

FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NIGERIAN ICT INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP VISION (NIIEV)

The Nigeria ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Vision (NIIEV) was developed through a stakeholder approach and has also been endorsed for implementation by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. NIIEV is a unifying document that comprises of policy recommendations and incentives designed to strengthen the Nigerian technology entrepreneurship ecosystem. It consists of the following sections: Digital Infrastructure; Education Reform, Skills Development and R&D; and, Supporting the Ecosystem for Innovative Entrepreneurship. The document is also accompanied with an information note that provides additional background information on each vision statement.

NIIEV is a multi stakeholder document that requires different key players to work together to achieve the unifying objective. This document is a framework for the implementation of NIIEV through clearly identified stakeholder engagement and programs designed with the objective of achieving the policy recommendations.

1.0 ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIP

1.1 Technology Entrepreneurs and innovators

Tech entrepreneurs (startups) are SMEs that leverage technology to meet a market-place need by developing and validating a viable, scalable business model around an innovative product, service, process or platform. Startups are newly established business. An innovator is a person who introduces new methods, ideas, or products.

Responsibilities of OIIE

1. Provide skills acquisition and capacity building opportunities for startups and other interested Nigerians;
2. Support tech startups to access local and/or international funding and markets by providing references and opportunities when deemed appropriate;
3. Advocate for tech startups at Governmental (through policy recommendations and initiatives) and International level;
4. Invite tech startups to events, meetings or trainings organised by OIIE for their benefit;
5. Broker agreements between tech startups and government, hubs and other stakeholders;
6. Sponsor eligible tech startups to local and international events;
7. Facilitate seed funding and funding for prototype building for tech startups;
8. Support Incubation and acceleration of tech startups in collaboration with hubs; and
9. Facilitate Business Process Opportunities for tech startups.

Responsibilities of Tech Entrepreneurs

1. Register on NITDA's database and provide an annual update of activities, progress and challenges of the enterprise. The tech startup should provide any other information as requested by OIIE from time to time;
2. Tech startup should abide by legally binding agreements entered with hubs, government and Investors.
3. Tech startup should attend events to share their story

1.2 Technology Hubs

Hubs are ICT incubation and/or acceleration centres that provide tech startups and entrepreneurs with work space, technology trends, mentoring, training, knowledge and strategic innovation management with the aim of nurturing and transforming ideas into valuable products and services. They provide startups with the support network they need to grow their enterprise.

Responsibilities of OIIE

1. Support Hubs when approaching government agencies and international investors by providing necessary references and communication;
2. Provide and advocate for policies and incentives to support hubs;
3. Advocate for Hubs at Governmental and International level; and
4. Broker agreements between Hubs and Government, Hubs and universities and other stakeholders,
5. Participate in mutually beneficial events, meetings or trainings organised by Hubs; and
6. Collaborate and partner with hubs on programs that are beneficial to startups and within the capacity building mandate of NITDA.

Responsibilities of Hubs

1. Maintain active registration with NITDA subject to renewal every two (2) years. Re- registration shall be subject to guideline for registration of hubs.
2. Invite and inform OIIE of meetings and trainings for attendance and publicity.
3. Register on NITDA's database and provide annual update of activities to better support tech startups. Registration will be online/in person, free of charge and devoid of bureaucracy.
4. Abide by legally binding agreements entered with OIIE, tech startups and Investors.
5. Participate in mutually beneficial events, meetings or trainings organized by OIIE or other government offices.

1.3 Public and Private Sector Institutions

These are Public Institutions whose functions and/or mandates are related to or have effect on ICT innovation or tech startup ecosystem.

- Collaboration with public institutions at both state and federal level on policies and programs that support ICT entrepreneurship and commercialization.
- Support Federal and State public institutions in formulating and implementing ICT innovation and Entrepreneurship programs.

- Public Institutions should partner with OIIE on policies, initiatives and programs to support the tech innovation ecosystem.
- Facilitate the establishment of tech startup innovation and research fund for innovative tech enterprises and academic research projects with focus on developing a digital economy and ICT entrepreneurs in the country.
- Make policy recommendation to public institutions that will create an enabling environment for tech startup.
- Support OIIE in implementation of the policy recommendation.

1.4 Educational Institutions

Educational Institutions include public and private national institutions with interests in ICT innovation and entrepreneurship as a tool for building competitive students and society.

