

Artificial Intelligence Summit 2022: NCS President's Address

Protocol

Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), the umbrella body for all Information Technology practitioners, has continued to lead Information Technology development and digital transformation for many years ago. Recently, the society created many initiatives and programmes geared toward enhancing national development using emerging technologies. Today, we are witnessing another innovative programme of NCS that is aimed impacting on all areas of the economy.

It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome you all to the maiden edition of Artificial Intelligence Summit of Nigeria Computer Society, holding in the scintillating and accommodating city of Lafia, Nasarawa.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of Computer Science which involves the creation of applications, systems and machines that are as intelligent as human beings. Currently, AI is reshaping the world and making significant changes in different domains of life. AI is being implemented across the world to enhance the processes and activities of both public and private organizations.

Covid-19 has disrupted government and economic activities all over the world. Countries and businesses are now leveraging on emerging technologies for better performance. The focus of this summit is to generally enable, develop and expand Nigeria's capability in AI. Integrating Artificial Intelligence in government will trigger numerous opportunities such as better policy formulation, efficient decision making, enhanced quality of service, guaranteed citizens' trust, increased work output and generally promote good government. Ai-enabled private sector will boost revenues, remove bottlenecks, ensure smooth planning, increase output, increase market penetration, enhance service delivery, improve customer satisfaction; and increase production output and quality. Leveraging on AI will leapfrog economic transformation of any nation. In addition, AI can support and facilitate the realization of the 17 goals and 169 targets recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The theme of this year's summit is '**Artificial Intelligent for National Development**'. In Nigeria, we need to start building indigenous capacities in AI. Currently, about 3% of Information Technology in Nigeria are in the areas of AI and robotics. Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) has resolved to change the situation by providing enabling environment, technical skills and expertise for the development of AI in Nigeria. This summit was smartly structured to promote the adoption of AI in all spheres of life. The summit has seven components, namely Technical Session, Discussion Forum, Workshop, Demonstration, AI Challenge, Exhibition and Master Class for students. You will agree with me that this Summit will make significant impact on participants and Nigeria.

I wish to first honour and appreciate host of this Summit, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa. By our assessment, the governor is an amiable person, a man of the people and a core professional. He has continued to drive government processes using technology. No wonder he became the Nigeria Digital Governor in 2021. I wish to state categorically that we are having this Summit because of the immeasurable supports received from our Digital Governor. We pray for more

guardiancies and greater love from the Almighty Allah in your life. We also thank all the members of the Nasarawa State Executive Council for their supports and interest in NCS.

We sincerely appreciate our special guests for accepting to be part of this summit. In particular, the Vice-President Nigeria, Mr. 'Yemi Osibajo; Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Alli Ibrahim (Pantami); Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu; Director General, National Information Technology and Development Agency (NITDA), Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi; Executive Vice-Chairman Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umaru Garba Danbatta; and Chairman / Chairman of Dangote Group, Mr. Aliko Dangote.

I must also specially recognized all the members of the National Executive Council (NEC) for supporting this wonderful initiative and participating at this event. The smart NEC 2.0 has been highly strategic and innovative in the conduct of the affairs of the current NCS. More grease to your elbow! Special thanks to the fellows and senior members of the society in attendance.

We also appreciate our partners – Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), IBM, Oracle Plc., Microsoft, Zinox, the representatives of the international partners of NCS (International Federation for Information Processing and British Computer Society) are indeed recognised. We are really grateful for your interest in Nigeria Computer Society.

We recognized and specially thank our distinguished resource persons and guests: Engr. Yau Isah Garba, Director, National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; Dr. Olusola Sayeed Ayoola – Founder, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Nigeria (RAIN); Mr. Umar Zubairu – MD, Flash click & Head of ICT, Pen Resource University Gombe State; Mr. Chris Ighalo, – SmartCity Resorts Plc., Engr. Kemisola Bolarinwa – Founder/CEO, Nextwear Technology, Dr. Chika Yinka-Banjo – Founder, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory (AIROL), University of Lagos; and Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa - Acting Director, NITDA IT Hub (NitHub), the University of Lagos. We are most grateful for accepting to be part of this event.

We sincerely appreciate the duo that attracted this programme to Nasarawa State: DG ICT, Mal. Shehu Ibrahim and SSA ICT, Mal Haruna Sanni, who also doubles as the NCS Chairman in Nasarawa.

I want to specially thank the past presidents and elders of this great Society. We appreciate your vision and unalloyed supports at all times.

Finally, I wish to appreciate those that worked assiduously to make today a reality - the National Organising Committee, Local Organising Committee and the secretariat for their commitments and dedications toward the success of this conference.

On behalf of the 21st National Executive Council (NEC) and the entire membership of Nigeria Computer Society (**NCS**), I want to assure all participants that we shall all have knowledge full and enjoyable time in Nasarawa.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Professor Adesina SODIYA FNCS
President, Nigeria Computer Society