Global University Systems(GUS) – Nigeria Project

Report of Fact Finding Trip

WITH

Dr. Takeshi Utsumi of

GLOSAS / USA

Global Peace Gaming and Global Distance Education

AND

Chief Charles U. Eke   Prof G.O Ajayi

**D I G I T A L
PARTNERS**
Empower the Poor

Report Written By Chief Charles Ugo. Eke

CONTRIBUTORS:

Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D, P.E
Prof. O. Jegede, National Open University of Nigeria(NOUN)
Dr. John Dada, fantsuam Foundation. Kafanchan
Mr Nasir Bello Linkage Office ABU

This 4th of October 2004

2004Fact finding Trip Report with the followings Individuals :

Date: from June 28 to July 7, 2004

       Dr. Takeshi Utsumi   New York
       Chief Charles Ugo. Eke New Jersey
       Mr.Ola Popoola NITDA Nigeria

The following Universities were visited:

       1. University of Jos,
       2. University of Ife,
       3. Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO),
       4. Abia State University Teaching Hospital,
       5. River State University of Science and Technology

The team visited University of Jos first and was received by Dr. Mrs Donna Oti and the faculty members. Our trip also took us around the campus and the Computer Centre, it appears that Unijos campus has an elaborate Computer Network and was in process of installing fiber Optics. Both the main Campus and the extended Campus are networked, they also showed interest in hosting the workshop and provide all the necessary equipment to conduct the workshop.

#2 OAU

We visited OAU and had meeting with the VC and Prof Kehinde and he showed us around and it was agreed that OAU will be the hub of GUS/Nigeria and Prof Kehinde will work with Mr. Popoola to draft the necessary documents including the concept document.
The first two Universities we visited have sufficient computer/Campus Network presence.

Federal University of Technology Owerri was in process designing Campus Network, there is LAN presence in some of the departments and also the Computer Centre located in the Campus.
The team visited River State University of Science and Technology and was welcomed by the VC, -- there was not much Campus Network presence.
Finally we visited Abia State University Teaching Hospital, and the arrangement to visit the school was made by Mr. Chris Uwaje, the crowd was unexpected and the interest was extraordinary, they have 6 VSATs and are very interested in Telemedicine and CME (Continue Medical Education).

Dr. Utsumi showed us the entire link to some document sample on his website.
The links are as follows:

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Open Standards and Partnerships of Global University System
http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Global_University/Global%20University%20System/Memo_of_Understanding/Cover_Sheet.html
or
http://makeashorterlink.com/?V2A225019

Application for Grass Root Fund for the Manaus Community Development Network
http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Manaus Workshop/Grass_Root_Fund/Application_Form/Appl_for_GRF_7-18-02.html
or
http://makeashorterlink.com/?L3C223019

Constructions of the drafts of Nigerian version of the followings;
Protocol of GUS/Nigeria consortium,
Reference: Protocol of Campus Net Amazonia Consortium
http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Manaus Workshop/Tinker Foundation/Application Form/Tinker_Proposal_Web/Appendices/Appendix-III_Protocol/Protocol_of_CampusNet.htm
or
http://makeashorterlink.com/?N17264019

Offices Visited are as follows:

1. Japan Embassy
2. World bank

#1 Japan Embassy

Japan Embassy
After we concluded our visit to the Universities, we visited the Japan Embassy in Abuja to discuss the Grass Root Fund for the project and same time collected the appropriate form; the meeting was attended by Prof G.O Ajayi, Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, Chief Charles Eke and Mr. Ola Popoola with Mr. Yoshihiro Mizutani, First Secretary (Economic Cooperation) of Embassy of Japan. The form will be prepared and submitted back to the Embassy. Mr. Mizutani advised us to work towards K-12 for which the fund is deigned for. He further informed us that Japan is already involved in the educational development in Nigeria.
Also he adviced , the earlier we submit the form would be the better, because the form must go to the capital of Japan after he has screen it here in Abuja for approval and the process takes long.

