



# Community Network Newsletter

01-10-2021  
Vol 1. Issue IV



## POINT OF VIEW

Community networks provide communities with a wealth of benefits. The use of community networks strengthen community life, improves the democratic process, ensure residents' access to the "information superhighway", and aids local economic development.

## National Advisory Committee Hold Six Meeting.

National advisory committee on supporting community-led approaches to addressing the digital divide in Nigeria has hold a six meeting on process and arrangement of community network access.

Twenty two members committee lead by CITAD discussed on the smaller and minor issues faced by community on network access, and they discussed on how does those community would have the facilities and regulation on the network access.

## CITAD'S ADVOCACY TO FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL ECONOMY & NITDA .



In an its effort to promote communication networks, especially in communities areas, CITAD and its team visited the Ministry of Communications and Economic Development in Abuja. .

During the visit, the Minister of Communications, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami received the delegation led by the head of the center. During the visit, the Executive director, Mallam Yz Ya'u, "briefed the minister on the institute's efforts to establish community networks in the community and to put in place rules and regulations that will enable the

technology and communication in the community", adding that "the door of the ministry is open to provide opportunities for assistance." a way to provide support from the ministry to ensure that these laws or policies are adopted and implemented in the community".

In another development, the Center for Information Technology and Development visited NITDA.

The visit also underscores the need to build a network of communities, especially in rural areas.

development of telecommunications between the centers in nation".

In his remarks, the minister said "he was pleased that the expansion of this center has greatly contributed to the advancement of



## USE OF SPECTRUM TO DEPLOY COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN NIGERIA

This is the third series of deliberate internal capacity building prepared for CITAD staff and other partners working on community network project. Earlier, similar trainings were facilitated by various experts on other important areas of community network.

The training was attended by participants (within CITAD) and partners from the three project locations of Bauchi, Kaduna and the FCT.

the presentation was divided into 9 parts which started from providing explicit meaning of “spectrum” up to “Emerging Trends in Spectrum Access”. Participants were sufficiently made to understand the simplest meaning of spectrum as “complete range of electromagnetic radiation which ranges from extremely low frequency to the highest frequency”.

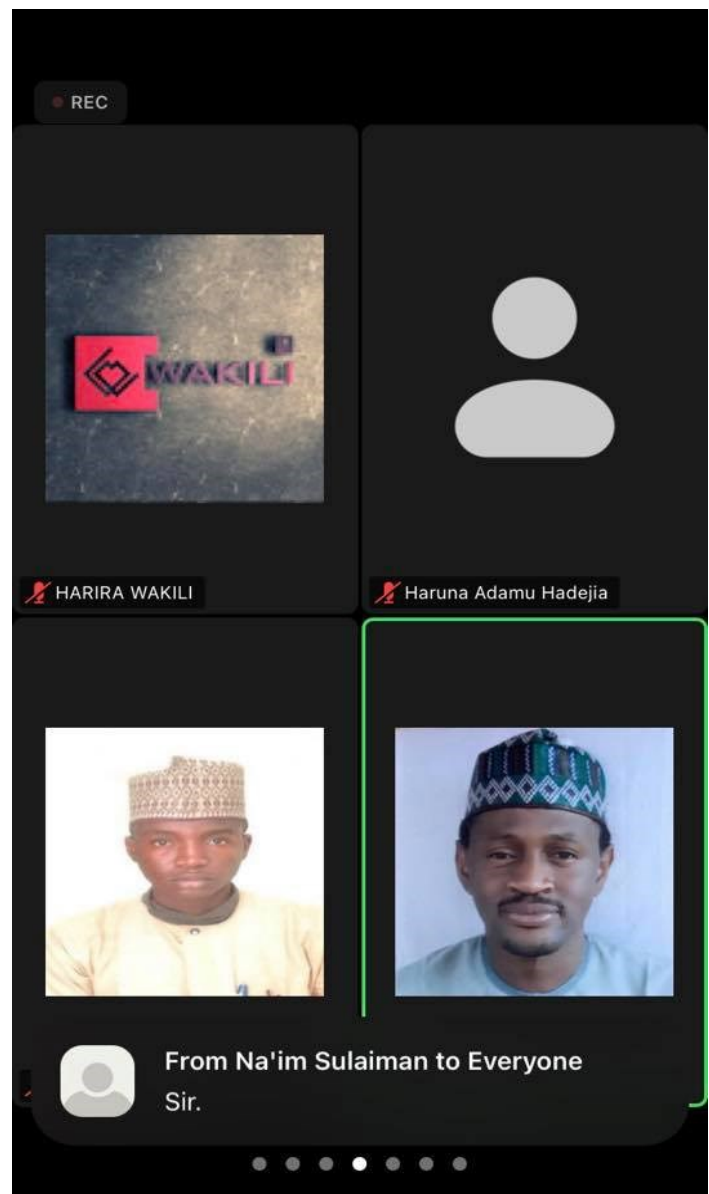
### Who allocates spectrum

The main purpose of allocation of spectrum is aimed at harmonization, coordination or management of the spectrum within the telecom industry. Spectrum allocation influences the economy of scale.

