today's digital age, the knowledge and use of technology profoundly impacts various aspects of our lives. This includes how we conduct our work, how we interact socially, and even how we participate in the global economy. Understanding and utilizing technology effectively can lead to increased employment opportunities, access to educational resources, improved global communication, and enhanced information literacy skills.

The Nigeria's government has since realised the potential inherent in promoting digital literacy and skills because they have become a fundamental component of the 21st century that related to reading and writing in previous centuries. Digital Literacy plays a key role in driving and enabling the economy across all sectors, hence the directive of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy to focus on accelerating the development of other critical sectors of the economy by leveraging digital technology. To achieve this goal, the ministry has introduced a blueprint called "Accelerating Our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency" which has five major pillars, with Knowledge being prioritized as the first pillar. This emphasis on knowledge highlights the importance of digital literacy efficiency in driving economic growth as it remains the fulcrum of development.

The ministry believes that "knowledge influences how we generate innovations and technologies that drive economic growth, expand the talent pool to drive competitiveness, improve productivity and inform evidence-based policy-making, among others." These form the basis for the objectives of the pillar to; accelerate the growth of Nigeria as a global technical talent hub and net exporter of talent and accelerate the country's

position in global research in emerging technology and raise the complexity and dynamics of the nation's economy by significantly increasing the level of digital literacy across Nigeria.

To achieve this goal, the third objective aims to significantly increase digital literacy levels, targeting 70% by 2027 and 90% by 2030. This objective is aligned with the initiatives of the Ministry and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), particularly the Digital Literacy for All (DL4All) program, which is the focus of this cover story.

The 3MTT

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Nigeria's Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani, officially launched a program called 3MTT (Three Million Technical Talent) under the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy (FMCIDE). The objective of this program is to train three million technical talents by 2027 to create a skilled workforce in Nigeria and help President Tinubu achieve his goal of creating 2 million digital jobs within his first two years in office. This initiative is crucial, especially with Nigeria's unemployment rate projected to reach 40.6%. The 3MTT program is a significant step towards addressing this issue and closing the global workforce gap.

The 3MTT initiative is the largest talent accelerator in the world targeted at driving effective and efficient use of technology both in transforming government services in Nigeria and creating a workforce that can deepen the application of technology across all critical sectors.

According to the Minister the program aims to establish a pool of technical talent throughout Nigeria to assist the ministry in its goal of transforming the country into a net exporter of talent. Also, the 3MTT initiative is expected

to boost the digital economy's growth and generate job opportunities for certain trainers. He added, "This is a unique opportunity to be part of a pioneer group of organisations and individuals in our National Digital Transformation journey.

in line with the Ministry's implementation strategy, the 3MTT program consists of three phases of which Phase one (Prototyping) will comprise 72 hours of learning over three months period and train 30,000 technical talents, accounting for 1% of the total target. Phase two (Piloting) will cater for more applicants adding up to 300,000 fellows, making up 10% of the three million targets, while phase three, (Scaling) will make up the rest.

The initiative has identified four strata of the ecosystem to achieve its objectives. These include Fellows, who are technical trainees in the 3MTT programme; Training Providers, which are registered organizations teaching the fellows; Placement Organizations, providing facilities for fellows to learn and practice; and Partners, such as NITDA, IHS Towers, and UNDP Nigeria, offering support in various forms. The fellows will receive training in areas such as Software Development, UI/UX Design, Data Analysis & Visualization, Quality Assurance, Product Management, Data Science, Animation AI/Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Game Development, Cloud Computing, and DevOps.

The approved model of delivering the content by the ministry is hybrid learning for phase one of the program. Learning for fellows in this phase began on December 4, 2023. The program will involve self-paced online training from selected providers and weekly meetings with training partners to apply their learning. Fellows are expected to commit 72 hours (about 3 days) of learning over

three months.

During the prototyping phase, in-person meetings will be held in small learning groups called clusters in the 3MTT learning community across 74 local government areas in 16 states, including the FCT. These clusters will bring together fellows in the same area who are studying the same course. In addition to online content and in-person meetups, fellows will have access to community managers and mentors.

These clusters will also be open to individuals who did not enter phase one of the 3MTT program, offering support for learning and access to resources.

With the implementation of the 3MTT and other initiatives of the Ministry in mind, NITDA has realigned its strategy to prioritise various initiatives that could help achieve the objectives of Digital Literacy for All. Pillar One of the SRAP 2.0 Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents is one of the implementation's focuses and it has been given top priority because its successful implementation would accelerate the achievement of the ambitious target.

One of the initiatives the Agency is implementing is Digital Literacy for All. NITDA, empowered by its Act specifically Section 6 (a), (i) and (m) has issued an all-encompassing framework that enhances the implementation of the DL4All. The National Digital Literacy framework was developed in July 2023. It defines digital literacy, outlines its key areas of competence, and specifies the necessary skills as a requisite for "policymakers to frame digital literacy policies, as well as monitor and support its implementation; building digital literacy curricula, modules, and programs to afford proper planning, coordination and standardisation of digital literacy training and skills

development in Nigeria; enabling assessment and certification, data collection, analyses, and measurement of the number and/or percentage of digitally literate Nigerians and their level of digital skills."

The DL4ALL Initiative is dedicated to bridging the digital divide in Nigeria by empowering a diverse range of individuals, including children and youth by equipping them with digital literacy skills to prepare for future careers and drive innovation in the digital economy; adults, to upskill the existing workforce with digital literacy training to enhance employability and active participation in the online world, and for senior citizens, it will enable them with digital skills to access essential services, foster social connections, and combat digital isolation. By reaching these groups, the DL4ALL Initiative aims to promote digital inclusion, social equity, and economic growth in Nigeria.

According to Kashifu Inuwa, the NITDA Director General during the unveiling of the framework in Abuja last year, said under the objectives of the framework, there is Universal Access, which means every Nigerian should have access to digital literacy and, will help the country develop youth's skills. The second objective, according to him, is skill development, which he said will help in building digital offerings locally and the third objective is inclusive participation means everybody should be carried along. "To achieve this, we are developing digital gender inclusion as well, to ensure that the Nigerian women are not being left behind and we also have the workforce readiness," added.

The framework provides for six competence areas which are device and software operation, information and Data Literacy, communication and collaboration digital content creation, safety, and problem solving. These are

further upgraded to 23 competence levels and eight proficiency levels. Before these are arrived at, the Agency conducted the Agency conducted IT Skills Gap Assessment and is currently working on the digital talent strategy that will help in building the talent pipeline; not only training people, but connecting them with jobs, either local jobs or global in other to be part of the global value chain.

