



## NGOs join forces to train Ajegunle Youth

(Lagos, June 18, 2010) Ten talented Nigerian youth living in Ajegunle, a high density, low income neighbourhood in the sprawling Lagos metropolis, learned important life skills at a three day workshop organised by Communicating for Change (CFC), in partnership with LEAP Africa and Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN).

CFC initiated the workshop as part of the process of filming three exceptional young women in a soon to be released documentary on the struggles of urban youth vis-a-vis achieving the millennium development goals.

The workshop focused on leadership skills taught by life coaches from LEAP Africa's Youth Leadership Program, and computer and new media skills taught by trainers from Paradigm Initiative's [ajegunle.com](http://ajegunle.com), an award winning grass roots project committed to teaching inner-city kids information technology skills.

The training was complemented by a mentoring session on how to run a small scale fashion enterprise by Bayo Adegbe, the CEO of Modela, one of Nigeria's leading fashion houses, and a talk on business basics, by Chief Operating Officer Eniola Agbesoyin, of the Olive Micro-Finance Bank.

"Over the years we have seen the positive impact of training youth to connect to their inner selves, build self- confidence, set goals, take necessary risks, identify dream stoppers, and manage their funds and resources," said Mosun Layode, Executive Director of LEAP AFRICA, one of Nigeria's exceptional youth empowerment organisations teaching young people to be change agents in their communities.

"Supporting CFC's film production work by training under-served youths in Ajegunle is an important way of addressing our development challenges," added 'Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, a youth led *technopreneurship* organisation which started ICT training in Ajegunle two years ago by equipping young people to solve their problems through the creative use of technology.

*"The workshop was very cool and motivating", commented twenty-four-year-old Thompson Ojeme who participated in the workshop. We have really learnt a lot. It has greatly helped us with our computer and leadership skills," added nineteen-year-old Donatella Raymond, who said she enjoyed the session on goal setting*

CFC's partnership with LEAP and PIN is a positive example of development communications, in which documenting African stories from a home-grown perspective, is coupled with capacity building and creating a platform for youth to be empowered through life skills training.

Besides focusing on film making, CFC regularly organises workshops on script writing and video story-telling, in an effort to teach media skills, reflect Nigerian youths amazing creativity, and give them a voice. "We are delighted to join forces with PIN and LEAP in ensuring that our dynamic youth have better chances at leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and creativity," concluded Sandra Obiago, CFC's Founding Executive Director.

The workshop was held from June 16-18, 2010 at CFC's training centre, in Ikeja, Lagos.

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#### **About LEAP Africa:**

LEAP is a non profit organization, which provides leadership training programmes and executive coaching services for business owners, social entrepreneurs and youth. LEAP invests in continuous research on leadership development in Africa. LEAP's approach to cultivating leadership skills is unique. Since inception, LEAP dedicated its resources and energy in consolidating its efforts in the area of leadership development. Through its Programmes, LEAP has reached over 19,000 youth, social entrepreneurs and business owners through its core Programmes, and has trained over 50,000 participants, through its participation in a range of conferences and workshops. In turn, many of LEAP's beneficiaries initiated high-impact change projects in their companies and communities [www.leapafrika.org](http://www.leapafrika.org)

**About Paradigm Initiative Nigeria:** Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) is a social enterprise seeking to help deliver ICT for socio-economic opportunities in Nigeria. Having worked with government, civil society, private institutions and international organisations, PIN has set standards in ICT education, telecentre support, ICT applications in rural areas, and other ICT4D interventions in Nigeria. PIN provides five key services: Consulting, ICT Capacity Building, Research, Telecentre Support **and** Youth-led Social Technopreneurship. Through these services, PIN connects individuals, people-groups, institutions and communities with the socio-economic opportunities that ICTs provide. PIN staff recently consulted for Harvard University, International Telecommunications Union, Microsoft Nigeria and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, among others. PIN's bottom-up result-oriented programs, all of which are delivered in partnership with various institutions and communities, include [Ajegunle.org](http://Ajegunle.org), the *Internet Safety, Security and Privacy Initiative*; the *Non-Profit Employee Motivation Program* and *Dare to be BIG*. [www.pinigeria.org](http://www.pinigeria.org)

**About Communicating for Change:** CFC is one of Nigeria's leading development communications organisations, which produces film, radio, television, print, and web based media to tell development stories from an African point of view, ensuring that audiences across the continent are informed and empowered to make good choices. CFC also conducts video training workshops for different interest groups, which includes training on all aspects of the production process, so participants are empowered to create videos that articulate their own experiences. CFC is appreciated by broadcasters as an important content provider of high quality African stories and its award winning films have been aired across Nigeria and in 40 countries. [www.cfcnigeria.org](http://www.cfcnigeria.org)