

Press release
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BeMINT_Nigeria program for Nigerian youth culminates in Lagos in a handover ceremony

BeMINT_Nigeria training and internship program provided 300 youths with practical digital, and soft skills in Lagos. Launched in 2022, the closing ceremony saw enthusiastic students and teachers participate along with the project sponsor German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implementation partners: Siemens Stiftung, Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board, Empowering Africans through Education Initiative (EAE), the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (AHK Nigeria), and also private companies.

100 students (50 girls and 50 boys) in high school and 200 school graduates (100 girls and 100 boys) received training in information technology (IT) and soft-skills at a training center in Lagos. The students come from low-income families and had the opportunity to be introduced to the topics in small batches for a duration of six weeks. 60 public school teachers also received training in imparting advanced and market-relevant digital skills to their students.

Our implementing partner, Empowering Africans through Education Initiative (EAE), drove the training center through tailored programs and partnerships to introduce hands-on learning. "We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the beneficiaries. We were able to nurture their talents in their different areas of interest and we are proud to see them excel and tackle real-life challenges through innovation and problem-solving skills they acquired during the training", explains Chinenye Ezeakor, Executive Director, EAE.

Students also participated in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) workshops to get insights into start-up fundamentals and honed their problem-solving and critical thinking acumen.

"Knowledge in STEM subjects is crucial to narrow the skills gap required to flourish in the digital and green economy. The project integrated the STEM approach with digital and life skills like teamwork, writing CVs, and preparing for job interviews, thus creating a workforce ready to take on the labor market", adds Dr. Nina Smidt, Managing Director and Spokesperson of the Board of Directors at Siemens Stiftung, who is visiting Lagos for the first time to meet the beneficiaries.

The students also attended workshops with private sector employees and experienced real-work scenarios through company visits and mentorships. AHK Nigeria organized an exclusive career fair for the BeMINT beneficiaries in Lagos, facilitating a one-on-one interaction between the students and Nigerian companies.

"We seek to support and promote educational systems that focus on hands-on-learning as the ideal platform for training and youth development. With this in mind, we provided the BeMINT program with opportunities for internships

at companies, thus enabling the attendees to gain workplace experience in preparation for joining the workforce in the nearest future”, says Katharina Felgenhauer from AHK Nigeria.

Many of the project beneficiaries have already finished their internship programs and are embarking on their professional career paths.

About Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (AHK Nigeria)

DGIC International Business Services Ltd (DGIC) is the service company of the Delegation of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nigeria (AHK Nigeria), which promotes bilateral trade and investment relations between Nigeria and Germany. Its services help German companies to navigate the market, whether it is exploring trade opportunities, finding suitable business partners or agents, or establishing their own presence in Nigeria. DGIC has in the past offered services to Nigerian and German companies in the areas of financing, matchmaking, importing, market entry research, energy consultancy, networking, Financing, Trade Fair Service, Delegation trip B2B and B2C. (business roundtables, and breakfast meetings), as well as identifying possible support measures for innovative and scalable projects.
nigeria.ahk.de/en/

Empowering Africans through Education Initiative

Empowering Africans through Education Initiative is an organization with a strong commitment to sustainable development through action. It is committed to supporting science and technology education in Nigeria and Africa at large. Their mission is to expand the interests, participation, and collaboration of young Africans in science and technology-related disciplines and to ensure their engagement in technological innovations and entrepreneurship in Africa.
empoweringafricans.org

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for German development policy within the German government. The framework for its actions is provided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The focus is on the commitment against poverty and hunger and for healthy people in a healthy environment. The BMZ sees itself as a transformation ministry, advancing the global transformation toward a sustainable, climate- and nature-compatible economy while strengthening peace, freedom and human rights.
bmz.de/en

About Siemens Stiftung

As a nonprofit foundation, Siemens Stiftung promotes sustainable social development, which is crucially dependent on access to basic services, high-quality education, and an understanding of culture. To this effect, the Foundation's project work supports people in taking the initiative to responsibly address current challenges. Together with partners, Siemens Stiftung develops and implements solutions and programs to support this effort, with technological and social innovation playing a central role. The actions of Siemens Stiftung are impact-oriented and conducted transparently.
siemens-stiftung.org/en