Grass Root Fund of the Japanese Government
Comparison of Application Forms (Cuba, Brazil, Nigeria and Pakistan)
http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Grass_Root_Fund/Comparison_of_Form.html

World Bank
The Country Office Director has not arrived as at the time we visited the Nigeria Country Office of the World Bank. The return visit was entrusted in the hands of Mr. Popoola of NITDA – hopefully with Prof. Ajayi and Prof. Kehinde.

Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) of the World Bank
http://www.worldbank.org/rmc/jsdf/approvals.htm

Outcome of Our Visit:

Nigerian Universities we visited showed extraordinary interest and willingness to cooperate in the formation of GUS-Nigeria.

As per Dr. Utsumi's observations: "of many colleagues, we have already identified about a half dozen universities to become members of the GUS/Nigeria — as said in my msg, some of them have already indicated their willingness to fill up the questionnaire form – see below".

Finding in Nigeria:
   1. During my fact-finding visit to Nigeria last June, I found out the followings;
      (a) their universities are fairly well equipped with minimum access of web at 512 Kbps down/256 Kbps up satellite linkage to Europe, and local area network within their campuses.
      (b) subsequently, most of their students use computers at their university.
      (c) there are not many Internet access in their town, hence less access of Internet by students at their home; this is also because of high costs of purchasing computer and subscribing Internet.
      (d) Therefore, their faculties' desire is mostly receiving e-learning courses from developed countries, i.e., for them to enhance their course offerings.
   2. Our strategy should then be;
      (a) meet with their need first, i.e., importing e-learning courses from developing countries so that their faculties can enlarge their course offerings.
      (b) by doing this, e-learning practice can be developed among them, i.e., firstly, for students of one university by its faculty within the university community, and later, extending the practice to students of other universities of other cities in Nigeria; for this domestic practice, basic e-learning tools, e.g, FORUM computer conferencing and WebCT, etc., would become necessity.
      (c) for this latter phase, they need to have town-wide area network with broadband wireless Internet; for which deployment, we will seek fund firstly from the Grass Root Fund of the Japan Embassy and later from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) of the World Bank.

Action Plan:

This questionnaire is just for match-making at this stage to locate appropriate parties in developed countries for Nigerians needs. Also, the filled forms will be attached to the JSDF application, just to indicate the real need from those universities in order to enhance the possibility of getting the fund.

Brief Questionnaires for Importing E-Learning Courses from Developed Countries

(Please repeat this questionnaire for each desired course – up to three courses per university as for the initial pilot project. Pls feel free to expand the allocated spaces.)

Contact	
Name of University	Name of university which administers e-learners who will receive the course from developed countries.
Name of Contact Person	This person could be the same as facilitator or mentor – see below.
Address	Title: Department: School: Street: City, Country, Zip: Tel/Fax: Email: Web:

Subject	
Title	Name of desired e-learning course to be imported from developed country.
Course content	Brief description of course content
Current status of the course	Describe briefly, if any has been conducted so far – particularly in e-learning mode with its delivery and administration.
Brief description of procedures	Describe briefly how this course is to be offered with hard copy course material, CD, web, and videoconferencing, list, email, and face-to-face meetings, in addition to libraries, databases, portals, etc.
Desired university	If you know, list one or two of the desired universities from which you wish to receive this course.

Learners	
Level of targeted learners	Undergraduate or graduate (what year?), or life-long learner (adult), etc.
Estimated number of learners	How many in the first academic year, second, and third?

Infrastructure	

Computers	Describe briefly about the availability of computers to learners; 1. desktop or laptop, 2. how many per learner at your school, 3. how they can access Internet at school or at home, etc.
Internet	Describe briefly about the current availability of Internet at school and/or learners' home or work place; 1. what is the trunk-line speed of Internet from your school to the outside world, 2. how many such line does your school have, 3. how much per month the school has to pay for the line in the US$, 4. what is the speed of accessing Internet from learner's computer, 5. how they can access Internet at their home, or working place, and how much they have to pay, etc.

Procedures and Administration

Face-to-face meeting	Describe briefly how often face-to-face meetings are desired to be held with the instructor of this course at your university, e.g., once or twice a semester, etc. What will be the duration of the meetings, e.g., a few days or a week-long, etc.?
Course credit	Can your university accept the credit of the offering university?
Estimated tuition level	How much tuition can your e-learners pay for this course?

Support

Facilitator	Facilitator is to assist e-learners locally for their administrative and technical support in cooperation with your university's staffs. Provide name, full address, photo, and brief bio in the format similar to the ones at the end of the following paper; Takeshi Utsumi, P. Tapio Varis, and W. R. Klemm "Creating Global University System" http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2F231019
Mentor	Mentor is to assist e-learners locally for their e-learning contents in cooperation with its instructors in developed countries. Provide name, full address, photo, and brief bio in the format similar to the ones at the end of the following paper; Takeshi Utsumi, P. Tapio Varis, and W. R. Klemm "Creating Global University System" http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2F231019

Subsequently, detailed procedures can be left out at this stage; which can be discussed by the course-offering instructors / faculty members and the course-receiving mentor / faculty members during the workshop which will be held by the seed fund ($50,000) of the JSDF. They will then be able to formulate detailed procedures for administration and procedures, etc., which are to be covered by the large JSDF fund (up to $2 to 3 million) for which full proposal is to be submitted within a year after receiving the seed fund.

This will be a pilot project, which is to be replicated later to other universities, say, the University of Jos, etc.

What's Next
Next workshop is to be held at one of GUS/Nigeria member universities.
The fund raising for this workshop is to be made by;

   (a) JSDF's seed fund (USD 50,000),
   (b) Grass Root Fund about (USD 40,000),
   (c) Other funding sources.

As soon as we confirm a fund, we will start organizing the workshop, which main objectives are;

   (a) Formal establishment of GUS/Nigeria,
   (b) Configuration of e-learning courses with the use of currently available Internet infrastructure,
   (c) Configuration of joint projects among GUS/Nigeria member universities and with GUS member universities outside Nigeria,
   (d) Formation of task force committees for deployment of broadband Internet for e-learning and e-healthcare in Nigeria,
   (e) Construction of full proposal to the JSDF (up to USD 2 to 3 million) which is to be submitted to the World Bank within one year after receiving the seed found.

Others

Visit following web site which include some photos;

   a. Third Annual Digital Bridge Africa -- Global Partnership Conference on ICT and Development, Abuja, Nigeria -- June 23-26, 2004
   b. Fact-finding and assessment trip to establish GUS/Nigeria -- June 27-July 8, 2004

http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/Global_University/Global%20University%20System/2004-06,%20Digital%20Bridge%20Africa/Digital_Bridge_Africa.html
or
http://makeashorterlink.com/?C37152E09

#3 Abia State University Teaching Hospital

The Followings are some minutes and report for 2002.

ATTACHMENT #1 Minutes of Meeting in ABU Zaira
ATTACHMENT #2 Minutes of Meeting with Prof Jegede
ATTACHMENT #3 2002 Trip Report by Chief Eke

Attachment #1

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WITH CHIEF CHARLES UGO EKE, REPRESENTATIVE OF NIDO AT AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, ON FRIDAY, 14TH JUNE.

ATTENDANCE:

Dr George Kwanashie, Deputy Vice Chancellor, ABU, Zaria

Chief Charles Ugo,

Dr John Dada, Programs Director, fantsuam Foundation. Kafanchan

Mr Nasir Bello, Linkages Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor, ABU, Zaria

INTRODUCTION

Due to health concerns and logistic arrangement, this meeting initially scheduled for Thursday 13th June, was postponed to today at the behest of Chief Ugo Eke. He was welcomed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Mahadi and given assurances of ABU's interest and commitment to participating in the GUS project.

