

SRAP 2.0

**A NEW HORIZON FOR NIGERIA'S
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

RENEWED HOPE INITIATIVE:
FIRST LADY URGES WOMEN
TO EMBRACE DIGITAL
LITERACY FOR ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT

3MTT: BOSUN TIJANI
URGES COMMUNITY
MANAGERS TO LEAD
NIGERIA'S RENAISSANCE

START-UP FUNDING:
NITDA ATTRACTS
JICA'S FUND, MEETS
AGENCY, NSIA

NITDA, SIERRA LEONE
MULL FOR EFFECTIVE
CROSS-BORDER
COLLABORATION

Words **ON** Marble

Together, we will harness the power of technology to elevate Nigeria's standing on the global stage, create sustainable employment opportunities and improve the quality of life for all Nigerians.

Dr Bosun Tijani, *Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy.*

Our vision for Nigeria is to digitally empower the nation by thriving on innovation and fostering inclusive economic growth through technology.

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA*

To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often.

Winston Churchill, *Former Prime Minister, United Kingdom.*

The focuses of the SRAP 2.0 are to build a robust technology research ecosystem, promoting inclusive access to digital infrastructure and services, strengthening Cybersecurity, enhancing digital trust, and nurturing an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA*

We are leading our nation to embrace digital transformation and achieve 95 per cent digital literacy penetration by the year 2030.

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA*

Companies that change may survive, but companies that transform thrive. Change brings incremental or small-scale adaptations, while transformation brings great improvements that ripple through the future of an organisation.

Nick Candito, *Co-founder and managing partner, Angel Collective Opportunity Fund, ACOF*

Technology can enhance efficiency by enabling instant customer connection and expanding your business reach beyond local boundaries.

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA*

In today's world, everyone is an IT person, and we need to change the mindset that only IT experts can build systems.

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, *Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA*

A lot has happened in the last four years when we conceptualised and commenced the implementation of the National Information Technology Development Agency's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan. Although we approached the implementation with a rare zeal and uncommon gusto, we did not envisage it would record the tremendous success we witnessed today. The SRAP 1.0 provided for 64 different initiatives across seven pillars, and we completed the implementation of 41 initiatives. This implementation highlighted the NITDA's unwavering support to ensure a robust foundation for digital transformation in the country; the effect is now a glaring testament to the contribution of the digital economy sector to the nation's Gross Domestic Product, (GDP).

The last administration, in its efforts to reinvent and meet the digital age challenges in an increasingly dynamic and competitive sector conceptualised the then National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy which we aligned our SRAP 1.0 with. We are elated that so much success was recorded during the implementation period. For instance, in the implementation of the Developmental Regulation pillar of SRAP 1.0, we were able to stimulate market-creating innovations and elevated emerging technologies like AI and Blockchain. We energised our IT Projects Clearance Initiative and created a new industry by implementing Nigerian Data Protection Regulation. We developed the digital skills of over 215,000 Nigerians under the Digital Literacy and Capacity Building pillar; we established 683 Digital Economy Centres across the country under the digital transformation pillar. We supported startups through various initiatives that aimed at bolstering Nigeria's position in the global tech ecosystem and played a crucial role in enacting the Nigeria Start up Act. Major strides were made in the other pillars too.

Each government comes with its policy direction and programmes it intends to implement. Like the successive administrations, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is implementing the Renewed Hope Agenda with eight presidential priority areas of which part of the programmes on "Accelerate Diversification through Industrialisation, Digitisation, Creative Arts, Manufacturing, and Innovation falls under the Ministry's purview. In cascading the implementation downward, the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy has also unveiled its blueprint christened Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency of which NITDA is crucial to the implementation of four out of the five pillars the document provides for, hence the re-crafting of the SRAP 2.0.

We envision digitally transforming Nigeria into a nation that thrives on innovation and fosters inclusive growth by accelerating digital transformation of all critical sectors of the economy as directed by the President; this informed our decision to re-imagine our strategy in line with the vision of this administration and we have since commenced the implementation of SRAP 2.0. in earnest. SRAP 2.0 is a

comprehensive blueprint designed to position Nigeria as one of the leaders in the digital economy. The document was co-created by the tech ecosystem because we believe that by working together, we can transform Nigeria into a global digital powerhouse.

SRAP 2.0 is anchored on eight pillars which we believe if religiously implemented would propel the harnessing of the boundless opportunities the digital landscape presents. The first pillar, an offshoot of the Knowledge Pillar of the Ministry's blueprint is to "Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents." It aims to achieve 70 per cent digital literacy rate by 2027 through the implementation of National Digital Literacy framework, NDLF and support the building of capacity of 3 million Nigerians on Tech Talent Initiative, 3MTT. The second pillar is to "Build a Robust Technology Research Ecosystem" that will position Nigeria in the top 25 percentile of research in Emerging Technologies globally. We have identified six areas of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Robotics, Blockchain and Addictive Manufacturing as quick wins to achieve this. The third pillar is "Strengthen Policy Implementation and Legal

framework" to create an enabling environment for the ecosystem to thrive while the fourth pillar is to Promote Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services.

The fifth pillar is Strengthening Cybersecurity and Enhancing Digital Trust which underscores the importance of instilling confidence in digital platforms and ensures we provide a secure service for our people. Cultivating an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem is the sixth pillar, and we intend to foster constructive collaboration within industries and provide an enabling platform for digital transformation. The seventh pillar is to "Forge Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations. With this, we will be able to establish and nurture alliances with stakeholders to create value together while the eighth pillar is Cultivate a Vibrant Organisational Culture and an Agile Workforce in NITDA, and this is about the internal transformation of the Agency to promote efficiency and effectiveness

With SRAP 2.0, we are committed to propel Nigeria into a future where digital technology and economic growth converged to uplift our nation. Our aspiration is to leverage the initiatives in the document to accelerate the development of the presidential redefined priority areas and give them the necessary impetus needed to transform the nation by harnessing the power of digital transformation and innovation for a brighter, more prosperous Nigeria.

Digital innovation permeates all the eight presidential priority areas, and we believe that with the implementation of SRAP 2.0, there is a silver lining for innovation to create prosperity for all. We have an excellent opportunity to leapfrog into the future through the 4th industrial revolution. We are confident that by 2027 when the strategy has outlived its time, it will have facilitated the digital transformation of Nigeria and serve as a springboard to for Nigeria to soar technologically.

**FROM THE DESK
OF
THE PUBLISHER**

SRAP 2.0: NIGERIA'S SPRINGBOARD TO SOAR TECHNOLOGI- CALLY



Kashifu Inuwa CCIE
DG NITDA/Publisher

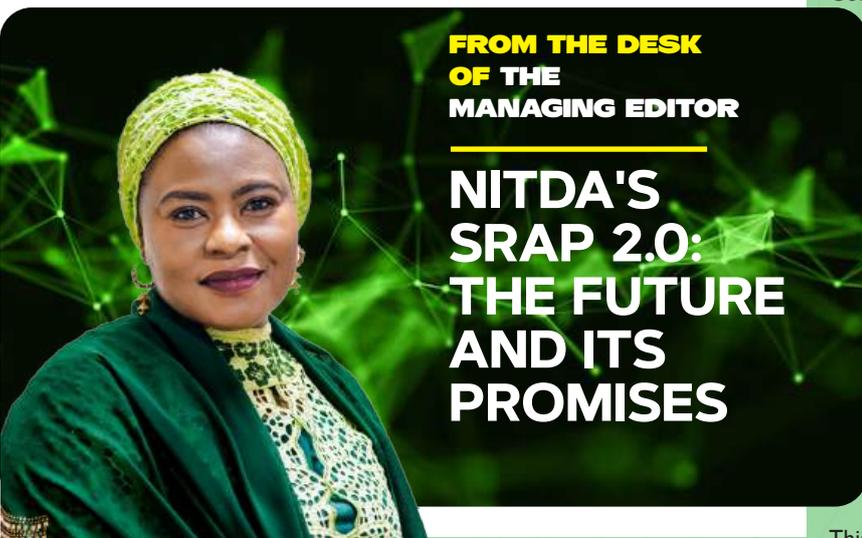
In a world characterized by revolutionary disruptions to all spheres of life through the deployment of technological innovations on how we live, how we think, how we act, and organisational work processes, adaptation is not just a choice but a necessity. Therefore, organisations must periodically assess and rejig their strategic objectives in consonance with the ethos of emerging technologies toward the actualisation of their goals, aspirations, and visions.

The Agency's previous Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2021-2024 was anchored on seven strategic pillars of Developmental Regulations, Digital Literacy and Skills, Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Promotion of Indigenous Content, Emerging Technologies and Cybersecurity and it pulled off unprecedented milestones such as building the digital capacities of Nigerians, establishing IT centres and infrastructures

titled, "Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency."

As the apex IT Agency in Nigeria, with the vision of making Nigeria a digitally empowered nation where inclusive economic growth is fostered through technological innovation, NITDA has spontaneously recalibrated its strategic initiatives to revolve around the presidential priority areas and the Ministry's strategic blueprint with the intent of harnessing the power of digital transformation and innovation in propelling Nigeria into a future where digital technology and economic growth converge to uplift the nation.

The SRAP 2.0 is anchored on eight strategic pillars; Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents, Build a Robust Technology Research Ecosystem, Strengthen Policy Implementation and Legal Framework, Promote Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services, Strengthen Cybersecurity and Enhance Digital Trust, Nurture an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Forge Strategic Partnership and Collaboration and lastly, Cultivate a Vibrant Organisational Structure and an Agile Workforce in NITDA.



It is a comprehensive framework of operational tools that outlines strategies and actions in enhancing inclusivity, engagements, and democratisation of digital technologies across all geo-political zones of the country needed to drive the growth of Nigeria's digital economy.

Earlier in the year at the Omniverse Summit which was held at the Landmark Event Centre in Lagos, the Director General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, in his usual practice of co-creating policies, presented the Agency's SRAP 2.0 to stakeholders and emphasized the pivotal role of collaboration with the ecosystem in the country while asserting the federal government's commitment to creating enabling policies that will make Nigerians and foreign investors thrive.

for public use, developing policies and regulatory instruments that created enabling environment for startups and entrepreneurs to thrive, as well as forging strategic local and international partnerships, thereby attracting foreign direct investment into the country.

All these pillars were aligned with the nation's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and have undoubtedly sustained the digital economy of the nation as well as developed innovative solutions that have mitigated many challenges, created jobs and wealth, enhanced national security, and stimulated the vibrancy of the sector which contributed immensely to the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

In line with contemporary best practices of reviewing the strategic plans of an organisation to maintain relevance, efficiency and adaptability, the management team has rolled out the Agency's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2.0 (SRAP 2.0) 2024–2027 with directional goals and strategic initiatives that will enable the Agency to scale and innovate in total alignment with the present administration's Renewed Hope Agenda's priority areas, particularly in the area of diversifying the nation's economy through Industrialisation, Digitisation, Creative Arts, Manufacturing and Innovation.

