

2025 IEEE Connecting the Unconnected Europe, Middle East & Africa Regional Summit

***“CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED:
BRIDGING DIGITAL FRONTIERS”***



27–28 November 2025
Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria we hail thee
Our own dear native land
Though tribes and tongue may differ
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign
In peace or battle honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria shall be blessed.

NATIONAL PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her honour and glory
So help me God.

Special Guest of Honour



His Excellency

Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR

**President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Special Guest of Honour



Engr. Prof. Nentawe Goshwe Yilwatda
National Chairman, APC

Guest of Honour



His Excellency
Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule
Executive Governor, Nasarawa State

Host



Prof. (Mrs) Ifeyinwa Eucharika Achumba

BSc. (Nig.), MEng (Nig.), PhD, PostDoc (Portsmouth, UK)

MNCS, MNSE, COREN Reg, CPN Reg, FFTF Fellow.

Chair, IEEE Nigeria Section

Co-Host



Professor Jamila Shu'ara
Vice Chancellor,
Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria.

Co-Host



Professor Osita Agbu
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics
Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria.

Co-Host



Dr. Atiku Saleh Dambatta
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Admin
Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria.

IEEE Nigeria Section
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE



Engr Prof Ifeyinwa Achumba
Chair, IEEE Nigeria Section



Engr John Funso-Adebayo
Immediate Past Chair



Prof Kingsley Ukaoha
Vice Chair



Engr Dr Ezekiel Aneke
Secretary



Engr Oto-Obong Effiong
Asst. Secretary



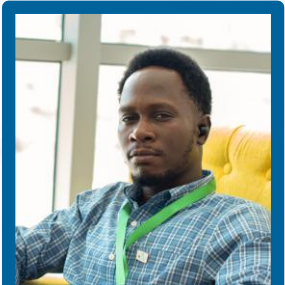
Engr Josephine Nwoko
Treasurer



Engr Dr Reginald Ogu
Pub. Sec. & Webmaster



Engr Dr Godwin Ozor
Chair, Student Act. Comm.



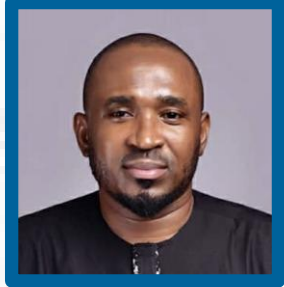
Olufemi Balogun
Coordinator, SIGHT



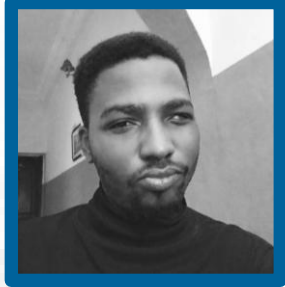
Engr Dr Chioma Oleka
Chair, Women in Eng.



Engr Yakubu Bello
Chair, Young Professionals



Engr Abiodun Okunola
Chair, EDS Nig Chapter



Chukwuemeka Okafor
M. D. Officer



Engr Azuka Ofogu
Chair, Tech. Comm.



Engr Chidinma Ibe-Dimnwobi
Chair, Action 4 Industry



Prof Nasir Faruk
Chair, Comm. Society

About 2025 CTU EMEA SUMMIT

The **2025 IEEE Connecting the Unconnected (CTU) EMEA Regional Summit** is a high-level gathering focused on advancing universal connectivity across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Hosted in Abuja, Nigeria, the summit brings together policymakers, telecommunications leaders, researchers, engineers, innovators, investors, and community network practitioners to address the persistent digital gaps that limit economic growth and social inclusion. With the theme “Connecting the Unconnected: Bridging Digital Frontiers,” the event highlights practical strategies for expanding affordable broadband, strengthening digital infrastructure, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and promoting sustainable, community-driven connectivity initiatives.

The summit also serves as a platform for showcasing innovative technologies, exchanging research insights, and fostering cross-border collaboration among governments, industry partners, academia, and development agencies. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions, participants explore solutions related to rural connectivity, digital transformation, cybersecurity, policy development, and the energy systems that power digital networks. Ultimately, the event aims to accelerate progress toward inclusive digital access, ensuring that underserved populations across the EMEA region can fully participate in the digital economy.

The summit will focus on major topics around bridging digital divides and connectivity.

Key focus areas:

- ✓ Infrastructure and technologies for universal connectivity.
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected Policy, regulation & sustainable financing
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected Rural & community-centric connectivity innovations
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected Digital transformation enabling massive connectivity
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected Regional cooperation: One Africa network and cross-border initiatives
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected
- ✓ Sustainable power & energy for connected communities
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected People, policy & sustainability
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected
- ✓ Cybersecurity, data protection & critical infrastructure.

