

Nigerian Youth *and the* Information Society

:: Nigerian Youth Lead Action through the WSIS Process ::

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ICTs 101: A Brief Intro...

- ❖ Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs):
The means of generating, processing, transporting and presenting information
- ❖ Old ICTs: Town crier, print/electronic media in the past, etc
- ❖ New ICTs:
 - ❖ Information Technology: Computers; Data processing/number crunching
 - ❖ Telecommunications: Telephones, fax, satellite, TV; Plain Old Telephone System (POTS)
 - ❖ Networks: Internet, data, satellite, cell; Pretty Amazing New Services (PANS)
- ❖ ICTs: Convergence of Communications, computers, consumer electronics, content
- ❖ Convergence at the level of technology – all is in bits (binary digits); industry; policy & regulation; advocacy and multi-stakeholder participation

The 2002 Opportunity

- ❖ Young people are the bridge between policy and action – the proof of sustainability for any effort
- ❖ During Africa's first regional meeting for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Bamako, young people (with 2 Nigerians) lobbied and recorded major success as the plenary threw a lot of support behind the clamour for youth empowerment and inclusion
- ❖ Nigerian youth input to the WSIS Youth Caucus (started by 6, including 1.5 Nigerians) has been consistent, even in the face of limitations
- ❖ Between Bamako and Accra, young Nigerians have continued to extend the frontiers of the Information Society through numerous interventions and other ICT4D consultations

Walking The Talk

- ❖ Young people are the bridge between policy and action – the proof of sustainability for any effort
- ❖ The *Policy Train* was a nationwide study on the thoughts of young Nigerians with respect to the WSIS and the relevance of the Information Society to Nigeria
- ❖ Building on the meetings in Kano, Port Harcourt and Lagos, the Nigerian Youth Declaration on the WSIS was drafted – and presented at the eNigeria 2004 summit
- ❖ WSIS II Rural National Youth Campaigns have held in Lagos, Abuja, Owerri, Kaduna, Ibadan, Ogbomoso, Enugu, Kano, Katsina, Mashi village, etc
- ❖ We will publish a report, and produce a documentary to showcase Nigerian youth leading action in the I.S.
- ❖ We are rebranding Nigeria and stating that the average young Nigerian is not a scammer, but an I. S. leader

Ongoing Action

- ❖ The Nigerian Youth Caucus keeps seeking and maximising opportunities to actively participate in the Nigerian Information Society *journey*
- ❖ Each year, we lead a Youth Caucus at the eNigeria event – a team of young sacrificial citizens who hold Nigeria's need for eInclusion in high esteem
- ❖ With the kind support of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, 20 young Nigerians literally painted Accra green. We led discussions, facilitated meetings, produced newsletters, met with dignitaries, resolved issues, matched words with action, stayed up late... in order to help meet Africa's Information Society needs
- ❖ July 1 and 7 brought the WTDC opportunity! Thanks to NCC, we hosted the Youth Workshop and participated in the main meeting – and enjoyed front cover reports

Extending the Perimeter

- ❖ These are the beginning days of the Nigerian Youth ICT4D Network – built in similitude to the African Youth ICT4D Network (www.ayinetwork.org)
- ❖ While the administrative details are being discussed (structure, hosting organisation, etc), we remain committed to networked youth-led IS action
- ❖ On September 17, the Nigerian Anti-Scam Network (www.cybercrime.org) hosted a roundtable at the Lagos Digital Village, to *demistify cybercrime*
- ❖ Nigerian Youth have advised (and still do) other countries on their youth involvement plans
- ❖ WSA Nigeria '05 led by youth (www.wsisawards.org.ng)
- ❖ On October 19, Heinrich Boll Foundation will host, “BEYOND TUNIS: Civil Society's Role in Transforming WSIS Action Plan into Reality”

Tunis 2005, and more...

- ❖ At Tunis (November 16-18), the world will finalise discussions on Information Society issues – Internet Governance, follow-up mechanism, etc
- ❖ There are many side events – World Youth Congress, Telecentre Leaders' Forum, HBF “Vision in Process II”, UNECA ARAPKE session, Youth Caucus' meetings (National Campaigns' report, Youth Pavilion, Beyond Tunis roundtable), the Nigerian Pavilion, and the African Information Society Village
- ❖ The Stockholm Challenge will be in Tunis... and your project entry is expected – www.stockholmchallenge.se
- ❖ The journey began in Bamako, but will not end at Tunis. Each individual, project, organisation, country and region will decide where their own *WSIS* ends!

