

great minds. skilled hands

Plot 282, Trans Amadi Industrial Layout, Port Harcourt,  
Rivers State, NIGERIA  
Tel.: 234 (o) 806 1150001, 07023039695,  
[info@mindafrica.org](mailto:info@mindafrica.org),  
[www.mindafrica.org](http://www.mindafrica.org)

# About Us

MIND Foundation is a not-for-profit organization providing free lifelong learning opportunities to children and youth in disadvantaged communities within Nigeria and Africa. MIND Foundation was founded and incorporated with Corporate Affairs Commission on July 3rd, 2006.



## Our Mission:

To bridge the literacy and digital divide by using ICT to foster lifelong learning and hands-on education for children and youth in Nigeria and Africa.

## Our Vision:

To be the catalyst for a decade-long mind revolution resulting in several generations of sharp-minded, highly skilled youth who have the moral foundation, direction, educational & ICT skills to compete in the global economy by the end of a decade.

MIND protégées who appreciate their potential for leadership and have a community perspective with a passion for excellence.



## Board of Trustees

Emeka Ene (Chairman, Boards of Trustees)

Uwa Osa-Oboh

Franca Akue

Esimaje Ogor

Daniel Ene



**Executive Director:** Olere Iluebbey (Ms.)

## Auditors:

Olumuyiwa Olokun & Co.  
(Chartered Accountants)  
474, Trans Amadi Industrial Layout,  
Port Harcourt.

# Lifelong Learning



Education is essential in ensuring that our future generations' leaders are well-informed and competent.

Unfortunately, because the quality of education varies so greatly across regions, most school systems in Nigeria (particularly in rural communities) fail to deliver the level of education necessary to ensure global competitiveness among school leavers.

Due to a number of factors, many students have limited access to books, classroom materials and equipment,

teachers lack the training to engage their students in learning and lesson plans are often outdated or irrelevant.

As a way to combat this trend, MIND Foundation is providing free learning opportunities to enable students have an enriched learning experience and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

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## After-school Programmes

MIND Foundation is offering a free learning programme to children and youth in rural communities and other disadvantaged sectors.

MIND does not seek to replace the formal school education rather; it serves as a catalyst to equip young school-age children with skills and competencies required to reach their full potential in every area of personal and academic life by combining the academic strengths of the formal curriculum with a new and dynamic focus on ICT, vocational skills, leadership development and the community.

MIND's focus areas are:

- Digital learning
- Vocational skills
- Leadership Development

Through an after-school lifelong learning program for students, MIND encourages the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to enhance learning at all levels.

ICT-enabled learning will bridge the digital gap for rural students and afford them access to information and resources that, due to high costs and other factors, were previously not attainable. Furthermore, the acquisition of fundamental ICT skills encourages students to explore the Internet on their own, thus multiplying their

educational opportunities.

Since inception, MIND Foundation has trained students in several communities in Rivers State and plans to replicate same in other parts of the country and then Africa.

By giving opportunities to rural youth to realize the full potential, MIND is contributing to the economic development of these communities and our nation as a whole.



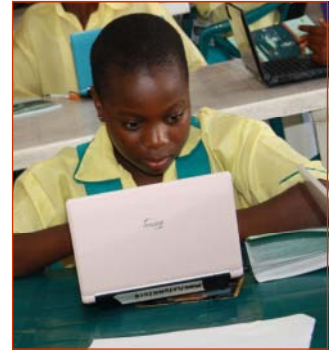
# Digital Learning

Digital learning module consists of ICT-based learning activities which are an integral part of the MIND programme.

In this module, MIND is providing access to ICTs and bridging the digital gap for rural youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity or access to ICT education. In addition to developing

digital competencies among rural youth, MIND is helping to improve students' achievement levels in Math, English and Science through computer-aided instructional resources.

MIND's vision is to develop sharp-minded and highly skilled youth who have the educational and ICT skills to compete in the global economy.



MIND - providing access to ICTs and bridging the digital gap for rural youth





# Vocational Skills



Hands-on vocational skills learning, is an initiative of MIND Foundation to equip youths with basic skills that will prepare them to enter

into the workforce with a significant advantage for success and thereby reduce poverty in the society.

Surveys have shown that youth restiveness thrives in an environment of discontent and poverty. Through this module, MIND is harnessing creativity and emphasizing hands-on education among youths and also improving the skills, attitudes

and behaviours of youth for self employment

Empowering rural youth with skills will enable them take informed decisions about their own development and make meaningful contribution to society. The MIND learning program seeks to provide youth with certified skills that are relevant to the oil and gas sector, telecommunications and general trade industries.

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# Leadership development

In order to tackle the challenges of youths today, MIND provides leadership coaching and mentoring based on timeless leadership principles to enable youth make informed decisions and live productive adult lives.

The leadership module also involves community service learning projects with the objective of teaching young people to give back to society by volunteering their

time and talents to the betterment of their communities and society as a whole.

It is also a reciprocal method of giving back since participation in the programme is sponsored by donors on their behalf.

MIND foundation is preparing youth to be good leaders and agents of change and development in their communities.