The framework encompasses six core competence areas: Device and Software Operation; Information and Data Literacy; Communication and Collaboration; Digital Content Creation; Safety; and Problem-Solving. These areas are further refined into 23 specific competence levels and eight proficiency levels, providing a comprehensive structure for digital skills development. To inform this framework, the Agency conducted an IT Skills Gap Assessment, identifying key areas for improvement. Currently, the Agency is developing a digital talent strategy that goes beyond training, focusing on building a sustainable talent pipeline that connects individuals with job opportunities, both locally and globally, enabling them to contribute to the global value chain.

The framework is poised to significantly impact Nigeria's unemployment rate, setting the nation on a positive trajectory. During a courtesy call with Afre.lib Academy, led by Executive Director of Operations, Mrs. Joice Gomina, Inuwa emphasised that job creation hinges on two critical elements: literacy and skill. He noted that literacy is essential for consumers to effectively utilise digital services, while skills are necessary for developers to build and innovate these services.

He highlighted the framework's role in shaping the country's direction, stating "By positioning ourselves strategically, we can tap into this potential and become a global talent

The Honorable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Mamman in a discussion with NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa

factory. Nigeria boasts a competitive advantage over other nations, such as India, thanks to its youthful population, widespread English proficiency, and favourable geographic location. With this framework in place, Nigeria is well-equipped to capitalize on these strengths and thrive in the global digital landscape."

INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL LITERACY INTO CURRICULUM

To further its goal of achieving nationwide digital literacy, the Agency has established a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of Nigeria's education curriculum across all levels. In a meeting with Professor Janaidu Ismail, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council, the NITDA boss highlighted the pressing need for curriculum reform. He noted that the current curriculum is outdated, lacking essential digital literacy components. Based on the foregoing, the Agency is now working collaboratively to develop an updated, inclusive curriculum that integrates digital skills training at every educational level, ensuring Nigerian students are equipped with the skills necessary to succeed in the digital age.

During the Stakeholders Dialogue and High-Level Policy Committee meeting on the review of the basic education curriculum, organised by NERDC in Abuja, Kashifu emphasized the urgent need to incorporate digital literacy and skills into Nigeria's formal education system. This integration, he argued, is crucial for equipping citizens with the necessary tools to navigate the challenges they will encounter after graduation. Recognising the importance of collaboration, Kashifu highlighted NITDA's decision to

The framework is poised to significantly impact Nigeria's unemployment rate, setting the nation on a positive trajectory.

NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa with the NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, during a courtesy visit to NYSC secretariat.

DL4ALL: NYSC AS A PILOT

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has been recognised as an ideal platform for implementing the pilot phase of the Digital Literacy for All (DL4All) initiative. This is attributed to the NYSC's established structure, which mobilizes approximately 300,000 tertiary institution graduates annually for a mandatory one-year service. Leveraging this existing framework will enable the effective rollout of the DL4All program, ensuring a widespread reach and impact among Nigeria's youth population."

partner with NERDC, stating, "We acknowledge that we cannot achieve this alone. However, through this partnership, we believe we can make a significant impact. Our goal is to work together to develop comprehensive digital literacy and skills curricula, seamlessly integrating them into our formal education system, and empowering Nigerian citizens for success in the digital age.

Remarkably, the Ministry of Education is open to revising the curriculum to align with the realities of 21st-century learning, which now includes digital literacy as a crucial component. The Minister of State for Education, Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu, acknowledged the rapid pace of technological advancements and emphasized the need for Nigeria to prioritise building a globally competitive workforce. He stressed that the country's education system must provide a solid foundation for students to develop essential skills, saying, "Our children's education must foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and self-protection, ensuring they are well-equipped to

thrive in an increasingly digital world and remain relevant on the global stage."

As the world hurtles into the digital age, technology is revolutionizing various sectors of the economy, with education playing a pivotal role in enhancing productivity through technological innovation. To remain competitive, our country must prioritize building its human capital by promoting digital literacy across all segments of society. Digital literacy has emerged as the bedrock of a resilient and thriving economy, empowering citizens to navigate the complexities and opportunities of the 21st century. Echoing this sentiment, the NITDA boss emphasized that digital literacy is now the linchpin of meaningful development, as a nation's most valuable resource lies not in its natural resources, but in its human capital. He stressed the need for intentional efforts to harness this resource, unlocking the full potential of our citizens to drive progress and prosperity."

A pioneering idea to explore the NYSC's structure for the pilot of the initiatives emerged during a tripartite meeting between NITDA, NYSC, and the Ministry of Youth and Social Development. At the meeting, Mr. Ayodele Olawande Wisdom, Minister of State for Youth and Social Development, stressed the vital need to equip Nigerian youths with digital skills to excel in the modern job market. He reaffirmed his unwavering commitment, saying, "We are dedicated to making any necessary investments to ensure Nigerian youths possess the digital expertise to compete on a global scale. Our ultimate objective is to empower them to succeed, regardless of their background or origin." The Minister's words highlighted the ministry's resolve to bridge the digital divide and create a brighter future for Nigeria's youth.

"In response, the Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General YD

Ahmed, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative and reiterated NYSC's commitment to fully supporting it. "We are extremely pleased with this initiative, and I can confidently assure you that NYSC will collaborate seamlessly with NITDA to ensure its success," he stated, emphasizing NYSC's eagerness to participate in the program.

The pilot phase of the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) initiative has commenced in 12 selected states: Kebbi, Jigawa, Yobe, Gombe, Kwara, Federal Capital Territory, Ekiti, Osun, Cross Rivers, Bayelsa, Abia, and Ebonyi. Volunteer corps members, designated as Digital Literacy Champions, have been integrated into the program. The initiative's delivery approach follows a structured framework: Form, Equip, Deploy, Empower, and Evaluate, ensuring a comprehensive and effective implementation. This phased approach will enable the successful roll-out of the DL4ALL program, promoting digital literacy across the nation.

The training program will kick off with 37 participants, including: 20 NITDA Work Stream Members, 5 NYSC Project Desk Officers (national level) and 12 NYSC Project Desk Officers (State Coordinators.) The learning objectives for this stream are; to gain a comprehensive understanding of the DL4ALL initiative from inception to implementation and to recognise the roles and responsibilities of Digital Literacy Champions, DLCs and stakeholders at the national, state, and local government levels. Upon completion of the training, participants must possess the necessary knowledge, tools, and expertise to ensure the project's successful execution at their respective levels of responsibility.