At the end of the 3-day retreat organised for ministers, permanent secretaries, presidential aides, and other high-ranking government officials at the presidential villa in Abuja, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) unveiled the 8 Priority Areas of the current administration which are aimed at fast-tracking the goals of the Nigeria Agenda 2050 and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2025.

In effectuating the priority areas of the present administration whose core focus is on job creation, educational and healthcare improvements, poverty reduction and ensuring opportunity successes for all Nigerians, the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy under the leadership of Dr. Bosun Tijani, rolled a four-year strategic blueprint

This edition of your NITDA Info-Tech Regulator magazine is filled with thrilling stories that will apprise you of the numerous activities the Agency has been engaging in implementing its strategic objectives in total alignment with the presidential priority areas and the ministry's strategic blueprint.

At the virtual commissioning of seven ICT training centres across the country which NITDA established to boost women's participation in ICT as part of the efforts of the Agency to provide inclusive access to digital infrastructure and services, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, OON urged women to take full advantage of the centres to acquire digital literacy and skills which will provide them with the competence to contribute meaningfully to the economic growth, innovation and social progress for national prosperity.

You will also find in this enthralling edition, various strategic partnerships the Agency has been building with relevant stakeholders such as the De Lorenzo SpA, the Ministry of Communications, Technology and Innovations in Sierra Leone, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and many others apropos implementing the agency's SRAP pillar of forging strategic partnerships and collaborations in advancing the nation's digital transformation agenda.

Tech Trends, Industry Watch, and Photo Speak are other exciting segments you will find in this edition that will bring you up to speed about the global tech trends as well as the Agency's activities in the first quarter of the year.

I can guarantee that you will find this edition of your Info-Tech Regulator Magazine deeply enlightening and informative, and I look forward to your feedback which will help us serve you better.



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RENEWED HOPE INITIATIVE: FIRST LADY URGES WOMEN TO EMBRACE DIGITAL LITERACY FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

By James Ishaku

The First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, CON, OON has charged women to optimise the immanent advantages of digital literacy, and technology to be more gainfully employed and thrive in the digital revolution.

Sen. Tinubu made the plea in Bauchi State at the virtual commissioning and handing over ceremony of seven ICT training centres across the country, established by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to increase women participation in ICT and boost the nation's digital economy.

The centres would serve as catalysts

for implementing various IT programmes and initiatives across the nation and empowering women in Nigeria in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of accelerating diversification through digitisation and innovation.

According the First Lady, "The Renewed Hope Initiative, (RHI) Social Investment Programme in collaboration with NITDA, under the National Digital Gender Inclusion Strategy, will be extending support to equip more centres in the remaining states of the Federation".

"Technology has become a positive tool in our world, shaping everything from communication and commerce to education and healthcare. Therefore, in the revolution of digital economy, our women must not be left behind and continuous training, access,

and exposure to technology can open new opportunities, providing greater access to employment and thriving businesses", she emphasised.

"Through access to technology women could unlock the potential that enables them to contribute meaningfully to economic growth, innovation, and social progress towards national prosperity," she added.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Bala Mohammed expressed the state's readiness to partner with NITDA and the Federal Government to provide more empowerment opportunities for women, children, and vulnerable groups in society.

He noted that the ICT centre will serve as an ecosystem for collaboration,

mentorship, and capacity development in relevant areas of digital literacy and facilitate the transition of the digital economy on innovation with particular emphasis on the underserved communities for the youth, women, and underprivileged.

“The centre will not only be about acquiring technical skills, but will foster community spirit as a vibrant space where ideas are born, friendships are forged and brains are realised toward solution-finding,” he said.

He further noted that “the First Lady has been a beacon of hope and opportunity and provided a welcoming and supportive environment, where individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can come together to learn, grow, and support their families through the Renewed Hope Initiatives”.

while making his remark, the DG of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE said that the Agency is working with the Renewed Hope Initiatives to reach

the people at the grassroots level, provide them with the platform and knowledge of Information and Communications Technology.

Inuwa stated that the Agency is committed to contributing to the country’s development by ensuring that every Nigerian is digitally educated, adding that NITDA has designed a process whereby women are fully integrated into the ICT revolution in the country. He stressed that for any program to succeed, women must be actively involved.

He opined that working with RHI has been an inspiration and commitment towards empowering women and children across the country through the use of technology.

Providing insights into NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2024-2027) 2.0, Inuwa pointed out the eight pillars that have been identified, would be carefully implemented to ensure that not less than 40 percent of the female population in the country are fully

integrated into all aspects of ICT.

He applauded the first lady for the various initiatives and programmes staged for national development and the role of technology in advancing gender equality by ensuring free participation by women in the digital revolution.

The wife of the President was represented at other locations by the Wife of the Vice President, Hajia Nana Kashim Shetima at Senator Oluremi Tinubu ICT Centre, Duste, Jigawa; wife of the President of the Senate, Mrs Ekaette Akpabio at Calabar, Cross Rivers State; at Minna by the wife of the Speaker, House of Representative, Hajija Fatima Tajudeen Abass, at Ogbomoso, Oyo State by the wife of the state governor, Engr. Mrs, Tamunomini Makinde; at Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory by the wife of the Chief of Staff to the President, Mrs Salamotu Gbajabiamila and at Ebonyi State by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs, Hon. Wahab Alawiye.





DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: NITDA PRESENTS DRAFT SRAP 2.0 TO STAKEHOLDERS

By Yewande Foluke Bassey

In the stride towards continuous engagement and inclusivity, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, emphasised the pivotal role of collaboration with stakeholders in the technology ecosystem to achieve a resilience and prosperous digital transformation for Nigeria by revealing the NITDA's Strategic Road-map and Action Plan 2.0.

The Director General made these affirmations at the Omniverse

Summit, held at the Landmark Event Centre, Lagos.

Inuwa highlighted the necessity of shared goals, resources, and knowledge to make a lasting impact on Nigeria's digital future.

"Our vision for Nigeria is to digitally empower the nation by thriving on innovation and fostering inclusive economic growth through technology," Inuwa stated.

While discussing the pillars in the Strategic Road-map and Action Plan (2024-2027) SRAP 2.0, Inuwa stressed the importance of collaboration among the stakeholders.

According to the NITDA Director-

General, the road-map focuses on eight strategic pillars, targeted at accelerating digital transformation of all critical sectors of the economy as directed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He maintained that all the pillars in the SRAP 2.0 resonate with the strategic pillars of Ministry of Communications, Innovations and Digital Economy blueprint tagged "Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency" which are Knowledge, Policy, Infrastructure, Innovation, entrepreneurship, and Capital, and Trade.

He revealed that the first pillar, fostering digital literacy and cultivating talent is being implemented through

one of the Ministry's initiatives "the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT)", designed to address the impending global talent deficit and position Nigeria as a leader in technological expertise.

Inuwa noted that the second pillar is to build a robust technology research system, asserting that this would prepare Nigeria to become a talent net exporter by 2030.

"The third pillar emphasizes the need to strengthen policy implementation and legal framework, with all ecosystem stakeholders contributing to achieving national goals.

He said, "Promoting inclusive access to digital infrastructure and services forms the fourth pillar which aims at connecting the unconnected by investing in learning centers and innovation hubs across the country."

"Strengthening Cybersecurity and enhancing digital trust is the fifth pillar. This addresses the importance of instilling confidence in digital platforms for its users," he said.

He identified the sixth pillar as focusing on plans to nurture an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem, which will promote synergy in industry and an enabling platform for digital transformation.

"While the seventh pillar is to forge strategic partnerships, and collaborations with external stakeholders as evident with the active partnership NITDA is building with the Omniverse platform, the eight and last pillar of the SRAP is directed to cultivate a vibrant organizational culture and agile workforce within NITDA he added.

"We believe that by working together, we can transform Nigeria into a global digital powerhouse," Inuwa declared. He subsequently invited stakeholders to download the soft copy of the

road-map, providing a QR code for easy access, and encouraged feedback to refine the document for collective success.

Inuwa assured the commitment of the government to create enabling policies for citizens to thrive. According to him, "The aim is to position Nigeria among the top 25 in artificial intelligence, IoT, UAV, robotics, Blockchain, and additive manufacturing, propelling the nation into a prominent role in the global digital economy."

The Omniverse Summit is targeted at driving the digital economy on the continent. The summit explores the narratives about the Africa and Africans, with a focus on how to regain control of these narratives to re-frame the future of our economies, societies, and geopolitics.

The convener of the Omniverse Summit Obi Asika along with his team members, Charles Emembolu, Dr. Thwueba and Isioma Udeozo stated passionately during a panel session that the Omniverse is a collaboration platform, which is designed to bring people together. They mentioned that one of the core objectives of the program was to bring different segments of the ecosystem like the academia, tech, startups, gaming people, music industry, film industry, television industry, the arts and arts culture among others together.

In their submission, they noted that the move is towards creating a platform for anyone to have a clear understanding into what is happening in Nigeria, Africa, and the world.

The US Consul General, Mr. Will Stevens in his address affirmed that the dynamic digital innovation ecosystem in Nigeria has led to the creation of this crucial platform, emphasizing the nation's role as Africa's largest economy and democracy.

“

We believe that by working together, we can transform Nigeria into a global digital powerhouse

”

Mr. Williams stressed a paradigm shift in collaboration, moving from discussing what can be done for Africa to what can be achieved together. He added that the focus is to ensuring African nations have a significant voice in global policy discussions, particularly addressing shared challenges like climate change, food insecurity, and global pandemics.

He called for a permanent African representation in the UN Security Council underlines the need for African solutions to global problems, emphasizing collaboration on a worldwide scale.

He noted that Nigeria, as a key player in driving innovation, faces challenges such as safeguarding intellectual property and addressing exchange rate risks noting that, "the partnership between the U.S. and African tech startups is substantial, with around 60% of venture capital in Nigeria originating from the United States."

"However, there is an expressed need to protect intellectual property locally and create laws to support startups, ensuring innovators can safeguard their creations within the country. The imperative is to foster collaboration that goes beyond geographical boundaries and promotes a collective effort to tackle shared global challenges," he concluded.



STUDENTS' LOAN: INUWA ADVISES NElfUND TO CONSIDER ACCOMMODATING SHORT COURSES ON DIGITAL SKILLS

By Nneka Blessing Ukachukwu

As there is now a global paradigm from certificate to skill acquisition, the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE has advised the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NElfUND) the administrator of the student loan initiative programme of the current administration to consider accommodating Nigerians who want to enrol in short courses that will equip them with digital skills.

Inuwa, who made this known in Abuja while receiving a delegation from NElfUND led by the Executive Secretary Mr Akintunde Sawyer said this will empower citizens with high-in-demand global skills that will position Nigeria as a hot-spot for brain export.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn, collaborate, and present a demo of the NElfUND Portal to NITDA for input.

He stated that because no one succeeds in isolation, it is important to take into cognizance, the role of the five critical stakeholders of the ecosystem and synergise with them. He mentioned that these stakeholders include, higher institutions of learning, corporate organisations, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and the government.