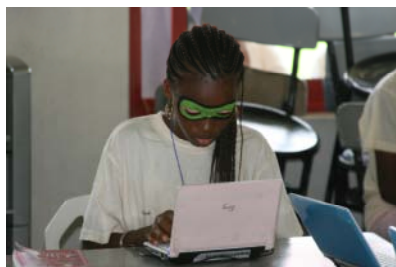




Since July 2007, MIND Foundation has been providing free learning opportunities to students in resource-challenged schools and rural communities. Through a tried and tested training model, MIND has successfully implemented ICT-enabled learning in remote community schools, empowering young students between the ages of 10 – 15 years with knowledge and skills to achieve academic excellence and global competitiveness.

In a short span of 3 years, MIND Foundation has already created a trailblazing success story in Rivers State and Enugu State especially in rural communities such as Amadi-Ama, Abuloma, Eneka, Igwurutta and Rumukwurushe (Rivers) Iva-Valley, Obioma and Umuabi (Enugu) where the programme has been established and running in their community schools till date.

To achieve our objectives, MIND partners with professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to coach and mentor MIND Kids.







## Get Involved, become a MIND Partner

To maximize our impact, MIND Foundation is working closely with a wide range of partners from the public, private and non-profit sectors., all of whom contribute their expertise, organizational strengths, resources and networks to the actualization of our goals.

As Individuals, Corporate Organizations, Institutions, NGOs, you can partner with MIND Foundation in the following ways:

- Be a volunteer

- Donate towards or sponsor a MIND project
- Become a CSR (corporate social responsibility) partner of MIND Foundation



- Adopt community development initiatives of

### MIND

- Sponsor a child
- Sponsor a school
- Establish MIND learning centres in communities where you work.

For more information on partnership with MIND, please call us on 07023039695 or send an email to [info@mindafrica.org](mailto:info@mindafrica.org).

For more information on MIND Foundation's activities, visit our website at [www.mindafrica.org](http://www.mindafrica.org)



CAC/IT/NO 21225



**CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**Certificate of Incorporation**  
*of the Incorporated Trustees of*  
**MENTORS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

*I hereby certify that*

MR. EMEKA ENE, ESIMAJE OGOR, MRS. UWA OSA - OBOH, FRANCA AKUE, DR. DANIEL ENE,

*the duly appointed Trustees of **MENTORS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION** have this day been registered as a corporate body, subject to the below mentioned conditions and directions.*

*Given under my hand and the Common Seal of the Corporate Affairs Commission at Abuja this Third day of July, 2006*

**CONDITIONS AND DIRECTIONS**

*This certificate is liable to cancellation should the objects or the rules of the body be changed without the previous consent in writing of the Registrar General or should the body at any time permit or condone any divergence from or breach of such objects and rules.*

**Note:**

*This certificate does not bestow upon the Organization the right to establish any institution, engage in any business and the like without permission from the appropriate authority.*



**A. ALMUSTAPHA**

**Registrar - General**

**070631**

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# Features

FEATURES EDITOR: ROLAND OGBONNAYA

## MIND ... Another Approach to Check Youth Militancy

*With the combined efforts at solving the Niger Delta problem gaining momentum, different organisations are applying different approaches at resolving the same malaise, which has brought the economy of the area to its knees. The latest is targeted at the youth of school age.*

**Ahamefula Ogbu**  
writes



• Some of the participating youth

In the suburbs of Abuloma, a sleepy town that adjoins Port Harcourt is the Community Secondary School, Abuloma which has been chosen to experiment an approach at engaging the Niger Delta youth in a manner that would make them self reliant by the age of completing their secondary education. The children numbering about 30 were in a classroom, which reeked of Ammonia but on inquiry, the teacher explained that it was a chemical used for tie and dye lessons.

They also enthusiastically laboured at putting into practice what they were being taught with the classroom. In the end, each student clutched his or her white T-shirt, which was to be dyed and stood round the woman who imparted the knowledge. To her, she was already through for the day's lesson as the children had learned the basics of tie and dye.

That segment however came after their daily computer lessons where each of the participants has a laptop to him or herself and will be meant to graduate with it to go home with and form cells of other youth in their residential areas for another round of impartation.

The scheme, which is operating under a registered foundation according to the originator of the idea, and Managing Director, Oildata Logging Services, Mr. Emeka Ene, is aimed at achieving results within the next ten years by which time the scheme, would have like amoeba, split into different animals of the same features.

Ene said that he drew his projection period of yield from what happened in the Western region where the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo gave free education and forty years or more down the line, the region is now playing a dominant role in almost all the sectors of the Nigerian economy.

He yet cited another example where he noted that in the 60s, the former Mid Western region used to record the lowest entry in West African School Certificate until they were sensitised, adding that as at today, that region also produces the highest number of students who enter for the examinations. He therefore concluded that given time, the seed of diverting the attention of the youths into productive ventures by educational means would have the same ripple effect on the region.

Ene is of the view that if the youth are trained in different trades which are relevant in the economy, they will be better positioned to fend for themselves, which will make crime less attractive to them. He agrees that it will work to contribute to the overall peace efforts in the Niger Delta.