The recognized regulatory body that allocates spectrum is “International Telecommunications Union (ITU)”. It allocates the bands to all mobile operators being the apex (regulatory body). This dates back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when (radio telegraphy broadcast from country to another could not be done as a result of discrepancies in equipment and the technical expertise at that time.

The Executive Director made brief remark and called for continuation of the session at another fixed date and time. Other areas not covered by the presenter were - Applying Spectrum Allocation, Methods of Allocating Spectrum, Dynamic Spectrum Access and the Emerging Trends in Spectrum Access. Thus, the report is “inconclusive” till the remaining part of the presentation is completed.

Participants were encouraged to respond to the evaluation form earlier shared to aid assessment of the training. The meeting ended after 6pm.



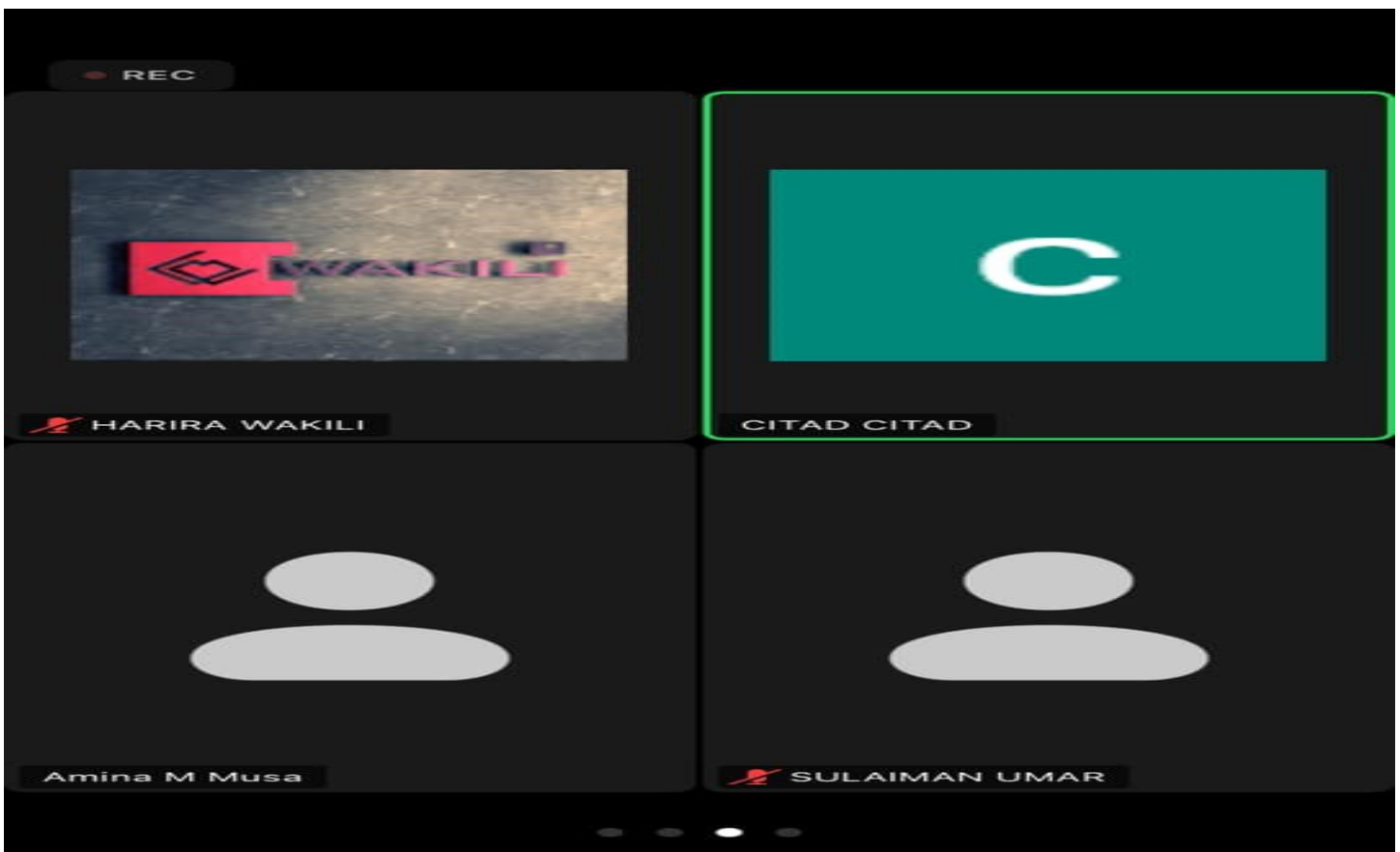
THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MET WITH USPF AND GLACXY TO GET THE BEST OUT OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN NIGERIA.