He said, "Higher institutions of learning produce the human capital, so they need to be worked with closely because they need to understand the skills in demand; corporate organisations absorb the human capital by employing them or buying products from entrepreneurs, so if there is a gap between the institution and corporate organisation, it will be difficult to place graduates on jobs as most of our graduates cannot fit into the private sector unless undergoing these short courses."

While acknowledging that NITDA is working with the Federal Ministry of Education to review the curriculum of tertiary institutions to meet the recent reality, Inuwa said, "For Entrepreneurs, they could be students, dropouts, or anybody who has an idea that meets a need and that students should be trained with the mindset that they are acquiring certificates to create jobs and not just to seek white-collar jobs."

He stated that venture capitalists should be encouraged to invest, as Nigeria's technology ecosystem attracts more than 30 per cent of Foreign Direct Investment, (FDI.)

He said, "70 per cent of that investment comes from the United States while we have Nigerians who have money; that is why we are trying to set up the seed funding for startups that will encourage indigenous venture capitalists."

The NITDA boss commended the work put into the development of the NElfUND portal as he said the portal should be made mobile friendly as there are many people that will access the portal through their mobile phones.

He further stated, "We can organise a user acceptance test; to check vulnerability to ensure that it is okay. I also want to advise that you do the Data Protection Compliance Test to ensure you are complying with the Nigeria Data Protection Regulations (NDPR.)"

Inuwa assured NElfUND of the Agency's commitment to giving them all the necessary support as their interest aligns with NITDA's Strategic Road-map and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0.)

The Executive Secretary of NELFUND Mr Sawyer said the initiative intends to connect as many Nigerians as possible to the fund in order to obtain tertiary education and pay back after their one-year mandatory National Youth Service program.

He said, “Our mission is to strive to revolutionise higher education accessibility in Nigeria by providing interest-free loans to eligible students. We want to help as many people as possible get to the next level as it will benefit the individual, institutions, and

the nation at large.”

He said they have come to be challenged by NITDA in order to do better, collaborate, and learn from the Agency.



3MTT: BOSUN TIJANI URGES COMMUNITY MANAGERS TO LEAD NIGERIA'S TECH RENAISSANCE

By Lukman Oladokun

The Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, has charged the 37 selected Community

Managers (CM) of 3 million Technical Talent (3MTT) to embrace the culture that has brought them together as partners toward the implementation of the 3MTT training programme.

The Minister made the call in Abuja during the 3MTT Community Managers Orientation programme organised by the National Information Technology Development Agency in collaboration with IHS Towers.

According to the Minister, the initiative is in an alignment with the implementation of the Ministry's strategic blueprint for the period of

2023-2027, which has Knowledge as a pillar to accelerate, deepen and raise the level of digital literacy across Nigeria.

Citing their experience in the selection process as the yardstick for the expected effectiveness and efficiency, Dr. Tijani expanded on the Community Managers' views, saying that “we must be intentional, excellent, credible, innovative, purposeful, transparent, fair, and eloquent in our transactions, engage in an easy process, and adopt a minimalist approach as we discharge our duties, he stressed.”

“The Nigerian challenge though diverse, has tasked us with the need

to be intentional, trustworthy, selfless, and upright to be able to bring about our desired expectation of a thriving nation.”

“You all have been chosen to represent your community purely on merit; hence, you are representing the President in achieving his administrative agenda to make the nation a net exporter of technology across the globe,” he added.

Dr. Tijani shared insights into the transformative power of Community Managers, highlighting their roles in shaping opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. He emphasised the need for selflessness in these roles, while adding that, the impact of Community Managers on fostering growth within technology communities.

Motivating the audience, Dr Bosun called for unity and clarity in pursuing the shared goal of elevating the nation from a tech club to a talent net exporter. Expressing gratitude to those who have joined the journey, he painted a promising picture of the future, predicting that in two to three years, the nation would rise to new heights in the global technology industry.

He avowed that Africa's technology ecosystem is witnessing a paradigm shift under the leadership of individuals committed to creating opportunities for their communities.

In his welcome remarks, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, emphasised the roles of community managers in shaping the future of Nigeria's digital technology.

He said, “These unique individuals are not merely administrators but are considered the backbone for the success of the programme, aiming to redefine the nation's technological trajectory.”

Inuwa further asserted that the programme's vision is to lift the nation out of poverty and adopt innovation as a lever for transformation. He added that, "With a global talent deficit looming, Nigeria sees a unique opportunity to position itself as a global talent net exporter, addressing the impending shortage predicted by Confetti, which estimates an 85 million talent deficit globally by 2030."

While stressing the importance of Community Managers, he noted that they play crucial roles in this

initiative, tasked with inspiring, motivating, mentoring, and guiding the technology enthusiasts in their communities. "Your role extends beyond administration. It focuses on igniting curiosity, innovation, and a passion for technology to build the Nigeria everyone deserves," he declared.

In her remarks, the Director, Sustainability and Corporate Communications IHS Towers, Cima Sholotan stated that her organisation's involvement in the 3MTT is to actively supporting programme as part of its commitment to nurturing and expanding talents in the technology and engineering sectors.

"The company, having grown from its roots in Nigeria as a telecom infrastructure service provider company to a global player listed on the New York Stock Exchange, views its inspirational journey as a platform to engage with communities. With over 16,000 sites in Nigeria and an understanding of the intrinsic value of skilled individuals, IHS recognizes the pivotal role of talent in driving innovation," she asserted.

NITDA TASKS IT STAKEHOLDERS TO COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT TO NURTURE START-UPS *By Lukman Oladokun*

The National Information Technology Development Agency's commitment to nurture an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem as enshrined in its Strategic Road-map and Action Plan 2.0 received a major boost in Lagos at NITDA Co-Crete West Africa Tech Expo, an event put together by GAGE Award in partnership

with the Agency to showcase innovative businesses locally and across the globe with physical presence in Nigeria.

The NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE while delivering his keynote address at the event which has its theme as "Evolve" averred that both the government and ecosystem need to work together to nurture the younger ones and help them to transform their ideas from conceptualisation to impact.

He said, "We need to help our start-ups to have access to capital for that will enhance their ideas and provide platform for them to network and learn from the ecosystem.

While acknowledging that the Nigeria Start-up Act Implementation is one of the several initiatives under the pillar, the NITDA boss urged the participants to forge a strategic partnership and collaborate to develop the ecosystem.

He said, "This event is one of them. This is a private-public partnership.



We co-created the conference, and the conference itself is to promote co-creation. We do a lot of these activities. We believe no one should live in isolation, so we need to work as an ecosystem to create value together.”

Inuwa, while using the occasion to share the new NITDA’s Strategic Road-map and Action Plan 2024-2027 which is in sync with one of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s redefined priority areas of “Accelerating Diversification through Industrialisation and Digitisation” to the participants who were majorly IT stakeholders and tech enthusiasts maintained that for the ecosystem to succeed, stakeholders must join hands with the government to build a strong institution which could only be achieved by transforming government’s services into solutions.

He said, “I want to invite you to embrace the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. If you and government can work together, we can do better things; because there are things you can do, government cannot do and there are things government can do, you cannot do, but together, we can do greater things.”

The new NITDA’s Strategic Road-map and Action Plan which is billed

to be unveiled in the first quarter of 2024 provides for eight pillars which are; Foster Digital Literacy and Cultivate Talents, Robust Technology Research Ecosystem, Strengthen Policy Implementation and Legal Framework, and Promote Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services.

Others include Strengthen Cybersecurity and Enhance Digital Trust, Nurture an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Forge Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration and Cultivate a Vibrant Work Culture and an Agile Workforce in NITDA.

Meanwhile, the Executive Vice Chairman, Nigeria Communications Commission, who was represented at the event by the Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Rueben Mouka in his goodwill address, advised that Nigeria should approach the tech global market with a clear understanding of its strength, challenges and realistic potentials adding that, although, Nigeria possesses three comparative advantage of vibrant and youthful population, strategic location and the gateway to African market, the nation must be ready to also confront the challenges that threaten to impede its progress.

While identifying infrastructure

deficits, unreliable power supply and poor internet connectivity as some of the barriers that affect investor and innovators alike admonished that Nigeria should focus on “fostering an enabling environment that nurtures innovation, promotes entrepreneurship and addresses the underlying infrastructure and infrastructure challenges.”

He said, “the nation must leverage unique strengths such as a deep understanding of local markets to develop solutions that address the needs and preferences of not just African consumers but the world at large.”

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the convener, GAGE Award, Mr. Johnson Aroh described that the NITDA Co-Creat West Africa is more than just a showcase of the latest technological concepts that exist in the ecosystem but a platform that fosters creativity, drives digital transformation and builds the ecosystem where ideas flourish.

He stated that the conference would offers a rare privilege of experiencing first-hand cutting-edge solutions and groundbreaking projects that embody the spirit of technological excellence and ingenuity.

He said, “Let us embrace the diversity of perspectives and expertise that enrich our collective understanding of technology transformative power. Together, we can chart the course toward the future of technology as a force for driving positive change and empowering individuals and communities across Africa.

While commending NITDA the leadership of NITDA for its vision in co-creating the event, Mr. Aina said the Agency’s unwavering commitment to promoting technological innovation and digital inclusion have been instrumental to the level the nation has attained today.

START-UP FUNDING: NITDA ATTRACTS JICA'S FUND, MEETS AGENCY, NSIA

By Mansour Aliyu Hassan



As part of efforts to forge strategic partnerships and collaboration as enshrined in the Agency's Strategic Road-map and Action Plan, (SRAP 2.0) the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA has attracted the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA to accelerate the development of the Nigeria startup ecosystem.

This is made known recently in a meeting at the NITDA's Corporate Headquarters, Abuja at the instance of JICA which was also attended by the Nigerian Sovereign Wealth Fund, the custodian of the Nigerian Startup seed fund.

This effort is in consonance with the revised SRAP 2.0. According to the document, pillar seven-Forge Strategic Partnership and Collaboration provides that partnership and alliance are crucial to enhance developmental goals which is

the essence of the meeting which its discussion focuses on exploring JICA's new scheme of providing financial and technical assistance to strengthen the Nigeria's Start-up ecosystem.

The NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE stated during the meeting that the collaboration is crucial as JICA's mission in Nigeria is to set up a fund for a 'special purpose'.

While declaring that the country would want to leverage the Nigeria Start-Ups Act, (NSA) for the actualisation of its legal and policy frameworks, Inuwa noted he had informed JICA in their last meeting that the National Sovereign Investment Authority is the fund manager for the Startup Seed Fund.

Inuwa also recalled that during their last meeting, NITDA and JICA proposed how to set up the fund. "The fund, when established, we will build a social start-up ecosystem, by providing financial and technical assistance to seed and early-stage start-up," he said.

In his remarks, the Managing Director, NSIA Mr. Aminu Umar, commended

JICA for its efforts to deepen collaboration with Nigeria on many areas that have direct impacts on the lives of many Nigerians.

He said, "Impact, enhancing our ecosystem, are what we need; but the first thing to do beyond this, is to establish whether Nigeria is an attractive technology hot spot or not; then followed by the detailed investment or framework that will capture all these."

