

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE YOUNG INNOVATORS REGIONAL WORKSHOP:
BRANDING INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY: IMPLICATION FOR
YOUTHS AND STUDENTS IN SOUTH-EAST REGION, NIGERIA
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

We are pleased to present to you the outcome and results of the 2016 Young Innovators Regional Workshop report with the theme “Branding Indigenous Technology: Implication for Youths and Students in South-East Region, Nigeria” held in Princess Alexandra Auditorium, University of Nigeria, Nsukka on the 4 – 5th August, 2016. The main objective of the workshop was to critically think and brainstorm on ideas that will help Nigerian youths use creativity and innovations in technology to produce technology locally to replace imported goods in Nigeria. It equally discussed on how through harnessing the potentials of Nigerians’ young innovators Nigeria can advance even in the universities development. The passion for this workshop stemmed from the steadily rising of youth unemployment rates and youth restiveness. The workshop provided a wide range of speakers, young innovators and inventors with the opportunity to identify ideas, brainstorm on needed policies and programmes aimed at encouraging Nigerian youth. This workshop equally took advantage of the new opportunities available to new present innovation and the latest advances in technology.

The workshop was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor ably represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and had in attendance the Commissioner for Education ably represented by Mr. Mike Ani, Director of Education, Enugu State; Dr. Mrs. Patricia U. Chukwu, representing, South-East Zonal Coordinator, Incubation Centre, Nnewi; Mr. Idah O. K. David from Development Consultant and Governance Expert representing Sir. Dr. Amb. Marcel Eze Nwonywe and Engr. Ageh A. Terna, Technology Incubation Centre, Nnewi.

This event attracted over 560 registered participants representing students, youths and NGOs across the South-Eastern region of Nigeria including representatives of the Media, government and private sectors. While planning for this event, it became very clear to us at the Secretariat that alternative sources of funding for students projects and innovation are really about individuals, Public Private Partnerships (PPPS) and organizations evolving different funding schemes for their work. This calls for a collective and wide action. We were delighted to see participants show interest and involvement in the interactive sessions and panel discussion which highlighted their desire in realizing the objectives and focus of the workshop. They raised assistance concern on possible stage to take in order to train youngsters on inventing Indigenous Technology that can replace imported ones; how engineering and technology can be used to curb medical tourism. They equally brainstormed on the efforts Nigerian universities are making in finding alternative food and or packaging in season. The interactive session created opportunities for the students to exchange ideas with their colleagues. Much was said about the need for indigenous creativity, innovation, science and technology.

The Workshop Day One featured a guest speaker, Desmond Wealth, who spoke on *Releasing the Edge Generation through Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. Other speakers included Engr. Tochukwu Onu who spoke on Applying Scientific Concepts in Engineering; Dr. Chinedu Aranotu who spoke on *The Glory of the Youth is their Strength*, while the fourth speaker was Engr. Dr. Joel Nwakaire, who spoke on the topic titled: *From rural technology to innovation: Implications for idea technology*. The Workshop Day Two started with a Panel Discussion which was moderated by Engr. Dr. Chigbo Mgbemene from the Department of Mechanical Engineering

and panelists included Dr. Austin Okeke, Associate Prof. Onu, V.C. and Engr. Ageh A. Terna from Technology Incubation Centre, Nnewi. The first speaker, Dr. Chigbo Mgbemene spoke on *Funding your Ideas as an Entrepreneur or Innovator*. Associate Prof. Onu, V.C. spoke passionately on *Innovation Processes: Tools and Techniques*. Rev. Dr. Omaka, K. Ngele, the third speaker, discussed in details on *Unveiling the Innovation Spirit in Emerging Young African Entrepreneurs*.

With efforts towards encouraging technocrats within the University environ, the local organizing working committee recognized and celebrated creativity and innovation by presenting awards to honour their efforts and humanitarian service to the society. The awardees include Prof. B.C. Chukwuma, who received the Young Innovators Leadership Award as “A Visionary Leader”; Prof. Uju C. Umoh, who got a Humanitarian Award for “Excellent Human Relations”; Prince George Ehisonaga, got an Award as: ICT Personnel and Sir Ambassador Dr. Marcel Ezenwoye’s got an Award for “Creative Entrepreneur Award”. Others who received the Young Innovators Medals for Creativity and Invention included Ezea Stephen who produced Automatic Inverter with Control & Alarm Capacity of 2.5KVA and SS1 Student Ugwuoke, Emmanuel C. who built a model of St. Theresa Cathedral, Nsukka.

Participants were also thrilled to watch the special performance by African Cultivating Greatness Project as they added fun and pageantry to the event through their presentations. The workshop resolved to make the young innovators workshop an annual event. It equally agreed that the workshop report will be presented to the University Authority soonest. The organizers of the workshop are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Senate Ceremonial Committee for the approval of the workshop Venue. We also extend our greetings to Tripp’s Restaurant and Department of Home Economics and Hospitality Management Education for providing drinks and lunch for the event at reduced rate. We wholeheartedly thank you all for making the workshop enjoyable for all participants. Our deepest appreciation and thanks go to all members of the organizing working committee and secretarial team as well as all our committed volunteers for their selfless dedication and efforts to make the workshop a success. Let me on behalf of my Local Organizing Working Committees whose indispensable support was a great factor in the success recorded at this workshop note that we look forward to continuous collaboration and networking as we prepare for the 2017 Annual Young Innovators Workshop.

Benefits of the Incubation Centre for Inventors and Innovators to the University

- It will provide an opportunity to educate and mentor innovative students of the university.
- It will provide a means to recognize innovation in the university through honorary membership.

- It will Increase awareness of intellectual property in the university by mentoring students to develop their own inventions.
- It will enhance the visibility of the University Technology Development, which will promote entrepreneurship.
- It will provide an opportunity for the university to partner with the incubation centre.
- It will encourage invention, innovation and getting patents to the university community.

Resolutions from the workshop include the followings

- Intermittent trainings and workshop on Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Increased utilization of the incubation centre at the Innovation Centre to promote Innovative Invention of made in University of Nigeria Products.
- University of Nigeria to partner with the National Board for Technology Incubation under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Enugu State.
- Proposal for 1st made in University of Nigeria Products in partnership with Industries, Private and Public Sectors.
- Partnering with University of Nigeria Youths to invent in the name of the University to increase the University Rating.
- Provision of support guidance mentoring information on how to launch their products, register their work under intellectual property and further commercialization of their products.
- Creation of synergy among other young entrepreneurs and innovators.

PICTURE GALLERY OF THE YOUNG INNOVATORS REGIONAL WORKSHOP



Cross Section of Innovators who exhibited their invention



Dr. Austin Okeke, as he explained some facts during the interactive session



Cross Section of Participants during Workshop Day 1, August 4, 2016



Cross Section of Evaluation and Technical Team during Workshop Day



Cross Section of Participants during Workshop Day 2, August 4, 2016



Cross Section of the Volunteers who served during Workshop



Cross Section of the Secretariat Team and Guest Speaker during the workshop

Lead Sponsor: Special Education Unit, Innovation Centre and Youth Friendly Resources Centre, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Partner Sponsor: Multi-Education Service Trust, LIFYEAD Educational Services and Consults, Africa Cultivation Greatness Project and National Coalition of Nigerian Youths in South-East

Chief Host/Refreshment Reception Sponsor: Prof. Benjamin Chukwuma Ozuma, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Cheer!

ASSOCIATE PROF. ONU, V.C.

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

YOUNG INNOVATORS

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Email: younginnovators.unn@gmail.com

URL: <http://www.younginnovators.unn.edu.ng>