

'GBENGA SESAN

CAREER VISION

A world-class and result-laden career in the application of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) – for individuals, institutions, nation-states, regional entities and the international community.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Member, **United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT** (2008 -)
- Ambassador, **World Summit Youth Awards** (2008 - 2010)
- Member, **Coordinating Bureau, African Youth ICT4D Network** (2004 - 2009)
- Chairman, **Youth Development Committee, Nigeria Internet Group** (2006 - 2009)
- Member, **Presidential Task Force on the restructuring of the Nigerian Information Technology, Telecommunications and Broadcasting sectors** (2006 - 2008)
- Nigerian representative, **World Summit Awards Expert Panel** (2005 - 2009)
- Vice Chair, **African Technical Advisory Committee, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa** (2004 – 2006)
- Member, **Group of 22 Experts on the Resolution of Nigeria's Top Level Domain Issues, G22** (2004 – 2005)
- Team Leader, **Nigerian Youth Network on ICTs**, including role as *Nigeria's IT Youth Ambassador* (2001 – 2005)

SHORT PROFILE

'Gbenga Sesan is the Executive Director of **Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN)**, a social enterprise that connects underserved people-groups with ICT-enabled opportunities. PIN's projects include *Ajgunle.org* (a capacity development initiative that connects the community's youth with training, internship and mentorship opportunities) and *MISSPIN* (the social campaign that is tackling cybercrime issues in Nigeria). Originally trained as an Electronic & Electrical Engineer at **Obafemi Awolowo University**, 'Gbenga completed management training at **Lagos Business School, New York Group for Technology Transfer, Oxford University, Harvard University, Stanford University** and **Santa Clara University**. His consulting experience includes assignments completed for numerous institutions, including *Microsoft, Harvard University, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Freedom House, Res Publica, Computer Aid International, Heinrich Boll Foundation* and the *International Telecommunications Union*.

Beyond Nigeria, 'Gbenga has consulted and made presentations in various countries, including **Austria, Belgium, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka,**

Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States. A member of the **United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT**, he is a **Crans Montana Forum Fellow**, **Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow**, **Ashoka Fellow**, **Our Common Future Fellow** and **Cordes Fellow**. 'Gbenga was **Nigeria's first Information Technology Youth Ambassador** and served as the Vice Chair of **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's African Technical Advisory Committee**. In 2006, he was appointed as the youngest member of the Nigerian **Presidential Task Force on the Restructuring of the Nigerian Information Technology and Telecommunications Sectors**. His book, **In My Own Words**, was published by *Imprimata* in September 2009.

'Gbenga has been honoured with the 2011 *Cordes Fellowship*, 2010 *Santa Clara University GSBI Fellowship*, 2010 *Crans Montana Forum of New Leaders for Tomorrow Fellowship* award, 2010 *Our Common Future Fellowship* award, 2009 *OUA Distinguished Alumni* award, 2009 *National Youth Merit* award, 2008 *OUA Ife EESS Distinguished Alumni* award, 2008 *FGC Idoani Alumni* award, 2007 *Nigerian Youth Leadership* award, 2007 *The Future Youth Advocacy* award, 2006 *International Telecommunications Union YES Scholarship* award, 2006 *Ondo State Sunshine* award, 2006 *The Future Best Use of Technology* award, 2005 *Stockholm Challenge Champion* honour, 2004 *NiPRO Excellence in Information Technology* award, 2003 *JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) in Nigeria* award, 2002 *JCI Ten Outstanding Great Ife Alumni (TOGA)* award, 2002 *Journalists' Frontier of Technology in Nigeria* award, and the 2001 *International Telecommunications Union's African Youth Fellowship* award. He has been profiled as an **Icon of ICT in Nigeria** and he keeps a personal website at www.gbengasesan.com. 'Gbenga is married to **Temilade Sesan, PhD**, an expert on Energy Poverty and Development issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **2002:** Baseline study on the *Establishment of a Science and Technology Park in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria*.
- **2002 – 2005:** Research/Analysis on *Nigerian Civil Society Involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society*
- **2005 – 2006:** Research on *PEACE and ICTs*, supported by the TODA Institute, Hawaii
- **2006:** Research on *Youth and Internet Governance*
- **2006:** Research on *Youth Involvement in the African Information Society Space*
- **2006:** Research on *eAdvocacy and Technology Use by Civil Society in Nigeria*
- **2005 - 2007:** World Summit Awards Expert for Research Towards the *Celebration of Nigeria's Best eContent Projects*
- **2006 – 2007:** Research on *Youth, ICTs and Human Development*, supported by TODA Institute, Hawaii
- **2007:** Research on *Internet Activity During Elections* for the OpenNet Initiative (Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, Toronto)
- **2007 – 2008:** Research on *Possible Internet Censorship in Nigeria*, for Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society
- **2009:** Research on *Security Spending for Telecommunication and Cyber Security Sectors* in Nigeria, Ghana and Egypt
- **2009 - 2010:** Research on *Digital Lifestyle of Connected Nigerians*
- **2010:** Research on *Internet Freedom in Nigeria*
- **2011:** Research on *Social Media Use in Nigeria's 2011 Elections*

