



T H E O M N I V E R S E

Omniverse 2.0 Reflections

A Special edition of stories and impact from
the largest digital ecosystem convening in
Nigeria.



Implemented by



Through the Development Lens



Overview

The second edition of the Omniverse Africa Summit was a significant milestone for us at GIZ. We are proud of the impact and results achieved with our central theme: Unified by Vision, Empowered by Collaboration. The great collaboration from the Omniverse team and our partners in the development ecosystem reaffirmed the prospects of sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa. We are grateful to our funders; the German Government, the Swiss Government, and the European Union.

This special documentation of the Omniverse Summit from the social development angle explores how our work with implementing partners creates positive outcomes, even at a four-day event. Through the Digital Transformation Room, the Workshop Rooms, and the Career Centre, several on-the-spot results were achieved, with connections and networks made.



Key Themes and Outcomes



Strengthening Digital Trade in Africa

Discussions across multiple sessions emphasised the need for harmonised digital trade policies, improved regulatory frameworks, and stronger regional collaboration to enhance consumer protection and cross-border transactions.



Capacity Building and Talent Development

Experts highlighted the critical role of digital skills development, financial literacy, and workforce upskilling in driving economic growth and digital inclusion. Initiatives like ISN X CBN's DAFIM 2 project showcased how digital learning platforms can support financial inclusion.



Policy and Legal Frameworks for a Digital Economy

Stakeholders from National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment in Nigeria (FMITI), and legal experts stressed the importance of aligning digital trade regulations with global standards to create a resilient and investor-friendly digital economy.



Public-Private Sector Synergies

GIZ and other stakeholders reinforced the importance of collaboration between governments, private enterprises, and international partners to scale digital innovation and drive economic transformation.



Investment in Digital Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

Discussions pointed to the urgent need for investments in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity measures, and technology-driven solutions to support Africa's digital transformation.



Showcasing African Digital Innovation

The Digital Tools Demo Session featured pioneering tech solutions from RetailLoop, Agro Vesto, Her Pride, and Apere, highlighting Africa's growing ecosystem of homegrown digital innovations.

Key Themes and Outcomes



Bridging the Employment and Skills Gap

The Fireside Chat with Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) explored how data-driven workforce planning and digital tools can enhance job creation, address labour market gaps, and prepare young professionals for the future of work.



Scaling Financial Inclusion through Digital Tools

Discussions emphasised how fintech solutions and digital payment platforms are key to improving financial access for underserved populations, reinforcing the role of regulatory support and tech partnerships.



Commitment to Digital Trade Protocol Implementation

Experts from Ghana, Rwanda, and Nigeria shared best practices in digital trade enablement, calling for more streamlined policies, cross-border cooperation, and legal enforceability.



MSME Clinics for Business Growth and Expansion

Participants engaged in one-on-one business advisory clinics, where industry experts such as the Digitalisation Service Point focal persons from Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and the Digital Innovation Hubs set up by the GIZ programme, Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria, provided tailored guidance on funding access, regulatory compliance, and business scaling strategies, helping entrepreneurs and businesses navigate the complexities of digital trade.

Read through our lens to see all the incredible results as we continue to support partners for a sustainable future.



Digital Economy



AI in Action

At the Omniverse Summit 2.0, the buzz around artificial intelligence wasn't just talk, it translated into action. 'One standout session, the *AI Essentials Training*, delivered in partnership with Edo Innovate, served as a launchpad for entrepreneurs, educators, and young professionals eager to embrace digital transformation.

Participants left the session inspired and equipped with practical tools to enhance their businesses, classrooms, and careers.

“ I gained a fresh perspective on tech and its potential for my business, made valuable connections, learned new skills to harness AI, and now AI is making my business run smoother.

- Isaac Agbala

Educators, too, walked away with digital confidence

“ I've seen a huge impact on my business and job as a lecturer after the Omniverse Summit. Now I can use Canva and Gamma to create letterheads, and I can access information online with ease.

- Commodore Rapheal Goodluck

For small business owners, it was a gamechanger

“ Knowledge of AI has been a gamechanger for me. I can ask any question and get answers immediately. Plus, now I can use the WhatsApp Business platform to grow my business.