BRIEFING

At a later session with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr Kwanashie, Chief Ugo Eke was briefed on the various initiatives being undertaken by ABU for the Management Information System (MIS) of the university, setting up wireless internet access for the university. Ahmadu Bello University is perhaps the only Nigerian university that has students intake from all local governments in Nigeria. Its spread of student-intake extends to neighboring countries of Niger and Cameroun.

The DVC emphasized the need for a direct linkage of the GUS with the participating universities and institutions and a minimization of buraecratic hurdles that may dampen enthusiasm or impede progress of the project.

The university has at the moment two cybercafes on the main campus, one café at the Institute for Agricultural Research and has plans for similar facilities for all the satellite campuses. The university also has plans to introduce degree and post-graduate degree programs in Management Information Systems.

ABU's preferred approach to the GUS will be a focused and intensive effort to build capacities within the university to ensure adequate take-off and sustainability of the project. The complementary role of the NOUN in meeting the aspirations of many qualified university applicants is acknowledged, and ABU would like this complementarity to be enhanced through the GUS.

Dr John Dada also emphasized the positive role that can be played by rural-based NGOs like the Fantsuam Foundation and other rural – based educational and health institutions. Given the 70% rural habitation of Nigeria's 120 Million people, GUS will do well to give adequate attention to extending the broad band wireless access to these rural-based institutions. Dr Dada also pledged to ensure that adequate information about the GUS will be disseminated to other northern-based universities in Bauchi, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Minna to facilitate their full involvement. He has already made contacts with the University of Jos and will be taking Chief Ugo Eke to meet the ICT team there after this meeting in Zaria. Time constraints will not make it possible for Chief Ugo Eke to visit Kafanchan, the headquarters of the fantsuam Foundation, but the organization's interest and commitment to the GUS project was also noted.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor re-iterated ABU's pleasure at hosting Chief Ugo Eke, and her willingness to host the first of Tak's workshop I case NOUN's facilities are not available at the time. It was also suggested that the first GUS workshop should be held from $22^{nd} – 25^{th}$ August, 2002 in Abuja or ABU, Zaria.

The meetings ended at 1500 hrs and Chief Ugo Eke was presented a gift by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Abdullahi Mahadi. He was then taken by Dr Dada to meet the team at the University of Jos.

At Jos, he was received by Dr John Nengel, the Chair of the University Computer Cente

Attachment #2 Meeting with Prof. Jegede

Dear Charles,
I apologise for the delay in sending this. I travelled soon after our
meeting and nursed some serious malaria for about two weeks after that.
It was nice meeting with you during your recent visit to Nigeria and to
see the enthusiasm with which you have taken the visit and all that it
entailed. Like I said I am very prepared to work with all of you on the
project as it has potential for lifting the ICT environment and
technological literacy of Nigeria.

During our meeting (Charles Ugo, Olugbemiro Jegede and Joyce Wigwe) we
touched on a number of issues summarised as follows:
1. We reaffirmed the need to make concerted effort at contributing to
the technological advancement of Nigeria through ICT and the use of
delivery technologies for all aspects of the country's development
especially education.
2. We touched on the need to focus on the objectives of developing a
robust proposal which could be used to source for external funds for
technology development in Nigeria. We mentioned particularly the need
to send such a proposal to the G8 secretariat amongst other sources to
be identified.3. We discussed the need to channel such proposal through
one of the govt set-ups for endorsement as it will eventually be a govt
to govt negotiation. I hinted that I had discussed this with the
Honourable Minister of Education who welcomes the idea and supports
that the proposal be developed and the NOUN to act as a focal point.
4. We appreciate the catalyst role that Dr Tak Utsumi is playing and
suggested that he be invited to visit Nigeria for a stakeholders'
workshop once the direction of the need is identified and the proposal
is written. We suggested that Nigerians should be centrally placed to
determine the exact needs of the country.
5. Your visit should be seen as a fact finding mission to which the
experiences of others here in Nigeria such as NOUN, NIDTA, etc be
added.
6. That the date for the proposal development in DC be fixed and a
letter of invitation be sent to me ASAP. as I will only be free either
very early in July or later in August.