PUBLICATIONS (PARTIAL LISTING)

- Author, *Digital Lifestyle of Connected Nigerians* in *Anthology of Abstracts of the 3rd International Conference on ICT for Africa*, March 25-27, Yaoundé, Cameroon. Baton Rouge, LA: International Center for IT and Development, March 2010
- Author, *Echoes From Ajegunle: Stories of Transformed Lives*, From Small Steps to Giant Leaps: Putting Research into Practice, Engineers Without Borders (UK) National Research Conference 2010 Journal, pp. 106-108, 131, February 2010
- Author, *In My Own Words*. Imprimata Publishers (London). ISBN 978-1-906192-33-4. September 2009
- Author, *ICTs for Development: A Social Entrepreneur's Perspective*, The Social Dimensions of Engineering Research, Engineers Without Borders (UK) National Research Conference 2009 Journal, pp. 243-249, February 2009
- Co-author (with Nwosu, U.), *Ajegunle.org: Changing Ajegunle, 25 Youths at a time*, Telecentre Magazine. Vol 1 (1), pp. 041-042, December 2007
- Columnist, *Bridges with 'Gbenga Sesan*, Technology Times Newspaper (2006-2008)
- Author, *Social Enterprise in Africa: An Emerging Concept in an Emerging Economy*, Educational Research and Reviews, International NGO journal. Vol 1 (1), pp. 004-008, October 2006
- Author, *Telecentres in Nigeria* in *ICTs for Development: The Challenges of Meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Africa*. Nigerian Communications Commission/Growing Businesses Foundation/Club of Rome, pp. 263-272. ISBN 978-070-671-2. September 2006
- Editor, *Global Process, Local Reality: Nigerian Youth Lead Action in the Information Society*. Paradigm Initiative Nigeria. ISBN 978-068-094-2. November 2005
- Co-author (with Mihyo, P.), *African Youth in the Information Society in Africa Networking: Development Information, ICTs and Governance*. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, pp. 125-139. ISBN 978-90-5727-052-9. May 2004
- Co-author, *What's Next? The Future of the Information Society – A Youth Perspective*. YOIS/TakingITGlobal. July 2003

CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- 10 2007 - date **Alliance of Change Empowerment Speakers**, Nigeria. Director
- 02 2008 - date **Women's Technology Empowerment Centre**, Nigeria. Advisor
- 10 2008 - date **International Young Professionals Foundation**, Australia. Director
- 02 2010 - date **Enough is Enough Nigeria Coalition**, Nigeria. Director

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 03 2007 - date **Paradigm Initiative Nigeria** Lagos, Nigeria
- *Executive Director*: Leading the institutional capacity development of a social enterprise that uses new technologies (ICTs) to improve the livelihoods of underserved people-groups.
- 2001 – 2007 **Junior Achievement of Nigeria** Lagos, Nigeria
- *Program Assistant*, June 2001 – June 2002: Maintaining organization's website, assisting with

program logistics, volunteer training and program monitoring;

- *Program Officer*, July 2002 – June 2004: Planning and coordinating the take-off of the Lagos Digital Village project – in partnership with Lagos State Government and Microsoft;
- *Program Manager*, July 2004 – September 2006: Management of the *Lagos Digital Village* project and coordinating technology support for Junior Achievement;
- *Development Manager*, October 2006 – February 2007: Planning the replication of telecentre projects and development support for Junior Achievement of Nigeria

1999 – 2000 **Neural Technologies Limited** Lagos, Nigeria

- *Training Consultant*: Drafting course content, designing websites and training

