

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

THE FUTURE AWARDS/THE FUTURE PROJECT (FEBRUARY 2011 – APRIL 2012)

This is a brief on highlights from the activities, engagements and impact of The Future Project (TFP) and The Future Awards (TFA) since the last edition of The Future Awards, which held in Lagos, Nigeria on January 30, 2011.

THE RSVP CAMPAIGN

The Future Project founded EnoughisEnough (EiE) Nigeria but handed it over to an independent board after three months. EiE has grown into a truly national coalition that has delivered high-impact projects over the past year. As a key coalition member, TFP was a key part of the 2011 elections RSVP (Register.Select.Vote.Protect) campaign that galvanized youth participation in the national elections. It also joined a partnership of influential youth engagement groups including Sleeves Up, and the Nigerian Leadership Initiative to organize Nigeria's first youth-centred presidential debate, the *What About Us?* Debate. The RSVP Campaign and its ReVoDa election monitoring tool have become benchmarks across the continent.

THE FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME [TF-EDP]

This stream of The Future Enterprise Support Scheme (TF-ESS) held another session in 2011 and had young and aspiring entrepreneurs from across the country interact directly with successful proprietors of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in Nigeria in teaching and practical sessions. Faculty included Tara Fela Durotoye of the House of Tara, Debbie Ogunjobi of EveryWoman, Nike Ogunlesi of Ruff n Tumble, and Mosunmola Umoru of Honeysuckles PTL Ventures.

THE FUTURE WRITERS WORKSHOP (TF-WW)

This stream of The Future Enterprise Support Scheme (TF-ESS) held another session in 2011 that equipped young and aspiring with practical skills to excel in a 24-hour-media cycle and with a challenging reading culture. A scheme of lectures, tests and internships, facilitators included Muhtar Bakare (Publisher, Farafina), Toni Kan (Author, Night of the Creaking Beds), Aziza Uko (Editor-at-Large, Y! Magazine), amongst others.

THE PICTURE PERFECT WORKSHOP FOR TV PRESENTERS

This stream of The Future Enterprise Support Scheme held another session in 2011 that empowered talented young Nigerians who aspire to work in television with the skills and professional rudiments required. Facilitators included respected professionals like Sience Allwell-Brown (former NTA newscaster and General Manager with the Nigeria LNG), Funmi Iyanda (Award-winning broadcaster), amongst others.

PHOTOSHOP – TRAININGS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

In partnership with Kelechi Amadi-Obi Studios, The Future Project organised its training for young and aspiring photographers in its continuing mission to build capacity for enterprise. This held in April 2011 and again in March 2012. With a curriculum based upon practical sessions in and out of the famous Amadi-Obi Studios, the students had lecturers included the respected Ade Plumptre and the young sensation Obi Somto.

US/PAS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE

In partnership with the United States Public Affairs Section, The Future Project organised a Food and Agricultural roundtable which had some of Nigeria's most progressive academics from universities across the country, farmers, Non-governmental organizations like USAID and local youth agriculture organizations like Harambe had an intensive discussion on the present future of food and agriculture in Nigeria.

NEW TOOLS NEW GOVERNMENT: A TOWN HALL MEETING

In partnership with the United States Public Affairs Section, The Future Project organized a Town Hall Meeting on the influence, impact and prospects of new media in Nigerian governance. With presentations from NEXT Newspapers, Enough is Enough Nigeria, and Reclaim Naija, young people reviewed the 2011 elections and defined a pathway towards 2015 and the future.

YOUTH ENTERPRISE WITH INNOVATION (YouWiN!)

In October 2011, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Communication Technology (CT), and the Ministry of Youth Development collectively launched The Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (You WiN!) Programme. The Future Project was a Development Partner for the launch and deployment, as part of the steering group and in spotlighting and profiling youth entrepreneurship in the six geo-political zones of the country.

'DRIVE THE FUTURE NIGERIA' WITH THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH

The Future Project was a Development Consultant to the Ministry of Youth as it conceptualised its DriveTheFutureNigeria campaign, an advocacy platform that sought to drive enterprise, entrepreneurship and youth participation in governance deploying Information Technology. Though an independent campaign - gained direct inspiration from The Future Project and it's popular website www.thefuturenigeria.com.

