



FUTA NEWS

INTEL DONATES GALILEO BOARDS TO FUTA, SEVEN OTHER UNIVERSITIES

The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti and Covenant University, Otta have received donations of Galileo boards from Intel Africa as part of the strategy to encourage research and developments in Information and Communications Technology in the country. The Corporate Affairs Group Director, Intel Africa, Mr. Moise Adams Leye, who coordinated the donation at a ceremony in Lagos encouraged Universities to embrace science and technology with a view to fabricating designs that would help advance the educational system. Moise noted that the board which could be used by a wide range of people from young children to University undergraduates enables one to join the worldwide vibrant community of members around the world.

He explained that learning is not just about mastering theories but about developing and promoting hand-made ideas. He noted that the board is a small electronic device which enables one to develop prototype applications in engineering, computing or other simple activities such as controlling a robot or controlling lighting systems from smart phones. He further said that the board was designed for use by students, advance users and can also be deployed in more complex applications and it is useful within an equally wide range of open source hardware and software programmes.

He expressed hope that young Africans and students would use the board and start innovating for themselves things that are relevant to the continent. He said the board

could be a powerful enabler for innovations in Universities. He said with the donation, the corporation's commitment to the donation of about 50,000 Galileo boards to Universities worldwide has been given a big fillip.

Mr Babatunde Akinola, the Corporate Affairs Manager for Intel Nigeria told the gathering that Intel puts the latest technology in the hands of students and inspires innovation in anticipation of the zeal to be creative and innovative, noting that "Africans are very creative and we really need to find a right platform, and Intel Galileo board offers that platform". He said "Intel wants to go into a long time marriage with Universities and that marriage is going to succeed". He thanked the Management of FUTA for accepting to host a two-week workshop in November, 2014 where Intel Engineers would direct a hands-on workshop on potentials and the capabilities of the Galileo board.

Mr Olaoye Oluwole, a Director in the National Universities Commission (NUC), who represented the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Julius Okojie highlighted the importance of research and development in the University system. He emphasized the Commission's encouragement of ground breaking activities, saying that it is happy to partner Intel on the donation of a ground breaking innovation. He encouraged other corporate organisations to take a lead from Intel to give back to the Nigerian University system where most of their important human resources are drawn from.

The Dean, Students Affairs, Dr. Kayode Alese who received the donation on behalf of FUTA thanked Intel for its donation to the University. He pledged that the board would be put into proper use, expressing particular joy at the choice of the University as a hub for training research, innovation and development.

Earlier during the exploratory visit of the Intel team to FUTA, the Vice Chancellor Professor Adebisi Daramola said the Intel initiative tallies with his vision to take FUTA to the global market place. "I am so delighted that Intel recognizes FUTA so much that you are helping us to be in the global market. Our products and achievements speak volume about us and I am glad your team has confirmed that. As the best University of Technology in Nigeria, we have excellent scholars, researchers, facilities, staff and students. We have whiz kids among our students who have designed a lot of IT devices. In fact, when you talk IT, FUTA is already there, but there is still room for

development and improvement. Becoming a training hub for manpower development under the aegis of Intel will be a plus for us. In terms of readiness for the training and workshop in November, we are ready. We will give it a wide publicity to accommodate many people. We are ready for you and you will not regret partnering with us," Daramola said.