

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PROTOCOL

Ladies and gentlemen, Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) has continued to lead Information Technology development and digital transformation for many years. 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 at impacting on all areas of the economy.

It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome you all to the second edition of Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Summit of Nigeria Computer Society, holding in the scintillating and accommodating city of Plateau, Jos.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics Engineering are revolutionizing how we live, work, and interact with each other. They are transforming every segment of the global economy, and providing significant opportunities for breakthroughs in different domains of life, such as agriculture, medicine, transportation, finance, education, and many others. Both technologies are 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 while robotics engineering is enabling the development of machines that can perform tasks that were previously impossible or too dangerous for humans.

This year's summit will focus on the theme: "AI and Robotics for National Development". The summit aims to create an avenue for Nigerian stakeholders to gain insights into the latest developments, trends, and innovations in AI and Robotics, and discuss strategies for leveraging them to achieve national development.

In recent times, we have witnessed the impact of AI and Robotics on economies and societies worldwide. In Nigeria, we need to start building indigenous capacities in AI and Robotics engineering. Currently, only about 3% of Information Technology practitioners 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 and Robotics in Nigeria.

As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that we leverage on emerging technologies for better performance in government and economic activities. The adoption of AI and Robotics engineering 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 governance. In the private sector, AI and Robotics engineering 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 and Robotics engineering will leapfrog the economic transformation of any nation.

The summit has been designed to promote the adoption of AI and Robotics in all spheres of life. It features Technical Sessions, Discussion Forums, Workshops, Demonstrations, AI Challenges, Exhibitions, and Master Classes for students. We are confident that this summit will make significant impact on participants and Nigeria at large.

I wish to first honour and appreciate host of this Summit, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State. 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. I wish to state categorically that we are having this Summit because of the immeasurable supports received from our Governor. We pray for more guardians and greater love from the Almighty Allah in your life. We also thank all the members of the Plateau State Executive Council for their supports and interest in NCS.

We sincerely appreciate our special guests for accepting to be part of this Summit. I must also specially recognize 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, Unicorn Group, 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:

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 Jos.

Once again, I welcome you all to the second edition of Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Summit of Nigeria Computer Society, and I hope you will find this summit rewarding and insightful. Thank you.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Professor Adesina Simon Sodiya FNCS
President, Nigeria Computer Society (NCS)