- Cole Rosemary Ezinneke

These testimonials reflect the summit's core mission, to equip Africa's youth and workforce with future-ready skills, digital resilience, and collaborative innovation.



Inspired by Omniverse: Enugu Hosts Its First Tech Festival

Far beyond a typical conference, the Omniverse Summit has become a catalyst for action and innovation across Nigeria. One notable ripple effect is emerging from Nigeria's southeast state, Enugu

Following their active participation in the summit, the Enugu State Tech and Startup Ecosystem, in collaboration with the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, has drawn inspiration from the event's dynamic energy, thought leadership, and collaborative spirit. Building on that momentum, they launched the maiden edition of the Annual Enugu Tech Festival (ETF) which took place on May 6th to 9th, 2025.



The ETF aims to recreate the magic of the Omniverse in a localized context, promoting innovation, digital skills development, and startup growth. It was more than a conference; it was a mark of Enugu state's commitment to digital transformation. It served as a convergence point for tech enthusiasts, policymakers, digital creatives, and entrepreneurs across the region, building on the learnings and best practices observed at Omniverse.

“We were inspired by the scale, inclusivity, and creativity of the Omniverse,” a representative from the Ministry shared. **“It showed us what’s possible when stakeholders come together to foster innovation.”**

The Enugu Tech Festival garnered national attention, with the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, lauding the event as one of the largest tech conferences ever held in Nigeria.

At the festival, participants explored key tech areas such as AI, blockchain, fintech, and digital entrepreneurship and in a significant gesture, hundreds of laptops and tablets were distributed to IT enthusiasts further reinforcing the festival's commitment to equipping the youth with the necessary tools to succeed in the digital age.

The ETF is positioned to become a regional platform that fuels digital transformation, fosters partnerships, and empowers youth with tools to thrive in the evolving tech ecosystem.

C-STEMP and Alison: Expanding Digital Learning Through the Omniverse Summit

Following its impactful participation at the Summit, C-STEMP is charting a new course in digital learning in Nigeria's construction sector. The summit, provided a platform for strategic dialogue, networking, and innovation exchange among stakeholders committed to skills development and youth empowerment.

As a direct outcome of this engagement, C-STEMP is now in active discussions with Alison Learning, a global leader in free online education, to co-develop a specialised e-course on construction. This initiative aims to make construction-related skills more accessible, particularly for youth in Plateau and across Nigeria, through flexible, self-paced learning modules that support both foundational and technical training.

This collaboration is a major stride towards bridging the digital divide in vocational education. It demonstrates the tangible impact of multi-stakeholder platforms like the Omniverse Summit, where meaningful partnerships, supported by international development actors, translate ideas into impactful, scalable solutions.



Inclusive Finance



Bridging the Finance Gap

Access to finance remains challenging for MSMEs but digital supply chain finance (SCF) is transforming the landscape. At the summit, GIZ in collaboration with other partners explored the ongoing impact of MSME friendly- financing. This is achieved through financial literacy, fintech partnerships and policy advocacy for models like invoice factoring and market linkages with digital tools to enhance transparency.



Trade



States unite to transform Nigeria's Leather Industry at Omniverse Summit

At the heart of the Summit, a defining moment unfolded, one poised to reshape Nigeria's leather industry and redefine regional economic collaboration. On February 27, 2025, during a pivotal Subnational Roundtable, five states, Lagos, Abia, Kano, Katsina, and Enugu, joined forces to launch the LAKKE Project, a historic interregional initiative aimed at unlocking the \$121.3 million potential of Nigeria's leather value chain and creating thousands of jobs by 2029.

