

ÁELEX

2022 LECTURE

16th

ANNUAL LECTURE

DIGITAL ECONOMY

AFRICA'S CATALYST FOR REGIONAL
GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

30TH
NOV.
2022



2.00PM



VIRTUAL

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DIGITAL ECONOMY

AFRICA'S CATALYST FOR REGIONAL
GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

PANELISTS:

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CCIE

DG/CEO, National Information Technology
Development Agency (NITDA)

Oswald Osaretin Guobadia

Senior Special Assistant to the President
on Digital Transformation

Dawn Dimowo

Government Affairs and Public Policy Lead
Google Nigeria

MODERATOR:

Dr. Segun Aina, OFR

President of the Africa Fintech Network
Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Fintech Association of Nigeria.



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**DIGITAL
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Programme

1.0 Opening

- 1.1 Introductory Reels**
- 1.2 National Anthem**
- 1.3 Welcome Address by the Managing Partner
of Aelex**
- 1.4 Introduction of the Moderator - Dr. Segun Aina, OFR**

2.0 Introduction of the Lecture Faculty

- 2.1 Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CCIE**
- 2.2 Oswald Osaretin Guobadia**
- 2.3 Dawn Dimowo**

3.0 The Lecture

4.0 Questions and Answers

5.0 Final Thoughts by the Panelists

6.0 Vote of Thanks



Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CCIE

DG/CEO
National Information
Technology
Development Agency
(NITDA)

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, the Director General/Chief Executive Officer of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), is no doubt one of the 'young turks' spearheading the country's aggressive drive to develop a world class IT industry. From his vantage position as DG of NITDA, the soft-spoken Abdullahi has been leading an explosive growth in the development of IT infrastructure and the Nigerian digital economy.

As Nigeria's Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), his unique and enviable personality has positioned him to be a role model for Nigerian youths who consider him "a worthy youth ambassador in governance".

Mallam Abdullahi is a thoroughbred IT professional with an impressive resume in public and private sector IT development, policy formulation, and IT governance. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi. He holds various



executive certificates from top-notch universities such as Harvard University, USA, University of Cambridge and Oxford University, UK. Mallam Abdullahi is also an alumnus of the prestigious IMD Business School, Switzerland and a trained strategist from the world-famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He equally holds many professional certifications in telecommunications, service management, networking and solution design.

Mallam Abdullahi, being the first Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE) in Nigeria's public sector, also has over 15 years of professional IT and management experience. He started his professional career at Galaxy Backbone Ltd where he served as a Network Engineer and Senior Network and Lead Solution Architect. In 2014, he joined the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) as a Technology Architect where he was part of the team that developed the bank's Technology Architecture Repository (TAR) and executed software license

rationalization that has increased cost savings for the bank in licensing annual subscription. He joined NITDA in 2017 as the Technical Assistant to Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, FNCS, FBCS, FIIM, the then Director General/CEO and now Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy and has significantly contributed to the Agency's growth and development.

In 2020, when the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic presented a major challenge to all countries around the world, the distinguished strategist rose to the challenge by developing various digital educational content accessed remotely by thousands of Nigerians as well as crafted remote working strategies to assist the government in continuing its public service to Nigerians. Mallam Abdullahi or simply 'Kashifu' as he is fondly called by friends, colleagues and associates, continues to provide able leadership to NITDA in discharging its onerous duty of catalysing the growth of the Nigerian IT sector and digital economy.



Oswald Osaretin Goubadia

Senior Special Assistant
to the President on
Digital Transformation

Oswald is currently the Senior Special Assistant to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, on Digital Transformation. He is the lead on the Nigeria Startup Act (NSA) - a project that is strategic to the growth of Nigeria's tech ecosystem and digital economy. He is a member of the Presidential Council on Digital Economy and e-government.

Oswald is a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Edo Innovates - the engine hub to drive technology and innovation in Edo State by providing strategic policy guidance, leverage on skills development, investment promotion and tech advancement in the state.

He is the founder of DBH Africa - a building infrastructure and technology solutions provider in West Africa. He actively supports startups in business strategy, operations optimization, and technology. His goal is to influence the economic narrative of Africa for good, through helping to build sustainable businesses that contribute to economic development, job creation, and thrive



inclusively in an interactive ecosystem.

As an African who is passionate about addressing development issues, he believes that startups and SMEs must take the lead to unlock potential, drive, and sustain economic value on the continent. This is evident in his published body of works, primarily in his book – In Pursuit: Journeys in African Entrepreneurship.

