

SCHOOLNET NIGERIA

SchoolNet Nigeria (SNNG) is the leading national organization engaged in the effective and sustainable deployment and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enhance teaching and learning in the primary and secondary education sector. SchoolNet Nigeria embodies a partnership between a diverse range of public and private sector interests in order to mobilize Nigeria's human and financial resources for the purposes of transformation of the education system in Nigeria into one, which participates in and benefits from the knowledge society. Through its programmes, SchoolNet Nigeria works to develop Nigerians who not only have access to information and knowledge, but also use them for positive development of themselves and community.

Organization's background and primary programs:

The concept proposal for a regional Schoolnet Africa initiative was endorsed in 1999 at the United Nations Africa Development Forum, which was attended by Africa's Heads of States to examine how ICTs can contribute to development on the continent. The UNECA unveiled the concept of the Africa Learning Network (ALN) with the three pillars namely;

1. VarsityNet
2. SchoolNet
3. Out-of-school youth Network (OOSYNET)

SchoolNet Africa (SNA) was however chosen as the ALN's flagship due to its potential impact, especially with addressing the needs of adolescents and youth –in – and out of school.

In July 2000, representatives of Identified operational national school networking initiatives and related agencies were invited to Okahandja, Namibia to discuss school networking concerns and the establishment of SchoolNet Africa (SNA).

SchoolNet Africa is a response to global call for an Africa-wide body, which would facilitate the development of national school networking initiatives in Africa. It is expected to help leverage resources and form a coordinated platform through which assistance and aid worldwide aimed at ICTs in education in Africa can be channeled.

Nigeria's representatives at the Okahandja workshop, IEARN Nigeria and the Education Trust Fund (ETF), were mandated to champion the establishment of SchoolNet Nigeria for effective transformation of educational processes in Nigeria with ICTs using best practices.

SchoolNet Nigeria was however officially launched in September 2001 at a well-represented stakeholder workshop, held in Abuja, Nigeria, and funded by the Education Trust Fund. In this process, it managed to gain much needed credibility through its consultative approach, and gained political support for its establishment.

Our core activities are in the areas of:

- Implementation, support and co-ordination of ICT development projects in education for national and state level projects;
- Provision and support of technology solutions for schools, particularly lower-cost and scalable solutions;
- Provide support of technology solutions for schools, particularly lower-cost and scalable solutions;
- Develop local, state-wide and national ICT in education capacity;
- Implement training for educators to use technology to enhance teaching and learning;
- Address the shortage of technical ICT skills;
- Support and facilitate the development of education content particularly local content, for use by learners and educators;
- Promote collaboration among educators and learners;

- Assess the functionality and impact of ICT-based learning opportunities and resources in the classroom to encourage systemic improvement in the education system;
- Create an awareness of the use of ICTs in education (through press, conferences, seminars, electronic media and the internet), leading to grassroots demand and adoption and at all levels of the education system;
- Introduce the integration of Project based learning as well as ICTs in schools curricula
- Develop partnerships in support of ICTs in education;
- Provide strategic guidance and support policy development in the area of ICTs for education in order to create an enabling environment.

In a bid to achieve its objective, SNNG's approach is to occupy the important role of Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Implementation Partner in the education sector for corporate organizations. The drive to achieve this objective has led to the establishment of mutual business relationships with stakeholders in the education sector of Nigeria and international communities, thus positioning us as a partner of choice. These stakeholders include - the Federal Ministry of Education, State Ministries of Education, Education Trust Fund, NCC, NEPAD and World Bank amongst others. Our strategic partnership with these stakeholders ensures that our activities are within government policy and implementation frameworks.

Since inception of operation in 2001, SNNG has worked as a Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Implementation Partner of several organizations such as MTN Foundation, Multichoice, Intel, World Bank and Microsoft to mention a few.