



AIG-IMOUKHUEDE  
FOUNDATION

# AIG-IMOUKHUEDE FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

July 2023



### Notes from the Executive Vice-Chair

Welcome to the July edition of our newsletter.

This month, we announced the three 2023/2024 AIG Scholars, who will be heading to the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford in September, to pursue a Masters in Public Policy. Also, we opened applications for the 2024/2025 AIG Scholarships. Information on eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

The Nigerian Federal Civil Service marked Civil Service week in July. As long term partners of the Civil Service, we helped to mark the event by facilitating the delivery of a public lecture on digitalisation by Professor Stefan Dercon, renowned Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government. We also took advantage of Professor Dercon's visit to Nigeria to host an event with the British High Commission, during which Professor Dercon gave a lecture on '*Reshaping Elite Bargains*.'

Finally, we were honoured to present cash prizes to thirty-two outstanding civil servants who were recognized during a Gala night as part of Civil Service Week. The prizes were awarded from the Emily Aig-Imoukhuede Memorial Endowment Fund for Public Sector Excellence, which was established in 2022 to inspire a culture of meritocracy and professionalism within the civil service, setting a benchmark for excellence.

You can read more about these and other updates in this newsletter.

**Ofofwe Aig-Imoukhuede**  
Executive Vice-Chair



## Announcing the 2023/2024 AIG Scholarship Recipients



*Abdulhakeem Ibraheem Abdulkareem, Olutimayin Oluseye Itunuoluwa and Ajike Chinagorom Ogbu*

We are delighted to announce the recipients of the 2023/2024 AIG Scholarships. Three Nigerian public servants, Abdulhakeem Ibraheem Abdulkareem (*Special Assistant to the Kaduna State Governor*), Ajike Chinagorom Ogbu (*Assistant Chief Engineer, Performance Management Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation*) and Olutimayin Oluseye Itunuoluwa (*Deputy Manager, Internal Audit Department, Central Bank of Nigeria*), will undertake a transformative Masters in Public Policy (MPP) programme at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. The scholars will acquire a world-class public policy education and upon their return to Nigeria, will use learnings from the programme to create a lasting impact within the public sector.

To prepare the scholars for their time at the University of Oxford, the Foundation organised an intensive pre-departure session during which programme alumni shared their experiences. They offered practical advice on how to thrive during the academic journey, build lasting networks, and leverage the Oxford experience to impact Nigeria's public service landscape positively.

Since 2017, the Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation has awarded 29 scholarships to African students to obtain an MPP from the University of Oxford. Applications for the 2024/2025 AIG Scholarships are now open. Please click [here](#) to learn more.



*L-R: Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede; Ofovwe Aig-Imoukhuede; Essah Aniefiok Etim, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment; Olawale Edun: Special Adviser to the President on Monetary Policy at the Civil Service Gala/Award Nite.*

Our Chairman and Executive Vice Chair, Aigboje and Ofovwe Aig-Imoukhuede, joined the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Federal Permanent Secretaries and other Civil Servants at a Gala Night hosted by the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) to celebrate the country's top performing civil servants.

In 2022, the Foundation established the Emily Aig-Imoukhuede Memorial Endowment Fund to reward the country's top civil servants with prizes of N500,000 each. During the Gala night, thirty-two outstanding public servants who were chosen after a rigorous selection process conducted by the OHCSF and its partners, were awarded Public Service Excellence prizes for exemplifying Civil Service values, and also received N500,000 each from the Foundation.

In his remarks during the event, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede stated that it was important for appropriate rewards and recognition systems to be established for the Civil Service as it would motivate civil servants to be more productive. The Emily Aig-Imoukhuede Memorial Endowment Fund was established to inspire a culture of meritocracy and professionalism within the Civil Service.

