



Community Network Newsletter

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POINT OF VIEW

For successful inclusive effort to achieve sustainable bridging of the digital gap in Nigeria, there is need for a deliberate plan to specifically address issues of post-war reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the North East. This must be done within a framework that ensures the injured, displaced and traumatized populations of the affected communities are supported to have community networks so that their voices are also heard in any unfolding development agenda in these communities. They will remain unserved, until re-served with networks!

National Advisory Committee Held it's Sixth Meeting.

National advisory committee on supporting community-led approaches to addressing the digital divide in Nigeria held its' six meeting tailored on assessing level progress made, advocacy issues, challenges and way forward around the community network project.

The twenty two member-committee led by the Co-Chair Dr Amina Salihu of McArthur foundation discussed on the curriculum development for the proposed school of community network, outcome of advocacy to Minister of communications and NITDA, School calendar and constituency engagement amongst others

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



In an effort to promote effective communication network especially at community level, CITAD and its team visited the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy in Abuja. .

During the visit, the Minister of Communications, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami received the delegation led by it's Executive Director, Engr Y Z Ya'u. the Director briefed the minister on the center's effort toward facilitating the establishment of community networks in some pilot communities of Bauchi, Kaduna and the FCT. CITAD's topical issue is

to canvass for support on policy that will enable establishment of community network at community level.

In his remarks, the Minister expressed appreciation over CITAD's effort of facilitating reach

of ICTs to the community level. He added that, "the door of the ministry is open to provide opportunities for assistance."

CITAD was asked to propose its concept paper with regard to the community network project for collaboration.

In another development, the Center for Information Technology and Development also visited NITDA as part of collaborative effort to support community network project.

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



INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING: USE OF SPECTRUM TO DEPLOY COMMUNITY NETWORKS

This is the third series of deliberate internal capacity building facilitated 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, which included the basics of community network, etc.

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

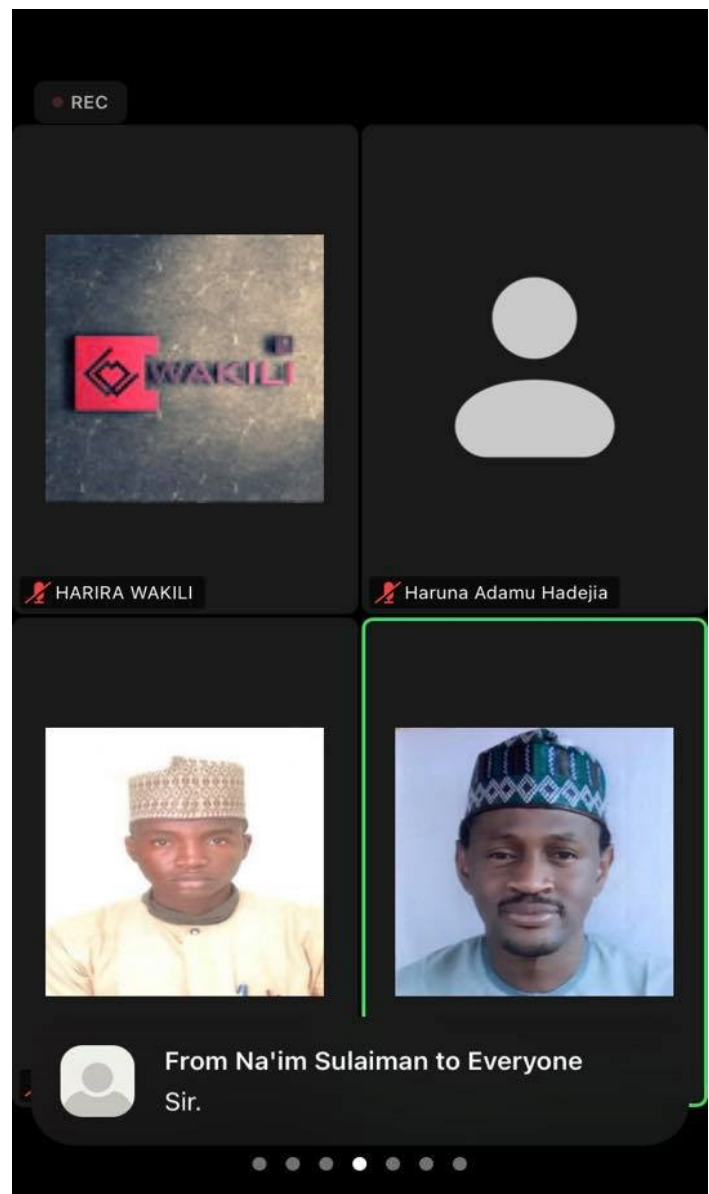
The presentation was divided into 9 parts which started from providing explicit meaning of “Spectrum” up to “Emerging Trends in Spectrum Access”. Participants were sufficiently made to understand the simplest meaning of spectrum as “complete range of electromagnetic radiation which ranges from extremely 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 19th 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 session was facilitated on-line by Yusuf Abdulkadir of NCC, Abuja. Executive Director of CITAD made brief remark and called for continuation of the session at another fixed date and time. Other areas covered by the presenter were - Applying Spectrum Allocation, Methods of Allocating Spectrum, Dynamic Spectrum Access and the Emerging Trends in Spectrum Access.