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

08 2010	Santa Clara University	United States
	<i>Global Social Benefit Incubator Program</i>	
07 2009	Project Management Professional (BOK 4) Boot Camp	Nigeria
06 2008	Stanford University (Graduate School of Business)	United States
	<i>Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship</i>	
04 2008	Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government)	United States
	<i>Executive Program in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy</i>	
04 – 09 2007	Oxford University (Said Business School) & ALI South Africa/United Kingdom	
	<i>Certificate, African Leadership Institute (ALI) Program</i>	
07 2006	DiPLO Foundation, Geneva	Online
	<i>Certificate, Internet Governance Capacity Building</i>	
10 2005	Lagos Business School	Lagos, Nigeria
	<i>Certificate, Developing and Managing New Business Ventures</i>	
10 2004	Lagos Business School	Lagos, Nigeria
	<i>Certificate, Personal Effectiveness</i>	
10 2004	Lagos Business School	Lagos, Nigeria
	<i>Certificate, Team Building & Leadership</i>	
06 2004	New York Group for Technology Transfer	New York, USA
	<i>Certificate, Strategies in Overcoming the Digital Divide</i>	
03 2004	Lagos Business School	Lagos, Nigeria
	<i>Certificate, Effective Project Management</i>	
06 2003	Capacity Building International (InWEnt), Germany	Online
	<i>Certificate, Consultancy as a Professional Option</i>	
05 2002	Phillips Consulting Limited	Lagos, Nigeria
	<i>Certificate, Effective Communication Skills</i>	

09– 10 2001	JAN/Lagos Business School <i>Certificate, Venture in Management Program</i>	Lagos, Nigeria
1995 – 2002	Obafemi Awolowo University <i>BSc (Hons), Electronic & Electrical Engineering</i>	Ile-Ife, Nigeria
01– 08 1995	Newlight Technologies Training Institute <i>Diploma, Software Application</i>	Akure, Nigeria
1989 – 1994	Federal Government College	Idoani, Nigeria
1983 – 1988	St. Peters Demonstration Primary School	Akure, Nigeria
1982 – 1983	Omolere Nursery and Primary School	Akure, Nigeria

INTERESTS

Writing, public speaking, traveling, strategy and spending time online

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 2011 **Cordes Fellowship**
- 2010 *Santa Clara University* **GSBI Fellowship**
- 2010 **Crans Montata New Leaders Fellowship**
- 2010 **Our Common Future Fellowship**
- 2009 **OAU Distinguished Alumni** award
- 2009 **National Youth Merit** award
- 2008 **Ashoka Fellowship**
- 2008 *Obafemi Awolowo University EEES* **Distinguished Alumni Award** award
- 2008 Appointed member of the **United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT**
- 2008 *FGC Idoani* **Alumni** award (2008)
- 2007 *LEAP Africa* **Nigerian Annual Youth Leadership** award
- 2007 *AfLI Archbishop Desmond Tutu* **Leadership Fellowship** award
- 2007 *The Future* **Youth Advocacy** award
- 2006 *Ondo State* **Sunshine** award
- 2006 *International Telecommunications Union* **YES Scholarship** award
- 2006 *The Future* **Best Use of Technology** award
- 2005 *Stockholm Challenge* **Champion** honor
- 2004 Profiled as one of the **35 Icons of ICT in Nigeria**
- 2004 *Digital Bridge* **Africa Champions** award
- 2004 *NiPRO* **Excellence in Information Technology** award
- 2003 *JCI* **Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) in Nigeria** award

- 2002 *JCI Ten Outstanding Great Ife Alumni (TOGA)* award
- 2002 *Journalists' Frontier of Technology in Nigeria* award
- 2001 International Telecommunication Union **African Youth Fellowship** award
- 2001 Selected as Nigeria's first **Information Technology Youth Ambassador**

MAJOR CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS (PARTIAL LISTING)