**“Reshaping Elite Bargains” with the British High Commission**



*L-R Richard Montgomery. British High Commissioner; Professor Stefan Decorn, BSG, University of Oxford; Ofovwe Aig-Imoukhuede; Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede; Chris Pycroft- Development Director Foreign Office Nigeria at the British High Commissioners Residence.*

We joined the British High Commission, to host a lecture by Professor Stefan Dercon titled ***"Reshaping Elite Bargains and Gambling on Development."*** The event was co-hosted by our Executive Vice Chair, Ofovwe Aig-Imoukhuede and the British High Commissioner, Richard Montgomery, with a diverse audience drawn from civil society, the media and a number of our programme alumni from the public sector.

In his lecture, Professor Dercon described how elite consensus in some countries has enabled economic growth. He stated that while governments have a legal responsibility to put in place measures aimed at fostering economic development, in recent times, the countries that have developed the fastest are those in which the elite have put aside their own interests and focused instead on pursuing economic progress for their nations.

The principle of elite engagement with the development process highlighted by Professor Dercon in his lecture aligns closely with our strategic approach at the Foundation, to collaborate with the public sector in order to achieve our mission of transformed public service delivery. The goal is a public sector that is equipped to support the country's socio-economic performance and provide goods and services for the well-being of its citizens.

In his remarks during the event, our Chairman Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede stated that his definition of the elite was anyone who excelled in their field of endeavour. He therefore, enjoined members of the audience to recognise their potential as change-makers and leverage their expertise to actively contribute to Nigeria's development in any way that they can.



We are proud to have partnered with the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) to facilitate the delivery of a public lecture themed *"Digitalisation of Work Processes in the Public Service: A Gateway to Efficient Resource Utilisation and National Development"*, to commemorate Civil Service Week.

The lecture was delivered by Professor Stefan Dercon, renowned Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, our long-term partner. In his lecture, Professor Dercon noted that nations that have successfully digitalised their operations have demonstrated that genuine leadership at all levels is vital for effective implementation. To achieve true inclusivity, he noted that digital systems must prioritise interoperability to help synchronise government services.



L-R: Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede CON; Dr Folasade Yemi Esan CFR, Head Of Civil Service;

In her address, Dr Folasade Yemi-Esan, CFR, Head of Civil Service of the Federation, acknowledged the Foundation's pivotal role in spearheading digitalisation initiatives across the public sector. She informed the audience that all Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) were at varying stages of implementation of their own digitalisation projects and that plans were underway for all MDAs to be fully digitalised by the end of 2025.



Please click [here](#) to watch Professor Dercon's lecture



## ALUMNI UPDATE



Yewande Omotayo Adesua is an Administrative Officer in the Ekiti State Civil Service. She is the Project Coordinator of, Ekiti State Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) Project. The AGILE Project is a World Bank-assisted project that aims to improve secondary education opportunities among girls in targeted participating states.

In her 18 years of public service, Yewande has maintained an exceptional track record of resourcefulness and excellence, earning her commendations from superiors. Having been selected as a peer group leader responsible for mentoring young administrative officers to meet the new challenges of the 21st century, she was motivated to seek opportunities to learn relevant public administration practices and build a wider network in the public sector. This was one of the major reasons she applied for the AIG Public Leaders Programme. Her expectations of the programme were met.

*"I saw the programme as tailor-made for me to advance my capacity with additional skills and knowledge that could be cascaded to colleagues and subordinates for the overall benefit of the public service in my home state and the nation at large. Participating in AIG-PLP afforded me the opportunity of peer review and networking. The programme was engaging and intense. Lessons learnt from the core themes are needed elements and*

*tools for effective and efficient service delivery in public service.”*

As part of the programme, PLP candidates carry out a capstone project in their organisations, using learnings gained during the programme. Yewande's project was titled *“Harnessing E-Office for Effective and Efficient Service Delivery in the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), Ekiti State.”* The project aimed to improve work processes by replacing paper documentation and manual file storage procedures with the digitalisation of the administrative process of NEWMAP. The project has reduced paperwork, enhanced real-time collaboration between project staff and partners, improved the document retrieval system by introducing a digital filing system, and provided the necessary infrastructure for remote work arrangements for team members. Yewande reported that team members have now embraced the new work mode, and the project is a pointer to the fact that the digitalisation of the public service is a needed revolution to transform the public service.

