

# 'GBENGA SESAN

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## CAREER VISION

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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.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Member, **United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT** (2008 - )
- Ambassador, **World Summit Youth Awards** (2008 - )
- 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)

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## SHORT PROFILE

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'Gbenga Sesan, an Ashoka Fellow, 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). 'Gbenga serves on the board of *Adroyte Global Solutions*, *Alliance of Change Empowerment Speakers*, *Digital Divide Network*, *International Young Professionals Foundation* and *Women's Technology Empowerment Centre*, among others. Originally trained as an Electronic & Electrical Engineer at **Obafemi Awolowo University**, 'Gbenga completed Executive Management training at **Lagos Business School**, **New York Group for Technology Transfer**, **Oxford University**, **Harvard University** and **Stanford University**. His consulting experience includes assignments completed for numerous institutions, including *Microsoft*, *Harvard University*, *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*, *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, 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 an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow, Ashoka Fellow and Our Common Future Fellow. 'Gbenga was Nigeria's first Information Technology Youth Ambassador and also served as the Vice Chair of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's *African Technical Advisory Committee*, voluntary adviser to numerous youth-led nonprofits and pioneer Program Manager of Lagos Digital Village. 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**. 'Gbenga is an author and regular feature on some of Nigeria's popular television shows. His latest book, *In My Own Words*, was published by *Imprimata UK* in September 2009.

'Gbenga has been honoured with the 2010 *Santa Clara University GSB* Fellowship, 2010 *Crans Montana Forum of New Leaders for Tomorrow* Fellowship award, 2010 *Our Common Future* Fellowship award, 2009 *OAU Distinguished Alumni* award, 2009 *National Youth Merit* award, 2008 *OAU Ife EEES* 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. 'Gbenga Sesan has been profiled as an **Icon of ICT in Nigeria** and he keeps a personal website at [www.gbengasesan.com](http://www.gbengasesan.com). 'Gbenga is married to **Temilade**, a PhD scholar with research interests in Sustainable Energy Development in developing economies (especially Nigeria and Kenya).

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- **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 the 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** (ongoing): Research on *Digital Lifestyle of Connected Nigerians*
- **2010** (ongoing): Research on *Internet Freedom in Nigeria*

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## PUBLICATIONS (PARTIAL LISTING)

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- 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

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## CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

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- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 10 2007 - | <b>Alliance of Change Empowerment Speakers</b> , Nigeria. Director        |
| 02 2008 - | <b>Women's Technology Empowerment Centre</b> , Nigeria. Advisor           |
| 10 2008 - | <b>International Young Professionals Foundation</b> , Australia. Director |
| 03 2009-  | <b>Adroyte Global Solutions</b> Nigeria. Director                         |

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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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; with specific focus on consulting, research, telecentre support, youth-led social *technopreneurship* and capacity building

- 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

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

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

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## INTERESTS

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

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## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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- 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* **EEESS 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**

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#### MAJOR CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS (PARTIAL LISTING)

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- 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

- 4<sup>th</sup> South-South ICT-Enabled Traveling Workshop, **India**. November 28-December 4, 2005
- 7<sup>th</sup> 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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International ICT Best Practices Summit, Ouagadougou, **Burkina Faso**. June 17-19, 2010
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- TEDxVictorialsland, 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

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

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## REFEREES

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- **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