

Paradigm Initiative Nigeria

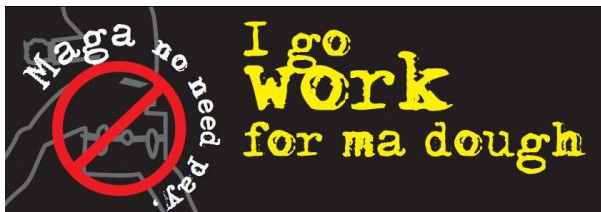
Board Update 001. January – March, 2009

Introduction



This report follows discussions held with highly respected individuals who have been asked to join the *Trust Board* of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN). The Board supports PIN's work through governance oversight and they will be kept informed through quarterly *Board Updates* while up to two (2) board meetings will be held each year to review PIN's operations, present comprehensive project reports and advice on new directions. Considering the demand on each board member's time, reports will be brief and the *Executive Director* will provide additional information anytime such may be needed.

2008 Summary



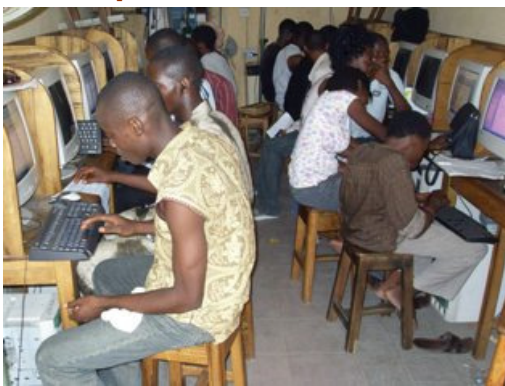
■ From the 104 youths that applied for project participation, 50 youths resident in Ajegunle were selected to participate in the *Ajegunle.org* project. 13 of them participated in the internship scheme at Afrinvest West Africa, DHL, London Metropolitan University (Nigeria Office), Lornamead Africa, Standard Chartered Bank, UK Trade & Investment and UK High Commission Abuja.

- The *Internet Safety, Security and Privacy Initiative for Nigeria* (ISSPIN) was launched with sponsorship from Microsoft and support from other partners. The first phase of the campaign saw huge youth participation and media support.
- The *Dare to be BIG* project was designed and discussions were held with various stakeholders on the implementation plan. Endorsement letters were sent to relevant government institutions particularly with the inclusion of the selection of a *Nigerian ICT Youth Ambassador* in the project plan. The Nigerian Communications Commission was the first to respond with a comprehensive endorsement letter dated September 22, 2008.
- In addition to PIN's core projects, we encourage invitations from youth groups for the purpose of discussing new technologies and how they can use the tools to improve their livelihoods. In 2008, we honoured invitations from Abakaliki, Abuja, Akure, Awka, Benin, Calabar, Ibadan, Ife, Lagos, Minna, Ogbomoso, Otta and Warri. We reached 5,424 youths directly through these presentations.
- Following our culture of industry engagement within the global ICT for Development sector, PIN was invited to discuss our social intervention model and other ideas at various conferences in Austria, Egypt, Ghana, Malaysia, Qatar, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The platforms provide the opportunity to exchange best practice ideas and finetune PIN's approach in the use of ICTs for development.
- A number of institutions (including Germany's Heinrich Boll Foundation) requested for PIN's training services through the *Employee Motivation Program* which helps PIN earn income towards the implementation of our projects.
- PIN received global recognition for her social innovation efforts in September 2008, following

series of project visits and interviews by Ashoka, the global organization known for its work around the selection (and support) of leading social entrepreneurs. After the 3-stage process of selection was completed, Ashoka commended the replication opportunities that the *Ajgunle.org* model offers.

- In addition to newspaper reports and mentions, PIN also featured on various programs to discuss our programs on TV Continental, Channels TV, NTA and syndicated programs (*ChatStreet* and *Inspire*). A Brazilian journalist also did a comprehensive feature in an August special report (*Megacidades*).

Q1 2009 Update



- On January 14, the orientation program for the year's first set of 25 trainees was hosted by the *Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government*. Following the Town Hall Meeting with Prof. Pat Utomi, Peter Stephenson (UKTI) and the UK High Commissioner, government interest has soared and we have now reached advanced stages towards requesting for space in *Ajgunle* for the establishment of the *Ajgunle Innovation Centre (AJIC)*. The 25 trainees completed their capacity building sessions on February 27 and will now proceed to train their peers and join the internship program. Program graduates from last year have now trained 195 youths from their community as part of the positive peer pressure strategy while 4 have been offered permanent employment by UK High Commission, MMA 2 and Lornamead Africa. Trainees remitted over ₦50,000 to the project as part of their 10% sustainability commitment. Emmanuel, one of the first set of

graduates, returned to the project as a much-loved volunteer trainer!

- On February 12, the upcoming *Dare to be BIG* project received another endorsement from the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). The agency has indicated further interest in the project and we will follow up while also discussing with regional and international United Nations agencies for broader endorsements.

- We have commenced the second phase of the Internet Safety campaign and have just taken delivery of 8,000 learning CDs (with sponsorship from Microsoft). The CDs contain the offline version of the hitherto exclusive *Digital Literacy Curriculum*; Microsoft hosted a media launch in Abuja on March 13. Managers of the musician, D'Banj (who has a huge appeal among our target audience), have also been in touch towards the production of a hit track that will condemn cybercrime among young Nigerians. We are also in discussions with *iSafe*, the US-based global leader in Internet Safety education as part of the second phase of the campaign.

- The online group, *Friends of PIN*, has made commendable progress in the UK where there are ongoing discussions towards the acquisition of *Charity Status* with the UK Charity Commission. Our 2008 discussion with KPMG was not concluded as planned but they have expressed interest in publishing PIN's *Annual Report* – including the audited financial report.

- For the first quarter, we have made presentations in Otta (*African Leadship Forum*, February 19); London (*Royal Academy of Engineering*, February 20) Abuja (March 10, following which we are now Microsoft's non-profit partner for the South West region of Nigeria for their *Community Technology Skills* initiative) and Oxford (*Skoll World Forum for Social Entrepreneurs*, March 25-27).

- In addition to news reports in *Tribune* and *The Guardian*, PIN was on *Superscreen TV* and also hosted 2 BBC documentary teams!