Umar announced that NSIA has an innovation fund approved by its board five years ago. He added, "What I am particular about as NSIA, is before you venture into any area, we would not like to be the local partner, provider of capital alone, but also like to go in with a partner always."

Members of the JICA's team took turns to elaborate the rationale behind setting up the fund as well as the benefits of supporting the Nigeria's start-up ecosystem.

The team maintained that JICA is interested in supporting the establishment and development of a start-up ecosystem where innovative solutions are continuously created and nurtured.

Talent and human resources-(start-up/workers), leadership for ecosystem development, venture angel/fund, law, and policy as well as social network are the five focused areas that JICA intends to provide grants to the Nigerian government, as a financial source for establishing a public investment fund.

It would interest you to know that this NITDA's action is also in tandem with the redefined presidential priorities area of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration under the Acceleration of Diversification through Industrialisation, Digitisation, Creative Arts, Manufacturing, and Innovation.

NITDA, SMEDAN SIGN MOU FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

By Oluwole Alao

In a bid to implement the agenda of the present administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR of reforming the economy for sustained inclusive growth by accelerating diversification of the nation's economy, a Memorandum of Understanding, (MoU) highlighting the pivotal role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has been signed by the National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, (SMEDAN.)

Recognising SMEs as the backbone of the nation's economic landscape, the MOU was signed with a primary focus on the growth of SMEs and tackling startup challenges while implementing the Nigeria Startup Act.

The MOU, signed by the Chief Executive Officers of the two organisations, at the SMEDAN Corporate Headquarters, Idu, Abuja provides is aimed at establishing a strategic partnership between NITDA and SMEDAN and to ensure that issues relating to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are addressed in implementing the Startup Act.

While speaking at the ceremony, the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE emphasised the critical importance of SMEs and cited their contributions to Nigeria's economy maintaining that they represent over 90 per cent of businesses.

He underscored the need for technological innovation to enhance productivity in the sector, adding that,



“When you talk about critical sectors, SMEs are the first, and if we want to create prosperity for our country, we should start by digitising SMEs”.

He further emphasised the necessity of creating a comprehensive database of SMEs to facilitate targeted incentives and foster digital literacy among entrepreneurs.

Inuwa highlighted the transformative potential of technology in expanding market reach and enhancing the productivity of entrepreneurs' businesses while pointing to successful cases where ICT training programmes organised by NITDA for women have helped them leverage social media platforms to boost their market presence and efficiency significantly.

“As SMEs, you can use technology to expand your market reach and at NITDA, we have trained women on ICT and they have been able to expand their market reach and productivity using social media platforms. If we can do this, it will change the SMEs landscape in Nigeria,” he added.

Inuwa narrated how several SMEs have blossomed from nothing to become billion-dollar organisations in Nigeria through the transformative power of technology.

“In Africa, we have seven Unicorns

and out of them, 5 originated from Nigeria. So, we believe that with technology, we can help all the SMEs to scale up, increase their productivity and create sustainable prosperity for our country,” he asserted.

In his remark, the SMEDAN Director General, Charles Odii stated that the essence of the MOU is to collaborate with NITDA in fulfilling the Presidential agenda of creating jobs and digitising Nigeria's economy.

While stating that any business that does not take advantage of digital innovation and services is short-changing itself, Odii noted that if the 40 million small businesses in the country equip themselves with digital processes whereby each small business employs at least 5 people, it will have a significant impact on Nigeria's economy.

“What we are doing here in addition to sensitising the public on the implementation of the Startup Act is to organise our small businesses where they can use innovative solutions to solve their problems,” he averred.

The signing of the MOU signified a crucial step towards harnessing the power of technology to revolutionise Nigeria's SME landscape, thereby paving the way for sustainable growth and prosperity.

DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: NITDA SECURES 1,000 E-LEARNING SOLUTIONS FROM DE LORENZO SPA

By Joseph Johnson

In a move to walk the talk of forging strategic partnerships and collaboration's pillar of the revised National Information Technology Development Agency's Strategic Road-map and Action Plan 2023-2027, the Agency has secured 1,000 e-Learning Solutions from the De Lorenzo SpA to promote digital skill development in the country.

This disclosure was made by known in a statement release in Abuja by the the Agency's Director, Corporate Affairs and External Relations Department, Mrs. Hadiza Umar.

De Lorenzo SpA, a leading Italian company that specialises in the design, development and production of technical and vocational training didactic equipment in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Machine Automation, Process Control, and Factory Automation, has made a substantial donation to the country through NITDA.

The statement said, "In a formal attestation of the donation, Mr. Luciano Prosperi, President of De Lorenzo SpA, confirmed that the company will be contributing one thousand (1000) E-Learning Solutions, specifically designed by De Lorenzo, to NITDA.

The Agency maintained that, the donation is aimed at boosting the

efforts of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to enhance technical and vocational skills among the youths in the country.

"E-Learning Solutions encompasses a comprehensive mix of educational tools geared towards Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Machine Automation, Process Control, and Factory Automation. These purposefully manufactured resources reflect De Lorenzo's commitment to fostering skill development in areas crucial to the 21st-century workforce," the statement affirmed.

The release noted that the collaboration between De Lorenzo SpA and NITDA goes beyond this generous donation, "as the company affirmed its readiness to actively participate in the development of skills essential for the modern world of work".

"This strategic alliance between De Lorenzo SpA and NITDA signifies a shared commitment to fostering innovation, empowering the youths, and contributing to the socio-economic development of the nation. The donation is poised to make a lasting impact on the educational and professional journey of countless individuals, creating a ripple effect that will resonate across various sectors."

"De Lorenzo SpA is dedicated to providing ongoing support through the supply of purpose-built didactic equipment, ensuring that learners have access to cutting-edge resources that align with industry standards.

"NITDA, as a key player in advancing information technology and digital literacy in the country, welcomed this substantial contribution from De Lorenzo. The agency recognises the transformative impact of such partnerships in shaping the educational landscape and empowering the youths with relevant skills for the future.

Innovation hubs, learning centres,

Technology Development zones and higher institutions of learning will strategically utilise the donated e-learning solutions to enhance engagement, promote active learning, visualise abstract concepts, personalise learning experiences, and make learning more accessible at the same time create jobs and build a sustainable digital economy.

NITDA, SIERRA LEONE MULL FOR EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION.

By Kinyiose Nwabuokei

In a strategic move to actualise the "Forge Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration" pillar as outlined in the Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0 2024-2027), the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, has affirmed the Agency's commitment to collaborate effectively with the Sierra Leone's Ministry of Communications, Technology, and Innovations.

Representing the Director General, the Director of the Corporate Planning and Strategy Department, Dr Aristotle Onumo, conveyed NITDA's dedication to fostering innovation without inhibiting it and emphasising the significance of co-creation, stakeholder engagements, and innovation in driving NITDA's regulatory agenda.

Inuwa further highlighted the necessity of collaboration among various stakeholders within and



DIGITAL LITERACY: NITDA COMMITTED TO EXPAND REACH THROUGH EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

By Mansour Aliyu Hassan

In line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda aimed at accelerating diversification through industrialisation and digitisation, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has reaffirmed its dedication to collaborating with relevant development partners to achieve 95% digital literacy coverage in Nigeria by the end of 2030.

beyond the public sector and elaborated on the establishment of the Digital Transformation Working Group within each ministry. According to him, this collaborative effort aims to ensure the relevance of policies, frameworks, and guidelines across governmental agencies.

In elucidating NITDA's approach to regulating Information Technology matters, the Director General stressed the importance of stakeholders' engagement and understanding their needs, problems, and fears. He underscored the significance of developing laws and policies that address these concerns effectively.

While addressing the monitoring of service delivery, Inuwa recommended an annual submission of IT plans by government agencies to ensure alignment with Agency's objectives and highlighted the Agency's use of IT clearance as a swift mechanism for enforcing standards.

On her part, Minister Salima Bah underscored the importance of collaboration in propelling Africa forward in emerging technologies such as AI and Blockchain and stated the need for Africa to leverage these technologies for mutual benefit rather than being mere consumers.

Reflecting on the two-day engagement, Bah expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from NITDA's expertise in policy implementation, digital development, and enforcement of standards and guidelines, particularly in the area of technology clearance and compliance.

The minister noted that the meeting between NITDA and Sierra Leone's Ministry of Communications, Technology, and Innovations signifies a pivotal step towards fostering cross-border collaboration and advancing digital innovation within the African continent.

Kashifu Inuwa CCIE, the Director General of NITDA, shared this commitment during discussions with e-healthAfrica, a development partner, during their working visit to the Agency's Corporate Headquarters, Abuja.

Inuwa, who stressed the need to work as a team in the implementation of digital initiatives that could have a far-reaching impacts on Nigerians, told his visitors that seven out of the nine strategic plans which the Ministry of Communications Innovation, and Digital Economy unveiled, NITDA is championing their implementation through its Strategic Road-map and Action Plan 2024-2027.

The Director General stressed the importance of collaboration with relevant bodies and experts to ensure successful policy implementation and expedite results for the country's overall development.



He said, "The 70 per cent national digital literacy coverage by 2027 would be a litmus test for the ambitious 95% digital literacy coverage by 2030."

He outlined the Strategic Road-map and Action Plan as the foundation for building a resilient tech ecosystem that will strengthen the nation's pursuit of sustainable economic development. According to him, NITDA is actively working with development partners like GIZ, the UK government, and the Federal Ministry of Education to revise its curriculum for learning digital skills, facilitating Nigeria's digital transformation.

In response to the shift in policy, Inuwa stressed the importance of focusing on skills in demand to build a viable tech ecosystem. This approach, according to him, aims to address Nigeria's digital illiteracy issues and promote digital innovations for a robust and sustainable economy.

The Director General highlighted the Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy's strategic blueprint, tasking NITDA with the implementation of various programs, including AI, Blockchain, IOT, the Nigerian Start-up Act, Data Strategy, and the Digital Economy Bill.

Seeking collaboration with the visiting organisation, Inuwa expressed the

need to implement these programs for the betterment of the country. He also acknowledged the under-utilisation of NITDA's digital literacy centres and pledged further investment in research and capacity building, fostering collaborations with academia, startups, and non-governmental organizations.

Inuwa disclosed that the NITDA's collaboration with the Ministry to implement the 3 million Tech Talents (3MTT) initiative would address the IT gap through interventions like learning centres. He said the Agency is working to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity and digital trust.

To overcome the fears associated with IT and digital services, Inuwa outlined internal reforms, ensuring a psychologically safe environment, organisational excellence, cultural reorientation, automation of government processes, and changing citizens' mindset for swift adoption of digital innovations.

Earlier, the visiting team from e-health Africa led by Abdulhamid Yahaya, stated that their visit was to formally intimate the Agency of their activities and other engagements across the country which align with NITDA's mandate, being the nation's apex IT regulator, and to seek for robust collaboration in the implementation

of the National e-health policy with their digital empire.

He gave his assurances that the e-Health Africa is ready and committed to work with NITDA and any other relevant organisation to actualise the dreams of the entire Nigerians.