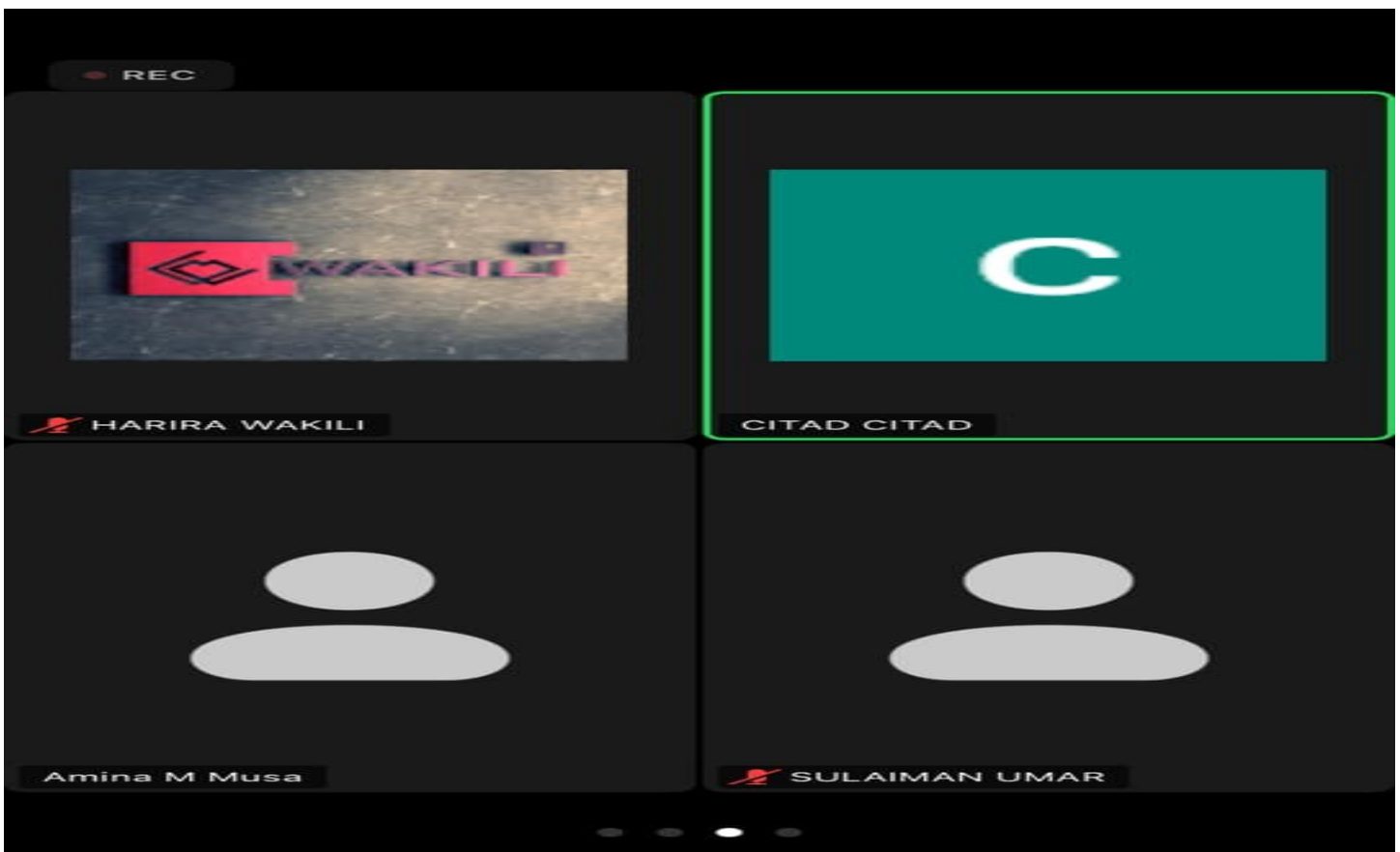
MEETING BETWEEN CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT, USPF AND GALAXY TO GET THE BEST OUT OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN NIGERIA.

CITAD planned and conducted meetings with various stakeholders with a view to leverage on existing relationship to achieve the establishment of community networks in the pilot project locations.