Responsibilities of Hubs

- Partner with academic institutions in setting up technology innovation centres in the academia.
- Support academic institutions and other relevant Government authority to come up with curriculums that inculcate for ICT, Innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of education.
- Promote tech entrepreneurship in higher institutions through programs and clubs.

Responsibilities of Educational Institutions

- Ensure startups emanating from academia abide by the startup responsibilities as stated in 2.1.
- Universities with hub should also abide by hub responsibilities as stated 2.2 in partnership with professional bodies such as ISPON (Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria), NCS (Nigeria Computer Society) to ensure global competitiveness and industry relevance.
- Promote and facilitate the commercialization of university research activities in order to engender and encourage entrepreneurship and skills development out of Nigerian universities.
- Facilitate hackathons and competitions in academia.

1.5 Investors

Investors range from angel investors, venture capitalists, investment companies, NGOs, International Donor/Financial Institutions, Governments and so on. OIIE is established to encourage investments in tech startups by increasing the possibilities of success while reducing chances of failure.

Responsibilities of OIIE

1. Liaise with hubs to prepare tech startups for investment by helping them lay necessary groundworks in form of advisory, business strategy, marketing and regulatory compliance;
2. Profile tech startups to access their area of business application while also noting their limitations and opportunities;

3. Organise local and international events to bring Investors and tech startups together; and
4. Create incentives to encourage more investments in tech startups. Promote success stories in the tech ecosystem.

Responsibilities of Investors

1. Investors should ensure the terms and conditions for investment are fair to the tech startups.
2. Do business in consistency with the laws of Nigeria, international law and good conscience.

1.6 Development Partners

These are international bodies, non- Governmental Organisations, embassies and educational institutions interested in the development of innovative tech startup enterprises in Nigeria.

Responsibilities of OIIE

1. Liaise with international agencies to maintain global best practices on policies for technology innovation and entrepreneurship.
2. Partner with international agencies to implement international and local internship programmes.
3. Partner with international educational institutions to build capacity and skill in Nigeria

Responsibilities of Development Partners

1. International agencies should inform OIIE of any tech startup opportunities in Nigeria or abroad.
2. International agencies requiring to set up a hub, program or other initiative for technology innovation and entrepreneurship should carry along OIIE directly, or through the state government.

1.7 Professional/Organised Bodies/Diaspora

These include but not limited to software development, trade and professional associations, mentors, Nigerians in diaspora and so on. Some key players are Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN) and other associations.

Responsibilities of OIIE to Professional bodies

1. Make sure they have all information.
2. Attend and support their initiatives and constantly receive insight on ways to forge the ecosystem forward.
3. Work with them in our programs to ensure the objectives of the programs are met and its beneficial.
4. Create opportunities where Nigerians in diaspora can support innovation and entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

Responsibilities of Professional/Organised Bodies

1. Invite and support tech entrepreneurs to their programs, conferences and so on. This is to create visibility and awareness for tech startups.

2. Nigerians in diaspora to forward information on opportunities beneficial to techpreneurs. They should make themselves available to support startups.

2.0 PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

These programs are either implemented by OIIE or in partnership with stakeholders.