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION: DG NITDA ASSURES ICPC BOSS OF TECH

SUPPORT *By Joseph Johnson*

In a significant development for the anti-corruption agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Director-General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, has assured Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, (ICPC) of robust technological supports in the ongoing fight against corruption.

Inuwa made this known during a courtesy visit on him by the management of the Commission, led by the Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, at NITDA's Corporate Headquarters, Abuja.

While confirming the Agency's readiness to collaborate with ICPC to aid the digitisation of its services and monitoring corrupt practices in public institutions, Inuwa said automation is a journey and not a one-off process.

He said, "We have over 293 processes to automate but we are selecting them one after the other to achieve the goal of the Agency. We do this



for other Ministries, Departments and Agencies, (MDAs.) Also, we have other initiatives in place to help them achieve digital transformation."

He said, "NITDA organises a lot of training and has a Technical Working Group which started about three years ago, and saddled with the task of training representatives from different MDAs who are later asked to nominate people that will become champions to promote digital transformation in their respective organisations. We train them on e-Government and digital transformation in general, so that they can start the advocacy within their MDAs."

He added, "We help some MDAs through the journey, like two years ago, Shippers Council came to us, we helped them with training, they documented their processes and have started automation. Also, we are currently working with the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, (NASENI.)"

Inuwa reiterated the fact that although technology is a tool, if the supposed users are not ready to utilise it and open to its endless possibilities; then, the expected results would never be achieved.

"If your processes are not optimised and re-engineered, it will be difficult to automate your services," the

Director-General stressed.

The NITDA boss, who took time to share with his guests, NITDA's digitisation trajectory, with the aid of slide shows, explained the different approaches and workings of automation as adopted in the Agency, which he said is called "NITDA Digital Transformation Playbook".

After narrating how tedious it was during the early days of his first appointment as NITDA DG, where he practically had to deal with treating tons of memos and mails manually and at the same time had to receive guests, Inuwa recounted how the process then, affected the productivity of the Agency, which necessitated the need to build a high velocity organisation that will engender high performance and turn over the desirable results.

"To achieve that, we had to reimagine ourselves, take a closer look at our mandate to draw up salient points, then, we came up with a new vision of where we want to be as well as core values that will be binding on all in the Agency".

"We had to develop a 2P2CT Framework (i.e. People, Process, Content, Culture and Technology) and deliberately disrupted the way we do things, so that we can come up with a new way of doing them.

Inuwa, while maintaining that corruption happens when there is a human contact, added that technology can help eliminate that.

The Director-General therefore affirmed that the Agency is open to supporting the Commission in its digitisation quest as well as collaborating on any other critical areas. He averred that, "I believe if we can digitise government's services, it will really address the corruption challenges we have in the country."

He said, "Digital Transformation is a journey, it is not a one-off initiative or project that you will execute and you are done, no, it is a journey which needs continuous improvement and we are willing to go on this journey with you.

Earlier, the ICPC Chairman, Dr. Aliyu, SAN, who intimated the NITDA's management on the purpose of the visit, said that the possibility of fighting corrupt practices and other related offences without utilising technology would not be effective.

"When you look at the mandate of ICPC, the first responsibility is to ensure that it helps in preventing corruption, then investigate issues of corruption, prosecute, where there is a clear case of corruption, established through investigation. So, with a lot of changes observed over the years, particularly, since the creation of the Commission in 2000, we believe that aligning or collaborating with NITDA to digitise our processes will boost our services and speed up deliverables," Aliyu noted.

The Chairman further stressed on the importance of technology to the overall performance of the Commission, as he expressed the hope that the digitisation process will make the Commission more transparent, accountable, and effective, which will invariably spur the Nigerian people to have confidence in the Commission.



SRAP 2.0: A NEW HORIZON FOR NIGERIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

By Lukman Oladokun

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” Partnership, cooperation, and co-creation of initiatives have become the fulcrums on which digital economy sector can be deepened in order to harness enormous potential it offers. The adoption of Emerging Technology to transform government processes and businesses are increasingly becoming societal norms require for the digital transformation of the country where citizen can derive and adopt values from digital space.

It is safe to agree that the National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) is walking the talk of the above quote by Winston Churchill, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It is usually uncommon to see a government agency, particularly in this clime quickly adapt and re-calibrate its strategy because of a change in government policy.

Since 2017, NITDA has been aligning its strategies with the government's direction and this has yielded many positive impacts to the national IT sector's economy. The sector's contribution has increased from a single unit of nine percent to the Gross Domestic Product to almost 25 per cent contribution. The alignment of the Agency's strategies with the policy of government has been accelerating expectation of the economy, create jobs and opportunity for Nigeria's teeming youths. Being the apex IT regulator responsible for the development of standards, guidelines

and frameworks for IT in Nigeria, the frequency at which it changes its strategies is not only to ensuring the development, usage and sustainability of digital technologies but to also deepen Nigeria's economy digitally, diversify the economy, promote innovation that will accelerate the development of other critical sectors of the economy.

The NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE in his foreword written for SRAP 1.0 said that the constant review of the Agency's strategies is to chat a new course and articulate a new vision for the

Agency to be in a continuous path of improvement, and refocus the Agency along the lines of the government policies, current state of IT Industry, future trends current aspiration of the citizenry and the general intention of government. This has formed the basis of rejigging the strategy.

Prior to the inauguration of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, NITDA implemented the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy, (NDEPS) on which foundation it premised the seven pillars of its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2021-2024 which is driven by three-pronged objectives of; to articulate a new strategy for NITDA in consonance with the current aspirations of Government, to contribute its quota towards the implementation of NDEPS especially within the framework of its mandate; and to implement programs that would facilitate the digital transformation of Nigeria. The seven pillars

In developing the strategy, considerations were made in its alignment to relevant documents especially NDEPS because of its vision to transform Nigeria into a leading digital economy. The seven pillars the document provided for include Developmental Regulation, Digital Literacy and Skills, Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Cybersecurity, Emerging Technologies, and Promotion of Indigenous Content with each linked to the pillars in NDEPS. SRAP 1.0 recorded impressive completion with 41 out of 64 initiatives while

the remaining 23 initiatives will be implemented in SRAP 2.0. This is a testament to NITDA's resolve to lay a solid foundation for future digital transformation.

The recent change in the government has made transitioning from SRAP 1.0 to SRAP 2.0 imperative. The actualisation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu Renewed Hope Agenda will depend on the achievements the digital economy sector. In addition of being an enabler and driver of other critical sectors of the economy, prominence is also

given to the sector in the Presidential redefined priorities areas on "Accelerate diversification through industrialisation digitisation, creative arts, manufacturing, and innovation. In the manifesto, seven areas that are crucial to digital economy development were identified and these include; ICT Enable Outsourcing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, e-Commerce, Tech Manufacturing, Government Digital Services, Broadband and Blockchain by 2025, every others fall under the NITDA's mandates and the is working round the clock to ensure that its policies, programs and project are align with Mr. President priority areas in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda.

In the same vein, in implementing the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy's blueprint of "Accelerating Our Collective Prosperity through Digital Efficiency, much is required from NITDA because four out of the five pillars fall under its purview, hence the need for the Agency to re-calibrate to ensure actualisation of the government policies. The

Agency is aware of these enormous tasks and that is why the Director General acknowledged that "We stand at a pivotal juncture where the digital landscape presents boundless opportunities and SRAP 2.0 is a pathway for navigating this terrain with strategic foresight and agility. Therefore, this strategic document reflects our alignment with the priorities of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu,



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GCFR, and the blueprint of the Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy.”

SRAP 2.0 aims to establish Nigeria as a leader in tech talent and guides its journey towards a digitally empowered nation that leverages technology for prosperity and improved the quality of life of the citizen. It reflects the unwavering commitment of the Agency to elevate Nigeria to a premier status in the global digital economy by harnessing the potentials of digital innovation to drive national prosperity and inclusivity. For this to be realised, the document provides for eight pillars that are thoughtfully crafted to achieve the government's vision and aspirations.

In this edition's cover story, attempts are made to explicate the eight pillars as provided for in SRAP 2.0 viz-a-viz the implementation focus and the success indicators that would be measured by 2027.

FOSTER DIGITAL LITERACY AND CULTIVATE TALENTS

In today's digital era, the need for digital skills has become overriding. It not enough to be literate but to be digitally literate to fit in for the technological landscape that keeps evolving faster than ever. Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Cloud Computing and other emerging technologies are changing the way we live, work, and interact and it behooves on any nation that aspires to be a force in this Fourth Industrial Revolution to prioritise citizens' acquisition of digital skill. In this regard, Nigeria intends to accelerate her digital revolution with the objectives of this pillar. The youthful population of the country positions it to fill a part in a larger percentage of the projected 85 million global digital talent the world might recorded by 2030 according to a report by Korn Ferry.

Nigeria, through NITDA, is prioritising digital literacy and cultivating talents that would be relevant to the digit revolution. The implementation focus of this pillar is to implement the National Digital Literacy and Framework, (NDLF) and support the implementation of the 3 Million Tech Talents, (3MTT.)

The National Digital Literacy Framework: Nigeria has set an ambitious target of attaining 95 per cent digital literacy by 2030. However, the short-term target is to attain 70 per cent digital literacy by 2027. NITDA by the power conferred on it in Section 6 (a), (l) and (m), has released a framework that would ensure the actualisation of this target. The Agency envisioned that digital Literacy and skill “is to build a digitally literate Nigeria, where all citizens can improve their lives and contribute to the nation's development.” It aims to set a digital literacy and skills agenda for Nigeria by providing a clear and consistent definition of digital literacy, its competence areas, and specific competencies for the following purpose; offering policymakers a means to frame digital literacy policies, as well as monitor and support their implementation; building digital literacy curricula, modules, and programs to afford proper planning, coordination and standardisation of digital literacy training and skills development in Nigeria; and 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 NDLF specific objectives are Universal Access to digital literacy, skill development, inclusive participation, workforce readiness and local content creation.

The 3 Million Tech Talents, (3MTT) is an initiative of the Honourable Minister, Dr Bosun Tijani to position Nigeria as a net exporter of talent. According to the Minister during the launch of

the program, he said the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) program is a critical part of the Renewed Hope agenda of President Bola Tinubu, and it is aimed at building Nigeria's technical talent backbone to power our digital economy and positioning Nigeria as a net talent exporter. The program's objective is to work with stakeholders to train 3 million technical talent and prioritize job placement by the end of 2027. The program has since commenced with the first cohort of 300, 000 which is 10 per cent of the total number of expected tech enthusiasts to be trained in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Internet of Things, Robotics, Blockchain and Additive Manufacturing.

BUILD A ROBUST TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM:

Bill Gates once said, “I believe in innovation and that the way you get innovation is you fund research, and you learn the basic facts.” For Nigeria to be among countries that thrive on digital economy, concerted efforts must be put in place by establishing a robust technology research ecosystem. The ecosystem remains a vessel that births innovation and enhances sustainable economic growth and development. The purpose for building a robust ecosystem is to among others advance knowledge by pushing the boundaries in various technological fields, creating innovative technologies, products and services that drives economic growth and improve lives, developing a skilled workforce and the next generation of technology leaders, accelerating the adoption of digital technologies across various sectors.

