

New Opportunities

Identifying opportunities for students, and benefitting
from the Knowledge-based Economy

'Gbenga Sesan

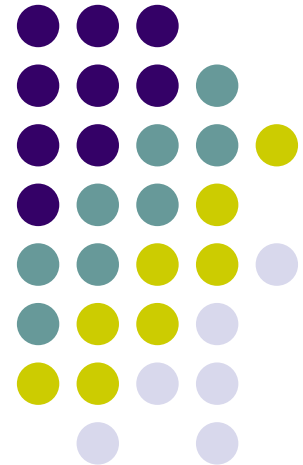
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Today's Menu



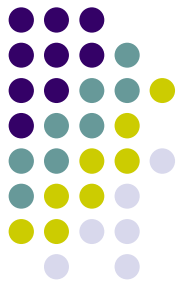
- ❖ It's a New World
- ❖ Change begins with “e”
- ❖ Facts and Factors for the New Economy
- ❖ Youth Energy! But redirected...
- ❖ Career & Business Opportunities
- ❖ And what do I do?
- ❖ Keep Walking...
- ❖ Questions?

It's a New World...



- Human existence has gone through distinct phases – from pre-civilisation through the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions and to the Information Age
- The Information Age is revealing a complex convergence that seeks to create a new society driven by information, communication and (emerging) technologies
- Economy, Politics, Culture, Technology and the Factors of Production have taken on new definitions
- This new society, the Information Society, is driven by ICTs, and an evident shrinking of space and dissolution of physical boundaries – globalisation
- The Information Society embraces a *multi-stakeholder* approach, bringing governments, businesses, civil society, academia and SIGs (e.g. youth) together

Change begins with “e”



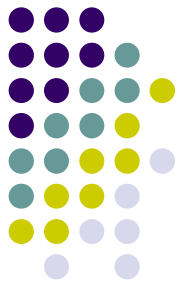
- The word, “change” begins with the letter “e”. **Pretty Amazing New Services** reveals a new variety of technology applications that exist today. *Ordered a pizza lately?*
- Almost every word has a new prefix, “e” – eCommerce, eGovernment, eLearning, eEverything...
- The noise about “e” is worth it, if you consider what “e” is all about – Efficiency, Electronic, Enabled...
- A complex integration of information and communication technologies – which are often not visible to the front-end user – define the influence of “e” on every application area. E.g. eMail, cell phones are used by every Tomi, Dike and Haruna but they involve a complex array of technologies and processes

Facts & Factors



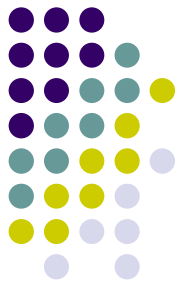
- The Information Society operates on a multi-stakeholder platform, and it also throws up the “multidisciplinary” concept – different disciplines contribute their quota and at the end, a structured matrix of efforts produce a beautiful society for all
- Every profession is repositioning for improved relevance in the new Information Society – from Accounting (New Accounting) to Agriculture (Precision Agriculture), and Computing (Information Sciences) too!
- This new paradigm is also shifting educational standards – from what you have (certificate) to what you know (expertise)
- Nations are not left out. Natural resources no longer give directions to Human and Intellectual Capital. Ever revisited the first-third world definitions recently?

Youth Energy Redirected



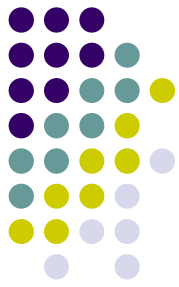
- Youthful energy will always be expressed. It is like water... it can help you, and it can destroy
- Destructive youth energy does more harm to the future than it does for today. Let's talk about scam...
- There's a strong need for us to redirect our energies for progressive efforts, especially with ICTs – as this is the window through which the world sees Nigeria
- Combined youth effort for positive efforts would be like a dam... if well handled, it can produce light to illuminate entire nations, continents and more!
- If we fail in the days of adversity, we have no one to blame except ourselves, because when all the dust settles and we're back to ourselves, we may have ourselves to blame for cutting our future short

Careers & Business Opps



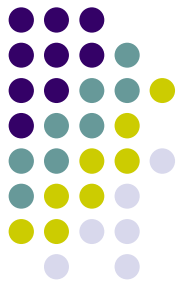
- Students stand the chance of enjoying either (or both) of the New Economy's career and business opportunities
- We need to break away from the “desperate job-seeker” mentality and build our own career paths – either as managers or entrepreneurs
- ICTs provide endless career opportunities: mergers between present industries and ICT services, e.g. New Accounting, Precision Agriculture, etc
- ICTs also provide business opportunities: content (e.g. articles), service (e.g. website), products (e.g. software), and more...
- These opportunities may not always require starting big. Offering your idea on ICT platforms is not as expensive as manufacturing a new model on a product line
- These opportunities are identified by the prepared

And What do I do?



- Settle the issue of career choice before *tomorrow*
- If your goals in life only exist in your head, and they only come up during discussions, you are only day-dreaming. Get a pen and write down your goals
- Identify your unique processes. Take your enterprise as a project and sketch a *Work Breakdown Structure* to identify tasks, and then, processes
- Conduct a process evaluation. How does technology enable each process? What are the things that technology cannot do and the things technology cannot do better than usual convention? What can technology do for each process?
- What array of information and communication technologies does the process evaluation throw up?
- What is your “roll out” plan? A phased approach becomes necessary when funds are limited

Keep Walking...



- Covering the greatest of distances begin with one step
- Each successive generation is getting more comfortable with what previous generations saw as high-tech. Can't you sense the trend?
- Lifelong Learning in the learning paradigm of the New Economy. No end to learning and skill acquisition
- ICTs offers you a reservoir of learning resources:
 - ✓ Intel's www.skool.ie
 - ✓ MIT's OpenCourseWare - <http://ocw.mit.edu>
 - ✓ ITrainOnline - www.itainonline.org
 - ✓ Search tools – Google, etc
- eMail, discussion groups, mailing lists, webzines and your own website/weblog will help you connect with the right people, skills, opportunities and knowledge
- I'm on a journey. Do you want to come with me? Then, keep walking...

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