Welcome Address

on the occasion of

UNILORIN ODDC OPEN DATA HACK DAY

BY

Dr. Omenogo Veronica MEJABI
Project Leader
ODDC Research team
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

22nd February, 2014
COURTESIES:

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services) and Chairman of this Opening Ceremony – Prof. Y.M. Fakunle
Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Academic & RTI
The Registrar
Other Principal Officers
Provost & Deans, especially the Dean of CIS and HODs’, Directors
Professors and other Colleagues
Distinguished Invited Guests
Our friends from BudgIT Nigeria
Esteemed Hackathon Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen
PREAMBLE:

Members of my research team and I, give all glory to God for making this day a reality and especially for bringing the team from our partner organisation, BudgIT Nigeria, safely to Ilorin from Lagos.

We are particularly grateful to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. AbdulGaniyu Ambali, for augmenting support for this event and especially for asking our amiable DVC Management Services, Prof. Y.M. Fakunle to be the Chairman of this opening ceremony.
ODDC:

Chairman, Sir, ODDC stands for 'Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries’, and is a research project funded by the World Wide Web Foundation. The University of Ilorin's Open Data Research Group is working on Investigation of the Use of the Online National Budget of Nigeria, as one of the case studies of the ODDC project which is supported by grant 107075 from Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The Unilorin ODDC research team has the benefit of a World Wide Web Foundation appointed Peer Supporter - Dr. Maurice McNaughton, Director, Centre of Excellence, Mona School of Business & Management, The University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica and he will be visiting us in April.
OUR RESEARCH GOALS:

Our case study focuses on Nigeria’s National budget data and we are attempting to determine:

- how the public engage in the discussions of the national budget data
- the degree of awareness of open data by the public
- the potential of open data to drive good governance
- the intermediaries in the flow of budget information
- the challenges to effective use of such open budget data.
The word "hackathon" consists of the words "marathon" and "hackers", joined together to define an event where teams of participants gather in the same physical or virtual space to collaboratively develop applications in a short time.

A hackathon is also known as a hack day, hackfest or codefest & today is the 2014 International Open Data HackDay.

In the contest of today’s event, the hack day centres around the budget data of Nigeria which is available to the public on the website of the Budget Office of Nigeria – and as such, is open data.
THE UNILORIN ODDC OPEN DATA HACK DAY:

To help us with ideas of how and what types of applications can be developed during a data hack event such as this, BudgIT Nigeria, an NGO based in Lagos, has gladly sent five (5) of their staff to be with us and we thank them greatly. BudgIT was the winner of the 2013 Lagos Data Hack Event with prize money of N300,000.

Today, the winning team will be N30k richer, 2nd – N20k, 3rd – N10k. Every other team will go away with N5k each.

Chairman, Sir, I am proud to inform you that we have 8 teams competing and there are 3 females present, one of whom is a Team leader.
CONCLUSION:

Participating teams are encouraged to see today’s activity as a learning opportunity that may enable them compete at future hackathons with prospects of winning hefty prizes. Or better still, receive a vision for a ground-breaking innovative business idea.

I want to thank my Dean, Prof. J.S. Sadiku, who will be presenting the prizes later today, for taking time to be here this morning.

It is an honour to have all our Principal Officers, Professors and members of the Unilorin community, and most especially the Chairman, at this opening ceremony and we wish to express our profound gratitude to you and everyone present. I welcome you and all participants to the Unilorin ODDC Open Data Hack Day. THANK YOU.