The meeting discussed ways and other strategies on how best communities will be involved in the deployment of the networks. On one hand, the stakeholders were charged to support CITAD in advocating for a more inclusive policy framework for community network in Nigeria.

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 CITAD reiterated its commitment to continue advocacy on enforcing these rules.

During the meeting, Executive Director of CITAD, Engr Y.Z Ya'u, affirmed the commitment of the center on follow-ups around telecommunication and community networks in the community.



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 government agencies that we must move beyond declaration of intention of connecting the unconnected and be proactive to do the necessary bits needed to actualize that intention”.

The Executive Director, CITAD therefore tasked USPF to also engage 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).

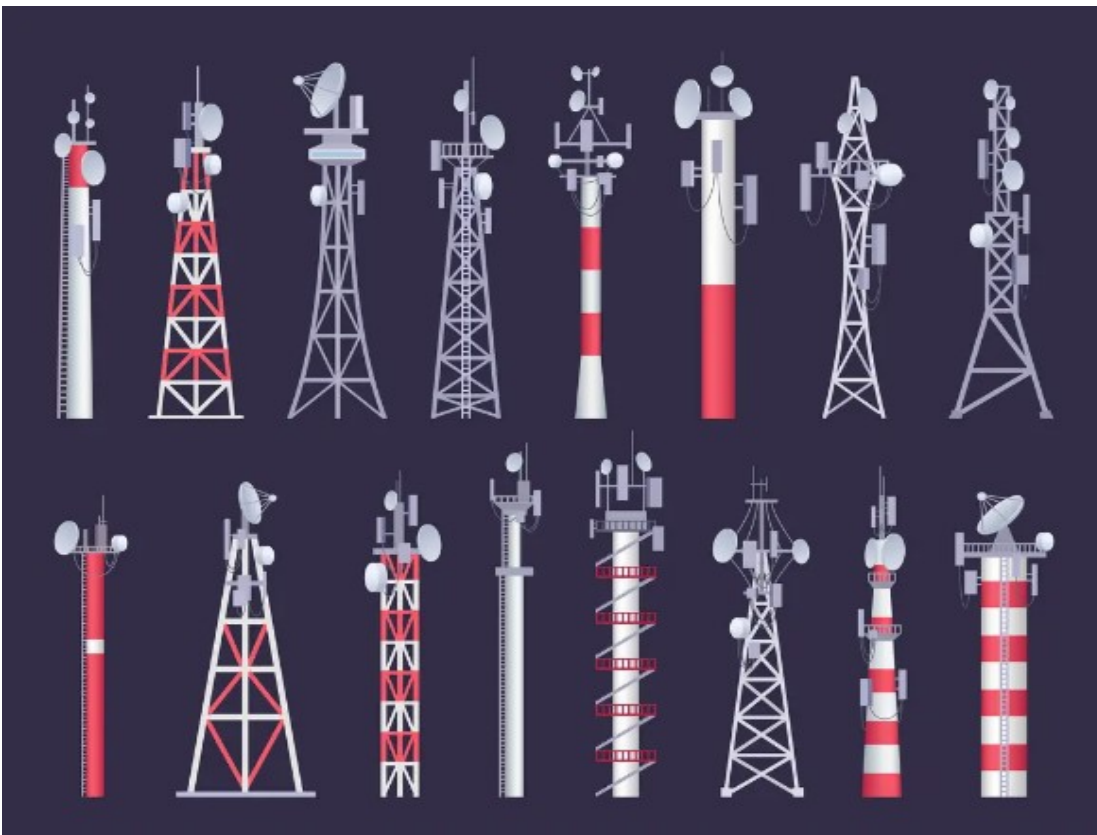
He further enjoined NITDA to support such community networks initiative through its digital centers initiatives so that these centers would not only catalyze digital skills dispersal across the country but also contribute significantly to the realization of its core strategic objective of achieving 95%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



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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 continued CITAD effort to promote digital marketing training to boost economy, 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 organised a one-day training for its members.

The training officer of CITAD said, “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 was conducted at Jama'are Community ICT Centre, Bauchi State on Sunday 19th September 2021. The opening remark was given by Isah Adamu a member of the National Community Networks Advisory Committee, representing the Jamaare Community. He welcomed participants and called on the trainees to unpack the contents of the training and make use of it. The training was facilitated by Engineer Suhail CITAD Technical officer and Mujahid Turajo CITAD Technical Assistant

Eng. 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 approach on how to create a Facebook business page and promote it in selected areas. He continued with practical session on how to create YouTube channel and monetize it to generate income and then demonstrated how participants can strategize on boosting their social media handles especially Facebook.

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, with the hope that, it will help in measuring their understanding of the training. Dahiru Abubakar CITAD's Program Officer for Jamaare Office closed the session with vote of thanks.

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