- Information Technology Association of Nigeria EXPO 2000, **Nigeria**. December 8-9, 2000
- International Telecommunications Union Africa 2001, **South Africa**. November 12-16, 2001
- African Regional Meeting on the World Summit on the Information Society (Bamako 2002), **Mali**. May 25-30, 2002
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Preparatory Conference 1, **Switzerland**. July 1-5, 2002
- Nigerian Information Technology Global Roundtable Conference, **Nigeria**. September 23, 2002
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Civil Society Workshop, **Ethiopia**. November 6-10, 2002
- National ICT Leadership and Youth Summit, **Nigeria**. December 12, 2002
- African Youth Parliament, **Kenya**. March 19-29, 2003
- UN Economic Commission for Africa's *Committee on Development Information III* Meeting, **Ethiopia**. May 11-16, 2003
- World Summit on the Information Society *National Youth Consultations* ("Policy Train"), **Nigeria**. October 11-22, 2003
- First African Conference on the Digital Commons, **South Africa**. January 11-15, 2004
- Strategies in Overcoming the Digital Divide Workshop, **USA**. June 6-17, 2004
- Fourth African Development Forum, **Ethiopia**. October 8-15, 2004
- United Nations ICT Task Force's Global Forum, **Germany**. November 17-20, 2004
- African Technical Advisory Committee IV Meeting, **Ethiopia**. December 9-10, 2004
- African Regional Meeting on the World Summit on the Information Society, **Ghana**. January 28-February 4, 2005
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Preparatory Conference, **Switzerland**. February 17-25, 2005
- UN Economic Commission for Africa's *Committee on Development Information IV* Meeting, **Ethiopia**. April 22-28, 2005
- World Telecommunication Development Conference Regional Preparatory Meeting, **Nigeria**. July 1-7, 2005
- Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, **Morocco**. August 23-28, 2005
- Harambee Focus Network Workshop, **Ethiopia**. September 8-14, 2005
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Preparatory Conference, **Switzerland**. September 19-30, 2005

- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), **Tunisia**. November 14-20, 2005
- 4th South-South ICT-Enabled Traveling Workshop, **India**. November 28-December 4, 2005
- 7th Social Enterprise Alliance Gathering, **USA**. March 7-10, 2006
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa *eTrade Forum*, **Ethiopia**. March 14-16, 2006
- InterAfrica Lome Citizens' Youth Forum, **Togo**. April 22-26, 2006
- ICT Africa Investment Summit, **Rwanda**. May 4-6, 2006
- Global Knowledge Partnership's International Forum on Cross-sector Partnerships, **Sri Lanka**. May 8-12, 2006
- TODA Institute's Researchers' Conference on Global Peace and Policy Research, **Canada**. June 25-27, 2006
- Junior Achievement Worldwide *Careers with a Purpose* Working Group, **USA**. September 28-30, 2006
- Internet Governance Forum, **Greece**. October 30-November 2, 2006
- The Fifth African Development Forum, **Ethiopia**. November 16-18, 2006
- African Telecentre Leaders' Forum, **Benin**. November 27-December 2 2006
- Harambee Focus Network Workshop II, **Uganda**. January 11-17, 2007
- Global Knowledge Partnership Africa *Resource Mobilization Workshop*, **Ethiopia**. January 22-25, 2007
- Nigerian Telecentres' Network Summit, **Nigeria**. January 25-27, 2007
- The A.F.R.I.C.A. Coalition Strategy Meeting, **Ghana**. March 6-9, 2007
- African Civil Society Forum, **Ethiopia**. March 22-25, 2007
- Global Development Network Researchers' Knowledge Management Workshop, **Burkina Faso**. April 10-13, 2007
- Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellowship Workshop, **South Africa**. April 21-30, 2007
- eLearning Africa 2007 Conference, **Kenya**. May 28-30, 2007
- Global Knowledge Partnership Africa Regional Meeting / ICT Best Practices Forum, **Burkina Faso**. June 5-9, 2007
- Global Development Network Conference, **Egypt**. June 11-13, 2007
- Youth Employment Summit / International Youth Forum, **Egypt**. August 28 – September 4, 2007
- Archbishop Tutu Fellowship Workshop & Nigerian by Choice Conference, **United Kingdom**. September 4-15, 2007
- UN Global Alliance for Development Youth Conference, **Switzerland**. September 23-27, 2007
- Connect Africa Summit. **Rwanda**. October 23 – 31, 2007
- African Union Workshop on Youth Empowerment and ICTs for Development. **Ethiopia**. December 6-7, 2007
- Harambee Focus Network Workshop III, **Uganda**. January 14-17, 2008
- UNESCO International Conference on Knowledge Parks, **Qatar**. March 27 – April 1, 2008
- African Banking Technology Conference, **Nigeria**. May 8 – 9, 2008
- International Telecommunications Union's *Telecom Africa* 2008 Forum, **Egypt**. May 10 – 16, 2008