Following a series of visits by CITAD, the CITAD sought to meet with a number of government agencies and ministries to find out who was involved in the CITAD program.

The meeting was last seen on Zoom. During discussions with the USPF, the focus was on the legal and regulatory framework set by the government for the recognition of the community networks, while the center reiterated its commitment to enforcing these rules even though the USPF is still in the process. and they are running but the nature of people's activities is not up to them.

During the discussion, the chairman of the center, Mallam Y.z Yau, affirmed the commitment of the center and its commitment to the rules of communication and community networks in the community.

**During the discussion, the staff members of the agency and some of those who are involved in the program and those who are supporting the program at the community level and the national committee.**



## CITAD CALLS ON PANTAMI TO DEVELOP POLICY ON COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Y. Z. Ya'u, Executive Director of CITAD has called on the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Dr. Ali Isa Pantami to support the NCC mid wife a national policy on community networks .

Ya'u who spoke in Kano during a Media Lunch to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) enjoined NCC to hasten the process of setting up the Industry Working Group meant to develop the policy framework.

The International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) is a day set aside by United Nations to mark globally commitment to and a reminder to the need to ensure that all persons have access to relevant information that will enable them live a meaningful, productive and culturally fulfilling life within the context of democracy.

He explained that CITAD had within the last six months raised awareness and engage policy makers in the country on the need for a national policy on community network.

Mr. Yau revealed that the key points of CITAD advocacy was very productive with a number of take-aways, adding that key stakeholders generally acknowledged the importance of community networks in connecting the unconnected.

He stressed that “CITAD will like to use this day of Universal Access to Information to plead to all our government agencies that we must move beyond declaration of intention of connecting the unconnected and be proactive to do the necessary bits needed to actualise that intention”.

The Executive Director, CITAD therefore tasked USPF to also engaged communities that are already working to deploy community networks as part of its connectivity agenda bridging as approved in its Strategic Plan entitled Universal Service Provision Fund Strategic Management Plan (2018 – 2022).

He further enjoined NITDA to support such community networks initiative through its digital centres initiatives so that these centres would not only catalyse digital skills dispersal across the country but also contribute significantly to the realization of its core strategic objective of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2025 in the country.