The second tier of the training plan involves the training of Master Trainers (MTs), comprising 36 beneficiaries, with three representatives from each of the 12 pilot states. This training will be delivered through a hybrid model, combining physical and online sessions. The objectives of this training are to equip Master Trainers with expert-level knowledge in digital literacy training and to familiarise them with the Digital Literacy Champion (DLC) selection process. Upon completion of the training, Master Trainers are expected to possess in-depth understanding of digital literacy concepts and effective pedagogy skills to train and assess trainees' comprehension. This will enable them to confidently train and mentor others, ensuring a sustainable and impactful digital literacy program.

The third group of trainees consists of 120 Digital Literacy Champions, selected from the 12 pilot states, with 10 champions representing each state. These champions will undergo training through a hybrid model, with the training objectives of achieving expert-level proficiency in digital literacy training and comprehending the outcome-based training delivery approach required for DL4ALL beneficiaries. Upon completion of the training, the Digital Literacy Champions are expected to possess in-depth knowledge of digital literacy concepts and effective pedagogy skills to train and assess trainees' understanding. This will enable them to deliver high-quality training and mentorship, ensuring the successful implementation of the DL4ALL program.

The final phase of the training program involves educating 18 NYSC Zonal Inspectors and 36 Local Government Liaison Officers. This phase aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the DL4ALL initiative, from inception to implementation, and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Digital Literacy Champions (DLCs) and other stakeholders at the national, state, and local government levels. The expected outcome of this training is that participants will acquire the necessary knowledge, information, and tools to ensure the successful execution of the project at their respective levels of responsibility, thereby guaranteeing a seamless implementation of the DL4ALL initiative.

The strategic utilisation of the NYSC structure as a pilot for the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) initiative is timely and crucial. By integrating digital skills training into the NYSC program, Corps members can capitalize on opportunities domestically and globally. This innovative approach is poised to yield numerous benefits for the country among which are; accelerated economic diversification, significant reduction in unemployment rates, enhanced labour productivity and boosted exportation and economic competitiveness.

The Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) initiative represents a monumental leap towards achieving the country's visionary goal of 70% digital literacy by 2027. By empowering citizens with essential digital skills, DL4ALL will not only significantly contribute to realizing this target but also provide a robust foundation for addressing pressing socio-economic challenges. This, in turn, will drive inclusive growth, sustainable development, and position Nigeria as a technologically advanced nation capable of exporting talent globally. Nigerians should embrace DL4ALL as a catalyst for propelling our nation to unprecedented heights, where we can proudly take our place among the world's leading technological powerhouses.

DIGITAL MARKETING: NITDA, KATSINA STATE GOVT TRAIN, EMPOWER 50 MSMES   *By Lukman Oladokun*

The National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) in conjunction with the Katsina State Enterprise Development Agency, KASEDA have organised a capacity-building and empowerment programme for 50 indigenes of the state to support the transformative growth of their businesses by leveraging digital technology.

The three-day capacity building aimed to implement digital technology adoption for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, (MSMEs) in the state. This will help ensure that businesses adopt modern and relevant digital technologies to increase efficiency and effectiveness in achieving their business goals.

At the opening ceremony of the event in Katsina, the Deputy Governor, His Excellency, Mallam Farouk Lawal Jobe who declared the event opened, described the commitment of the participants to harness technology to unlock the potential of their businesses as commendable and inspiring urging them to make "proper utilisation of the knowledge they would acquire from the training."

He said, "In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, your decision to embrace innovation will undoubtedly propel your businesses to new heights of success. By leveraging digital tools and strategies, you are not only positioning yourselves for growth but also contributing to the overall advancement of the MSMEs sector."

While assuring the participants of the state's support and encouragement for embarking on the transformative journey, the state Deputy Governor enjoined them to unlock the full potential of MSMEs through digital innovations that would pave way for a brighter and prosperous future.

"I encourage you to approach this programme with enthusiasm, an open mind, and willingness to learn and adapt. Please, embrace the knowledge and insights shared, apply them diligently to your business endeavours. Remember, innovation knows no bounds, and with determination and perseverance, you can achieve remarkable results, he advised.

He commended NITDA for its foresight in selecting the state for the programme adding that it would offer the beneficiaries the opportunity to engage in profitable and modern ways of starting digitally inclined businesses.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, who was represented by the Director, Digital Economy Development Department, Dr Salisu Kaka noted that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are essential to the growth of any economy because they have a significant potential to create jobs, advance local technology, diversify output, foster homegrown entrepreneurship, and integrate with large-scale industries.

He said, NITDA has taken definitive steps to fortify MSMEs through strategic interventions and dedicated programs adding that the Agency has championed digital literacy campaigns, delivered capacity-building workshops, and facilitated access to tailored technology-driven solutions.

The NITDA Boss said, "These initiatives are testaments to NITDA's steadfast dedication to empowering MSMEs to navigate the digital terrain more effectively."

He disclosed that NITDA has been collaborating with the Office of the Vice President to participate in the National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Clinics which underscores the Agency's commitment to supporting MSMEs, equipping them with IT knowledge and guidance.

"As we navigate the complexities of this digital age, let us collectively commit to empowering our MSMEs,

the backbone of our economy, with the digital literacy, skills, and tools they need to thrive. By embracing the digital frontier, we will enhance the ease of doing business and foster a more inclusive and resilient economy that benefits all Nigerians," Inuwa maintained.

While commending both the Federal and Katsina state governments for the funding they have both injected in MSMEs, the Director General noted further that the programme is a "response from NITDA to a call to action as initiated by the Excellencies the President and the Governor of Katsina State."

In her welcome remarks, the KASEDA Director General, Hajiya Aisha Aminu Malumfashi said the training is dedicated to exploring and transforming the powers of digital innovation in empowering SMEs which are the bedrock of every developing economy.

Describing MSMSs as the backbone of the economies by driving innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and creating jobs Hajiya Malumfashi maintained that the MSMEs contribute a sizeable portion of the global economy as well assisting in terms of poverty, alleviation, and economic growth and diversification.

On the scope and the modules of the capacity building, the KASEDA boss informed that "throughout the course of this programme, we expect to delve into the various facets of digital innovation and explore practical strategies that will assist the MSMEs to embrace and leverage all these technologies effectively."