I hope the above has captured our discussion.

Bye for now and best wishes.

Olugbemiro Jegede

ATTACHMENT #3 2002 Trip Report by Chief Eke

MEMO

TO: DIASPORA NIGERIAN IT CONSORTIUM
FROM: CHIEF CHARLES UGO.EKE
DATE: JULY 8 2002
SUBJECT: REPORT ON GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM(GUS) TRIP
TO NIGERIA

I. Preamble:

This report is a means of communicating the findings from my ten-day trip to Nigeria, for the purpose of determining the logistic infrastructure on the ground, guage the stake-holder's interest in the Global University Systems initiative, and discuss plans for possible workshop on the project later in the year. I will try to be brief on meeting context, focusing on the content essence of my discussions, with details to be provided at a follow up meeting of this group on July 11 2002 in New York.

II. Introduction:

I arrived in Nigeria in June 14th via Lagos and proceeded to Abuja by 09:00 A.M same day, the meeting with Prof. Jegede did not hold same day and I could not proceed to ABU in Zaria, until the following day.

The flight fare within states in Nigeria is N7000 or N8,500 one way; for me to make all the connections, I made well over 14 flights.

There is no direct flight from Port Harcourt to Abuja; you must stop in Lagos, purchase air ticket and then continue to Abuja or other parts of Northern States of the country.

III. The Trip:

My trip to Eastern Nigeria was not easy due to lack of frequent flight in/out of the states in eastern Nigeria.

June is a raining season in Nigeria, but I made a significant progress within the schedule I had. The following is a capsule of my discussions and findings:

1. TIME FRAME & TRIP PERIOD:
    June 14th through 23rd 2002

2. MEETING SCHEDULE:
    Please see attached.

3 MEETING REPORTS DETAILS
   (Including Universities visited, discussions and conclusions)
    Main body of the report starts from this section.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.0 ABU(AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY)

ABU has been following the discussions involving Dr. Tak and the GUS project in Nigeria for some years now.

The main linkage for the GUS project is Dr. John Dada who is the Program Director for an NGO, Fantsuam Foundation in Kaduna and also a graduate of ABU and once on the academic staff at the university(ABU).

ABU has Computer facilities and Cyber Café located in Kangoro site.

Dr. George Kwanashie Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) is the identified champion with Mr. Nasir Bello the V.C(Vice Chancellor) as the linkage officer.

ABU stressed the desire to participate in the GUS and further indicated that the University will be glad to host the GUS workshop.

ABU has student population comprising students from at least each local Govt. in Nigeria.

3.1 PROBLEM/CONCERN/SOLUTION

The issue of sustaining a completed project was raised both in terms of manpower and finance. We talked about training-the-trainer and also charging some fees to cover operating expenses.

3.3   BUREAUCRACY

The general concern among the universities was the issue of ***merging GUS with NOUN***, thereby making NOUN control and implement GUS; the universities desire to have equal participation with NOUN in GUS. They consider NOUN as another university, albeit virtual in scope. (This is one area that needs clarification and scooping prior to any

progress in this project. Which serves as the gateway – NOUN. One of the 47 universities, or a third entity such as NUNET)

Also they requested that NOUN be on same level with the traditional universities in GUS projects.

The argument is that NOUN has not included the traditional Universities or met with them with regard to it's operations, even though the traditional Universities are doing similar programs in distance learning; the "traditionals" fear that they will be left out of the loop should NOUN run the GUS project.

All the visited Universities requested that they be invited to any workshop to be held in Nigeria and they suggested that all the GUS project oriented meeting be held in Nigeria unless there is a mitigating reason to move it to the USA.; This, according to them, will allow them to participate and also reduce the cost for the sponsoring agency(s) in bringing people from USA.

