



YABATECH UNEVOC CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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REPORT OF THE 2016 UNITED NATIONS WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

United Nations World Youth Skills Day Celebration

July 15 is United Nations World Youth Skills Day. A day dedicated to raise awareness about the importance of youth skills development. The issue of youth unemployment is a major concern for all societies. By encouraging youth skills development, the issue of unemployment can be tackled and reduced drastically. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Also, one in five youths, or 125 million, are working but live in extreme poverty. Skills development is a primary means of enabling young people to make a smooth transition to work. The goal is to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and under-employment. Thus, Yaba College of Technology joined the rest of the world to observe the day with a theme tagged "Get Skilled, Get Employed." The event was hosted by the UNEVOC Centre, Yaba College of Technology and the Rector, Dr. M. K. Ladipo, represented by the Deputy Rector Academics, Mr. Akhuemonkhan Innocent delivered a welcome address and opening speech, challenging all students of this foremost institution of higher learning to continue to get empowered through skills development which is synonymous with the institution because education and training are key determinants of success in the labor market. This year's event featured professional organizations and well established companies with varying capabilities - marketing, recruiting, entertainment, fashion, digital media and photography, with a resolve to invest more in empowering young people.

Scheduled Activities for 2016 United Nations World Youth Skills Day

- Exhibition
- Special Performance by Yabatech Students
- National Anthem by Yabatech Students
- Welcome Address
- Goodwill Message
- WYSD Theme Song by Yabatech Student
- Inspirational Lecture – Creating a New You
- Inspirational Keynote Address
- Skill Dance by Yabatech Students
- Panel Session
- Youth Skills Competition/Awards
- Special Recognition/Presentation of Gifts

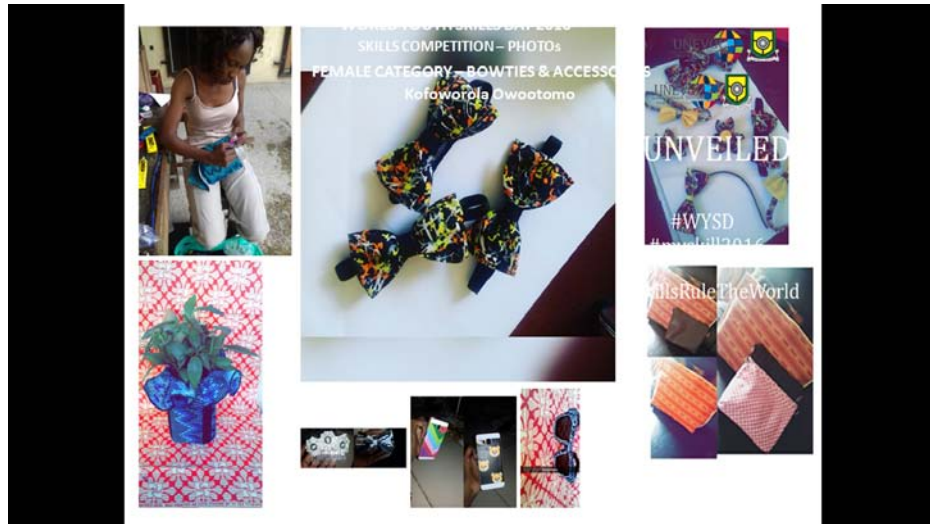
Exhibition

On this year's WYSD event, Yabatech UNEVOC centre introduced an attention catching slide exhibition for the youth. Compiled skills photos of Yabatech students drew the attention of participants to an unusual side of the youth innovative world. The following skill sets were on display – Painting, Fashion, Modelling, Architecture, Carpentry, Baking, Textile Processing and more. Also, different organizations/companies exhibited their various products/services:

- ❖ Jobberman – a company providing viable solutions to one of the most fundamental challenges of any society – unemployment. With a reputation for excellence in enterprise support and best use of technology in solving problems, Jobberman is the top choice to both Jobseekers and Job Providers.
- ❖ Jumia – Jumia, Nigeria's no. 1 online retailer was established in May 2012 with the aim and vision to become the one-stop shop for retail in Nigeria with implementation of best practices both online and offline. Initially starting with 3 employees, Jumia presently has a staff strength of 1000 young and entrepreneurial Nigerians including 150 man strong customer service team available 7 days a week. Jumia is the largest online retail store in Nigeria. Jumia set-up the 1st e-commerce academy in Nigeria, the Jumia Academy, building young entrepreneurs pioneering various aspects of business in Nigeria.
- ❖ ISPON – The Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON) is a technical arm of the National Industrial Safety Council of Nigeria (NISCN) which is a tripartite organization comprising (The governments, Employers and Labour) established by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 1964 to monitor industries/factories activities to ensure Safety of people and advise on the need for legislation. The Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON) is Nigeria's largest Safety Professional body for individuals involved in Occupational Health and Safety practices, individuals involved in maintaining standards, providing impartial and authoritative guidance and HSE trainings. The Institute's members are drawn from various sectors of our economy including the government agencies and construction industries. Corporate organizations are also admitted as members. The institute has initiated training for the youths on lots of rare jobs thereby creating employment opportunities.
- ❖ Indomie Nigeria – Indomie is a unique brand of Instant Noodles, loved by a majority of Nigerians. It has grown to become a household name in Nigeria owing to its delightful taste and wholesomeness. Transcending across all age groups, the brand has managed to win over the hearts and taste palates of both the young and the old. Currently, the brand accounts for approximately 74% market share in Nigeria, with an estimated annual growth of 40%. Indomie Nigeria believes that the future of any society depends on its youth and continues to invest in youth empowerment programs.
- ❖ MTN Nigeria – MTN Nigeria is part of the MTN Group, Africa's leading cellular telecommunications company. On May 16, 2001, MTN became the first GSM network to make a call following the globally lauded Nigerian GSM auction conducted by the Nigerian Communications Commission earlier in the year. Thereafter the company launched full commercial operations beginning with Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt. MTN Nigeria has engaged the immediate youth of Nigeria through several empowerment programs till date.
- ❖ Solarway Nigeria - Solarway is a forward thinking creative think tank that develops personalized and sustainable power solutions for people with limited or no access to power. Solarway development teams design, create and engineer solar powered products that can

perform in the most extreme conditions bringing the ability to have light at night and to power communication so necessary for localized economies. The company strengthening and support youths on empowerment programs.

Below are slides exhibition for the World Youth Skills Day 2016:



Pix – Compiled Skill slide exhibition for Yabatech Students



Pix – Exhibition by invited Companies/Organizations

Special Performance by Yabatech Students

A skillful saxophonist and also a graduate of Yaba College of Technology lead the event with a song to open this year's World Youth Skills Day. The students' hearts were all beamed up and the hall filled up.



Pix – Opening of WYSD 2016

National Anthem by Yabatech Students

Simon Ogbe and his group recited the national anthem in a unique way. They instill the spirit of patriotism and a call went out for all to mobilize for that which concerns the youth and their future.



Pix – National Anthem by Yabatech Youth

Notable Personalities

It was truly a great day as all great individuals from all walks of life gathered to observe the United Nations World Youth Skills Day. All were assembled to help create awareness and motivate the younger generations for a better future. There was Mrs Omolara Oni-Michael, a speaker, writer, an etiquette coach and a life skill expert working mostly with the youths. She is Vice President of the Blessed People Reconciliation Ministry. Honorable Babajimi Benson of the House of Representatives of Federal Republic of Nigeria also honored the call for the empowerment of youth. Also for the WYSD event was Mr. Atunyota Akporobomerere, a professional comedian who has won several awards for excellence, non-equal performance and entrepreneurial endowment.



Pix – Mrs. Omolara Oni, Speaker



Pix – Mr. Atunyota Akporobomerere (Alibaba), Special Guest & Speaker

Welcome Address and Opening Speech

The Rector, Dr. (Mrs.) M. K. Ladipo, represented by the erudite, Deputy Rector Academics, Mr. Akhuemonkhan Innocent, with delight, welcomed all the participants of this year's World Youth Skills Day. She noted the last celebration and the honor that was bestowed on the institution by the presence of the dignitaries that graced the event.



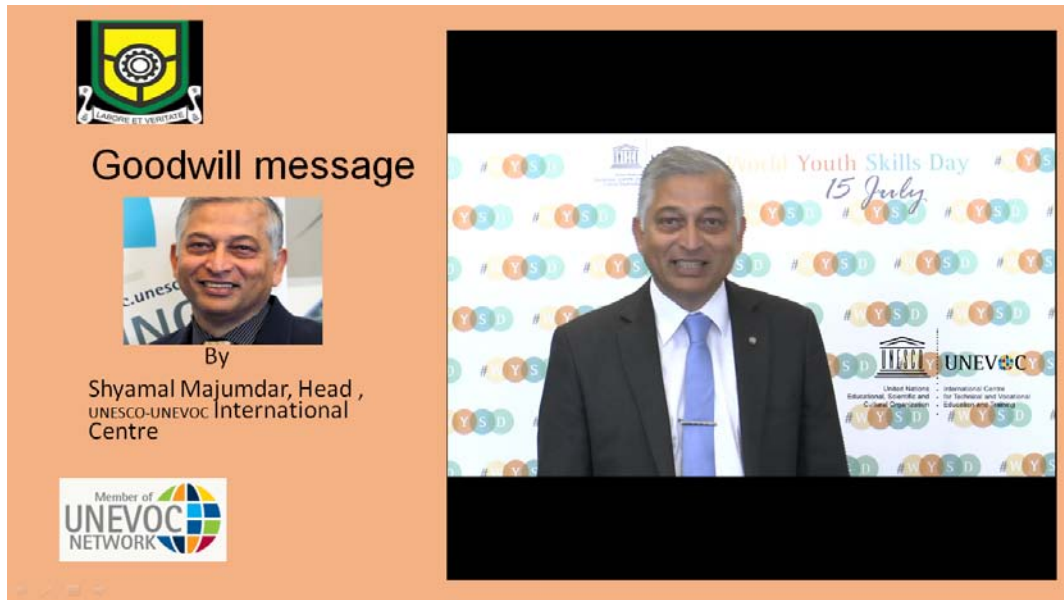
Pix – Mr. Akhuemonkhan Innocent, Deputy Rector Academics

This year, with heart full of hope for the younger generations, Nigeria and the world in general, she urges the galaxy of distinguished celebrities and personalities who have come to grace the celebration to join hands and work harder to increase the number of youth who have relevant skills while noting the source of inspiration that they were to the teaming Yabatech student community and the world.

She also pointed to the fact that the theme of the celebration – **Get Skilled, Get Employed** is very apt and timely; and underscores the very fact that the acquisition of skills by the youths will enhance their ability to make informed choices with regard to life and work; and; ultimately empower them to gain access to changing labor markets and creating viable employment opportunities.

Goodwill Message

A goodwill message was passed across by Shyamal Majumdar, Head , UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre to celebrate the World Youth Skills Day with the teaming populace that attended the event at Yaba College of Technology. Shyamal Majumdar, while noting the exceptional spirit of enthusiasm and dedication committed by the Yabatech UNEVOC Centre for the event, encourages all to continue to promote awareness and learning for the world of work, and not only in Nigeria but also all over Africa.



Slide/Video – Mr. Shyamal Majumdar, Head , UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre

WYSD Theme Song by Yabatech Student

A special song was composed by Yabatech student, Emmanuel Ohore for World Youth Skills Day. Emmanuel and his band also performed live at the WYSD event. With short and precise message, he passed across to the youth the need to embrace self empowerment through skill acquisition.



Pix – Emmanuel Ohore performing live on WYSD 15 July 2016

Inspirational Lecture – Creating a New You

An elaborate inspirational lecture was delivered by Mrs Omolara Oni-Michael. Having worked over the years developing and counseling youth on the need for self empowerment, her strong passion for the youth echoed across the hall. It was a time of reflection for all the youths present at the 2016 edition of United Nations World Youth Skills Day.

The following points were drawn from her lecture titled ‘Creating a New You’ –

- Education becomes a mockery when it is just an accumulation of knowledge. The knowledge imparted by education must be put to use. To educate is to train, instruct, impart knowledge, skills and judgement.
- To remain relevant, there must be an awareness of the need for development, improvement or reformation which can only happen through a conscious effort.
- While we can customize our own developmental strategies, certain values are however fundamental, inalienable and inviolable. Education is one of such.
- You cannot live solely on other people’s ideas. You must have something to add to whatever you have gathered. Discovery is hard work. Hard work takes discipline.
- Be conscious. Life is not accidental, so you must live life consciously. Offer life what you’ve got, do not wait for life to throw what it has got at you.

Inspirational Keynote Address

Talking on skills and talent development, Mr Atunyota Alleluya A. (Ali Baba), a professional comedian, well informed, cultured, educated and an intellectual; indicated the importance of skill development. He noted that any skill you have is your claim to fame yet with appropriate measure of discipline. He urged the youths to work to get better at what they do. The youths were charged to use their skills to make a difference in the society and with detailed insight; he explained certain areas of skills development marketability:

- Branding – you must learn to brand your work.
- Privacy – you must learn to protect your ideas.
- Market – you must know your clients and their needs.
- Demand – you must learn to respond to market demands and trends.
- Service – you must learn to make a difference in others life.
- Partners – you must find people with same goals.
- Plan – you must have a plan.
- Challenge – you must challenge yourself and improve all the time.
- Independence – you must learn not to depend solely on others for all your needs.

Skill Dance by Yabatech Students

A group of Yabatech students, Obi Mikel and his dance team showcased their dance skills on this year's WYSD. It was a thrilling moment as the audience cheers them up.



Pix – Obi Mikel dance group performing live on WYSD 15 July 2016

Panel Session

A panel session was held to further discuss the main aspects of the United Nations World Youth Skills Day. Different individuals with experience in their respective fields were brought together to enlighten the youths and share their histories, challenges, and breakthroughs. The panelists were:

- Dr Shogo Oyeniyi:
- Mrs Folashade Ajayi:
- Mr Shola Animashaun:
- Mr Opeyemi Awoyemi:

Aims: The panelist discussed the place of skill in employment. They considered the pros and cons of being skilled and not skilled.

Dissertation: The following points were drawn from the discussion -

1. The importance of skill in job creation.
2. Time utilization
3. The importance of self-determination

4. The aspect of S.K.I.L.L – Service, Knowledge, Integrity, Look inward (Creativity), Love what you do (Passion)

Education: It was agreed that Education is one of the most important aspect of skill sets.

Question & Answer: Some of the questions posed by the youths were –

Que 1: What are the initial steps to take when one is got an intuition about a product or service which he/she intends to create?

Ans 1: Write your idea down. Pray about it. Find mentors that will advice you on the business, people who have walked a similar lane before. And start with what you have.

For more, please visit our video links.

Youth Skills Competition/Awards

To further drive home the importance of skills acquisition, a Youth Skills competition was organized to showcase technical and vocational skills, and awards were given to the three best youth skills. The 2016 Youth Skills Competition was well rounded as entries were gotten from different skills:

- Painting
- Fashion Design
- Fitness Training
- Modelling
- Make-up
- Bag & Sandal Production
- Event Decoration
- Baking
- Bowties & Accessories
- Carpentry
- Architecture
- Fish Farming
- Textile Processing and many more

Below is the link to the skills competition participants and works:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/albums/72157669024579403>

Project assessment was from May 20 – June 30, 2016. A total of 41 students participated, 13 females and 28 males with various skills. Prizes for the competition were:

- 1st Prize – Refrigerator
- 2nd Prize – Microwave
- 3rd Prize – Standing Fan

Lonadek Company sponsored the Youth skills competition prizes with the following gift items: 3 award plaques. The judges for the Youth Skills Competition were Max, Jean & Aldrich of UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre, Bonn, Germany.

The 3 winners were:

1. Alimat Nosiru – Wall Painting
2. Architecture ND II FT Class – Stud Frame Construction
3. Fayemi Beatrice – Fitness Trainer/Basketball Player

Below is the link to the skills competition winners and works:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/albums/72157671942936516>

Special Recognition/Presentation of Gifts

All invited personalities were given deserving honors for contribution to youth and skills development in Nigeria.

Sponsorship

The following organizations responded to the support request:

MTN Nigeria – donated T-shirts

Indomie – donated menu packs

Solarway Nigeria – donated solar lamps

Lonadek – award plaques for youth skills competition

UNESCO-UNEVOC International centre – Social media support

Hon. Jimi Benson - icare foundation

Jumia – Free marketing platform

ISPoN – Career opportunity

News Media

News media stations were on ground to cover the event. The following television stations aired the event on the network later on 15 July 2016 – TVC television station, Channels television station. Below is vanguard link here:

www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/embrace-skills-acquisition-yabatech-rector-urges-youths/

Social Media Campaign

Awareness campaign was done for the World Youth Skills Day on several social media platforms in order to get to the target audience – the Youth. The following were the platforms used:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter

- WhatsApp
- Youtube

<https://www.facebook.com/wysdyct>

<https://www.instagram.com/yabatechunevoc/>

<https://twitter.com/YWysd>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gcvxexJgLpc&spfreload=5&noredirect=1>

A number of dedicated websites rich in content were also created for the publicity of this year's WYSD:

<http://www.iuacademy.com.ng/index.php>

And more:

<http://yabatecholofoyo.com/index.php/upcoming-events/109-unevoc-skills-competition-details>

<http://yabatecholofoyo.com/index.php/news/117-alibaba-no-more-oshofree-at-world-youth-skills-day-yabatech>

Event Attendance

More than one thousand, five hundred (1,500) youths were in attendance for the event. On this year's celebration, the call by the youth was answered by all. All principal officers, deans, head of departments, academics and all members of the institution were well represented. Policy makers, Entrepreneurs, Business owners, Youth advocates, Civil Service Agencies, Private and Public Organizations/companies, Universities, Polytechnics around Lagos state, National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC), MTN, Jobberman, Solarway, Jumia, PWAN Homes, Institute of Safety Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON), Lonadek, Indomie, Emel Group were all present.

Conclusion

With the prompt support of the Rector (the Head of the UNEVOC Centre), staff of the College, notable personalities and different organizations, we were able to organize a successful event at Yaba College of Technology.

Some of the results of the event were:

- Awareness was created on the needed requirements in today's changing labour market
- Sensitization of youth on the need to market their developed skills and talents
- There was information sharing between employers and youth on needed skills
- Youths were made to realize that education is an important aspect of skill acquisition

The video of the event are available on the links below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75Lkx_knGWA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rna0Y2lsOJQ&feature=em-upload_owner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=806RXsijFh0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mBxeEYK1hs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHiWci1dJLo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gevxexJgLpc>

The photo albums of the event are available on the links below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/sets/72157670898109570>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/sets/72157671942936516>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144183811@N04/sets/72157669024579403>

We hope to continue to sensitize the youth on the need for education and needed skills while working with different networks, both international and local organizations.

Dr. (Mrs.) Funmilayo Doherty
Coordinator, YCT UNEVOC Centre