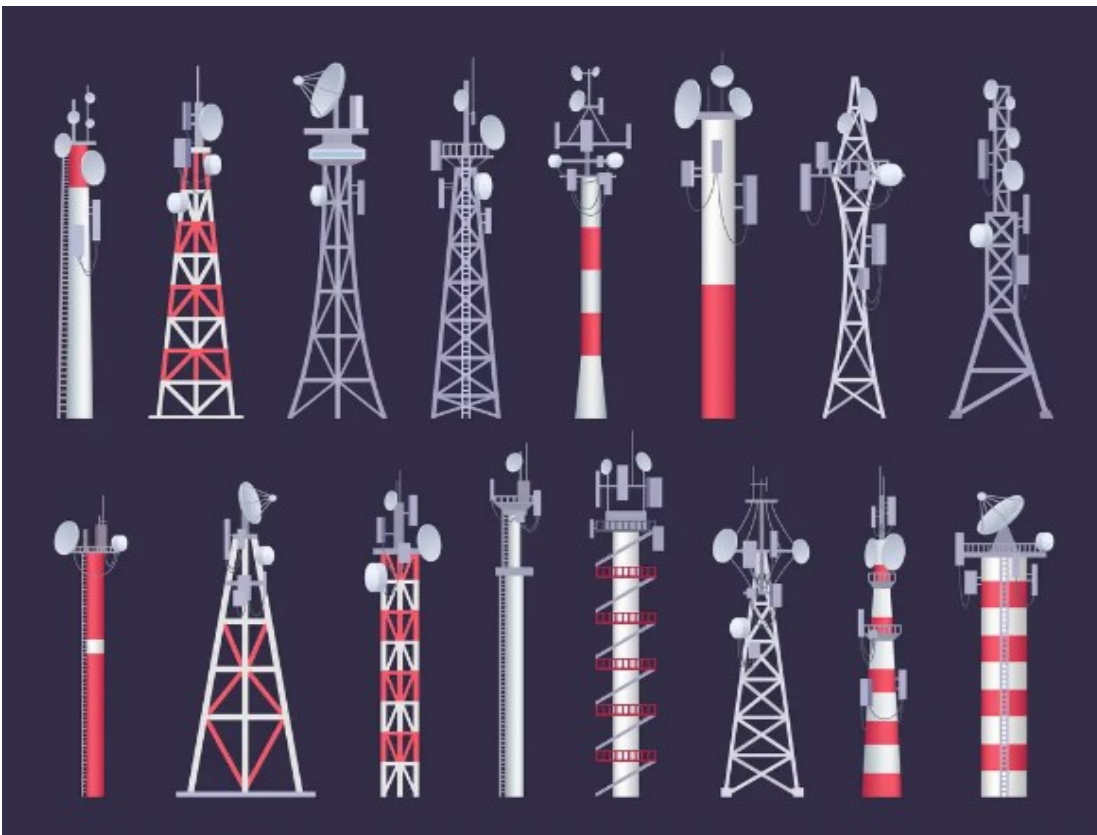




He further enjoined NITDA to support such community networks initiative through its digital centres initiatives so that these centres would not only catalyse digital skills dispersal across the country but also contribute significantly to the realization of its core strategic objective of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2025 in the

country.

CITAD Executive Director similarly enjoined Galaxy to show commitment to its promises and “move beyond the declarations it has made to find practical ways of supporting community networks initiatives in addition to getting its relevant recommendations to appropriate quarters of government.”



## DIGITAL MARKETING TRAINING FOR JAMAARE TRADERS ASSOCIATION (SECOND PHASE)

As part of this effort CITAD continued a digital marketing training to members of Jamaare Young Traders, one of the seven community groups whose capacity is being built to design, deploy and manage community networks in their communities. Given that members of this micro association are traders, we thought that by giving them training on social media marketing, we would make digital inclusion looks relevant to their current concern and therefore incentivize the efforts to build a community network.

Training held at Jamaare Community ICT Centre, Bauchi State on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The opening remarks were given by Isah Adamu a member of the National Community Networks Advisory Committee, representing the Jamaare Community. He welcomed each and everyone who attended the training and prayed that they find the training useful. The training was facilitated by Engineer Suhail CITAD Technical officer and Mujahid Turajo CITAD Technical Assistant

Engr. Suhail made an opening introduction, given a refresher, measured the participant's skills and experience on using computers, and digital marketing by asking them verbal questions. And reviewing the previous presentations of the training, due to changes of some participants that are unfit at the earlier gathering.

The first session of the training was facilitated by TA Mujahid Turajo with practical on how to create a Facebook business page and promote it in selected areas, continues with practical on how to create a YouTube channel and monetize it to generate income, and then he shows the participants strategies on how to boost their social media handles especially Facebook.

Engr Suhail who facilitated the second session demonstrated to the participant's practical experience on how to create their freelancing community, using Fiverr or Freelancer websites, and closes his session with practical on how to use Search engine optimization (SEO) tools.

The training ended with an assignment that was given to participants, this will help in measuring their understanding, and a vote of thanks was given by Dahiru Abubakar CITAD's Program Officer for Jamaare Office. He thanked everyone for attending the training and encouraged the members to be very active and spend their time practicing and doing self-learning so that they will have relevant skills that will help them to deploy and sustain the community networks in their

Are you looking for a stunning, spacious, beautiful Hall for your meetings, events and conferences?

Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) provides, this solution with an impressive, naturally-lit setting Hall.

The Hall is well equipped with sound and Digital Projection systems and has a capacity to take 50 to 70 participants depending on the seating arrangement of your choice. It is ideal for conferences, trade shows, seminars, workshop, board meetings, and product launches.

We offer special consideration and package for Civil Society Organisations and Development Partners.

You can contact us at 3rd Floor, NSITF Building, No.1A, Social Insurance Road, Behind Trade Fair Complex, Zaria Road, Kano. P.O. Box 10210, Kano, Nigeria.

For More Information Contact Us on phone on: 070300012311, 07031225148. 08064867312 and 08038736017 or email via; [hallrent@citad.org](mailto:hallrent@citad.org)