Chaired by the Honourable Minister for Creative Economy, Hon. Hannatu Musa Musawa, and co-facilitated by Abdulganiyu Rufai and Daniel Chinagozie, the roundtable brought together government leaders, creative industry champions, and private sector stakeholders. Among the distinguished speakers were Engr. Dr. Prince Lawrence Ezeh (Ministry of Science & Technology, Enugu State), Hon. David Kalu (Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Science & Technology), Hon. Dr. Yusuf Ibrahim Kofarmata (Commissioner, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Kano State), and Hon. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem (represented by Lagos State Employment Trust Fund), Mr. Naufal Ahmad (Director General, Information Technology Development Agency, Katsina State), Mrs Toke Benson-Awoyinka (Honourable Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture); each representing the distinct strengths their states bring to this ambitious alliance.

The LAKKE Project, aptly named from the initials of the participating states, will create a structured, nationally integrated leather value chain. From raw material sourcing in Kano and Katsina to craftsmanship and manufacturing in Abia, market access via Lagos, and branding innovation in Enugu, the alliance seeks to elevate Nigerian leather to global standards.

The project commits to joint efforts in skills development, environmentally responsible production, and the creation of a Leather Innovation Fund. It will also focus on improving the enabling environment for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and employment promotion (EP), particularly within the fashion and leather sub-sector.

The Omniverse Summit has sparked a revolution – demonstrating the power of collaboration and setting a benchmark for how public-private partnerships can drive sector-wide transformation. The world is watching, and Nigeria is ready to lead.



Empowering MSMEs Through Market Access and E-Commerce

GIZ, through its Access to Market component, supported eight MSMEs in exhibiting and showcasing their products at the Marketplace Pavilion. This initiative provided them with an invaluable opportunity to network, connect with potential partners, and expand their business horizons.

One of the key highlights of the event was the E-Commerce Handholding Session, led by GIZ's Sustainable e-Commerce for Growth (Se4G) partners. This session provided MSMEs with hands-on support in setting up digital marketplaces on major social commerce and e-commerce platforms. Through personalised guidance, participants navigated the registration process and optimised their online storefronts, ensuring better visibility and access to a broader customer base.

The MSME Marketplace Pavilion was another major attraction, offering a space for businesses to present their products, services, and training opportunities.

At the Career Center Talk, the e-Commerce for Growth Se4G partners led discussions on business formalisation and the importance of creating an enabling environment through ease of doing business. They emphasised how e-commerce enhances business compliance, facilitates digital transactions, and improves tax obligations. Real-world case studies illustrated how MSMEs have successfully leveraged e-commerce to scale their operations and increase revenue and approximately 77 participants were in attendance.

Adding to the depth of knowledge shared at the conference, the Masterclass on E-Commerce and Social Commerce, provided attendees (85 participants) with a two-hour deep dive into best practices and strategies for leveraging online platforms. Participants gained practical knowledge on how to enhance their digital footprint, drive sales, and build customer trust in an increasingly digitalized marketplace.

Beyond these structured activities, the conference facilitated meaningful connections between MSMEs and Se4G partners, who were able to showcase their e-commerce solutions and extend further support through tailored business mentoring.

By equipping MSMEs with digital skills, market access strategies, and essential business knowledge, GIZ continues to foster sustainable growth and resilience among entrepreneurs. The success stories from Omniverse 2.0 reinforce the importance of digital transformation in expanding business opportunities and driving economic empowerment.



Leveraging Digital Ecosystems for Business Success

At the Omniverse Summit, the value of digital adoption came into a sharp focus and presented a valuable opportunity for networking and forging partnerships. During the conference, several businesses were engaged- many of which were yet to leverage the power of e-commerce.

Twenty-three of these businesses were introduced to various e-commerce platforms, aiming to equip them with the tools needed to thrive in the online marketplace. However, onboarding proved challenging due to poor network connectivity.

Despite this hurdle, Valucon (our Se4G service provider) successfully onboarded *Jolipen Foods* onto one of the biggest online marketplaces and introduced the business owner to the paid version of the platform, demonstrating how it could expand her product reach and visibility.

To further support interested businesses, a follow-up online session is being planned. This will provide a more hands-on walkthrough of available e-commerce platforms in a more stable environment.



Digital Trade in Africa

Building Trust Across Borders

In an era where a single click can spark a cross-border transaction, the question isn't just how we trade digitally but how safely.

This was the driving force behind “Digital Trade: Building Bridges for Consumer Protection in e-Commerce,” a high-level session powered by the Pan-African e-Commerce Initiative (PeCI), implemented by GIZ and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Over 150 voices from Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, and beyond—gathered under one roof. Government officials, tech innovators, regulators, and civil society actors came not just to talk, but to align.

Representatives from key institutions like the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council (FCCCPC) and the National Information and Technology Development Agency (NITDA) shared their commitment to fostering strong, collaborative frameworks for digital trade and consumer protection across Africa.

From Ghana's implementation of trust seals to Rwanda's work on platform transparency, to Nigeria's own consumer education campaigns, the room pulsed with solutions. Paystack shared insights into secure payment flows. Experts tackled real concerns: cross-border dispute resolution, data privacy, trust-building in marketplaces, and harmonised regulatory frameworks.

The message was clear: digital trade can thrive, but only when trust leads the way.

As discussions wrapped up, the call to action was unanimous: Africa needs collaborative frameworks, regional trust mechanisms, and consumer-first policies that make digital trade not just scalable, but safe for all because when consumers are protected, economies are empowered and the AfCFTA dream of seamless intra-African trade comes one step closer to reality.



Youths and Sports

Job Creation;
Real time jobs, On
the spot internship
placements



Future of work;
CV review;
Talent hunt



From Doubt to Direction: The Confidence Revolution Behind Omniverse Career Centre

When implementing the Omniverse Career Centre, a pre-program survey revealed something surprising: many young Nigerians had the qualifications but not the self-belief to pursue opportunities. They faced barriers like poor application materials, limited experience, narrow views on career growth, and little access to networks.

Full-time jobs seemed like the only path – while internships, volunteering, and vocational training were rarely considered. The Career Centre didn't just teach job hunting - it flipped the script by addressing mindset. Using a Communication for Development (C4D) approach, sessions like “Self-Esteem and Body Image” and “The Transitional Toolkit” helped participants rebuild self-worth and learn how to show up with confidence. That shift wasn't just internal, it was visible.

What held thousands of job seekers back wasn't skill – it was confidence.

On the final day, 39 participants took the stage in a Talent Hunt session, showcasing skills in the creative, digital, and green economies. Winners received cash prizes totalling N2 million, sponsored by Genius Hub and the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on Arts and Tourism - proving that talent, when backed by confidence and opportunity, becomes real economic value. The results? Tangible.

Post-training surveys showed an 80% increase in participant self-esteem, 75.6% gained clarity on career direction, and 74.9% felt better prepared for interviews.



One participant, Fabian Ejike, shared:

The career counselling session pointed me in the right direction; that was the major highlight of the event.