"This is part of the seed effort at sustainable peace in the Niger Delta. Most times, people ask what those working in the Niger Delta environment are contributing to the host communities well being. We are taking this initiative hoping that other people will buy into the idea", he said.

The main idea is to train the children in all kinds of skills acquisition like welding, fashion designing, electrical and mobile phone repairs among others so that by the time they leave secondary school, those that do not have the means or ability to proceed further in their education would have been sufficiently skilled to fend for themselves while those who want to go for higher education would have higher propensity to make money and would therefore have higher propensity to survive even in school environment without resorting to crime.

Ene said they established a foundation with the hope that other people will join them on seeing the good intention and effective approach of the programme, seeing in ready allies, the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria which had been embarking in similar projects to elicit peace from the grassroots in the Niger Delta.

On how the programme started, Ene said he approached schools to partner with them, adding that selection of any school to run the programme must be based on willingness to participate and the involvement of the teachers and head of institution. Many of the schools, he said, refused to participate so they limited it to those who indicated interest.

"Like every new idea, it is bound to elicit some resistance, but by the time it gathers momentum, I am sure that those that rejected the idea would start rushing to have their schools enlisted", he said.

On the selection process of participants, he said the best students who also exhibited interest and organisational capabilities were chosen on equal number of gender.

The girls were tested differently from the boys and the best among them selected to start the scheme. It is not a take all approach as the students are to use their hands to build things that the school would need but under the supervision of their teachers and some experts. For example, the students in Abuloma are to build an incinerator for the school with the resources provided by MIND Foundation and under the supervision of an environmental expert to be brought by the Foundation. After, the students will then clear the grass in the compound and incinerate in the facility they built.

The incinerator, Ene explained, would serve as the contribution of the students to their immediate envi-

ronment, pointing out that they were being trained in civic responsibility and other value orientation to make them rounded responsible leaders in their community as possible leaders of tomorrow.

One of the trustees, Mrs. Esi Ogor who coordinated with her overall, looking like one of the trainees expressed elation at the rate the students were progressing, pointing out that even the teachers were now looking at the setting up of MIND clubs, reading clubs and cell creation by different groups drawn from participating schools.

She stated that the programme at Abuloma would cover the areas of "Volunteerism (where a service learning project will be executed), Leadership development, Computer training activity using the Techno Kids package and Vocational skills learning (Tie and Dye)".

She said the project was conceived and what they intend to do differently to achieve results instead of repeating what others are doing, she described it as a move to achieve a mind revolution among the young people in the Niger Delta so as to change their mindset and wake up in them, bottled up innate abilities which they are expected to put into good use for safe and secure environment, future and self actualisation.

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"The vision of a foundation such as MIND was borne out of a desire to be the catalyst for a decade-long mind revolution resulting in several generations of sharp-minded, highly skilled youth who have the moral foundation, direction, educational and ICT skills to compete in the global economy by the end of a decade.

"The MIND Foundation's goals are to develop highly skilled protégés with strong character and leadership qualities that are set to compete in the global economy, develop individuals with an appreciation for our rich cultural identity, and provide career guidance for these talented individuals with a passion for excellence", she stressed.

She was of the opinion that a lot of educational programmes could be worked into the scheme and lost values revived more easily than carrying out open

campaigns. She opines that it would be faster resurrecting dead value systems in the society since the scheme has the advantage of targeting the young when they still have pliable minds and have the capacity to positively affect others.

According to Esi, "We are not able now to take the programme to all parts of the Niger Delta or even the State at the same time but will groom those that will take the message down to other places. Starting from where we are, it will spread. Every equipped child will then create a cell and sponsored by our Foundation to build others in skills, computer knowledge as application and other relevant skills that we are teaching them".

She described the Abuloma scheme as a pilot, which on completion, they will move out to other places but insisted that the prerequisite for benefiting must be that the heads of participating schools must show enthusiasm to participate and must involve core teachers in certain subjects to be in all the classes they handle.

"Within the three years the students will be groomed, they are to meet a certain contact time to be qualified to benefit from the set up of their cells and must have completed certain community services. We want to teach them the principle of giving and how to positively impact on the lives of others. We will work with them and gradually achieve that critical mass that will be needed to push the.

"In the course of these activities, the students have expressed high interest in acquiring ICT skills and have demonstrated remarkable abilities. They have also developed an appreciation for community values and teamwork as they plan their service project tagged 'operation keep our environment clean' which will be implemented on the last day of the program.

"This has made learning fun for these students while instilling leadership values as they do the Rap at intervals. The tie and dye practical class was a huge success as the students each emerged with a finished project of beautifully designed T-shirt, which shall be worn on the last day. PE activities every afternoon have also helped to keep them alert and feel better about themselves.

"As a result of these planned activities, the students have demonstrated an increase in self-esteem, which will go a long way to support academic achievement for them".

Executive Director of the foundation, Mrs. Oleru Iluebbey who after watching the children through a session expressed satisfaction on the results so far achieved said there was need for teamwork, which was only possibly on voluntary involvement, adding that the students were performing beyond her expectations, which was a justification that such chances should be created.

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## MIND . . . Another Approach to Check Youth Militancy

08.09.2007

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