The programme tagged NITDA Digital Empowerment for MSMEs (NDE4M) has as its theme "Leveraging Digital Technology to Improve MSME's Business" aligns with the Redefined Presidential Priority of reforming the economy to deliver sustained and inclusive growth and NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2.0 pillar on Nurture an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: NITDA TAKES DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO GRASSROOTS

By Oluwole Alao

I n its continued effort to transform Nigeria into a globally recognised hub of technology and innovation to drive economic diversification and boost productivity across all sectors, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is set to collaborate with relevant organisations in effectively cascading the benefits of digital technology to all the local governments across the country.

This was disclosed by the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa

CCIE when he played host to the Senior Special Advisers to President on Community Engagement – South-East, Barr Chioma Nweze; South-West, Ms. Moremi Ojudu and North-West, Hon. Abdallah Tanko Yakassai who visited the Agency to discuss areas of collaboration on Nigeria's digital transformation journey. This gesture is in total alignment with the present administration's priority areas, particularly in reforming the economy for sustained inclusive growth.

While stating the agency's vision for Nigeria where inclusive economic growth is fostered through technological innovation, the NITDA DG noted that the vision aligned with the president's 8 priority areas.

"The President wants to Reform the Economy to Deliver Sustained Economic Growth; Strengthen National Security for Peace and Prosperity; Boost Agriculture to Achieve Food Security; Boost Infrastructure and Transportation as Enablers of Growth; Focus on Education, Health and Social Investment as Enablers of Development; Accelerate Diversification through Digitisation, Industrialisation, Creative Art and Innovation; and Improve Governance

for Effective Service Delivery to Citizens," he said.

He added that the agency recently crafted its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0) 2024-2027, and its pillars are the tool that will help Mr. President in delivering on all the presidential priority areas.

Enumerating the 8 pillars of the SRAP, Inuwa highlighted "Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents" as one of the most important pillars the document is anchored on where inclusivity is pronounced.

"To ensure we are inclusive, we need to get our citizens to be digitally literate, so we developed the National Digital Literacy Framework with an ambitious target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030, but Mr. President tasked us to achieve a mid-term target of 70 per cent by 2027," he stated.

He further said that the agency is collaborating with the Ministry of Education in infusing digital literacy into all academic institution's curricula while at the same time developing standard training with certifications that would be a prerequisite for securing government employment.

"We have already worked with the Head of Service to put it as a requirement for government workers to be digitally literate. But for the market people, artisans and so on, what they need is the literacy to use digital devices to access internet banking, government digital services and others. We have therefore been exploiting many channels to deliver them through television programs, social media, radio, roadshows, and other communication channels," he averred.

The NITDA boss stated that the 3 Million Tech Talent programme is another initiative of the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy in collaboration with the Agency are relying on to identify skill gaps in the country and build youth's capacity on skills in high demand locally and internationally.

"We have started the training and so far, we have trained over 30,000 and completed the first phase which is a pilot. We are now executing the second phase of the training," he said.

While giving deep insight into the other seven strategic pillars of Building a Robust Technology Research Ecosystem; Strengthening Policy Implementation and Legal Framework; Promoting Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services; Strengthening Cybersecurity and Enhance Digital Trust; Nurturing an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem; Forging Strategic Partnerships and collaborations and lastly, Cultivating a Vibrant Organisational Culture and an Agile Workforce in NITDA, Inuwa shared the various infrastructures, innovative solutions, sponsorship and training programs the government has been offering nationwide.

In his remark, Hon. Yakassai appreciated the DG NITDA for his wonderful presentation by sharing insights into the various activities of the agency to ensure a digitally empowered nation by building the digital capacities of Nigerians.

He however expressed his team's willingness to collaborate with the agency in the areas of propagating the agency's activities to the grassroots throughout the 774 local governments in the country.

"Mr. President is a grassroots person that is why he created this office so that we make sure whatever the government is doing is taken down to the grassroots level and we need to show the people the importance of your programs and how they can key into it," he stated.

NDLF: NITDA, GIZ/DTC ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS IN LAGOS
By Yewande Foluke Bassey

In a continuous effort to bridge the digital divide and empower Nigerians with essential digital skills, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), in partnership with the GIZ/DTC, held a Stakeholder Awareness on the National Digital Literacy Framework (NDLF) in Lagos.

The Director-General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, in his opening remarks, emphasised the critical role of digital literacy skills in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. He highlighted the NDLF as a comprehensive roadmap developed by NITDA in collaboration with key stakeholders to equip Nigerians with the necessary digital skills to thrive in the digital age.

Inuwa, who was represented by Dr. Falilat Jimoh, Digital Inclusion Unit of the Southwest Zonal Office (SWZO) at NITDA, asserted that the collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Education were underscored, focusing on integrating the framework's provisions into the national school curriculum. "This initiative aims to equip students from a young age with foundational digital skills essential for future success," he noted.

Furthermore, he mentioned that NITDA's partnership with GIZ/DTC is fostered to establish robust standards for digital literacy content, ensuring high-quality and relevant learning materials aligned with the NDLF's objectives.

Inuwa stressed that NITDA's commitment to digital inclusion extends beyond formal education, with ongoing digital literacy programs targeting women, artisans, and other underserved segments of the society.

He emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts, stating that the framework enables the implementation of NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2.0, 2024–2027 pillar of "Fostering Digital Literacy and Cultivating Talents".

"The SRAP 2.0 is a living document that is being redrafted to align with the Federal Ministry of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy policy document "Accelerating Our Collective Responsibility." which has five strategic pillars namely, Knowledge, Policy, Infrastructure, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Capital, and Trade.

According to NITDA boss, these programs aim to empower individuals to participate meaningfully in the digital economy and access online opportunities. "This resonates with the Knowledge pillar of the Ministry tailored to accelerate the collective

responsibilities of all stakeholders towards achieving inclusivity in all its dimensions which supports the Renewed Hope Agenda that is focused on propelling the Nigerian economy and enhancing the welfare of its citizens," he said.

He stated that the workshop's goal is to create widespread awareness about the NDLF through interactive sessions and discussions, providing stakeholders with a deeper understanding of its components, target audiences, and potential impact on bridging the digital divide among Nigerians.

Additionally, the Director-General emphasised the importance of collective action in the successful implementation of the NDLF, expressing gratitude for the collaboration with partners and the participation of stakeholders. He affirmed that the significance of tailoring the framework to the specific needs of Nigeria's diverse population is to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Inuwa expressed confidence that the NDLF, coupled with collaborative efforts, will play a pivotal role in empowering Nigerians with the digital skills necessary to actively participate in the digital economy, and access online information and opportunities while contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous society. He then urged participants to continue collaborations to unlock the

full potential of Nigeria's digital future.