The objective of this pillar is to position Nigeria among the top 25 nations that are leveraging emerging technologies to accelerate development. Inherent opportunities

abound in investing in technological research. It will allow the country to develop emerging technologies required in the 4IR. NITDA intends to encourage development in the highlighted six fields and have innovative sandboxes where it can support and encourage those who have ideas to produce the use cases, help them create businesses and take them to the market.

The implementation focus of this pillar is to establish Special Purpose Vehicles, (SPVs), establish technology centres of excellence and create a collaborative research framework. NITDA will be establishing two SPVs for AI and other emerging technologies such as UAVs, IoT, Robotics, Blockchain and Additive Manufacturing; establish an emerging technologies Centre of Excellence for research and development in the field of emerging technologies in six Nigerian universities; assist in publishing 40 research papers in reputable journals; commercialised 20 per cent of the research paper and raise fund to the tune of 17.5 million USD for research on emerging technologies.

By building a robust technology research ecosystem, NITDA would be creating a vibrant hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable growth that will improve lives and shape a better future.

STRENGTHEN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

Digital innovation thrives on the strength of policies and laws the regulators can implement and enforce. These are to ensure that these instruments accelerate the development of the sector and not to stifle it. This Pillar focuses on enhancing Nigeria's digital technology landscape to support its transformation, ensuring policies are

not only forward-thinking but also adaptable to emerging technological trends. NITDA by this pillar intends to create a supportive environment for the ecosystem to flourish while minimizing risks and negative consequences.

On this pillar, NITDA will be implementing the following initiatives with the expectation to record the following landmark achievements: Develop Digital Public Infrastructure with the expectation to complete the DPI regulatory instrument by 2025; launch five sector data exchange framework by 2026; 100 per cent completion of Public Key Infrastructure by 2026 to enhance security for digital transaction, 100 per cent of cyber insurance framework by 2026 which will encourage a resilient digital ecosystem, ensure 80 per cent clearance of all government IT project annually.

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES:

NITDA understands the profound impact that the digital divide has on society. It hinders the equitable acquisition of education, economic opportunities, and other indices of socioeconomic development. The Renewed Hope Agenda of the present administration recognises that promoting inclusive access to digital infrastructure and service will give every Nigerian equal opportunity to access and utilise digital technologies regardless of their geographical location, income, age, and gender and ensure that all Nigerians can fully participate in the digital transformation of the economy.

There are many strategic importance of this pillar that NITDA intends to promote among which are the promotion of economic growth that will enhance digital inclusion that will aid GDP growth, job creation

and innovation, fostering a digitally enabled society where everyone can participate and benefit from digital technologies, enhancing access to digital education, skills training and learning opportunities, promoting transparency, accountability and citizen engagement through digital channels among others.

For this to be achieved, NITDA will be implementing the following initiatives under this pillar, deliver Nigeria Stack, deployment of Blockchain solutions in Ministries, Departments and Agencies, achievement of 40 per cent women participation in all capacity and skills development initiatives, establishment of digital learning centres and innovation hubs nationwide, promotion of Fourth Industrial Revolution technology solutions in agriculture, creation of technology development zones, and enablement of digital opportunities at a societal scale through technology access demand drivers.

STRENGTHEN CYBERSECURITY AND ENHANCE DIGITAL TRUST:

Nigeria is desirous of improving the security architecture and integrity of her digital system, data and infrastructure as well as promoting confidence and trust in the digital technology and service. This has become imperative to build a secure online environment for her citizens. Cybercrime in recent times has surged to the level that has become a threat to people's online activities and measures must be put in place to build confidence and credibility among users.

NITDA attaches importance to this pillar, and this informs the reasons it has been implementing robust security measures, developing cyber talent and expertise, enhancing incident response and recovery measures, promoting cyber awareness



among the people, conducting regular security audits and assessments, implementing robust data protection policies and regulation and several other initiatives.

The pillar provides for the implementation of National Public Key Infrastructure, (PKI), launching of e-Trust initiative, facilitation of Cybersecurity collaboration and implementation of threat detection and mitigation with the expected outcome of licensing 100 per cent eligible organisation that will enhance the security of digital transaction and communications across all sectors, achieve 100 per cent registration with the e-Trust for eligible platforms to boost consumers' confidence in online markets through the certification of digital service and e-commerce platforms, achieve an increase in the number of partnership with local and international Computer Security Incident Response Team by 50 per cent by 2025 and achieve a 40 per cent reduction in Cybersecurity attacks by 2027.

The implementation of these initiatives under this pillar, Nigeria through NITDA will be protecting Nigeria's cyberspace against cyber threats and data breaches, promoting confidence in digital technologies and services, and enhancing national security and resilience among other advantages.

NURTURE AN INNOVATIVE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM:

NITDA is passionate about creating an environment that supports and encourages the development of innovative ideas and businesses. It has been doing this by providing resources such as funding, mentorship, networking opportunities and access to technology and infrastructure. This is to attract and retain talented individuals, drive economic growth, solve societal problems through innovative ideas and transform Nigeria into a hub for IT products and services. With Pillar six of SRAP 2.0, NITDA intends to intensify

efforts to unlock the potential of its entrepreneurs to innovate, scale up and compete on the international stage.

The seven strategic implementations focus this pillar provided for are to; promote the growth of Blockchain startups, implement incentives for startups, facilitate procurement opportunities for tech startups, increase capital opportunities for tech startups, enable public-private partnerships, increase startup domiciliation, and improve cross-border trade.

The success indicators of the pillar will be measured by an increase with 100 the number of startups that develop Blockchain solutions by 2027, labeling of 400 new startups by 2027 with the aim of increasing the number of startups with access to incentives stimulating innovative business growth and attracting investments, award 45 per cent of government IT projects to startups, raise capital to the tune 5 billion USD by Nigerian tech startups,

launching of one pilot program each on HealthTech and EdTech by Public Private Partnership, an increase by 25 per cent of technology startup registered locally and increase by 10 per cent in cross border trade of homegrown innovations by 2025.

FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION:

In today's digital era, working in silos is no longer an option for any organisation that is desirous to achieve results because it will help in advancing the digital transformation agenda. Partnerships between organisations that have common goals and objectives will allow for the sharing of resources, expertise and networks that would be more effective.

This Pillar emphasises the importance of synergistic relationships to amplify Nigeria's digital initiatives and global presence. NITDA will extend the frontier of its collaboration with the ecosystem that comprises public and private sectors academia, innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and angel investors.

The implementation focus of this pillar are to participate in global platform engagement, expand tech ecosystem partnership and strengthen diaspora collaboration with the aim of participating in six global platforms that will offer policy discussion and provide talent exposure where Nigeria can showcase her tech achievements by 2027; sign six Memorandum of Understanding that will enhance partnership and community engagement by 150 percent by 2027 and collaboratively engage 400 Nigerians in diaspora in areas of research, knowledge, skills transfer, funding and others to accelerate the nation's digital transformation agenda by 2027.

CULTIVATE A VIBRANT ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE AND AN AGILE WORKFORCE IN NITDA:

Since 2019, NITDA has continue to evolve by realigning its work processes to the current realities for effective service delivery. It has been able to achieve this by creating a positive and engaging work environment for its employees by motivating and inspiring them. The Agency has cultivated the habit of quickly adapting to changing circumstances and responding effectively to new challenges. This offers the Agency the opportunity to foster a culture that

to enhance performance and automate the critical processes of the Agency.

These implementation focus will be measured by the following success indicator which include achieving Level 4 psychological safety by 2027; attain 80 per cent employee performance by 2027; deployment of automated Performance Management System with 100 per cent by 2025; increase by 80 per cent competency level of the employees by 2027; 100 per cent deployment of Knowledge Management System by 2026; 100 per cent compliance to ISO standard and ensure 100 key process automation by 2027.

To NITDA, the religious implementation of the SRAP 2.0 blueprint remains a crucible for attaining digital transformation that could help the nation in diversifying its economy. The implementation focus of all the pillars in the document is carefully chosen and high premiums are placed on their implementations because of the commitment of the government to create enabling policies for Nigeria to be a player in the fourth Industrial Revolution.

Interestingly, all the thrusts the document provided for aligned with the eight Redefined Presidential Priority Areas of the present administration. As a driver and enabler of other critical sectors of the economy, it is believed that the implementation will propel Nigeria into a future where digital technology and economic growth converge to uplift the nation and position it into top 25 among the nations driven on digital economy and this why all stakeholders must join hands with NITDA for its thorough implementation as according to the NITDA Director General, "We believe that by working together, we can transform Nigeria into a global digital powerhouse.

“
The alignment of the Agency's strategies with the policy of government has been accelerating expectation of the economy, create jobs and opportunity for Nigeria's teeming youths.
 ”

supports continuous improvement and adaptability.

This pillar provides for seven implementation focuses which are to promote behavioural mindset and cultural reorientation, to enhance performance and productivity, and to promote learning culture, and to implement knowledge management system.

Others are to adopt global best practices, restructure the organisation



11TH REGULAR MEETING OF NCCIDE: CHARTING NIGERIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

By Mubarak Umar

In a landmark event that underscores Nigeria's commitment to the digital revolution, the 11th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy (NCCIDE) drew to a successful close on Friday, 26th January 2024. The event, graced by the presence of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, the Director-General, National In-

formation Technology Development Agency, (NIT-DA) Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, and heads of agencies under the Ministry, served as a vital platform for charting the course of Nigeria's digital transformation.

The 11th Regular Meeting stood as a milestone in Nigeria's march towards a tech-powered future. It embodied the combined efforts of government, industry, and the public, forging a path of alignment with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's "Renewed Hope Agenda." This collaboration promised to weave a connected, innovative, and digitally inclusive Nigeria, where the quest for a thriving digital economy takes a momentous leap forward.

With the theme "Leveraging on Digital Technology and Innovation to Drive Nigeria's Economic Growth and Development," the NCCIDE served as a vibrant meeting ground for key stakeholders in the digital ecosystem. Government officials, industry leaders, academia, and civil society came together to engage in thought-provoking discussions, dissect challenges, and formulate impactful strategies to propel Nigeria into a vibrant digital future.

The conference witnessed a series of insightful presentations and group discussions addressing critical themes such as broadband infrastructure development, digital skills development, cybersecurity, e-government, and fostering innovation in key sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and education.

The event also hosted Peer Review session, where various state governments showcased their digital initiatives and best practices. This fostered healthy competition, facilitated knowledge sharing, and spurred collaborative efforts towards nationwide digital advancement.

One of the central themes of the meeting was the promotion of innovation as a catalyst for economic growth. Stakeholders explored avenues for supporting startups, incentivising research and development, and creating an environment that encourages the growth of the technological sector.

The discussions also focused on strategies to ensure digital inclusion, especially in rural and underserved areas. The goal is to bridge the digital divide, empower marginalised communities, and create equal opportunities for all Nigerians to participate in the digital economy.

Given the increasing importance of digital technologies, cybersecurity emerged as a critical concern. Participants deliberated on measures to strengthen Nigeria's cybersecurity infrastructure, safeguarding critical digital assets and protecting citizens from cyber threats.

