



Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship 2018

Introduction

Paradigm Initiative is a social enterprise that builds an ICT-enabled support system and advocates digital rights in order to improve livelihoods for under-served youth.

Paradigm Initiative introduced its Media Fellowship in April 2018.

The purpose of this fellowship is to deepen the understanding of the work Paradigm Initiative among media professionals, and to forge a better understanding of its purpose. On September 9 2018, Nigerian Victor Ekwealor of Techpoint and Togolese Emmanuel Agbenonwossi of AfroTribune resumed at the pioneer Digital Rights and Inclusion Fellows.

Recruitment

Paradigm Initiative released the call for applications on May 2, 2018, and closed application submission on May 31, 2018. It received 127 applications from 19 countries, with 90% of applicants being below the age of 40.

The applications were processed, and a thorough selection process followed. The most qualified 18 were interviewed and two final candidates, Victor Ekwealor and Emmanuel Agbenonwossi were selected for the inaugural fellowship.

Orientation

An orientation session was conducted on September 10 at Paradigm Initiative's Yaba Headquarters. They were received by the senior management team members including the Executive Director, 'Gbenga Sesan; Director of Programs, Tope Ogundipe; and Digital Inclusion Program Manager, Tosin Abolaji.



Day 1

Day 1 focused on introducing the fellows to digital rights and inclusion concepts and arguments, and the work that Paradigm Initiative does in that area. Facilitators of various sessions included the aforementioned senior team members, alongside Programs and Communications team members, Babatunde Okunoye, Boye Adegoke and Olayinka Taiwo. Sessions included "The Paradigm Initiative Story", "Discussing Digital Rights", "Digital Inclusion: Connecting Everyone" and "Media and Digital Rights in Africa: The Connection".





Day 2

Day 2 offered Media Fellows the opportunity to interact with Paradigm Initiative's team member in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Other activities on Day 2 included sessions on "The Techinary Approach to Digital Inclusion" by Olayinka Taiwo and "Relevant Institutions and Processes in Digital Rights/Inclusion" by Tope Ogundipe. Techinary is a branch of the digital Inclusion program which aims to build technology skills among Nigerian University Students.





Ajegunle, Lagos.

Led by the Communications Officer, Sodiq Alabi, the Fellows spent two full days at the Paradigm Initiative L.I.F.E centre in Ajegunle observing the new L.I.F.E class training program in action.

L.I.F.E is an acronym for Life Skills, ICTs, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship training which is the digital Inclusion aspect of Paradigm Initiative's work.

Program Officer, Gabreal Odunsi, and Program Assistant, Angela Onyegbuna, conducted the Fellows around Ajegunle, introducing them to the community and the place of our work.



Abuja, F.C.T

On Sunday, September 16, the Media Fellows arrived in Abuja. On Monday, September 17, they were welcomed to the Abuja office by the Program Manager for Digital Rights in Anglophone West Africa, Adeboye Adegoke, and Program Assistant, Adeboro Odunlami. A digital rights session was held to help the fellows further understand our advocacy process and engagement.



Dakata, Kano

On Tuesday, September 18, the residency moved to Kano. The team worked at the DakataLIFE Centre in Kano on Wednesday. Fellows held interviews with alumni and current students of the DakataL.I.F.E. They also met members of the community to get a feel of the place of the Digital Inclusion program in the community.



Aba, Abia

Aba was the last leg of the media residency component of the Fellowship. The team arrived Aba on Thursday, September 20 after a long trip from Kano.

Friday, September 21 was spent at the AbaL.I.F.E centre where the fellows participated in various activities and spoke with the students. As with other centres, the Fellows shared their experience with the students and also took questions from them on their work. In-between classes, Fellows interviewed students and the staff on the work being done in the centre.



Virtual Work

While the residency ended on Saturday, September 22, the Fellows were required to use the next four months to produce excellent reports on digital rights and inclusion issues. We conducted a monthly debriefing to monitor Fellows' progress.



Reports

The following are reports produced and published by fellows during the fellowship



<https://bit.ly/2BXwNQM>

One child at a time, digital inclusion will save this Nigerian slum



<https://bit.ly/2UDqIQb>

Gitgirl is on a journey to empower 13 million African women for careers in tech



<https://bit.ly/2RLkcVP>

African governments are strong-arming social media, there will be economic casualties



<https://bit.ly/2u8kV9s>

The Nigerian government does not seem very concerned about its citizens' rights on the internet



<https://bit.ly/2BXwNQM>

Ekobits Academy, a Lagos-based school is transforming youths from 'Lekki slums' through ICT and digital media



<https://bit.ly/2F46liZ>

Zimbabwe now has internet, but how long will this African scourge last?



<https://bit.ly/2TSQyCz>

With 700 already in one year, Curators University is training an army of Nigerian data scientists and AI experts



<https://bit.ly/2TUWKd8>

Why Nigeria's internet shutdown scare is not far-fetched



<https://bit.ly/2O5z7cC>

Terragon's tech hub in Ife is bridging the skills gap between school and the data science industry



<https://bit.ly/2ua4DgD>

Ajegunle: le Nigeria numérique bouillonne!



<https://bit.ly/2TNRVCy>

Un « Internet ouvert et digne de confiance », le Nigeria montre le chemin



<https://bit.ly/2T4W2Ws>

Paradigm Initiative inquiet de l'état de la liberté numérique en Afrique [Étude]



<https://bit.ly/2DIsFqC>

Inclusion numérique: le combat de Gbenga Sesan, figure de proue du Nigéria 2.0 [Acte 1]



<https://bit.ly/2Cmzs6a>

Droits numériques en Afrique: le Cameroun classé parmi les mauvais élèves

In the Media

The Fellowship also received media coverage as follows:



<https://bit.ly/2O5ETuO>

ITREALMS: Paradigm Initiative selects journalists for media fellowship



<https://bit.ly/2JeMHf1>

NigeriaCommunicationsWeek: Paradigm Initiative Selects Two Journalists for Inaugural Media Fellowship



<https://bit.ly/2FddhRv>

ITRealms: Experts Advocate Improved Media Coverage



<https://bit.ly/2UyW3Uc>

CFATech: Paradigm Initiative Selects Two Journalists for Inaugural Media Fellowship



<https://bit.ly/2XZzie9>

TechEconomy: Paradigm Initiative Selects Two Journalists For Inaugural Media Fellowship

Project managed by Paradigm Initiative's Communications Team:

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