- UN Global Alliance for ICT4D and Development Conference, **Malaysia**. May 16 – 21, 2008
- Europrix Festival / European Ministerial Conference on eInclusion, **Austria**. November 26 – December 1, 2008
- Engineers Without Borders (UK) Research Conference, **United Kingdom**. February 20, 2009
- Skoll World Forum for Social Entrepreneurs, **United Kingdom**. March 24 – 27, 2009
- Indian Digital Content Summit & World Summit Award Grand Jury, **India**. March 31 – April 8, 2009
- Open University (UK) 'Youth in Africa' Seminar Series, **United Kingdom**. June 2, 2009
- Harvard/Georgia Tech/McArthur/Digital Bridge Institute ICT and Civil Society Conference, **Nigeria**. July 14-16, 2009
- Development Studies Association Annual Conference, **United Kingdom**. September 2-4, 2009
- Ashoka/Rockefeller Foundation's Social Media/Innovation Conference, **Italy**. October 22-26, 2009
- Contact Centre East Africa Conference, **Kenya**. November 11-12, 2009
- Internet Governance Forum, **Egypt**. November 15-18, 2009
- Open Society Initiative for West Africa's Youth Policy Forum, **Senegal**. December 9-10, 2009
- Engineers Without Borders (EWB) UK ICT Research Conference, **United Kingdom**. February 19, 2010
- Ashoka Fellows' Induction and Conference on Agricultural Innovation, **Burkina Faso**. March 2-4, 2010
- Youth, New Media and Social Change Conference, University of Northampton, **United Kingdom**. May 8, 2010
- Our Common Future Fellowship Mid-Term Meeting (Technology Group), Essen, **Germany**. May 12, 2010
- Harnessing Information and Knowledge for Youth Development Meeting, Durban, **South Africa**. May 17, 2010
- 3rd International ICT Best Practices Summit, Ouagadougou, **Burkina Faso**. June 17-19, 2010
- 2nd Science With Africa Conference, Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**. June 22-25, 2010
- Crans Montana Forum for New Leaders, Brussels, **Belgium**. June 26, 2010
- Africa Gathering 2010, London, **United Kingdom**. July 3, 2010
- TEDxVictoriansland, Lagos, **Nigeria**. July 9, 2010
- TEDxAbuja, Abuja, **Nigeria**. July 10, 2010
- Harvard/Georgia Tech/McArthur/Digital Bridge Institute ICT and Civil Society Conference, **Nigeria**. July 19-20, 2010
- Making A Difference Conference, London, **United Kingdom**. July 31, 2010
- United Nations Global Alliance for ICT Development Meeting, New York, **USA**. September 1-2, 2010
- 5th United Nations Internet Governance Forum, Vilnius, **Lithuania**. September 14-17, 2010
- Crans Montana Forum, Geneva, **Switzerland**. October 27-30, 2010
- The African Network Conference, California, **USA**. October 30, 2010
- Our Common Future Conference, Hannover/Essen, **Germany**. November 2-6, 2010
- Freedom House Ratings Meeting, Johannesburg, **South Africa**. November 15-17, 2010

- IDRC Cybercrime and Cybersecurity in Africa Workshop, Dakar, **Senegal**. November 28-30, 2010
- West African Cybercrime Summit, Abuja, **Nigeria**. December 1-2, 2010
- Mobile Web West Africa Conference, Lagos, **Nigeria**. February 2-3, 2011
- Crans Montana Forum, Brussels, **Belgium**. February 16-19, 2011
- African Development Bank/ Tutu Leadership Fellows' Meeting, Tunis, **Tunisia**. March 24-26, 2011
- Future Leaders Seminar, Lagos, **Nigeria**. May 26-28, 2011
- UN Human Rights Council (17th Session), Geneva, **Switzerland**. May 30-June 4, 2011

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Nationality: Nigerian
- Marital Status: Married (to **Temilade Sesan, PhD**)
- Sex: Male
- Date of Birth: Wednesday, July 27, 1977
- Contact Address: P. O. Box 51899
Ikoyi
Lagos
Nigeria

REFEREES

- **Prof. Wole Soyinka**, Nobel Laureate
- **Prof. Pat Utomi**, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, Nigeria
- **Hon. Kojo Yankah**, President, African University College of Communications, Ghana
- **Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah**, Director, ICT, Science and Technology Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
- **Ms. Walda Roseman**, President, CompassRose International, U.S.A.
- **Prof. Kunle Kehinde**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria