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EAC, AD-Connect to run M-learning in Nigeria

EDUCATION Advancement Centre Ibadan, is collaborating with **AD-Connect** Consulting and Software Limited, based in Ghana, to pioneer the introduction of mobile learning technology into Nigerian education system.

Speaking on the innovation, the Executive Director, AD-Connect, Mr. Adiel Ntuk, stated that the M-learning technology was introduced to boost e-learning worldwide.

According to him, many universities in the United States of America and in other advanced countries were M-Learning compliant, adding that Ghana and some other African countries had signified their interest in the new learning technology.

"M-Learning which is known as mobile learning technology, is an innovation in education designed to boost e-learning. It is the use of mobile phone to deliver lectures or class work to students, irrespective of distance, and it is cost effective and highly efficient.

Speaking further, he said that his company was ready to assist any institution in Nigeria to adopt the M-Learning technology and train personnel who would be in charge of the system in all the departments in the institution.

His words: "In Ghana, three quarter of students claim to spend 12 hours a

week, using mobile phone. Similarly, Nigeria has a population of approximately 149 million people, nearly one out of every three own mobile devices, hence the need for the new technology in this country. A mobile solution like Hot Lava Mobile will help us overcome the lack of high-tech infrastructure on the ground in Nigeria. Mobile technology provides better means to reach a larger number of students than we could via PCs, and it makes feedback happen in a very short period of time. It also increases the frequency with which instructors and students interact with one another.

"Nigerian educators will use Hot Lava Mobile to build content, including lesson plans, lecture notes, quizzes, test/exams and surveys. It is virtually im-

possible to tell what mobile device someone will use to access content. So the Hot Lava Mobile software gives instructors a way to create and broadcast content across all major brands of mobile devices, over 500 varieties.

"Instructors will then be able to assign content as they like. One group of students might receive a certain type of lesson or survey; another group would get a different set. Once content is assigned, instructors can send it to any mobile phone. In turn, students will be able to use their devices to read, interact and answer instructors' questions. AD-CONNECT will host the content on Hot Lava Mobile servers.

"The pilot project is not only about disseminating information to a large num-

ber of students; it's also designed to help instructors produce usage reports that note how long each mobile device user spends with learning content and how well they comprehend the instruction. In Nigeria, there's the availability of an excellent mobile network beyond 3G services."

Speaking in the same vein, Pastor Muyiwa Bamgbose, Co-ordinator, EAC, confirmed the relevance of M-learning in education. According to him, the new learning system would enhance distance learning process in Nigeria.

"This informed our decision to register our students on M-learning.

He said, "I would like the state and the federal government and tertiary institutions in the country to consider M-learning as a better alternative to e-Learning. In the case of e-Learning, easy access to students has been hindered by the high cost of the system.

"From all indications, it is not easy for government to get every student a laptop. Moreover, the issue of irregularity of electric city supply is a serious factor militating against efficiency of e-learning in Nigeria," he said, adding that EAC would commence its M-learning so as to extend its A'level education programme beyond Oyo State.



•Pastor Muyiwa Bamgbose, Co-ordinator, Education Advancement Centre, Ibadan (right) discussing with A-D Connect Consulting, Director, Mr. Adiel Ntuk, on M-learning, recently.