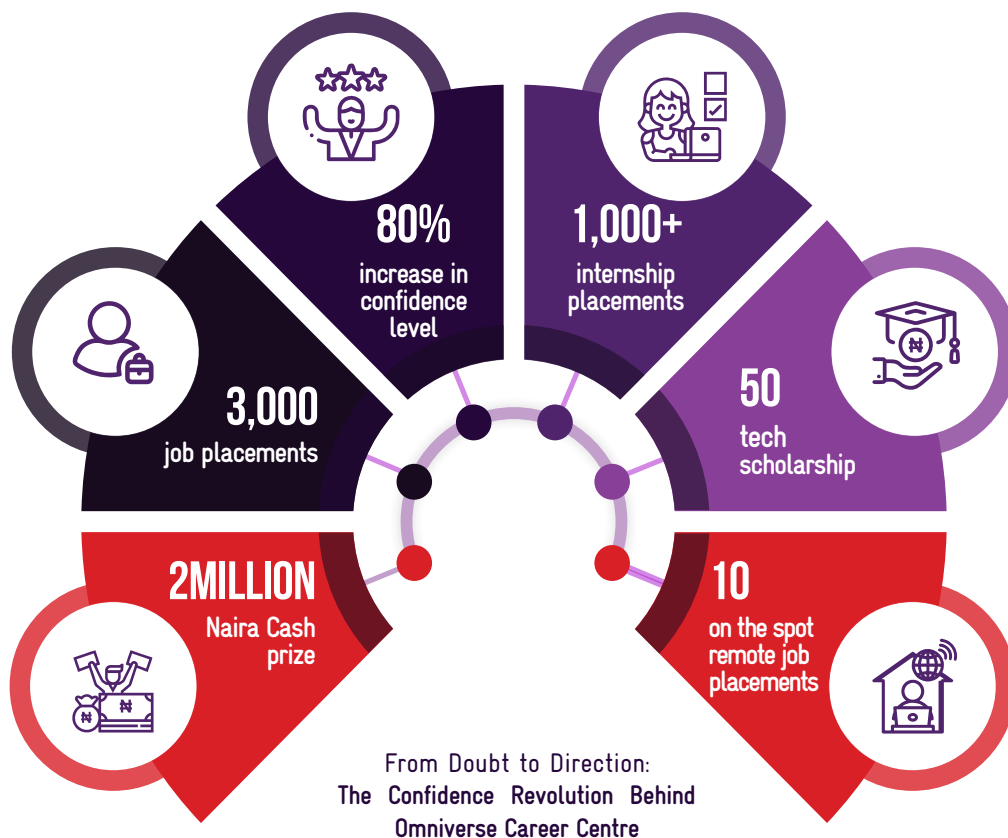


This transformation didn't stop at self-esteem. It cascaded into job opportunities: 1,002 internship placements through Hugo, 50 tech scholarships by Innovation Hub Growth, 10 remote job opportunities.

By addressing a less-visible barrier – lack of confidence, the Career Centre opened professional pathways that conventional training often overlooks. This insight offers partners a critical takeaway: personal development is just as crucial as technical training in workforce readiness.

The career centre was a success because of internal collaboration between GIZ programmes – SKYE, SEDIN, ZME, DTC Nigeria and partnerships with organisations like Genius Hub, Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Lagos, JobberMan, Hugo Inc, Palladium, LSETF, Africa Berlin Tech Network, Punaka Attorney and Solicitors, 3MTT, TechQuest and Ewaen Studios.

Notably, advisors from the Migrant Resource Centres of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment also played a vital role, bringing their expertise in migration and employment counselling to support participants with well-rounded career guidance and expand their awareness of opportunities both locally and internationally.



A story of Faith...

On a human interest note, the Career Center at the Omniverse Summit proved to be a transformative experience for Iweluegim Faith Ogechi.

“It was packed with engaging and knowledgeable facilitators who made every moment worthwhile,” she shared.



Faith participated in several panel sessions on job search strategies, career development, and core values, which gave her the opportunity to ask real questions about employment challenges. **“It was the first time I could speak openly about what’s been confusing in my career journey, and actually get practical answers,”** she said.

In addition to soft skills sessions, hands-on activities like CV reviews gave participants direct access to feedback from employers. **“That one-on-one advice really boosted my confidence,”** Faith noted.

A standout moment for Faith was a session on becoming ambassadors to foreign investors. **“It was eye-opening and inspiring. It made me see my potential in a new light,”** she said. Faith also seized the opportunity to sign up for a free digital marketing course, offered by one of the participating travel agencies. “I’m currently awaiting further contact and excited to get started,” she added.

Each day of the summit concluded with refreshments and networking sessions, culminating in a grand finale Talent Hunt – where Faith won the singing category. **“Winning the prize money was the icing on the cake after such a fulfilling experience,”** she said.

Since the summit, Faith has enrolled in online courses to strengthen her technical skills. **“I left the Omniverse Summit with a new sense of direction I have a greater sense of confidence and skill set to take opportunities that come my way,”** she concluded.



The career centre was designed by the **Genius Hub** team under the leadership of Isimeme Whyte. Genius Hub is a community-led organization in Africa that supports economic development and job creation through various sustainable approaches.

Games for Change

The gaming industry offers substantial economic benefits, job creation, and fosters innovation. In Nigeria specifically, the gaming industry provides opportunities for employment, entrepreneurial growth, and local talent development.

This potential was showcased during the Omniverse event, where young gamers from various parts of the country participated in competitions and received awards at the grand finale, presented by the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Gautier Mignot.