Earlier, Dr. Thuweba Diwani the Commission Manager GIZ/DTC Nigeria in her opening remarks delivered by Olusegun Alimi, the Technical Advisor, GIZ/DTC Nigeria anticipated that the awareness session would be an avenue to dialogue and come up with a "Participatory Policy Implementation Framework (PPIF)" he added, "for policy to be sustainable they need to be owned by the people".

The Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) is a project funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It focuses on digitalisation, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Nigeria, aiming to enhance the country's digital innovation ecosystem and boost its capacity for adopting digital innovations for economic and societal growth.

Other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at the dialogue were, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), National Identity Management Commission, (NIMC), Lagos Public Private Partnership (PPP), Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB), Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), also, the private sectors represented were MTN Foundation, CISCO, Tech4Dev, Faith Foundation, among others.

The moderator, Mr. Tayo Olosunde an ecosystem industry enthusiast, affirmed that the stakeholders' sessions had also been held in Kano and Abuja.

STAKEHOLDERS COLLABORATION WILL FACILITATE DIGITAL LITERACY IN NIGERIA – DG NITDA

By Yewande Foluke Bassey

The journey to digital literacy continues with the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in implementing and integrating the National Digital Literacy Framework (NDLF) into the educational curriculum.

This declaration was made by the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, during a courtesy visit to NITDA's headquarters by the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle.

Inuwa stated that teachers are crucial stakeholders in achieving the national objectives of digital literacy in Nigeria. "By reaching out to the teachers, we are empowering our future generations because teachers will pass on their knowledge, ensuring every Nigerian is digitally literate," he said.

Reiterating that President Bola Tinubu's administration emphasises economic diversification and civic engagement, he affirmed that the best investment for the Nigerian populace is in its people, particularly through education.

He acknowledged that digital literacy is fundamental today because everything is going digital. "To be part of the economy, we must be digitally trained," he said.

Inuwa further elaborated on NITDA's role in developing the National Digital Literacy Framework, which includes six areas of competencies and 23 individual competencies for citizens. He detailed the Agency's efforts towards the framework, currently at the execution stage. "We have divided our efforts into three main areas which are; formal education, informal sector and workforce.

The NITDA boss noted the Agency's engagement in collaborating with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). "This initiative requires everyone's participation to communicate the benefits of digital literacy to all citizens."

He stressed that digitally literate individuals are less likely to be defrauded and can access social investment support more easily. He also highlighted that the private sector benefits as digitally literate citizens engage more with online services.

In addition to the framework, Inuwa mentioned that the Agency is working with other developmental partners to develop and implement the curriculum. "Our goal is to ensure that everyone working in the formal sector can validate their digital literacy skills. In the informal sector, certificates are not necessary unless required for professional certification."

The Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education, Professor Okwelle noted in his remarks that the commission oversees all the colleges of education in Nigeria, whether private or public. He affirmed that there are about 200 of such institutions across the country, and the commission's mission is to train qualified teachers.

While emphasising the importance of education to nation, he stated that, "We believe our teachers must be well-prepared, especially in the use of technology for training."

He sought for support in this journey, particularly in reviewing the curriculum in Colleges of Education and providing special training for teachers.

He expressed a fervent desire for collaboration that would enable all Colleges of Education to adopt the National Digital Literacy Framework, develop relevant content, and offer certifications.

Professor Okwelle acknowledged the role of the National Teachers Institute (NTI), which is primarily set up to upgrade the training of teaching professionals adding that NTI has expanded to offer both in-service training and pre-service programs in affiliation with NCCE and NUC with programs, which include online learning are designed to fill gaps in teacher training.

In terms of infrastructure, the Executive Secretary maintained that many colleges already have computer laboratories and other resources, which validates the structures available that would enhance the implementation of digital literacy in Nigeria.

He therefore asserted that the institutions are ready to incorporate digital literacy as a general course, ensuring everyone has basic digital skills and can pursue additional certifications in IT. He opined that this will make graduates versatile and employable, even outside the traditional teaching profession.

While disclosing that the curriculum review process will start by June and end in October, he emphasised that the involvement of all relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Education and other agencies would ensure cohesive and effective approach to the review

process, "this aligns with the minister's directive and his commitment to digital literacy.

The highlight of the meeting was an agreement by both parties to form a synergy that would transform the educational sector and ensure that all teachers and students are equipped with the necessary digital skills.

INDUSTRY WATCH

with Nneka Ukachukwu

META FACES FRESH PROBE OVER 'ADDICTIVE' EFFECT ON KIDS

THE EU HAS LAUNCHED an investigation into Facebook and Instagram's child protection measures as part of mounting concerns around minors' use of social media.

The European Union has opened an investigation into Facebook and Instagram for the platforms' potentially addictive effects on children, echoing two similar probes opened into TikTok earlier this year.

Meta-owned platforms will be investigated for their addictive and "rabbit hole" effects, and whether young users were being fed too much content about depression or unrealistic body images. Investigators will also probe whether underage children—below 13 years old—are being effectively blocked from using the services.

"We are not convinced that Meta has done enough to comply with the DSA (Digital Services Act) obligations—to mitigate the risks of negative effects to the physical and mental health of young Europeans on its platforms Facebook and Instagram," Thierry Breton, the EU's internal markets commissioner who is leading the investigations, said on X.

"We want young people to have safe, age-appropriate experiences online," said Meta spokesperson Kirstin MacLeod, adding the company has developed more than 50 tools and policies designed to protect young people. "This is a challenge the whole industry is facing, and we look forward to sharing details of our work with the European Commission."

The investigations into Meta and TikTok under the bloc's new Digital Services Act rules were separate, a Commission spokesperson said, adding that similarities between the cases simply reflected resemblances in how the platforms work. "There are some competitive effects in the markets where some platforms copy other platforms' features," they said.

www.wired.com

FG TO SHARE 50 LAPTOPS MONTHLY AS 2ND COHORT OF 3MTT BEGINS TRAINING

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has said it will be giving out 50 laptops monthly to fellows of its 3 Million Technical Training (3MTT) program.

The Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, disclosed this on Thursday as he announced the commencement of learning for the 270,000 fellows selected for the second cohort of the program.

According to the Minister, the laptops will be shared during the monthly knowledge showcase of the program where the fellows share what they have learned and how they are applying it.

In addition, a highlight of the 'learning perks' shared by the Minister shows that the program will also be giving out 5 MTN routers to the fellows every month.

Although cohort 2 of the program kicked off in March, the Minister said learning is just starting in the middle of May.