The meeting also explored avenues for enhancing e-governance to improve the efficiency and transparency of public service delivery. Stakeholders discussed the integration of digital platforms to streamline government processes, reduce bureaucracy, and enhance citizen engagement.

In his keynote address, Governor Yusuf emphasised the transformative potential of digital technologies, recognising the immense power of digital technology to unlock unparalleled opportunities, and that his government is committed to fostering a conducive environment for innovation and collaboration, making Kano a cornerstone of

Nigeria's digital revolution.

Dr Bosun Tijani, the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, underscored the Federal Government's commitment to driving digital transformation across the nation. In his address, Dr Tijani outlined key initiatives aimed at fostering innovation, expanding broadband infrastructure, and promoting digital literacy. The Minister reiterated the need for collaboration between the federal and state governments in creating an ecosystem conducive to technological advancements.

On his part, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi CCIE, the Director-General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), took the opportunity to shed light on the comprehensive array of initiatives undertaken by the agency - designed to align with the Ministry's vision encapsulated in the Strategic Blueprint titled "Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency."

The highlighted initiatives span various sectors, each contributing to the realisation of a broader vision for Nigeria's digital economy through fostering innovation and bolstering digital literacy.

The Ministry's document envisions a Nigeria that thrives in the digital age, creating an environment where innovation and technology catalyse economic diversification and inclusivity. It is a visionary roadmap, aim at not just to inform but to reimagine the very fabric of the nation, fostering equity, openness, and accountability.

As the nation continues its digital transformation journey, the outcomes of this meeting are poised to play a role in shaping the trajectory of Nigeria's digital economy for years to come.

DATA PROTECTION: NITDA JOINS FORCES WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS TO SPEARHEAD ADVOCACY ACROSS NIGERIA

By Oluwole Alao

In a significant stride toward its commitment to propel Nigeria on a transformative journey where digital technology and economic growth converge to uplift the nation by fortifying its cybersecurity landscape and forging strategic partnerships in alignment with the 8-point Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), would be intensifying collaborations with relevant stakeholders in promoting data privacy culture in Nigeria.

This was made known during the Policy Dialogue on the Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023) where representatives from various sectors, industry experts and stakeholders gathered to discuss the critical roles of data protection in fostering economic growth.

The Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023), the country's main legislation on data protection founded on the constitutional right to privacy under section 37 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) was birthed from the Nigeria Data Protection Regulations (NDPR) which was developed and



issued by NITDA in 2019.

Speaking on the importance of data protection and privacy to the advancement of the nation's economy, the NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE in his goodwill message, stated that the Agency aligned with global standards such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by introducing the NDPR to catalyse economic development and facilitate international transactions.

“We came up with the NDPR and the essence was to ensure that Nigeria will be able to participate in the digital economy because data protection is very essential to communications and conversations as far as the digital economy is concerned”, he noted.

While underscoring the centrality of data protection to communications, the Director General, who was represented by the Agency's Ag. Director of the Standard, Guidelines and Frameworks department, Barrister Emmanuel Edet, stated that, “ensuring security in cyberspace will enhance the digital trust of Nigerians and further promote the safe and responsible use of information technology services in the country.”

“It is essential for us to understand the gravity and enormity of personal data protection in the digital environment

because that defines you and this policy dialogue is where you are asked to express your opinion in order to ensure that the culture of privacy by design is fostered in a country like Nigeria,” he said.

While appreciating the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) for organising the event in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the European Union Commission, Inuwa expressed the Agency's readiness to any partnership that would engender the growth of the digital economy in the country.

In his address, the chief host of the event and National Commissioner/ Chief Executive Officer of the NDPC, Dr. Vincent Olatunji disclosed that the policy dialogue session was an important part of the activities lined up for the annual data privacy week in creating awareness on data privacy.

Expressing his appreciation to all local and international stakeholders, the 9th Assembly and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) towards the enactment of Act, Dr. Olatunji stated that “that the Act marks a turning point to the data protection ecosystem in Nigeria in terms of awareness, compliance, capacity and willingness to do business because a lot has been achieved due to that law

that was signed by the President last year”.

While revealing that the Commission has developed a guide towards the implementation of the NDPA, Dr. Olatunji noted that Data Protection Officers in the country are being engaged in various capacity-building programmes in collaboration with the GIZ in promoting the adoption of data privacy and protection culture in Nigeria.

DIGITAL LITERACY: NITDA SUPPORTS SUCCESS BRIDGE WITH DIGITAL TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE TRAINING OF PLWD

By Zuwaira O. Ayitogo

To foster digital literacy and cultivate talents towards achieving 70% of digital literacy by the year 2027, the National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) has supported Success Bridge with five laptop computers to enhance the training pro-

gramme of People Living with Disability in the country.

The NITDA Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE made the presentation in a two-day training programme with the theme: “Leveraging Digital Technology to Explore Opportunities in Disabilities” organised for young people with various forms disabilities held at Kwara State school For Special Needs, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Represented by Dr Amina Sambo, Director Digital Literacy and Capacity Building Department, the

Director General stated that “indeed the trainees have proven that there is ability in disability.” she said, “Success Bridge is playing a vital role in providing digital literacy not just for the average Nigerians, but also to the special Nigerians considering their special needs.”

“We hope that the training you are getting will not just stop here. It will be just the tip of the iceberg as it will insert excitement and curiosity for more. We hope to see cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence experts, website developers, startups, and many more technological experts

that will bridge the technology gaps,” he stated.

The NITDA boss noted that the Agency has a framework known as “the National Digital Literacy Framework (NDLF)” designed to provide guidelines for the development of digital literacy within Nigeria.

Inuwa commended the organisers of the training for the successful hosting of the programme that would ensure digital inclusion across the country and promised continuous partnership for the swift advancement of the country.

NITDA, E-VILLAGE PARTNER TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF NIGERIA'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM *By Oluwole Alao*

As a step towards the implementation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda with a focus on Accelerating Diversification through Industrialisation and Digitisation, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is set to partner with the Entrepreneurship Village (e-Village) in fostering technology innovations and inclusivity in the country.

This was made known when the NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa CCIE received the Chief Executive Officer of the e-Village, Sunil Santanam and his team at the Corporate Headquarters of the Agency in Abuja on a visit to seek the Agency's intervention on digital infrastructure for the e-Village Innovation and Transformation Centre.

The collaboration between the two organisations also aligns with the “Infrastructure” pillar of the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy's strategic blueprint

of Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency.

Inuwa who expressed his excitement at the collaboration stated that it aligns with the Agency's newly crafted Strategic Road-map and Action Plan (SRAP 2024-2027) pillars of Building a Robust Technology Research Ecosystem, Promoting Inclusive Access to Digital Infrastructure and Services as well as Nurturing an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem.

“I see this as a potential technology development zone because when you

talk about the technology development zone, it is not about bringing big hardware or manufacturing equipment and so on, but bringing people together, creating the ecosystem that can ignite and spark conversation about technology in solving real-life problems,” he added.

While assuring of the Agency's support, Inuwa believes that the proposed technology development zone is a technological advancement initiative that promises to catalyse immense transformative change in the country.



Central to the partnership proposal is the acceleration of the technology development zone across the six geopolitical zones of the nation and Inuwa disclosed that all the arrangements between the two organisations would be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Earlier in his remark, Santanam expressed his gratitude to the NITDA Director General and his team for the privilege given to him by agreeing to

partner with the Village.

He asserted that the opportunities being offered by the e-Village, if leveraged, would bring immense development to the large youthful population and the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

“It is a step forward for Nigeria, a step forward for the youth of Nigeria, a step forward for the entrepreneurs of Nigeria and as far as infrastructure and the facilities that e-Village will be

offering, we will be second to none in Africa”, he averred.

In her remark, the e-Village's Director of Initiatives and Partnerships, Joy Francis, shared insights on the Global Entrepreneurship Festival that would come up later in November.

She stated that “the event will bring the global community to your doorsteps and also build a lasting entrepreneurial platform for the benefit of this generation and the coming ones”.

DIGITAL ECONOMY: NITDA TO SUPPORT JIGAWA ON DIGITAL LITERACY, AS STATE FLAGS OFF HIGH-END ICT TRAINING FOR YOUTH

By Mansour Aliyu Hassan.



The Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Kashifu Inuwa CCIE has called on youths in Jigawa State to embrace Information Communication Technology skills because of its strategic importance and necessity to drive the nation’s digital economy.

The NITDA’s boss made the call in Dutse, Jigawa State capital during the flag off of a capacity building training program sponsored by the state government for 1000 youths in the state.

While advising the youth in the country

to embrace ICT skills for sustainable development and self-reliance, the NITDA boss noted that the world is shifting from paper qualifications to skills and those who want to succeed must key into it to survive.

He said, “This training of the 1000 youths in Jigawa on skills in Emerging Technologies will enable the state to recover its lost glory as the leading state in the ICT sector of Nigeria in the early 2000s.”

According to the Director General, NITDA will continue to partner with state governments across the country to expand digital literacy for citizens' inclusivity in propelling the national digital economy to fight poverty and

poverty-related challenges in the country.”

While stressing the imperative of the training which was co-organised by the state government’s Agency for Youths Empowerment, NITDA, Base University and IDEAS Hub, Inuwa described it as strategic to the state’s efforts at exploring more economic opportunity for accelerated development of the state.

Governor Umar Namadi who was represented at the event by the state’s Deputy Governor, Aminu Usman Gumel commended NITDA's for its various intervention programs in the state which cut across many sectors. He noted that they have aided the

state to achieve the present feat in less than one year in office.

Other speakers at the flag off ceremony who include the Director General, Jigawa State Agency for Youth Empowerment and Employment Dr.

Habibe Ubale and representatives from the collaborating organizations all agreed that providing ICT skills to youths in the state would enhance sustainable economic development.

The training which is focused on

five areas with special attention to Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Software developing among others is believed to produce young talents that will take the lead in pulling the string of digital development in the state and the country at large.

DG NITDA ADVOCATES FOR INTEGRATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN NIGERIA'S SECURITY SECTOR *By Nneka Blessing Ukachukwu*

Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency, (NITDA) has emphasised the potential for increased efficiency and effectiveness in Nigeria's security sector through collaboration between the security industry and the startup ecosystem.

Inuwa made these remarks at the e-Government Training Centre (eGTC), Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN), Kubwa, Abuja while hosting the Commandant. National Institute for Security Studies (NISS), Alhaji A. S Adeleke, represented by Deputy Commandant D. E Egbeji.

The entourage for the visit included faculty members and participants of the Executive Intelligence Management Course (EIMC 17) with the theme "Artificial Intelligence, Security, and Emerging Economies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects."

Inuwa highlighted the unique approaches of the security and information technology (IT) sectors, noting that collaboration could harness the vast opportunities offered by IT, including the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and other Emerging Technologies to strengthen the security sector.

"The way you do things in the security sector is different from the way we do things in the Information Technology

(IT) sector but if we can work together, we can make things better by utilising the numerous opportunities that IT offers, and leverage AI, IoT and other Emerging Technologies in strengthening the security sector."