ICT Opportunities

- ❖ ICTs provide amazing opportunities and young people have the advantage of growing with technology - e.g. cell phones
- ❖ Some specific opportunities are listed below:
 - ✓ RESEARCH: *Explore the world's largest pool of knowledge and data. The internet provides amazing search opportunities - wider than your imagination;*
 - ✓ EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: *Stay in touch without stress, remember birthdays. eMail, chat, SMS... Skype's free VoIP calls, GMail's 2GB of space, etc;*
 - ✓ TRANSGENERATIONAL IMPACT: *Leave a legacy, contribute to global web content. Your personal website can help inspire another young person. Or create a profile page on TIG;*
 - ✓ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: *Maximize internet opportunities. MIT's Open Courseware is one example of diverse high-end educational opportunities;*
 - ✓ NATION BUILDING/REGIONAL COOPERATION: *Mount the ICT for Development stage, act your scene... we have but this one life to live. Ask not of what your nation can do for you...*
 - ✓ GLOBAL PARTICIPATION AND RELEVANCE: *There's no better tool for global collaboration. Be omnipresent...*



































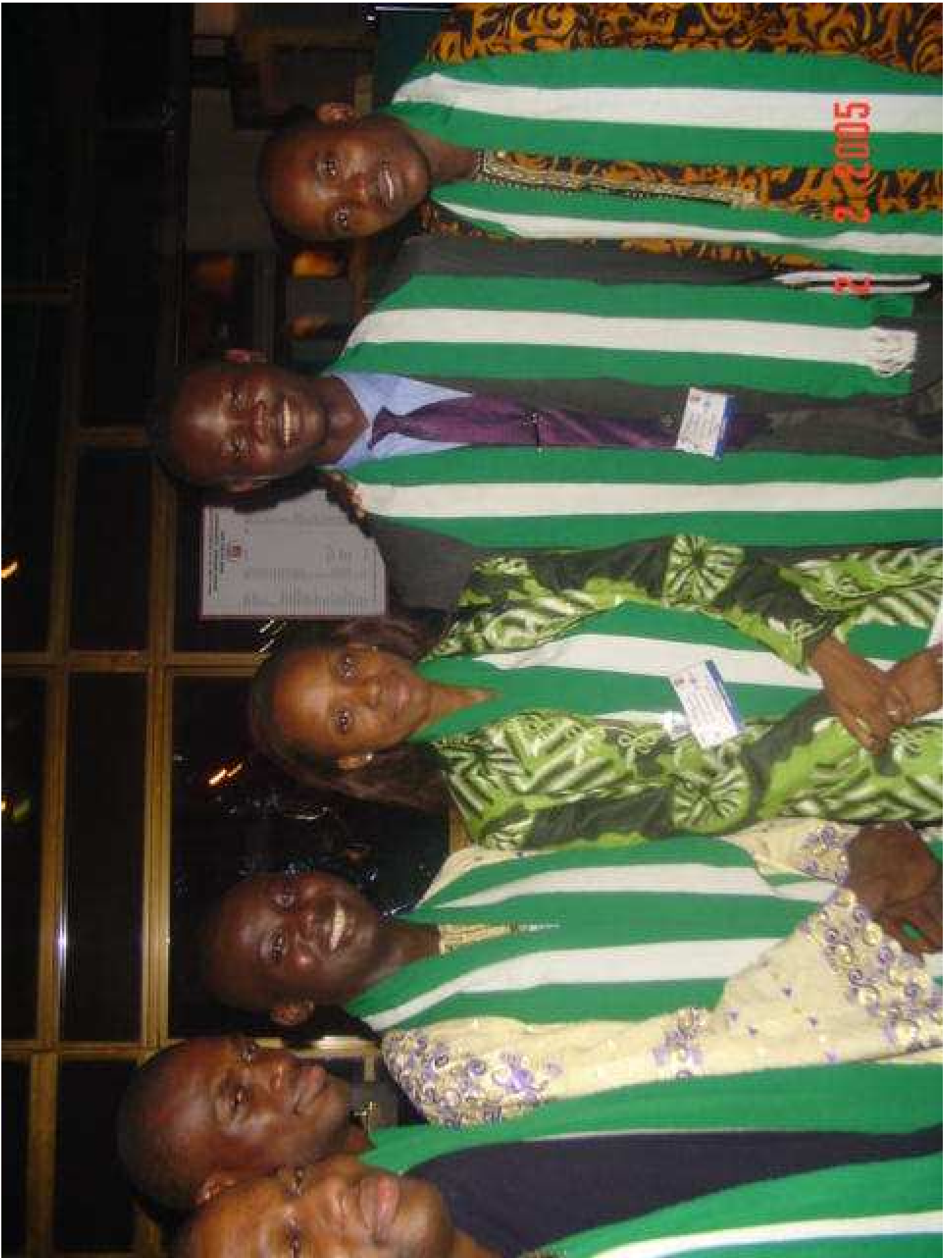












Thank You

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