3.4   STUDENT WORKERS

A suggestion was made to recruit students who will mind the Distance Learning (DL) Centers and gain experience in doing so; also this will create job in the rural communities and the Universities across the country.

3.5 UNIJOS(UNIVERSITY OF JOS) June 14th 9:00 pm thru June 15 12:40 pm
I arrived in Jos at 9:00 pm on June 14th
Attendance:
Dr. Nengel Director Unijos Computer Services
Dr. Ostien Head of Dept(Law)
Dr. Liverpool Deputy Vice Chancellor

3.6 CONCERN:
UNIJOS does not want GUS to be wholly attached with NOUN to avoid centrally controlling the power by NOUN or excluding the Universities in the process.

The desire to participate in GUS is very strong; They went further to express their readiness to host any of the workshop with their Computer systems ready to be used.

We toured the Computer center and the closet; (please see the attached pictures) they are running the current protocols and window 4.x with many PDC's and BDC's. VSAT, some Solar backup, Satellite dish, etc.

The University is a Cisco Academy center and the Computer center was jointly setup with University of IOWA, please see the www.widernet.org/josproject for details;

The Unijos is also a center for continuing education offering Cisco and other programs to the public.

They have a well established computer center fully networked and run by students; each department is networked with it's own server and managed by people from that dept; all these were made possible by little money they charged and re-invested it into buying equipment.

The Center has eight servers(PDC) and four backup(BDC) ; there is also a Mac lab equipped with Mac Computers, scanners, printers, etc. connected to the network.

The School informed me that they have initiated/conducted teleconference involving other countries and USAID; the program, according to them, ran problem free.

3.7 VISIT TO THE JAPANESS EMBASSY

 To go inside the embassy was not an easy task, due to high security.

I was finally allowed to speak with a lady, the commercial officer who gave me the grant application; we spent about two and half hours at the embassy.

3.8 SUNDAY JUNE 23
The meeting with Prof. G.O. Ajayi
I arrived Abuja from Lagos at 10:00 and departed to Lagos by 2:00 p.m same day.
Prof. Ajayi informed us that NEPAD is very important for GUS project.

He informed me of the major activities of NITDA for which he is the Director General/CEO under the Federal Ministry of Science & Technology.

3.8.1 EDUCATION TAX FUND:
The Govt. levies a tax of 10% on all projects, this was said by Prof. G.O. Ajayi

3.8.2 THE SCHOOLNET:
This is part of African School net program, which connects Primary, and secondary schools to Internet; this involves joint effort of NITDA and Education tax fund.

3.8.3 Workshops

Prof Ajayi suggested that a brainstorming session/workshop would best serve Nigerians if we conduct it in Nigeria, inviting people from Universities and others.

He suggested at least one workshop before the proposal.

NITDA has been recognized as the regional training center for Cisco, about 20 computer labs for Cisco training is in place and additional are planned within next two weeks, many Universities has been contacted.

It was suggested that since Dr. Tak will visit South Africa in September 30th thru October 3rd, it will be best to have him come to Nigerian first on his way to S/Africa; The travel cost can then be shared; he further suggested that additional people for GUS project can accompany him and that it will be cost effective to sponsor them to come to Nigeria rather than sending people to USA.

He indicated that 4 people could be a comfortable number, we suggested to have Dr. Tak in Nigeria from September 22 thru 28th and on September 29th he can departs to S/Africa. Rest of the team, can then continue the work in USA.

The conference will also attract major stakeholders, universities, ministries, etc. The workshop/conference deliverable will be the development of grant proposal after the sessions, conference lasting for five days. we can use two days out of that to develop the proposal, after getting feedback from all participants.

Due to the fact that the problem is in Nigeria, it will be better to host the conference in Nigeria, and if we need an input from any organization or person, we can easily reach such organization/person(s); Prof. Ajayi's holds opinion. Very strongly.