Gaming has demonstrated its ability to drive change by supporting revenue generation, digital infrastructure, skills development, innovation, entrepreneurship, tourism, investment, inclusivity, empowerment, and overall economic growth.

GIZ and its funders continues to show its commitment to utilizing gaming as a tool for education, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Beyond the Omniverse platform, GIZ has integrated gaming and gamification into various projects to drive development and innovation.



Games for Change

Notable examples include:



Gender Equality and Inclusion

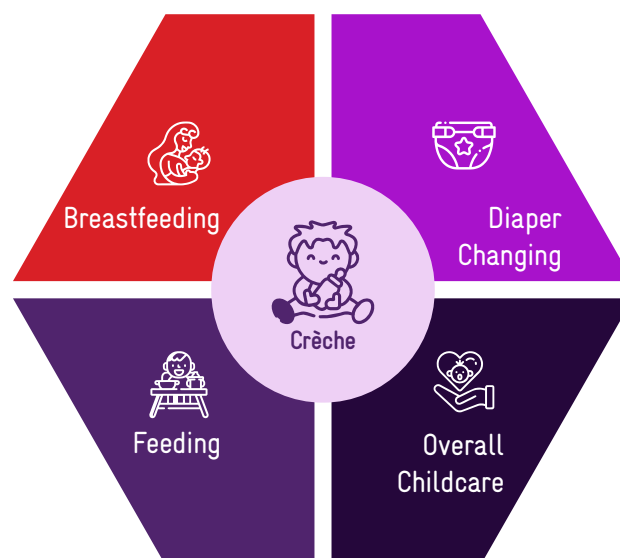


Babies on Board

Driving digital inclusion for mothers and carers of young children

GIZ has indeed been proactive in implementing gender-responsive policies that support childcare and parenting, which are crucial for increasing women's participation in formal events and professional settings. Unpaid care duties often hinder women from engaging fully in such activities, but initiatives like providing childcare facilities can significantly alleviate these barriers.

During the Omniverse summit, GIZ demonstrated this commitment by supporting the set-up of a crèche for children under 3 years old, which allowed mothers to participate fully in the event. The crèche included safe spaces for breastfeeding, diaper changing, feeding, and overall childcare, ensuring that working mothers and women attendees had the necessary support. This initiative led to an increase in women's participation, showcasing the positive impact of family-friendly policies on women's productivity and economic empowerment. Such comprehensive support systems are essential for creating inclusive and equitable environments for women in various professional and formal settings.



PWDs Inclusion

In line with the Omniverse Africa Summit's theme, **“Unified by Vision & Empowered by Collaboration,”** DTC Nigeria ensured the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in conversations shaping Africa's digital future. Among the entrepreneurs, creatives, policymakers, academics, and tech enthusiasts from **over 20 countries, more than 100 PWDs** were mobilised to participate, network, and showcase their talents.



PWD entrepreneurs took centre stage, literally, pitching products to the SMEDAN Director-General, Dr. Charles Odii, on the Omniverse Main Stage and in the Digital Transformation Room. In a dedicated session, financial expert Jennifer Awirigwe (Financial Jennifer), founder of FinTribe, shared strategies on profit maximisation and financial empowerment tailored for PWD-led SMEs. Participants also engaged directly with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), exploring access to finance and business support.

The Director-General of SMEDAN pledged business support to all attending PWDs, with commitments to collaborate on business registration, training, and marketing platforms. Meanwhile, the Lagos Commissioner for Innovation, Science, and Technology discussed a special-purpose vehicle to support PWDs in tech and entrepreneurship, laying the groundwork for a concrete future.

Testimonies highlighted the summit's impact. Miriam, a visually impaired entrepreneur, sold her chin chin and promoted her premium snack brand, *Mimi Fresh Peanuts*. She shared her story of resilience, overcoming barriers to build a thriving business. Mr. Sanyanolu, another participant with visual impairment shared his passion for solar energy systems. He actively engaged in tech-focused sessions, advocating for digital accessibility and visibility for visually impaired innovators.