"Glad to announce the start of the learning phase of the 2nd Cohort of 3MTTNigeria Thank you to all our fellows for your patience as the team worked to make sure everything was put in place for the start of your sessions. As always, there's a lot to look forward to in the 3MTT program, as you get started on your learning journey.

"For our 3rd and 4th cohorts, please stay tuned for more updates on opportunities to stay engaged in the Learning Community."

While announcing the selection of fellows for the second cohort of the program, the Minister disclosed that a significant number of fellows in the first cohort of the program were being placed into jobs as interns all over the country.

According to Tijani, the 3MTT program is a critical part of the Renewed Hope agenda and is aimed at building Nigeria's technical talent backbone to power its digital economy and position Nigeria as a net talent exporter.

www.nairametrics.com

MICROSOFT TO SHUT DOWN LAGOS CENTRE, 200 JOBS AT RISK

UNITED STATES-BASED multinational technology giant, Microsoft, has considered closing one of its operations in Nigeria, known as the African Development Centre, located in Lagos.

Microsoft's ADC is in Ikoyi, a highbrow area of Lagos, the commercial headquarters of Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy.

It was learnt that the affected employees would receive salary payments till June and continue to be covered by health insurance, an insider told The Guardian Newspaper.

While the exact reasons behind the decision remain ambiguous, sources suggest Nigeria's worsening economic conditions may have adversely impacted a role in arriving at the decision.

According to the report, the closure appears to affect only the ADC's West Africa operations in Nigeria, but not its East Africa facility in Nairobi, Kenya.

An unnamed source within Microsoft's Lagos office neither confirmed nor refuted the closure when approached by the newspaper.

Microsoft launched its $100 million African Development Centers initiative in 2019, establishing facilities in both Lagos and Nairobi.

Nigeria's Microsoft ADC hired more than 120 engineers when it was unveiled in 2022, growing to more than 200 staff members in total.

The company in 2019 aimed to recruit 100 full-time engineers by the end of the year, and 500 engineers by the end of 2023. Microsoft is betting on African innovation in fields like fintech, agritech, and off-grid energy and hopes to tap into them.

www.vanguard.com

UBER WILL SOON LET RIDERS BOOK A SHUTTLE TO THE AIRPORT

UBER WANTS TO MAKE it cheaper to get a ride to the airport, concerts, or sporting events.

The rideshare company on Wednesday announced the launch of Uber Shuttle, an offering that will let users book up to five seats in a shuttle from a central location to an event or the airport – for less than the cost of a regular Uber ride. The cost of the shuttle rides won't be affected by surge pricing, a common affliction when lots of people are looking for rides at the same time.

Riders can book their space on the shuttles, which will hold between 14 and 55 seats, up to a week in advance and will receive a QR code ticket to board. Uber plans to partner with local shuttle companies with commercially licensed drivers to facilitate the offering, but users will be able to rate and tip drivers within the Uber app like with any other ride.

Uber has previously rolled out early shuttle tests, including in India, and as an offering for corporate customers. The feature will roll out to US consumers this summer for event venues in select cities, including Chicago, Pittsburgh, Charlotte, and Miami, with plans to expand more broadly in the coming months.

The Uber Shuttle announcement was one of several new features announced at the company's annual product update Wednesday, which also include a discounted Uber One membership program for students and the ability for

Uber Eats users to order from Costco even if they don't have a membership for the big box retailer.

www.edition.cnn.com

AWARRI ENGAGES 500 3MTT FELLOWS TO BUILD NIGERIA'S MULTILINGUAL AI MODEL

The Nigerian startup selected to build the country's first AI, Awarri, has engaged over 500 fellows of the Federal Government's 3 Million Technical Talent program as data collectors in building the Large Language Multilingual Model.

The Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, disclosed this on Wednesday, reiterating the government's commitment to creating more jobs for Nigerians in the tech space.

"I'm glad to see the growth of the Awarri team since its launch in November 2023 to 120 staff, with an additional engagement of over 500 fellows from our 3MTTNigeria programme as data collectors, as they build Nigeria's first Large Language Multilingual Model.

"Looking forward to seeing more companies in the space as we slowly but surely build a technology workforce that will contribute to global AI development," the Minister stated in a post on X Wednesday night.

According to the Minister, Awarri kicked off operations with 100 AI jobs in Ikorodu in November last year. He described the startup as a full-stack offering that ranges from data gathering to model creation and AI application development.

He added that the AI tool was launched through a partnership between a Nigerian AI company, Awarritech, a global tech company, DataDotOrg, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), and the National Centre for AI and Robotics (NCAIR).

www.nairametrics.com

TECH TRENDS

with James Ishaku Mshelia
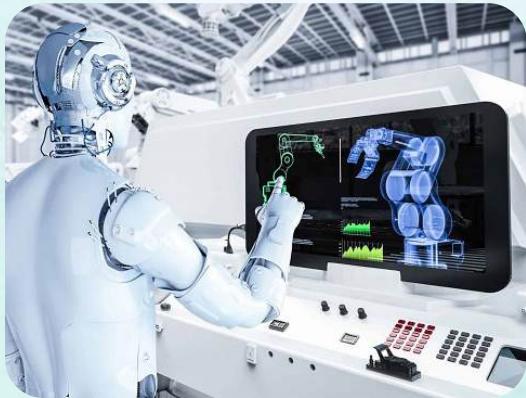
PROCESS AUTOMATION AND VIRTUALIZATION

IN THE COMING YEARS, approximately 50% of current work activities have the potential to be automated, thanks to the increasing prevalence of advanced process automation and virtualisation.

McKinsey foresees that by 2025, over 50 billion devices will be linked to the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), leading to the generation of roughly 79.4 zettabytes of data annually.
*www.eletimes.com/process-automation-transitioning-human-efforts-next-level-automation*

THE FUTURE OF CONNECTIVITY

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FASTER DIGITAL CONNECTIONS, fueled by 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT), has the potential to significantly boost economic activity. McKinsey suggests that by incorporating quicker connections in sectors such as mobility, healthcare, manufacturing, and retail, global GDP could see an increase of $1.2 trillion to $2 trillion by 2030.