PROTECT THE CORPERS

The viral #ProtectTheCorpers campaign begun as an outcry against the avoidable deaths of young Nigerians in service in volatile regions in the country. It was actualized through a coalition of youth organizations including the National Youth Council, AIESEC, Sleeves Up, Friends of Aik (who lost his life in service) and Enough is Enough Nigeria. Starting as a

signature campaign to pressure the government to reform the NYSC, the campaign was conclude upon the president's publicly documented response to the campaign, where he fledged to reform the scheme in May, 2011.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NIGERIA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

As a Development Partner, The Future Project collaborated with the Nigeria Leadership Initiative on two projects – the launch of the CLEVER Club Pilot in Adamawa State, which is an initiative to inculcate leadership values in high school students, and the launch of the NLI White Papers, which is a collection of essays on Nigerian Leadership and Politics. The Future Project also worked with NLI on '79% failure is unacceptable: A roadmap for education in Nigeria' – an advocacy project driven through the traditional and new media to spotlight the falling standards of learning in high schools.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNVEILING AFRICA FOUNDATION

The Future Project, for the second year, partnered with the Unveiling Africa Foundation on its Annual Teenager's Conference, which provides "a platform to nurture this new generation of Nigerians who are the teenagers of today with skills required for nation building. More specifically, this year's conference focuses on how teens can create change in their society through the use of media.

A two-day program to provide theoretical and practical knowledge to teenagers on becoming active nation builders through the use of media, it also featured the launch of Nigeria's first advocacy magazine for teenagers. The event held on 15 October, 2011 and its theme was Teens, Media and Social Change.

PARTNERSHIP WITH NIGERIA DIALOGUE IN LONDON

The Future Project partnered with the official launch of Nigeria Dialogue, an avenue to introduce the activities of Nigeria Dialogue to the wider public and give Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora the opportunity to get involved in a series of topical and systemic dialogues that to shape the future of our nation. Held on October 22, 2011, it was an open town hall meeting where Professor Pat Utomi will deliver the keynote address and participated in key topical discussions involving the Executive Director of The Future Project, Chude Jideonwo.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ECONOMICS AND THE ARTS

Executive Director of The Future Project, Chude Jideonwo was one of the development consultants from across Africa to participate in a 3-day forum on the role of youth in preparation for the 2012 ADEA (African Development Through Economics and the Arts) Triennial. The deliberations of the meeting helped the ADEA Secretariat, so that it can approve the guidance and content with respect to the goals set for the next Triennale; using it as an agreed reference framework for assessing the relevance of proposals for contributions, possibly for making adjustments to them and for determining the shape of the thematic and general reports. Other outcomes of the youth consultation forum were: (i) the youth's evaluation of existing education and training systems and the impact on their employability and career; and (ii) their vision of the reforms that necessary in education and training systems. The event held in Rabat, Morocco in October 2011.

SAFETY ACROSS AFRICA

A Director of The Future Project, Adebola Williams, was one of the development consultants from across Africa to deliberate at the second Africa Road Safety Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The continent-wide discussions on how to tackle the growing number of road fatalities in Africa held on 9, November, 2011 and the conference unanimously agreed a detailed Africa Action Plan (AAP) aimed at stabilising and then halving the number of road crash fatalities by 2020. The (AAP) articulated clear targets and

deliverables and was forwarded for review to African ministers in charge of transport in Luanda, Angola on 24-28 November.

THE NIGERIA SYMPOSIUM FOR YOUNG AND EMERGING LEADERS

This historic gathering is easily the most important event for a new generation of Nigerian Leaders in the past year. Held in conjunction with the World Bank, the International Republican Institute, First Bank and others, the Symposium for Young and Emerging leaders was a groundbreaking forum that featured young leaders in government, the private sector and the media in a no-holds-barred capacity building forum. The conference had as Headline Speaker Vice President of the World Bank for Africa Obiageli Ezekwesili, with other speakers including Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State, Governor Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers State, the Minister of Aviation and academic Prof. Pat Utomi. It took place in on 11 and 12 March 2012 and had over 700 documented participants.

THE YNAIJA FRONTPAGE SERIES

Following from the Nigeria Symposium for Young & Emerging Leaders, the YNaija Frontpage was launched by The Future Project as a youth participation tool. It is a daily opened series on the popular site that presents exciting voices on national issues, from the perspective of young leaders. Taking direct inspiration from the wildly popular Thisday BackPage, it provides informed, authoritative opinions on current issues in a way that guides and influences Nigeria's vibrant youth culture. The widely-read FrontPage debuted in March 2012 – and is published primarily on YNaija.com and then on CP-Africa.com, Leadership Newspapers, and Daily Trust.

Endorsed and Delivered to the Board and General Public, This Day, on the launch of The Future Awards Season 7, May 29, 2012.