



Case Study on ICDL with National Information Technology Development Agency of Nigeria

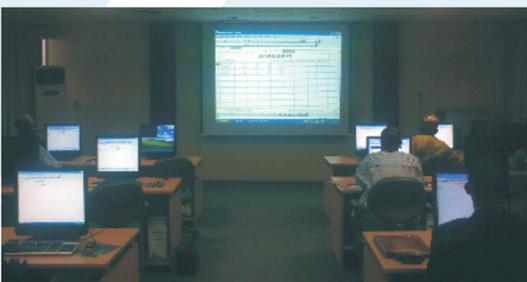
1. Background of the project

National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) was set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria on the 18th April 2001, to ensure the implementation of the National Information Technology (IT) Policy and to coordinate and regulate the development and regulation of the Information Technology sector.

Based on the Nigerian ICT Policy and the Capacity Building Policy for the Federal Civil Service, NITDA was entrusted to bridge the digital divide in the

technology within the public sector by equipping the staff with skills and competences urgently needed to manage and administer their day to day work. An ICT needs assessment was carried at the various ministries within the country to identify the specific skills needed at different staff level and category. The assessment clearly demonstrated that computer literacy and on-the-job training are the most immediate goals. It was also important for NITDA to find some programme which can act as a supporting mechanism for Federal Government's e-Government initiatives.

2. Nigerian NITDA adopting ICDL to Train Top Cadre Civil Servants



Since September 2004, ICDL Curriculum has been adopted as the minimum proficiency standards for IT certification in the public service sector as part of the Federal Government Reform Process. Therefore, ICDL is a natural choice for NITDA to carry out the capacity building project for civil servants. Furthermore, the global recognition, practicability, and the emphasis on skills validation through simulated tests of proficiency convinced NITDA that ICDL is the ideal solution to bridge the digital divide in the public service sector.



In 2008, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology mandated NITDA to carry out ICDL training and certification programme for the Top Cadre of the Federal Civil Service, including permanent secretaries, directors, deputy directors, and assistant directors. This project is entirely funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria through NITDA. A pilot group of 1157 public sector staff was selected from different ministries for the project at 3 ICDL Approved Test Centres. Total number of qualified candidates for this project is still under collation and verification by NITDA and Office of the Head of Civil Service.



To date, 400 staff have already completed their ICDL programme, and another 400 staff are presently undergoing training in batches of 33. NITDA also selected another 5 training centres to be accredited as ICDL Approved Test



3. Feedback from the Candidates and Governors

Candidates who have completed their training have given very positive responses based on the effects on their day to day work. They have not only learned functions that are often underutilised before, but have also increased self confidence and motivation at work.

"I feel more comfortable in trying out different functions on my computer and my improved confidence allows me to show other staff members how to better carry out a task", said a candidate after her course on Word Processing.

"This Training is indeed very good for all public servants" said Muhd Shuiabu Tukur, Assistant Director, National Emergency Management Agency.

"Very interesting and rewarding, it should be a continuous training programme to other cadre," said Kusko Morris, Assistant Director, National Assembly Commission.

Commenting on the initial success of the ICDL project, Director General of NITDA, Professor C.O. Angaye said, "never before has a skill development project of this magnitude been implemented since the advent of the new reforms in our country. To empower all senior civil servants with a standardized IT skills programme of this nature virtually transcends anything strategic. We hope to take this to every level of the Federal Civil Service and God willing, to all the other levels of Government as well."