Regarding AI, Inuwa asserted that it is a driving force globally, dispelling common misconceptions by emphasising its role in simplifying tasks, providing quick answers, and offering solutions.

He categorized AI into three types based on capability: Narrow Intelligence, General AI, and Deep Learning AI. Narrow Intelligence involves machines outperforming humans in specific tasks, General AI can learn and apply knowledge, and Deep Learning AI uses neural networks, akin to the human brain.

Inuwa added that the NITDA actively supports AI growth in Nigeria through initiatives like the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) and the ongoing development of the National Artificial Intelligence Policy.

While expressing openness to strategic collaboration, Inuwa highlighted that such partnerships align with the NITDA Strategic Road-map and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), particularly the pillar that focuses on Forging Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations.

"We are open to strategic collaboration as it aligns with a pillar of the NITDA Strategic Road-map and Action Plan

(SRAP 2.0) which is to Forge Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration. And synergistic relationships will amplify Nigeria's digital initiatives and global presence," Inuwa added.

In his response, the NISS Commandant, Alhaji Adeleke expressed the institute's intent to learn from NITDA's experience, seeking valuable insights to inform an executive brief for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR noting that the brief would aim at contributing to policy formulation and implementation.

"We are here to share from your experience and to gather all we can from the beginning of the course, because at the end of the course we are expected to make an executive brief to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR that will aid policy formulation and implementation," Adeleke said.

Earlier, the Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy, Dr. Aristotle Onumo offered a comprehensive overview detailing the evolutionary journey of NITDA from its inception to the present day. He delved into the Agency's historical milestones, charting its growth, development, and transformative initiatives over the years.

He underscored the role NITDA has played in shaping and steering the trajectory of Information Technology and its development in Nigeria, showcasing its commitment to fostering innovation, digital literacy, and technological advancement.

INDUSTRY WATCH

with Nneka Ukachukwu

AFRICAN STARTUPS RAISED \$83 MILLION IN JANUARY 2024

AFRICAN STARTUPS GOT OFF to a sluggish start in 2024, raising just \$83 million across 31 disclosed deals in January, according to data from Africa: The Big Deal. This marks a steep decline from the \$545.1 million raised in 20 deals during the same month in 2023, representing an 84.8% year-on-year drop.

The January 2023 fundraising activity was, however, heavily influenced by a single large deal: the \$443 million acquisition of AI company Instadeep by BioNTech.

Excluding this outlier, African startups in January 2023 raised roughly \$99.1 million, bringing the YoY decline to a more moderate 16.2%.

This suggests that the underlying growth of the African tech ecosystem remains relatively stable, despite the headline-grabbing funding slowdown.

The three sectors with the highest



funding are agritech with \$26.3 million in raises, cleantech with \$18.1 million, and healthtech with a modest \$13.5 million. Various sectors—most notably fintech—within the ecosystem have observed a decline in funding compared to the sums

raised in previous years. With a global funding winter in tow, investors are increasingly focusing on startups with proven track records of traction and growth, leaving fewer resources available for testing the waters.

Three of the four logistics startups—Bosta, FriendlyM, and Roboost—who raised funds in January 2024 were from North Africa, or Egypt specifically. Last year, logistics startups received a fair bit of interest as the fourth sector with the highest funding at \$205 million. While only a fraction of this funding came from North Africa, Egypt's logistics sector may see increased interest this year with the growing success of mobility startup Swvl which recorded its first-ever net profit of \$2.1 million last year after recording \$161 million in losses in 2022.

www.techcabal.com

ITU APPOINTS BOSUN TIJANI AS MEMBER OF DIGITAL INNOVATION BOARD



THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU) has announced the appointment of Nigeria's Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani as a member of the Digital Innovation Board of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development.

According to the ITU, the Digital Innovation Board was established to provide strategic guidance, expertise, and advocacy regarding its mission of building

critical local enablers and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in digital development, to create a more inclusive and equitable digital future for all.

Tijani joins 17 other eminent individuals, who have all been nominated in their personal capacity and based on their track record in innovation and will provide strategic guidance, expertise, and advocacy for the alliance's goals and vision.

The Board chaired by ITU's Director

of Telecommunications Bureau, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, also has as members, the Director-General of Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority, Daud Suleman, Albania's Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Enkelejda Muçaj, Bahrain's Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Mohamed bin Thamer, the President of Brazil's National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel), Carlos Baigorri, and the Executive President of Egypt's National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Eng. Hossam El-Gamal.

Other members include Gabon's Minister of Communication and Media, Laurence Ndong, South Africa's Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mondli Gungubele, the Director-General of Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority, Jabiri Kuwe Bakari, and the Director-General of Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe, Gift Kallisto Machengete, among others.

www.nairametrics.com

APPLE, META AND GOOGLE TO BE INVESTIGATED BY THE EU

THE EU HAS ANNOUNCED investigations into some of the biggest tech firms in the world over uncompetitive practices.

Meta, Apple, and Alphabet, which owns Google, are being investigated for potential breaches of the Digital Markets Act (DMA) introduced in 2022.

If they are found to have broken the rules, the firms can face huge fines of up to 10% of their annual turnover.

EU antitrust boss Margrethe Vestager and industry head Thierry Breton announced the investigations on Monday.

Just six companies have obligations under the DMA, but they are also the world's largest tech firms: Alphabet, Apple, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft and ByteDance.

None of the firms are actually based in Europe - five of them are in the US, while ByteDance has headquarters in Beijing.

Three of them are now facing questions just two weeks after submitting their



compliance reports, which will have been meticulously compiled.

www.bbc.com

APPLE BECOMES THE LATEST TECH GIANT UNDER SIEGE



a new feature, no matter how small or incremental, is announced.

When a new hardware product goes on sale, Apple employees form a guard of honour outside stores and applaud its first buyers - some of whom will have camped outside for hours in advance and spent thousands of dollars (who else could get away with charging \$3,500/£3,499, for a VR headset?).

People get tattoos of Apple's distinctive fruit logo.

"Apple is like a strange drug that you just can't quite get enough of," wrote Leander Kahney in his 2006 book *The Cult of Mac*.

It is this "strange drug" or "magical experience", as Apple put it in a statement on Thursday, which is now under fire.

So far, Apple's ethos is a wildly successful business model. As I write, the firm is worth \$2.6 trillion.

Analysis firm CCS Insight estimates that 72% of smartphone handsets bought in North America alone in the last three months of 2023 were iPhones. Samsung took 25%, leaving just 3% for everybody else in the handset business.

www.bbc.com

TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH the US government's new lawsuit strikes at the heart of the identity Apple has forged for itself, let's first consider the firm's fanbase.

Apple has a unique position as a tech

brand.

I've sat through a lot of Apple events in my time, both virtually and in person, and one thing that always makes us journalists raise an eyebrow is the whooping and cheering from the audience every time

TECH TRENDS

with James Ishaku Mshelia

2024 School and
Study Tools



This is an AI-driven math tutor with 2M+ students globally and over 10k downloads on the Play Store. Founded in 2023 by Tianwei Yue, Shujia Liang, and Quinn Lyu. It allows users to upload math problems via photos or text for instant solutions.

Key features include:

1. Offers 90% accuracy in solving math problems
2. Offers diverse, gamified exercises to maintain student interest and motivation.
3. Tailored Learning for personalized education with instant, detailed feedback to guide learners.

source: mathgptpro.com



ExamSoft was founded in 1998 by Adam Wasserman and William Storage, is widely used in education for secure examination administration and assessment, with over 90 million exams conducted.

It ensures fair testing environments, prevents cheating with lockdown browsers, and offers robust analytics for performance evaluation.

Its features include:

1. Secure exam delivery
2. Lockdown browser
3. Detailed performance analytics

source: <https://luthsc.edu/tlc/exam-soft.php>



Course Hero platform provides AI-powered homework help that dramatically fastens the process of finding instant answers and detailed explanations for a wide array of study materials and online tutors.

Course Hero was founded in 2006 by Andrew Grauer at Cornell University. It has over 20 million students and educators with hundreds of knowledgeable tutors on call round-the-clock.

Its features include:

1. AI assistant curates relevant study material information.
2. Dedicated instructor support is available around the clock.
3. Global network of vetted subject-matter experts.

source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/10-new-study-guides-available-on-course-hero-300773951.html>



Gradescope was designed to streamline the grading process for instructors and provide faster feedback to students it offers tools for grading written exams, homework assignments, and auto-grading submitted code.

Founded in 2014 by Arjun Singh and Sergey Karayev. It has graded over 700 million questions with over 10k downloads on Play Store over 140k instructors and 3.2 million student users.

Features of Gradescope:

1. AI-assisted and manual question grouping.
2. Student-specific time extensions
3. AI-assisted grading
4. Increased efficiency and fairness

source: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/external-apps/gradescope/>



Nuance provides speech recognition software that can be used by both students and faculty. Founded in 1992 by Ron Croen, the company is currently led by Mark Benjamin who is the Chief Executive Officer. The company's Dragon Speech Recognition product can transcribe up to 160 words per minute, assisting students who struggle with writing or typing.

Here are some of the main features:

1. Accessibility features supporting verbal commands
2. Voice to assess student work
3. Dictate class work with 99% accuracy

source: https://nairametrics.com/2024/07/03/here-are-10-ai-powered-classroom-tools-transforming-education-in-2024/#google_vignette



Artificial Intelligence for Education

Cognii develops AI-based products for kindergarten to higher education institutions. Its virtual learning assistant uses conversational technology to assist students in developing critical thinking skills and creating form open-format responses.

Dee Kanejiya is the founder and CEO of Cognii which was founded in 2010.

Features of Cognii are:

1. Helps students form open responses
2. Provides one-on-one tutoring
3. Adaptive personalization for each student.

<https://www.techlearning.com/how-to/what-is-cognii-and-how-can-it-be-used-to-teach-tips-and-tricks>

PHOTOSPEAK



PHOTOSPEAK



AWARDS



STAFF GENERAL MEETING



IMPRESSIONS



I am to add that the magazine will be effectively utilized towards the improvement of the work of the ministry and we are looking forward to future collaboration and knowledge sharing for the overall development of the Nigerian economy.

**Bello Abdulrazaq, Head ICT, Office of the Permanent Secretary
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING**



Reading you through the Info-Regulator Magazine will not only abreast the management and staff of OSGF with the laudable activities of NITDA but inspires the knowledge of the geospatial needs of your organization on which collaboration may be built for the benefits of our dear country, Nigeria.

**Abu I. Michael, Head of Press and Public Relations
OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION**



In view of our current realities, the digital economy is by all means driving the new normal. The content is timely and has been placed in the commission's library for access by users.

**Okechukwu Umeano, Ag. Head of Department, office of the
Chief Economist**

**For: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION**



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**



Your kind gestures will go a long way in facilitating access to information available globally for both research and ICT development.

**Dr. (Mrs.) B.O. Oyedoyin, for Ag. Director General/CEO
FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, OSHODI**

SHAPING THE FUTURE. DEEPENING OUR DIGITAL ECONOMY.