The summit not only amplified the voices of PWDs but also created real pathways for collaboration, empowerment, and inclusion in Africa's tech-driven future.



Hands that Bridge the Gap

To support participants with auditory impairments, the summit engaged four professional Sign Language Interpreters (two male, two female) who were available daily from 9 AM to 6 PM. While primarily stationed in the main hall during plenary sessions, the interpreters also rotated through key breakout spaces such as the Digital Transformation Room and the Deal Room. They further supported PWD entrepreneurs in the marketplace, facilitating engagement with vendors, government officials, and other stakeholders.

This thoughtful integration empowered participants with auditory impairments to navigate sessions confidently, contribute to discussions, and access critical networking opportunities.

Auditorily impaired attendees, particularly among the PWD entrepreneurs, expressed deep appreciation for the interpreters and the GESI team. Others outside the designated PWD group also benefited, highlighting the broader impact of these inclusive measures.

These efforts demonstrate the summit's leadership in equitable event design, ensuring no one is left behind in shaping Africa's digital future.



Insights and Partnerships across Borders



Uniting Innovation Hubs and Academia for Regional Impact

As part of efforts to strengthen collaboration between innovation ecosystems and academic institutions, DTC Nigeria facilitated a visit to NitHub at the University of Lagos for Helmut Hauschild, GIZ Head of Division West Africa 2 and Madagascar, alongside 14 country directors from GIZ offices across Africa.

Hosted by NitHub, the visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand how partnerships between research and academia are supporting entrepreneurship and digital innovation.

The event included:

- A courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of UNILAG, Professor Folasade Ogunsola
- Remarks from Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa, Director of NitHub, and Markus Wauschkuhn, SEDEC Cluster Coordinator, GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS
- A presentation on GIZ's research and academia partnerships by Daniel von Ritter, Head of Component – Innovation Ecosystem & Entrepreneurship Support, DTC Nigeria
- A tour of the NitHub facility
- Presentations from two innovators supported by GIZ:
 - » Michael Osumune, TechmyBiz innovator and Founder of Moon Innovation
 - » Haruna Faruq, student innovator and Founder of Quata

The visit concluded with remarks from Mr. Hauschild, who noted the importance of continued cooperation between GIZ and local institutions to support innovation and job creation.

This visit is part of DTC Nigeria's ongoing work to build stronger ties between Africa's innovation hubs, universities, and international partners.

“ Together, the European Union, Swiss Government, and Germany believe that digitalization is not just a tool but a transformative force that can drive sustainable development. Our common commitment to digital transformation is rooted in the belief that technology can create opportunities, bridge gaps, and foster inclusive growth. This can empower communities, enhance governance, and drive economic prosperity. ”



Experts from different parts of the continent



Key Lessons from the Development Lens



Key Lessons from the Development Lens



Government and Private sector

- Nigerian businesses face major barriers to digital adoption, including infrastructure challenges, mindset issues, high costs (especially due to foreign, dollar-denominated tools), and restrictive government policies.
- There is a significant knowledge gap in digital literacy among entrepreneurs and business owners, limiting the adoption of technology.
- Interoperability and internet penetration remain critical obstacles to digitalizing public services, alongside concerns about data protection and the need for harmonized policies.
- MSMEs, particularly in rural areas, struggle to access digital services due to infrastructural limitations. Organizations like the **Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)** address this by leveraging state offices and local government outreach.
- Simplified, user-friendly digital platforms tailored to MSMEs' needs can drive greater adoption and efficiency.
- **The National Data Protection Commission (NDPC)** plays a crucial role in ensuring a secure and enabling environment for digital transformation.
- To accelerate digital adoption, **government agencies, innovation support organizations, and MSMEs must collaborate** to remove barriers, provide capacity-building initiatives, and develop policies that encourage technology adoption.
- **Digital Trade Protocol & Cross-Border Transactions:** Clearer regulatory frameworks are needed to facilitate seamless digital trade across African markets.
- **Addressing Policy Gaps:** Harmonizing digital trade policies across countries will reduce barriers and improve implementation.
- **Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Enforceable laws are crucial to protecting businesses and consumers in digital transactions.
- **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure:** Increased investment in cybersecurity will enhance trust and security in digital trade.
- **Business Engagement in Policy Development:** Private sector participation in regulatory discussions is essential for shaping effective digital trade policies.