Mr. Guobadia holds a Masters in Telecommunications from Pace University and Bachelors in Biology from Wesley College.



Dawn Dimowo

Government Affairs and
Public Policy Lead
Google Nigeria

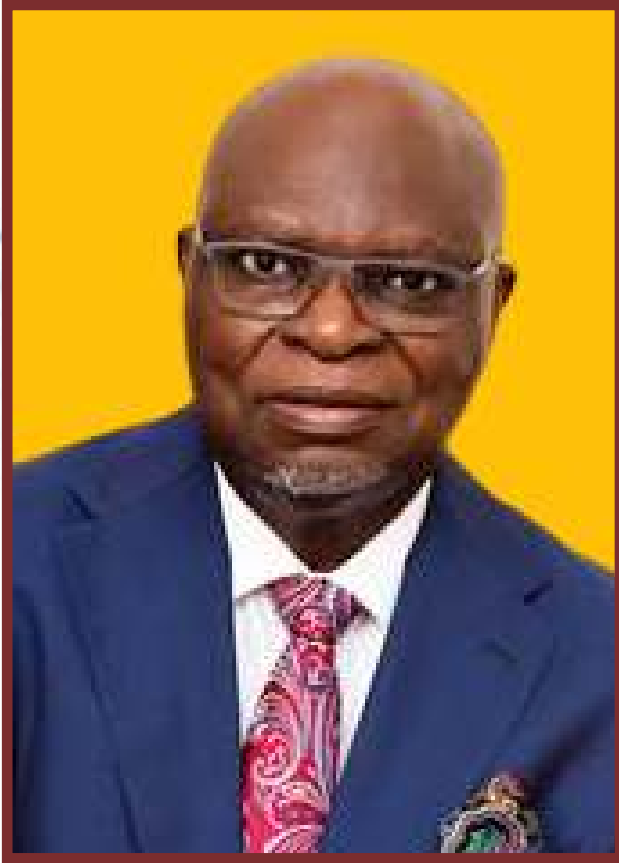
Dawn is the government affairs and public policy lead for Google in Nigeria. In this role, she is focused on co-creating the structures, frameworks and programs that will accelerate digital transformation and the sustainable growth of the country's digital economy.

Prior to Google, she was a consultant to government agencies, the private sector and development partners in West Africa, advising them on policy interventions and investments to address strategic priorities in technology, healthcare, finance, agriculture and broader socio-economic growth. She has also previously worked at a government agency in Abuja, Nigeria, and at the Office of Legal Affairs of INTERPOL in Lyon, France.

Dawn is a qualified lawyer and holds a master's degree in international law with a public administration emphasis from Panthéon-Assas University in Paris.



Outside of work, she enjoys African literature and performing arts, travelling and volunteering on causes she is passionate about. She sits on the boards of two health-centered non-profits - Haima Health Initiative, which is working on bridging the blood supply gap across Nigeria, and Akena Plus Health, which is focused on evidence-based sustainable solutions for community health in West Africa.



Dr. Segun Aina, OFR

President, Africa Fintech Network; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Fintech Association of Nigeria.

Dr Segun Aina OFR Is President of the Africa Fintech Network and the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Fintech Association of Nigeria. He is a global professional banking leader, internationally rated fintech thought leader, ecosystem builder, change driver and respected futurist.

He has three decades of distinguished banking career and voluntarily retired from active banking service after a six-year tenure as Bank MD/CEO.

Dr. Aina is the inaugural Chairman of Global Council of Global Banking Education Standards Board (GBESTB) a position he has held from 2017 to date. He is a former Chairman of Odua Investment Company Limited and past President of Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN 2012 to 2014). An innovation visionary who set up Fintech Associates Ltd as far back as 2002, he is founding President and Chairman BoT, Fintech Association of Nigeria (FINTECHNGR), initiator and founding President of the Africa Fintech Network (AFN),



Founder/Chairman, The Fintech Institute (TFI) and Opolo Global Innovation Limited. Dr. Aina who has been described as Nigeria's finTech envoy and Africa's Fintech Grandmaster incubated a number of successful fintech startups and sits on the Boards of various institutions in Banking, Insurance, Agriculture and Technology sectors. He also serves as a member of the UK-Africa Fintech Investment Group, a UK Govt initiative co-Chaired by the Lord Mayor of London and UK Prime Minister Ambassador for Business Fintech.

Dr. Aina is a distinguished alumnus of University of Lagos, University of Ibadan, INSEAD France, Harvard Business School (HBS), IMD Switzerland, and the Lagos Business School (LBS).