Message from the Organizing Committee

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the **2025 IEEE Connecting the Unconnected (CTU) Europe, Middle East, and Africa Regional Summit**, taking place here in the dynamic and hospitable city of Abuja, Nigeria. On behalf of the entire organizing committee, I extend warm greetings to our distinguished guests. We are especially delighted to host participants from across the EMEA region and beyond, whose presence underscores the global importance of expanding meaningful connectivity to underserved populations.

This summit represents the culmination of months of planning, collaboration, and shared commitment from individuals and institutions who are deeply passionate about digital inclusion. Our theme, **“Connecting the Unconnected: Bridging Digital Frontiers,”** captures the urgency and opportunity before us. Over the next two days, you will engage with thought-provoking keynote sessions, dynamic panels, interactive workshops, and technology showcases designed to highlight practical, scalable solutions for closing digital gaps. Whether we are discussing rural broadband deployment, innovative financing models, resilient energy systems, policy frameworks, emerging technologies, or community-led initiatives, our collective focus remains on creating sustainable pathways to connect those who remain on the margins of the digital world.

As you participate in the summit activities, I encourage you to take full advantage of the rich diversity of expertise gathered here. Network, collaborate, challenge ideas, and explore new partnerships that can accelerate impact across our region. This event is not only about sharing knowledge, it is about building momentum toward tangible action and long-term transformation. On behalf of the organizing committee, I express our deep appreciation to IEEE, Baze University, the Nigerian Society of Engineers, our sponsors, volunteers, and every contributor who worked tirelessly to make this summit a reality.

Once again, welcome to the 2025 IEEE CTU EMEA Regional Summit. We wish you an inspiring, engaging, and highly productive experience. Let us work together to shape a future where every individual and every community has the opportunity to thrive in the digital age.

Warm regards,



Engr Chukwuemeka Gerald Okafor
Chair, 2025 IEEE CTU EMEA SUMMIT

Committee Chairs



Prof. Faruk Nasir
Chair, Technical Program and
Publication Committee



Engr. Dr. Ezekiel Nnamere Aneke
Chair, Registration Committee



Nneoma Ofodile
Chair, Local Organizing Committee



Dr. Adebunmi A. Akinbo
Chair, Publicity Committee



Agbotiname L. Imoize
Chair, Publication Committee



Precious Obinna Iheanacho
Webmaster

Speaker



Jane Egerton-Idehen

MD/CEO NIGCOMSAT

Jane Egerton-Idehen is a seasoned professional Tech Executive, Author, and Angel Investor. She is a dynamic executive with over 20 years in leadership roles across telecommunications, technology, and satellite industries. She is currently the MD/CEO of Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT), leading the nation's foremost agency in charge of managing the operations and services of the communications satellite owned by Nigeria. She has previously held high-level positions at Meta, Avan Communications, Ericsson, and Nokia Siemens Network. With proven expertise in driving strategic growth, fostering C-level relationships, and implementing revenue-generating sales strategies across multi-national markets,

Egerton-Idehen is recognized among Nigeria's top corporate leaders, with a focus on emerging markets, strategic consulting, and innovative technology solutions. She was the Head of Sales, Middle East and Africa, Meta and Country Manager & Regional Sales Director for the West African branch of Avan Communications Group PLC. She cumulatively spent 13 years in Sales and Management in the telecommunication infrastructure giant — Ericsson. She also worked as a Cluster lead for Nokia Siemens Network in West Africa. Egerton-Idehen was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. She has a degree in Electronics Engineering in 2001 from the University of Nigeria, Nusska; a Master's Degree from Warwick Business School, US; and an executive education from Yale School of Management, US. She has worked in the telecommunications industry in Africa for more than 17 years. Being one of the few females heading key business areas in the tech industry has exposed her to numerous professional and personal challenges peculiar to women.

Speaker



Kashifu I. Abdullahi

DG, NITDA

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi (KIA), CCIE, is a distinguished technology architect and transformational leader with 20 years of experience in digital transformation across the public and private sectors. As the DG/CEO of NITDA, Nigeria's leading IT regulatory body, KIA is driving Nigeria towards becoming a digitally empowered nation.

Under KIA's leadership, NITDA is implementing an AI strategy to enhance regulatory effectiveness and drive productivity, cost savings, and efficiency across Nigeria and Africa. Key initiatives include the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) programme, aiming for 95% digital literacy by 2030, and the Nigeria Startup Act, which has boosted Nigeria's tech ecosystem and attracted more investment.

KIA has also led transformative programmes like the Three Million Tech Talents (3MTT) initiative, preparing Nigerian youth for global competitiveness, and established over 648 IT centres nationwide. His commitment to online safety is evident in the development of the Code of Practice (CoP) for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries.

A strong advocate for data protection, KIA's work at NITDA led to the establishment of the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) and improved accountability in IT governance through the IT Project Clearance programme, saving the Nigerian government over ₦312 billion. He is also guiding NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), outlining key pillars for Nigeria's digital future.

KIA's leadership has earned him numerous accolades, including the African Achievers Award, the ISACA Global Inspirational Leadership Award, and the Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service for Digital Innovation.

Before NITDA, KIA served as a Technology Architect at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and held roles at Galaxy Backbone Ltd. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, and has completed executive education programmes at MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, and Oxford.

Speaker



Dr. Ankit R. Patel

Ankit R. Patel is a Chief Innovation Officer – Technology & Design (Mobility) working at BitGreen Technolabz Pvt. Ltd., Gandhinagar, India. He has been involved as a keynote speaker in more than 30 international venues, including India, Italy, Germany, the USA, Morocco, the Czech Republic, South Africa, China and the UAE. He has associated with various prestigious international conferences like ACM (CHI, CHIWORK, NordiCHI, OzCHI, AutomotiveUI, COMPASS, GROUP, IMX, MuC), IEEE (ITEC, AFRICON, e-Science, MELECON, LOGISTIQUA, WF-PST, ECCE, GTSNZ, SeFeT), Design Research Society (LXD), Participatory Design Conference (PDC), and IFAC (CTS). He also serves as an editorial board member in the International Journal of Innovative Research and Scientific Studies; Journal of Social Economic Research; Journal of Sustainable Urban Mobility; Transportation Development Research; and Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology. His research interests lie in the fields of automotive human factors and interaction, smart cities, policy and design, sustainable and socially inclusive transportation.

Speaker



Bhaskara Rallabandi

Co-founder/CTO Invences

Bhaskara Rallabandi is a technology entrepreneur, IEEE Senior Member, ACM Member, and Forbes Technology Council Member with over two decades of experience in wireless networks, cloud-native platforms, and digital transformation. He serves as Principal and Chief Technology Advisor at Invences Inc., where he leads innovation in CBRS-based Private 5G, 5G/6G Mobile Networks, Open RAN, Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), and Edge Computing. Previously with Samsung, AT&T, and Verizon, Bhaskara spearheaded programs in broadband, mobility, and public safety communications including FirstNet. A recognized global speaker at events such as MWC Las Vegas 2024 and 2025, OnGo Alliance, IEEE, 5G-ACIA, and the Connected Cities Tour, he actively contributes to O-RAN Alliance, 5G Americas, and IEEE 5G/6G Testbed initiatives. Passionate about mentoring and inclusive connectivity, he continues to advance technologies that bridge the digital divide and shape the future of intelligent networks.

Speaker



Rex Mafiana

MD/CEO, FPG Tech and Solutions Limited

Rex Mafiana is an award-winning Nigerian IT professional, entrepreneur, and the CEO of **FPG Technologies & Solutions Limited**, a leading African information technology and systems integration company. He is also the founder of the non-profit **Rex Mafiana Foundation**.

Meet Our Speakers



Prof. Engr. Nentawe Yilwatda
APC National Chairman



Jane Egerton-Idehen
MD/CEO NIGCOMSAT



Chuks Onuoha
Fmr. GGM IT NNPC



Kashifu I. Abdullahi
DG, NITDA



Dr. Ankit R. Patel
CIO BitGreen Technolabs Pvt



Terwase Gbande-Hembaor
DG, Benue State ICT Agency

Meet Our Speakers



Rex Mafiana
MD/CEO, FPG Tech and
Solutions Limited



Ibrahim M. Abdullahi
Public Health Specialist & ICT4D
Expert



Ikechukwu Ibeawuchi
Govt Affairs, Cisco



Hanniel H. Jafaru
MD, Ham Network Ltd



Praise Chukwunonye
CEO, The Birdling



Bhaskara Rallabandi
Co-founder/CTO Invences

Opening Remarks Chair, IEEE Nigeria Section at 2025 IEEE CTU EMEA Regional Summit – Abuja, Nigeria

Distinguished guests, esteemed partners, speakers, and participants, welcome to the 2025 IEEE Connecting the Unconnected EMEA Regional Summit.

It is an honor for the IEEE Nigeria Section to host this important gathering here in Abuja. We thank IEEE, the CTU Global Program, Baze University, and the Nigerian Society of Engineers for their partnership and support.

This year's theme, Connecting the Unconnected: Bridging Digital Frontiers, reflects a challenge felt across Africa and beyond. Millions still lack meaningful access to broadband, energy, and digital services. This summit brings together policymakers, telecom leaders, innovators, researchers, and students to craft practical solutions that will expand connectivity and empower underserved communities.