S/N	PROGRAMS	TARGETS	INTERVENTIONS REQUIRED
1.	<p>StartUP Friday</p> <p>Startup Friday is a “meet-up” event that will bring together techies, ICT startups, few investors, technology buyers, technology enthusiasts etc. The program is specifically designed to grow an exchange community of tech startups, investors, mentors and other key players that can nourish the upcoming tech entrepreneurs to become successful businesses. It is also directed at providing seed funding for tech startups and igniting the ecosystem</p>	<p>-Support the creation of new ICT SMEs across the country</p> <p>-Establish a Startup ecosystem in all states by 2025</p> <p>- Encourage state Government to support the ecosystem.</p> <p>- Encourage investments in tech startups</p>	<p>-Partnership with Government and private sector for infrastructure, equipment, incubation and acceleration support</p>
2.	<p>Technology Entrepreneurial Clinic (StartUp Clinic)</p> <p>The TEC is a held twice in a year for a week. The aim is to provide existing tech businesses with education and consultation. e.g. finance management, taxation, legal aid etc</p>	<p>-Same as target 8</p>	<p>Adequate and sufficient Budget should be allocated for this program.</p>
3.	<p>Hackathon and Idea Sprint (FutureHack)</p> <p>Technology program that seeks to motivate the youths to create ICT innovative ideas or prototypes that address specific socio-economic problems in the country. Successful applicants will be eligible for preincubation and publicity.</p>	<p>-Support the generation of direct and indirect jobs</p> <p>-Support the creation of new ICT SMEs across the country</p>	<p>-Adequate program funding to scale the program nationwide</p> <p>-Partnership with States and Academic institution.</p>
4.	<p>Government Startup Interactive Program (GSIP)</p> <p>A forum (platform) that creates a dialogue and innovation sounding board between ICT tech startups and Government ICT Heads in Public Institutions. This interaction is to stimulate and infuse new and innovative technologies into government operations.</p>	<p>-Increase patronage of Nigerian ICT entrepreneurs by government.</p> <p>-Support the generation of direct and indirect jobs</p> <p>-Increase national competitiveness</p> <p>-promote local content</p>	<p>-Enforcement of Local Content Guidelines within MDAs in up-taking local software that meets international standards</p> <p>-Executive and legislative support</p>

5.	<p>Entrepreneur Policy Program (EntrePOP)</p> <p>This program directed at advocating policies and establishing enabling environment that are favourable to tech entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>-Establish an ICT Startup Advisory Group to drive the implementation of policies and enabling laws that can foster ICT startup development</p>	<p>-Executive and legislative support. -Partnership with select Government offices and private sector.</p>
6.	<p>i-Work-While-Schooling (iWWS) Program</p> <p>This is an onsite and online outsourcing / internship program for Nigerian undergraduates within Nigeria and in diaspora to enrich their practical learning experience, while promoting knowledge exchange and participatory contribution to ICT development in Nigeria.</p>	<p>- Support the creation of online jobs through online microwork and freelance platforms -Establish iWork Centre to drive talent growth and inpatriation of Nigerian ICT talents overseas -Increase the Nigerian uptake of online outsourcing -Create revenue and work experience for students while schooling.</p>	<p>-Adequate funding -Partnership with academia -Partnership with international organisations, Government offices and ICT companies</p>
7.	<p>Industrial Research Assistance Program (iRAP)</p> <p>The program is to syndicate and provide tech startup and the entire ecosystem with research on social behaviours and future market opportunities. It will shape the idea generation and product development by tech companies. It aims to serve as a trusted source of ICT-oriented data source in the country.</p>	<p>-Establish partnership with both local and foreign research organisations to enrich our ICT startup in both company growth and product development.</p>	<p>-Collaboration with Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, IDG, Gartner etc</p>
8.	<p>Incubation and Acceleration</p>	<p>- Partner with at least one ICT Incubation Hub in six (6) geo-political zones. -Establish ICT Innovation Fund to promote government-backed venture capital funding. -Support the emergence of ICT tech startups -Attract FDI</p>	<p>-Funding to establish more ICT incubation hubs. -Grants from national/international organisations -Incentives for private sector to invest in hubs - Participation at international events to attract investments and partnerships.</p>

<p>9.</p>	<p>ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program for NYSC members</p> <p>Designed to engage, stimulate, support and develop Nigerian Youth Corp members that have unique innovative ICT products or services.</p> <p>This is a conveyor belt-type of program that supports youths from an ideation to a prototype development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support the generation direct and indirect jobs for NYSC members - Support the creation of new ICT startups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adequate program funding to scale the program nationwide -Executive and legislative support -Partnership with N YSC and other relevant bodies.
<p>10.</p>	<p>Tech Innovation Community Program (FutureGarage)</p> <p>It is aimed at building innovation and entrepreneurial communities within our educational system through the establishment of innovation labs in tertiary institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish ICT Innovation Labs in tertiary institutions across the country in partnership with existing Hubs <p>Support the emergence of new ICT startups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Executive and legislative support -Allocation of fund -Partnership with academia
<p>11</p>	<p>International startup roadshows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To promote Nigeria as an ICT investment haven. -Present Nigerian incentives for investment. -develop and drive ICT growth 	
<p>12</p>	<p>Nigerian Tech Tour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Visit hubs -explore areas of partnership and best support for startups. -Attend event and create awareness on NITDA. -Monitor startups progress. 	