The integration of 5G and IoT is expected to be one of the most prominent technological trends in the next decade, as it enables far greater network availability and capability, leading to widespread transformations in various industries. This includes the digitization of manufacturing, decentralised energy delivery, and remote patient monitoring, all facilitated through wireless control of mobile tools, machines, and robots.
*www.google.com/amp/s/www.cio.com/article/238432/connectivity-is-the-new-currency.html*

DISTRIBUTED INFRASTRUCTURE
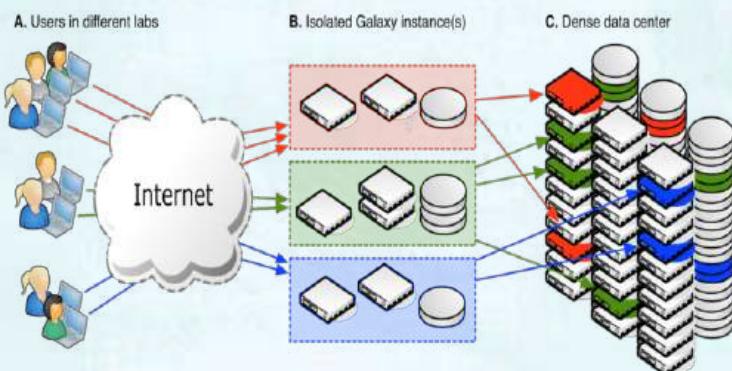
BY 2022, IT IS PROJECTED THAT 70% of companies will be utilising hybrid-cloud or multi-cloud platforms as a part of their distributed IT infrastructure. This means that data and processing can be efficiently managed in the cloud while also being easily accessible to various devices. According to McKinsey, this technological trend will enable companies to enhance their speed and agility, simplify processes, cut costs, and enhance their cybersecurity measures.
www.researchgate.net/figure/Simplified-overview-of-an-aggregated-distributed-infrastructure-and-its-perception
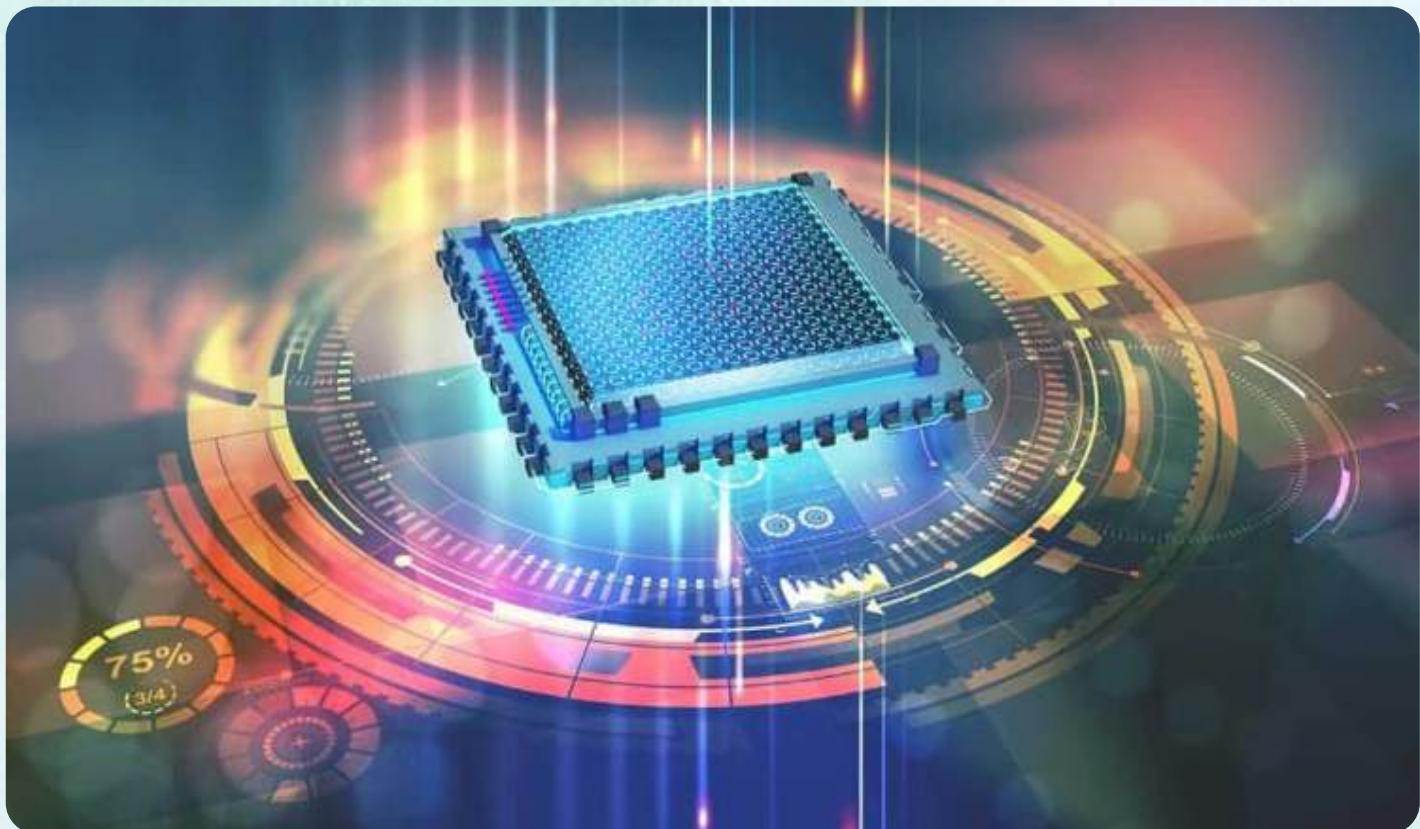
NEXT-GENERATION COMPUTING

MCKINSEY PREDICTS THAT NEXT-GENERATION computing will play a significant role in resolving long-standing issues in science and society, thereby unlocking new capabilities for businesses.

This advancement encompasses a wide range of breakthroughs, including quantum AI and fully autonomous vehicles, which may not be immediately relevant for all organizations. McKinsey emphasises the importance of preparing for next-generation computing by determining if your industry falls into the first-wave category (such as finance, travel, logistics, global energy and materials, and advanced industries) or if your business relies on protecting trade secrets and sensitive data during the transition to quantum cryptography.

https://innotechtoday.com/next-generation-computing-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters/

APPLIED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI IS CONSIDERED ONE of the most significant technological trends, and we are only beginning to scratch the surface of its potential. As AI technology continues to advance, it will be increasingly utilised to enhance tech-based tools, such as training machines to identify patterns and take action based on the information gathered.

By 2024, it is projected that more than 50% of interactions between people and computers will be driven by AI-generated speech. Despite the immense potential of AI, companies are still exploring effective ways to leverage this technology. McKinsey points out that while any company can benefit from AI if implemented correctly and consistently, less than a quarter of respondents have reported a significant impact on their bottom line.

https://www.analytixlabs.co.in/blog/what-is-applied-ai/

PHOTOSPEAK

The First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu with the Director General, NITDA Kashifu Inuwa during the official flag off of the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) Initiative organised to commemorate the 1st anniversary celebration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration at the Presidential Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja.

The Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijjani in group photograph with NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa with other Heads of Parastatal and innovators at the April edition of DevinGov in Abuja.

The Minister of State for Youth Development, Mr. Ayodele Olawande being presented with a copy of the Agency's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2023-2027 by the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa when the former paid a visit to the Agency's headquarters.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa with the National Identity Management Commission Director General, Ms. Bisoye Coker-Odusote during a working visit that centred on collaboration by the management team of NITDA to the NIMC headquarters Abuja.

The DG NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa presenting a copy of the Agency's National Digital Literacy Framework to the Board Chairman, Borno Information and Communication Technology Development Agency, (BICTDA) Dr. Yelwa Mohammed Idris (middle) and the Executive Secretary, Engr. Mohammed, Ahmed Kabir Wanori Borno during a working visit to the Agency.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa in a meeting with a team from e-Health Africa led by Adam Thompson at the Agency's Corporate Headquarters, Abuja.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa in a meeting with the Director, Africa Centre of Excellence for Population Health and policy (ACEPHAP), Prof Hadiza Shehu Galadanci and her team at the Agency corporate headquarters, Abuja.

The Director, Cyber Security Department, Dr Lawal Muhammed explaining the workings of the Agency's Computer Emergency Readiness and Response Team to a team from the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru .

The NITDA Director General in Morocco at the GITEX Africa where he announced the Nigerian readiness to host the 2025 edition of GITEX Africa.

NITDA Director, Corporate Planning and Strategy Department (CPS) Dr. Aristotle Onumo, delivering his goodwill message on behalf of the Director General, NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa at the just concluded RESPECTECH Conference in Abuja.

The DG NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa addressing and sharing the details of the Agency Strategic Roadmap and Action Plans 2023-2027, (SRAP 2.0) to the press during a media parley organised by the Agency at the Abuja Continental Hotel, Abuja.

The Emir of Kano, His Royal Highness, Muhammad Sanusi with the NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa at the National Stakeholders Workshop on Economic and Financial Inclusion in Abuja.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa in a round table deliberation with the United State delegations during the 6th session of Nigeria and US Bi-national Commission held at the Presidential Banquet Hall, Abuja.

A team from Hertfordshire Law School, United Kingdom with selected management team of NITDA during a courtesy call to the Agency by the school.

A team from TikTok led by Head, Government Regulation and Public Policy for West Africa, Tokunbo Ibrahim in a discussion with the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa at the Agency headquarters, Abuja.

The Minister for Art, Culture and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musa Musawa alongside the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa and Senior Special Assistant to the President on Job Creation and MSME, Temitola Adekunle_Johnson presenting a dummy cheque to Heart of Jere, the winner of the of National Tourism Development Authority Award of Excellence in Creative Art category during the National MSME Awards 2024 in Abuja.

The DG NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa signing a condolence register for two deceased staff of the Agency, Mr. Khalifa Mohammed Lawal and Mr. Olayinka Femi Lawal who passed away in April and May respectively.

Director General, the National Information Technology Development Agency, Kashifu Inuwa with Senior Director, Cisco Country Digital Acceleration Program, Clayton Naidoo on assessment tour to Abuja smart Farm.

Cross section of the NITDA's management team and strategic team during a workshop facilitated by Amazon Web Services in Abuja.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa in a discussion with a team from Osun State that paid a working visit to the Agency to understudy the working processes of the Agency.
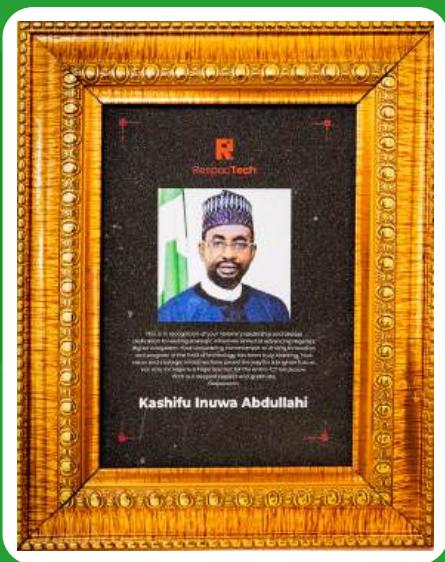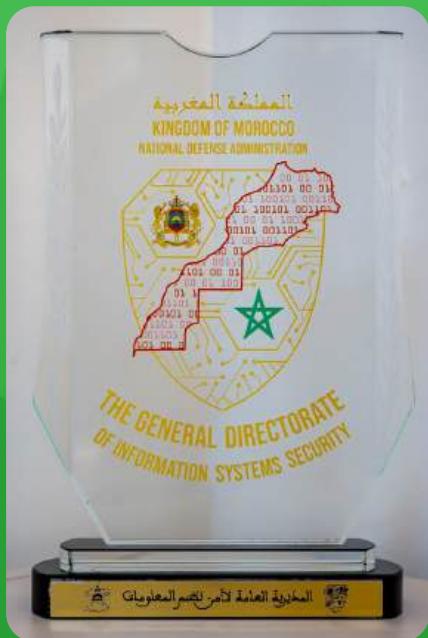
IMPRESSIONS

The vice chancellor appreciates your kind gestures and commends your efforts on publication of the magazine which showcases the Government's initiative towards the drive of Information Technology and its growth in the country. We also thank you for including our University in your mailing list.
L. T. Okoko, Deputy Registrar, Vice- Chancellor's office
UNIVERSITY OF UYO

I would like to assure you that the magazine will be beneficial to the staff and students of the university.
Nura Danbatta, Deputy Registrar
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, DUTSE, JIGAWA STATE

The content are very informative and will serve the desired purpose. The Vice Chancellor appreciates the kindness of your letter and enjoins you to continue in the spirit.
Ubani Onyemaechi Chukwudi,
Admin/Secretary To The Vice-Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

We applaud this initiative and look forward to the regular supply of these publications an other resources.

NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION, ABUJA.

It is worthy to note that the magazine will be of a great importance to the students and the University of Ilorin community at large.
Professor Sulyman Abdul Kareem
VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA

We appreciate your kind gestures and commend your efforts on the publication of the magazine which provides basic information on government's initiatives towards the drive of information technology and its growth in the country. We thank you immensely for always including our University in your mailing list.
Professor Nyaudoh Ndaeyo
VICE CHANCELLOR, NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA