



A4AI-Nigeria Coalition Meeting & Presentation of WDR 2016: Digital Dividends

22nd March 2016 | 08h30-14h00
Sheraton Hotel | Abuja, Nigeria

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from government, the private sector, civil society and development sectors to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus on the shared goal of open, affordable and equal access to the Internet in the developing world. A4AI aims to make the Internet affordable for all who want to use it.

In February 2016, A4AI launched the 2015/2016 Affordability Report, which looks at ICT policy and regulatory environments of 51 developing countries to assess how they might facilitate affordable Internet access. This meeting will give stakeholders the opportunity to hear and discuss the findings and recommendations of the report with the lead author, **Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur** (Research Manager, A4AI).

The World Bank will join A4AI at the meeting to present the World Development Report 2016. The report examines what we must do to ensure that Digital Dividends—the broader development benefits of technologies—are realized. Co-author **Dr. Tim Kelly** (Lead ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank Group) will present key findings from the report—including the importance of providing affordable, universal access to the Internet.

Recommendations from the Affordability Report and the 2016 WDR closely align with the work of the A4AI-Nigeria Coalition. Since 2014, A4AI-Nigeria has been working on three priority issues that must be addressed to unlock the potential for affordable, universal and equal access in Nigeria:

- **Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access** – limited sharing of some infrastructure
- **Spectrum** – concerns over spectrum management, as well as the innovation and efficient use of spectrum
- **Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency** – limited consumer awareness about the benefits and cost of Internet services

A4A-Nigeria working groups will provide updates on progress, the challenges they face, and next steps in addressing these issues. They will benefit from the panel discussion planned with experts from A4AI, the World Bank, and Nigerian stakeholders.

See detailed agenda on page 2.



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AGENDA

- 08:30 – 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 – 09:40 Welcome
Dr Ernest Ndukwe, A4AI-Nigeria National Coordinator
- 09:45 – 10:00 Address by Special Guest of Honour
(invited)
- 10:00 – 10:30 World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends
Presentation by report co-author Dr Tim Kelly, Lead
ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank Group
- 10:30 – 10:50 Refreshment Break
- 10:50 – 11:20 2015/2016 Affordability Report & Affordability in
Nigeria
Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur, Research Manager, A4AI
- 11:20 – 12:05 Reports by A4AI-Nigeria Coalition Working Groups
- 12:05 – 13:15 Panel Discussion: Increasing digital dividends in
Nigeria – Key steps countries must take to realise the digital dividends
- Moderator: Kojo Boakye, Deputy Director, A4AI
- Panellists:
- Dr Tim Kelly, Lead ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank Group
 - Dr Ernest Ndukwe, A4AI-Nigeria National Coordinator
 - Prof. H Nwana, Executive Director, Dynamic Spectrum Alliance
 - Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur, Research Manager, A4AI
- 13:15– 14:15 Networking Lunch



End meeting

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



Dr Tim Kelly is a Lead ICT Policy Specialist in the World Bank Group, which he joined in 2008, initially with *infoDev*. He wrote the policy chapter of the 2016 edition of the World Development Report, on the theme “Digital Dividends.” He previously managed World Bank reports on *Maximizing Mobile* and *eTransform Africa*, as well as the *Broadband Strategies Toolkit*. On the operational side, he is currently managing ICT lending programs in Comoros, South Sudan and Somalia. He was formerly Head of the Strategy and Policy Unit of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and previously worked with the OECD and Logica.

Over the last 25 years, Dr Kelly has specialized in the economics of information and communication technologies. He has written or co-authored more than 30 books on the subject including the World Bank’s “*ICTs for post-conflict reconstruction*”, ITU’s “*Internet Reports*” and “*World Telecommunication Development Report*” and OECD’s “*Communications Outlook*”. He has an MA (Hons) degree in geography and a PhD in industrial economics from Cambridge University.



Dr. Ernest Ndukwe formerly served as the CEO of the Nigerian Communications Commission and chaired the Presidential Committee that produced the National Broadband Plan for Nigeria, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will enable him to increase A4AI’s positive impact in Nigeria and further expand access to affordable Internet throughout the country.

Dr. Ndukwe previously served as Managing Director/CEO of General Telecom Plc and represented Nigeria as a Vice Chairman of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom Development Advisory Group (TDAG).



Prof H Nwana is the Executive Director of the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance. He assists with the development and execution of strategic initiatives and outreach to and recruitment of potential partners and members across the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Prof Nwana was Group Director of Spectrum Policy at Ofcom, where he ran UK's Spectrum Policy and spearheaded UK's dynamic spectrum management activities, specifically focusing on TV White Spaces for broadband and other applications. While at Ofcom, Nwana was responsible for multi-million pound policy projects including the UK's Digital TV Clearance

programme (part of UK's digital switchover programme) which concluded in 2013. Prof Nwana also oversaw the UK 4G auction that raised billions and concluded in February 2013.

In 2014, Prof Nwana published an authoritative book entitled *Telecommunications, Media & Technology (TMT) for Emerging Economies: How to Make TMT Improve Developing Economies for the 2020s*.



Mr Dhanaraj Thakur is Research Manager at the Alliance for Affordable Internet. He has been designing and leading research projects on ICT policy and regulation, gender and ICTs, and the socio-economic impacts of ICTs in developing countries for the last ten years. This includes assignments with the World Bank, IMF, the IDB, and several governments and NGOs. He has also published several peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reports.

Mr Thakur previously held faculty positions at Tennessee State University (Nashville, USA) and the University of the West Indies (Mona, Jamaica). Prior to that he worked in the area of community development with the government of Jamaica. A former Fulbright

scholar, he holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA), and is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of West Indies (Mona, Jamaica).