His contribution to the academic sector is legendary - he was a member of the pioneer Advancement Board of Obafemi Awolowo University 2006 to 2012 and currently Chairman Advancement Board of Federal University of Technology Akure (2011

to date), co-Chairman National Think Tank on Research for Innovation and Policy (an initiative of the University of Ibadan Research Foundation of which he is a member.

Dr Aina is a Fellow of London Institute of Banking and Finance, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators, Institute of Directors, Nigerian Institute of Management as well as Member, Toronto Region Board of Trade, Canada and Canadian Council for Africa.

He holds the Nigeria National honors of Officer of the Order of Federal Republic (OFR) since 2010 and has received honorary doctorate degrees from four renowned Universities.

2005 - 2021

2005: The Regulator in a Deregulated Economy, Prof. Don Wallace, Chairman, International Law Institute, Washington, DC, USA

2006: Competition Policy as an Engine for Economic Growth, Prof. Frederic Jenny, Judge, French Supreme Court, Chairman, Committee on Competition Law and Policy, OECD, Paris, France

2007: Corporate Governance: Who Profits? Judge Mervyn King S.C, Chairman, King Committee on Corporate Governance, South Africa

2008: Freedom of Information: Balancing the Public's Right to Know Against the Individual's Right to Privacy, Mr. Dele Olojede, Chairman, Timbuktu Media and Pulitzer Prize Winner for 2005

2009: How Ghana Kept the Lights On

Dr. Kwabena Donkor, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Energy, Republic of Ghana

2010: Taxation without Representation, Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu, OFR, Chairman, BGL Plc. and former Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Nigeria

2011: Corruption, the Thief in Broad Daylight, Mr. John Githongo, Former Permanent Secretary for Governance and Ethics, Office of the President of Kenya

2012: This House Must Not Fall: Constitutional Reform and the People's Will, Dr. Ali A. Mazrui, an Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies, Binghamton University, New York and former distinguished Research Professor, University of Jos, Nigeria.

2013: In God's Name: Politics, Religion and Economic Development, Prof. Timothy S. Shah, An Associate Director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Government Department, Georgetown University, USA.

2014: We celebrated our 10th Anniversary with a dinner on the 19th November, 2014 at Oriental Hall, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

2015: Politics, Democracy and Ethnicity, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, former Minister of External Affairs

2016: Making States Work

Moderator: Mr. Donald Duke (CON), Former Governor of Cross River State
Discussants:

Mr. Peter Obi (CON), Former Governor of Anambra State
Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede (CON), President of the Council, Nigerian Stock Exchange
Mr. Isaac Babatunde, Executive Director, Corporate & Sub-Sovereign Ratings, Augusto & Co.
Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, Africa Program of the Open Society Justice Initiative

2017: Schooling Without Learning

Guest Speaker: Prof. Ibidapo Obe, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos
Chairperson: Chief Folake Solanke SAN, First female Senior Advocate of Nigeria
Discussants:

Dr Adamu Jatau Noma, Executive director, FCT Universal Basic Education Board.
Professor Tunde Fatunde, Professor of francophone studies, Lagos State University.
Mrs. Adaora Ojo, Former Principal International School of Lagos
Ms. Swanta Blessing Bonat, Principal, Kataf Youth Academy Kaduna

2019: Strongmen vs Strong Institutions – Strengthening Democracy in Africa

Chairman: Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar, CON, CFR, GCON, former Chief Justice of Nigeria
Guest Speaker: Professor P.L.O. Lumumba, Associate Professor of Public Law and former Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya School of Law
Discussants:

Dr Joe Abah, former DAI Country Director for Nigeria
Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey, former Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF)

2020: Illiteracy, Migration and Insecurity: Nigeria's Population Time Bomb

Panelists:
Hon. Abike Dabiri, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission
Mr. Mohamed Yahya, Resident Representative, UNDP
Nyma Akashat-Zibiri, Founding Partner, Cynosure Practice, Barristers and Solicitors and co-host of TVC's 'Your View'
Moderator: Mrs Shola Soyele, Channels Television's Judiciary Correspondent

2021: The Nigeria We Want: Economic, Political and Social Justice

Panelists:
Dr. Ibukun Awosika, Founder and CEO, The Chair Centre Group
Mr. Frank Nweke II, Former Minister of Information and Communication
Prof Remi Sonaiya, Former Presidential Candidate, KOWA Party
Mr. Leke Alder, Founder & Principal, Alder Consulting
Moderator: Ms. Ibijoke Faborode, Co-founder and Executive Director, ElectHER

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