

## Report on “Building My Enterprise through Effective Leadership” Training @ Hotel Ibis Royale, 3rd October 2015, Lagos, Nigeria



A group photo with the participants and facilitators of the training

The event kicked off by 10:15 am with a welcome speech by Felix Iziomoh, the host and the Executive Director, International Centre for Leadership Development Nigeria, opened the conference with a warm welcome and expression of gratitude to all in attendance, especially those who had travelled far to grace the conference.

- I. The keynote speech / opening Remarks was delivered by Mr. Saka Abdul-Lateef who represented the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola.



Mr. Frank, Dr. Emma and Mr. Saka

## II. Leadership and Innovation ~ Dr. Mfon Archibong

Dr. Mfon Archibong, President /CEO Grace Restoration International, (GRI), U.S.A led the first session, he enthralled the audience with his presentation on leadership and Innovation. He emphasized that participants should be innovative and creative and “think outside the box”, “before the box gets you in”. He started by quoting Albert Einstein “we can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them”. He opined that creative thinking has become a core leadership competency. Complex challenges facing the society can be solved through creative system thinking. According to Dr. Archibong, “when you don’t engage yourself

in creative thinking, you become a barrier to your innovation and subsequently limits your potentials”. According to Dr. Archibong, “the thinking out of the box starts now with your projects or business ideas”.

### III. Youth Leadership and Community Development ~ Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

Dr. Emmanuel presented a very useful information drawing from his life experiences; he said the youth are the leaders of today, because there will not be a tomorrow. He gave out piece of papers with text to help participants ponder about their life, One of the powerful quotes he made was drawn from Bishop TD Jakes, who said ‘God did not bury you...He planted you’. God wants you to grow amazingly. The raw materials for community development are the capacity and ability of the individuals. Don’t limit yourself in the context of what you don’t have; those things do not define you. Some people can be highly literate, but not educated. You don’t learn education in the classroom. If the idea of ‘change’ does not involve growth then, we are just wasting our time. Young people have the capacity to relate, network, collaborate more easily than the adults. What is lacking in most of our youths today is the ‘creative element’ God did not bury us, but planted us” another paper reads “They laugh at me because I’m different; I laugh at them because they are the same” a quote by Kurt Cobain.



From left to right: Dr. Mfon Archibong, Dr. Emmanuel Ivorgba, Felix Iziomoh

After the lunch break, third session begins:

### IV. Using Security to Secure your Future ~ Frank Oduaran

He talked extensively on the critical issues in Nigeria such as ethno-religious conflicts, political based violence, systemic & political corruption, pervasive material inequalities & unfairness, unemployment, high level of poverty, human trafficking, weak security system, sectarian strife, the porous borders, terrorism, Boko Haram insurgency, poor infrastructural development and many more. He proffered so many solutions and concluded his speech with one of President Obama’s highly celebrated quote on Africa: ‘Africa doesn’t need strong men, it needs strong institutions’.

### V. The Entrepreneurial Mindset ~ Dr. Mfon Archibong

The facilitator put the participants into four different groups to come up with innovative business ideas. Participants were very receptive to the ideas and participated well in the exercises, adding their own wisdom and experience to the discussions.

In this session, he dissected the concept of entrepreneurship. He said that Businesses fail because of the following reasons:

- Poor planning
- Follow-follow (because Peter made it selling recharge cards, is no guarantee that Paul will also make it selling the same commodity), don’t get into a business solely because another man is

doing same.

- Multiple taxations from the government agencies and so on.

However, he encouraged entrepreneurs to embrace the three phases of innovation namely:

- Conception
- Implementation, and
- Marketing

You cannot be successful as a business person unless you are disciplined. Character is power says Booker T Washington. Leadership denotes taking action, and getting results. Leaders must be charismatic, inspirational, and being able to develop, connect and impact.



Participants with Dr. Archibong during group exercise



#### **VI. Leadership and Accountability ~Dr. Mfon Archibong**

The fifth lecture entitled 'The Leadership & Accountability'. In his view, he maintained that accountable people creates, seek and receives feedbacks. If you are part of the solution, you are part of the problem, if you are not part of the problem; you are not part of the solution. Great leaders are men of vision and mission. He challenged every participant to be people who make things happen. At the end of the lecture, I participants was reinvigorated, relived, and inspired. At the end of his lecture, he challenged the participants by asking questions about the issues he discussed. Those who attempted his questions were rewarded with exciting books titled 'Strengths Finder' by Tom Rath, New York Times Bestselling author of 'Wellbeing'. Another participant also made great attempts at his questions, and was rewarded with one of his book titled 'Kwabena and the Baobab Tree'.





## VII. Award Session ~ Felix Iziomoh

Other highlights of the events featured award presentations to the two speakers; Dr Mfon and Dr Ivorgba, plus other award presentations to Afere Lawrence of the Springboard farms, Akure, Chris Ibe and a host of others.

The Award was given in recognition of their community development in their various communities and States. We had four categories, the award for Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Service to Humanity, Innovative Youth Manager and Young Aspiring Leader.

Below are some of the pictures:



Thanks to our partners and supporters for making the event a huge success.

Kathleen Oweegon, U.S.A

Lynne Murguia, U.S.A

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African Youth Initiative on Crime Prevention,

New Era Education and Charitable Support Foundation,

August Eye Security Services,

CLIQEDGE,

Funky B & T Small Chops and Foods Limited