Over the next two days, we will discuss critical issues such as affordable broadband, rural connectivity, community networks, digital transformation, cybersecurity, and sustainable energy systems. I encourage all participants to collaborate, share knowledge, and explore new partnerships that will strengthen our region's digital future.

I also acknowledge the hard work of our organizing committee and the commitment of our speakers and attendees from across the EMEA region and around the world.

Let us use this summit to move from ideas to action—ensuring that no community is left behind in the digital age.

It is my pleasure to formally declare the 2025 IEEE CTU EMEA Regional Summit open.

Thank you, and welcome to Abuja.

Prof. (Mrs) Ifeyinwa Eucharia Achumba
BSc. (Nig.), MEng (Nig.), PhD, PostDoc (Portsmouth, UK)
MNCS, MNSE, COREN Reg, CPN Reg, FFTF Fellow.

Chair, IEEE Nigeria Section

Program of Event

Day 1: 27/11/2025	
Time	Activity
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration & Networking
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks by Connecting the Unconnected Committee (15 mins)
9:15 AM – 9:25 AM	Goodwill Message - IEEE Region 8 Zone Representative (10 mins)
9:25 AM – 9:35 AM	Goodwill Message - Chair, IEEE Nigeria Section (10 mins)
9:35 AM – 9:45 AM	Welcome Message - Vice Chancellor, Baze University (10 mins)
9:45 AM – 10:55 AM	Goodwill Message - Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) (10 mins)
10:55 AM – 11:05 AM	Goodwill Message - Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) (10 mins)
11:05 AM – 11:15 AM	Goodwill Message - Executive Secretary, Universal Service Providers Fund (10 mins)
11:15 AM – 11:25 AM	Cultural Exposition (10 mins)
11:25 AM – 11:40 AM	Opening of the Summit - Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule (Executive Governor, Nasarawa State) (15 mins)
11:40 AM – 12:10 PM	Keynote Speech 1 - Engr. Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda (30 mins)
12:10 PM – 12:40 PM	Keynote Speech 2 - Rex Mafiana (30 mins)
12:40 PM - 1:00 PM	Awards/Appreciation
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Photographs & Lunch
2:00 PM - 2:40 PM	Plenary Session 1 - Innovative Infrastructure Solutions for Universal Connectivity: Jane Egerton - Idehen (Lead Speaker) , Ikechukwu Ibeawuchi, Engr Mohammed Ahmed Kabir Wanori, Karthick Cherladine
2:40 PM - 3:20 PM	Plenary Session 2 - Policy, Regulation, and Financing for Connectivity: Dr. Femi Adeluyi (Lead Speaker) , Cynthia E. Chisom, Praise Chukwunonye, Dr. SUBHRAJIT DUTTA, Bhaskara Rallabandi
3:20 PM – 5:20 PM	Breakout Sessions
5:20 PM – 5:30 PM	Daily Wrap-up - Reflections and Key Insights

Program of Event

Day 2: 28/11/2025	
Time	Activity
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Plenary Session 3 - Connect, Transform, Thrive: Nigeria's Digital Transformation Models: Chuks Onuoha (Lead Speaker) , Terwase Gbande-Hembaor, Mr. Yomi Arowosafe, Engr Obiorra Nnamego, Christopher Udeagha
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Plenary Session 4 - Scaling Homegrown Innovations Across Europe, Middle East and Africa: Oyaje Idoko (Lead Speaker) , Lukman Lamid, Hanniel Jafaru, Emmanuel Otori, Dr. Ankit R. Patel, Favour Ibrahim
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Plenary Session 5 - Technologies that Transform Rural Communities: Henri Nyakarundi (Lead Speaker) , Ni Nyoman Clara Listya Dewi, Ritu Srivastava, Ibrahim M. Abdullahi, Dr. Nazar Nicholas
12:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Technical Paper Session 2
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Lunch Break
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Presentation of Summit Communique - By Rapporteur/TPC
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Ceremony - Awards, Appreciation, Next CTU

Paper Presentation Schedule

Visit>>> <https://bit.ly/CTUS-EMEA-PROGRAM>



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Committee Members

- **General Chair**

- Engr. Chukwuemeka Okafor, IEEE Nigeria

- **Local Organizing Committee**

- Nneoma Ofodile (Chair)

- **Technical Program Committee**

- Prof. Agbotiname L. Imoize (Chair)

- **Publication Committee**

- Prof. Agbotiname L. Imoize (Chair)
- Engr. Dr. Reginald Ekene Ogu, FUT, Owerri (Co-Chair)

- **Registration Committee**

- Engr. Dr. Ezekiel Nnamere Aneke (Chair)

- **Publicity Committee**

- Dr. Adebunmi A. Akinbo (Chair)
- Precious Obinna Iheanacho (Webmaster)