NITDA has a website www.nitda.gov.ng

3.9 FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OWERRI(FUTO)

I visited the school and they have Computer labs, but the meeting with VC Prof. Njoku did not hold due to other conflicting schedules within the campus.

I was brief on what is on the ground by Prof B. Amaeshi who suggested that he would follow up with VC.

3.10 University of Nigeria (UNN) Nsukka
The pro Chancellor is Prof. F. Osuji, I spoke with him and briefed him on the GUS project He indicated that Nsukka is ready to participate in the GUS project . Prof. G. Kawanshe made me aware of the computer facility and infrastructure at the university.

Like Nsukka, all the Universities I contacted, are ready to participate in the GUS.

3.11 NOUN(NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA)
First meeting was postponed due to late arrive of my flight to Abuja and the second

meeting was postponed due to Prof. Jegede's illness; I had to make up to six trips from

Lagos to Abuja and other places including Kaduna. NOUN meeting included the

following:

Prof. O. Jegede

Dr. J. Wigwe
Charles Eke

As at the time of the meeting, Prof Jegede informed me that effort is on the way to

finalize a building to house NOUN, the impression I gathered is that it mighty be the old

Federal Ministry of Education in Lagos.

3.11.1 PROJECTS:
NOUN indicated that their Distance Learning program will kick off in October this year and all the necessary equipments and materials have been procured for the take off.

It was mentioned that all the old political buildings in each state was allocated to NOUN for use as learning centers.
They have currently started recruiting students and staff.
Please see the BLUE PRINT.

3.11.2 SUGGESTIONS
Prof. Jegede suggested that since NOUN and GUS programs are similar, it will be good idea for NOUN to be a gateway for the GUS project.

Also he suggested that the first conference (brainstorming) be done in USA (as opposed

to Nigeria, suggested by Ajayi).

A letter of invitation will be written, inviting Prof. Jegede, a staff member and Dr. J.

Wigwe addressed to the Hon. Minister of Education and copied to the above. This letter

will enable them to meet with us in USA and deliberate on the GUS project, thereby

producing some documents including the proposal for submission to Japanese Govt.

Most people in Nigeria are fully aware of NOUN and the interest and demand for DL is quite great in the country.

There is wiliness by NOUN to sponsor the Nigerian GUS workshop including the trips.

3.12 NUC(National Universities commission).

I met with Mr. Fidelis Osuji, senior or Director of Computer services (Network dept) of NUC, he gave me an eye witness account on how the VSAT/Network are deployed in the Universities through another arm called NU-NET(National Universities Network) with the Dr. D.C. Onyekwe as the Director; we were unable to meet personally with him and other Executives of NUC due to a World Bank procurement training being conducted at NICON for NUC, a five day event.

NUC also showed interest to participate and I was directed to contact the followings:
Prof. Peter Okebukola, the Secretary and Prof. Placid Njoku.
Mr. Osuji has briefed them on the GUS. Also Dr. G. Kwanashe will contact them at NUC and further educate them on GUS.

There are minutes/papers/pictures accompanying this report – to be provided in hard copy.

4. MY RECOMMENDATION - CONCLUSION:

A.   That the workshop planning proceeds and that the workshop should comprise those
    champions/VC from as many   universities as   possible from the onset.

B.   That a MOU be worked out with NOUN, NITDA and others, committing to hosting the
    workshop and sponsoring up to seven US participants. .

C.   That the project be concluded in less than 12 months, with June 2002 as the starting period.

D. That we initiate a massive counseling /Education of Nigerian education community on DL
    and its value as a means of bridging the digital divide.

D.   That a training program for trainers be designed, developed and implemented.

F. That efforts be made to utilize Nigerian IT professionals, and the Nigerian health
   professionals in the United States as major partners in the GUS initiatives since content
   delivery is critical to the GUS project's success.

Report Written by Chief Charles Ugo. Eke and Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D, P.E.
October 4, 2004