The training broadened Yewande's perspective and equipped her to be a better leader, building her skills and capacity for better service delivery. *“When I started the programme, I was the head of administration of NEWMAP, reporting to the project coordinator. However, before the end of the AIG Public Leaders Programme I was promoted to the position of a Project Coordinator and asked to head another World Bank Project, Adolescent Girls' Initiative for learning and Empowerment (AGILE).”*

Yewande believes that the PLP is necessary for building the leadership capacity of the public service across Africa. The Alumni platform of the programme also gives participants the opportunity to network and learn from each other on an ongoing basis.



## AFFILIATE UPDATE

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**PSHAN partners with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA)**

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In the middle  
of a health crisis,  
**you are**  
**doing well**



The Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria Fosters Partnerships for Healthcare Development in Nigeria. Visit [www.adhfp.org](http://www.adhfp.org) for more information

The National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) in Nigeria is being revamped to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UCH) by 2030. Former President Muhammadu Buhari passed the NHIA Bill into law on May 19, 2022, making health insurance compulsory for all Nigerians.

The mission of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) is to secure mandatory health insurance for every Nigerian by establishing a basic minimum package of health service across all health insurance providers in the country. By accelerating programme implementation and collaborating with stakeholders such as PSHAN, the NHIA aims to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

Together, PSHAN and NHIA strive to create a brighter future for every Nigerian, where comprehensive healthcare becomes a fundamental right for all.





**National Primary Health Care Development Agency,  
Abuja  
22nd June, 2023**

**Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey**

The Federal Government through the National Primary Health Care Development Agency will be introducing a new vaccine called the Human PapillomaVirus vaccine into the national immunisation schedule in 2023/2024 to tackle the increasing rate of cervical, anal and oropharyngeal cancers.

HPV is a commonly transmitted infection that can lead to various health issues, including cervical, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers. The impact of HPV-related diseases is not only physical but also emotional, affecting individuals and families.

To enable us serve you better, kindly fill the HPV vaccine introduction rapid KAP survey.



National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) plans to introduce the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine into the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Schedule. The NPHCDA has created a survey to find out how much the public knows about HPV. To participate in the KAP survey please click [here](#).

# ELEVATE YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER

## AIG SCHOLARSHIPS 2024-2025 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation invites applications for the 8th round of the AIG Scholarships, which offers an exciting opportunity for exceptional Nigerians currently working in the Nigerian public sector to attend the University of Oxford for one year and obtain a Master's in Public Policy.

Since 2017, twenty-nine scholarships worth over £50,000 each have been awarded to an outstanding group of people who are working to drive change and make a positive difference in the country.

AIG Scholars spend the year at the University of Oxford, gaining knowledge and skills from an outstanding academic faculty with expert practitioners, and interacting with other future public sector leaders from around the world. After completing their degrees, Scholars return to Nigeria and use their learnings to bolster policy-making, support reforms and contribute to the nation's development.

### PROGRAMME DETAILS

**Financial Support** – Funding will be provided for tuition, living expenses, and a stipend for a summer project.

**Coaching and Mentoring** – Extensive coaching and mentoring will be offered to help scholars navigate their time at Oxford and make the most of the experience.

**Career Development** – AIG Scholars will receive full support to map out their career development paths and access opportunities that are aligned with their areas of interest and that leverage the knowledge gained at Oxford.

**Work Experience** – AIG Scholars will embark on summer placements during which they will gain additional knowledge and experience in their areas of interest and build their global networks.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this award you must:

- **Be a Nigerian currently working in the public sector** (Ministries, Departments, Agencies & Parastatals) at either Federal or State levels.
- Be between 25 and 45 years old.
- Have a **minimum of seven (7) years** (combined private & public sector) **work experience**.
- Have a **bachelor's degree with a minimum of second-class upper** qualification.

Applications for the 2024/25 AIG Scholarships at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, open **Monday, July 31, 2023** and close **Friday, September 15, 2023**.

For more information, please visit: [aigimoukhuedefoundation.org/scholarships](https://aigimoukhuedefoundation.org/scholarships)



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