Entrepreneurs

- **Financial literacy is a key determinant of funding success**—many MSMEs struggle to secure loans due to **poor bookkeeping, mixing personal and business finances, and lack of structured records**.
- **Building financial discipline is crucial**—businesses need to **separate personal and business accounts, maintain structured records, and leverage digital payment systems** to enhance creditworthiness.

- **Business registration and compliance are now more accessible**—a representative from CAC showcased how digitalised business registration has **removed bottlenecks**, allowing entrepreneurs to formalize their businesses with ease.



Civil Societies

- **Government-backed initiatives, including SMEDAN and DBN schemes, provide alternative funding** but require increased awareness and accessibility for MSMEs to benefit fully.
- **Blended finance models—combining grants, equity, and loans—help de-risk lending to MSMEs**, making credit more accessible while reducing risk for financial institutions.
- **Regulatory and policy interventions must focus on capacity building**—beyond providing capital, **mentorship, training, and compliance support** are needed to help MSMEs scale sustainably.
- **Public-private collaboration is essential**—the session emphasized the need for **financial institutions, fintech players, and policymakers** to work together in designing **more inclusive financing ecosystems** for small businesses.



Students and Young People

- **AI in Healthcare Innovation:** AI-driven solutions can significantly enhance early cancer detection, improve diagnostic accuracy, and personalize treatment plans, particularly in regions with limited medical infrastructure.
- **Bridging Healthcare Gaps:** Digital health technologies have the potential to address Africa's challenges in cancer treatment by making healthcare more accessible and affordable.
- **Collaboration for Scale:** Partnerships between researchers, health tech companies, and policymakers are essential to drive adoption and ensure that AI-powered medical innovations reach underserved communities.



Researchers and Educators

- **Research Commercialization Fuels Economic Growth** – Translating research into marketable solutions is crucial for driving innovation and national development.
- **Bridging the Gap Between Research & Market** – Researchers face challenges such as funding, lack of commercialization knowledge, and limited industry engagement.
- **University-Industry Collaboration Accelerates Innovation** – Strengthening partnerships between academia and businesses enhances research impact and commercialization success.
- **AI & Robotics for Industrial Automation:** The adoption of AI-driven robotics in manufacturing and logistics is crucial for improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing workplace safety. Collaborations between research institutions and industries can accelerate implementation.





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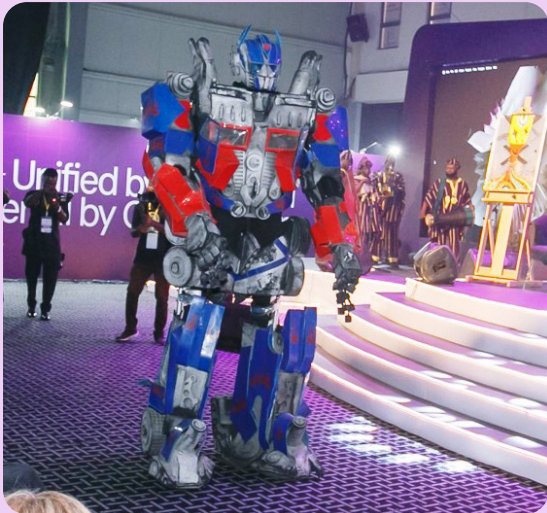
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The Omniverse Africa is one of the several platforms GIZ partners with for a sustainable and productive economic ecosystem in Africa.

"The Omniverse serves as a hub for diverse stakeholders, including development partners, public sector entities, regulatory agencies, academia, startups, finance and investment professionals, media, entertainment, arts, culture, and the creative industries. By connecting these stakeholders, The Omniverse breaks down silos, bridges gaps, and encourages cross-industry collaboration. This collaborative approach is essential in driving innovation, propelling economic growth, and solving pressing challenges that hinder Africa's progress."

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