MINUTES OF MEETING BETWEEN THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM (NGF) AND THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINE (IBM) HELD AT THE NGF SECRETARIAT ON THE 12TH OF JUNE, 2012.

ATTENDANCE

1.	A. B Okauru	Director General
2.	Alhaji Shittu	E. D Statistics and Research
3.	Chuku Chijioke	Head Legal Unit
4.	Muhammed Sanni	Economist
5.	Nafisa Usman	Head ICT
6.	Bukar Myani	Knowledge Management
7.	Agbai Blessing	Confidential Secretary
8.	Juliet Eleje	Technical Assistant
9.	Uyi Stewart	IBM
10.	Kumar Bhaskaran	IBM
11.	Taiwo Otiti	IBM
12.	Robert Morri	IBM
13.	Isah Abdulkarim	IBM
14.	George Enema	IBM

The meeting commenced by10.30am.

The meeting started with the formal introduction of everybody present at the meeting. The Director General who presided over the meeting stated that Nigeria is a federation which is comprised of 36 States. He also stated that unlike other well-known models of federalism, Nigeria has one Constitution which has made provisions of the roles of the Federal and State governments. He informed the meeting that there is the Exclusive list in which the roles of the Federal government are stated, the Concurrent list which pertains to issues which the Federal and State government can both work on and then Residual list in which only state duties are spelt out. He stated that Information Communication Technology (ICT) cuts across the Federal government and State government and that to this effect there is a National ICT Policy Programme that is in drafting which is spearheaded by the Minister of ICT (Mrs. Omobola Johnson).

The D.G further stated that the Secretariat is a policy hub where the governors meet in a non partisan platform to address issues of common interest. He also informed the meeting that the Secretariat had gone to States to find out the problems of the States and also their best practices through the State Peer Review Mechanism. With this the Secretariat has been able to determine growth in States; and has been able to gather data on the business environment of each state. He informed the meeting that the Secretariat was in the best position to advise the IBM on how to craft an ICT enabling environment. He mentioned the Secretariat's partnership with the World Bank, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). He commended the IBM for their shift in strategy from production to the use of ICT.

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The D.G stated that IBM had been noted for two impressions which are that its operations are perceived to be expensive and that they have a stiff learning curve. Delegates from IBM to consider this. In response to this, Mr. Robert Morris stated that although the IBM had been quite complex for a while, they have undertaken some major transformations through the creation of Base technology which was more solution oriented and which made IBM more consumable. He also stated that in remedying the impression of being expensive, they have started involving their clients who produce the total cost. And this has contributed to the growth of IBM.

Mr. Robert Morris stated that IBM has developed three (3) main strategy for dealing with Africa which are; Financial Systems, Telecommunication System and Government Systems. The additional strategies are Natural Resources and Health Care.

Mr. Taiwo Otiti of IBM stated that they engage on fact finding, Social Service Corps, and City Assessment which they have used in Cross-River State and it was useful in discovering mortality rate, training artisans and lodging them into a data base. He informed the meeting that they got a contract from the State Governor to project manage Cross River State. He further informed the meeting that they had worked in Kenya, on an assessment of malaria on the country and then they produced a working framework.

Mrs. Anne of IBM stated that her main concern was on Capacity Building and Skills. She stated that apart from Lagos State, they wanted to know any other state that would be interested in engaging and building a programme.

George Enema spoke on the programme carried out in Calabar called "Training Trainers" which involved the transfer of skills. He stated that they helped reformat the curricula of ICT in the State and also helped to train the students. He further stated that there is the need to engage the Science and Technology Commissioners in the IBM programme and that the Secretariat would be very useful in doing this. The D.G in response to Mr. Goerge's request, suggested that there would be a Summit of Science and Technology for Governors and Commissioners of Science and Technology which would be put together by the Secretariat and the IBM.

Mr. Robert stated that in the meeting they had with the Minister of ICT, they had enquired if the Ministry would be able to create jobs especially in the Domestic Media Market. He also wanted to know if there was a State that would want to invest in any sector of the economy, so that IBM would be the technology provider.

Mr. Sanni Muhammed informed the meeting that the National Bureau of Statistics which is responsible for providing data in the country, have not been efficient as whenever they carry out a research, the results would be produced in 2 to 3 years. He stated that when this result was produced, they were no longer useful. He wanted to know if the IBM would be able to remedy this lacuna and also enquired if the IBM could breach the gap in technology. Mr. Robert Morris informed the meeting that they have a system that collects data effectively.

The E. D Statics and Research stated that Capacity Building was very important and that it was the starting block of development in every country. He informed the meeting that in every State there was a level of ICT training going on. He further stated that the National Communication Commission was trying to provide ICT infrastructures in States. He further stated that Internal Generated Revenue of States needed Technology for reform. Taiwo in response to this stated that IBM would have to form a standard centralised system which is flexible and State oriented. He stated that this would be cheaper for States rather than States engaging in individual attempts. Mr. Robert stated that IBM has been able to create a Centralized Banking System in Switzerland which has worked for years.

Mr. Uyi Stewart wanted to get recommendation of two States that would want to engage in capacity building. The D.G in response to this stated that the secretariat and IBM are building a relationship and that to give all the states a fair opportunity, it would have to be presented before all the governors.

Nafisat Usman asked how ICT could be used to curb the ongoing threat to National Security. Mr Robert stated that Security was a major topic. He stated that the IBM has been able to solve Cyber Security by Cyber Monitoring based on analytics. On physical security, he stated that there is the use of surveillance system. He stated that the problem with this is that one cannot employ enough staff to monitor this and so an automated recognition has been done to recognize this.

Mr. George Enema informed the meeting that it would be advantageous for ICT tools to be made locally in the country as the Minister of Information in a meeting they had with her, said that she was against the importation of Personal Computers into the country. He also wanted to know how the states would be carried in the upcoming ICT Policy, as the Minister stated that she had no control over the states. The D.G in response stated that if the Federal Ministry could set a standard, then the state would have no option but to follow suit.

Mr. Myani Bukar suggested that it would be advisable for the Secretariat to take advantage of the opportunity of the capacity building for its staff. He further stated that there was an earlier analysis of states websites done by the Secretariat, so it would be better if the IBM were involved in the analysis and produce a standardized requirement for the States. It was agreed that communication would be carried out through Mr. Taiwo's office on the States website.

On the way forward, Mr. Taiwo reiterated that there would be the creation of a website. Mr Chuku Chijioke brought up the issue of a framework for the working relationship of the IBM and the Nigerian Governors' Forum. It was agreed that the IBM would produce the framework for the working relationship.

Mr. Robert Morris pointed out three issues which would have to be considered after the meeting, which are: whether there is a common ground for States to participate in the IBM programme, whether there can be the creation of a common data ground for States and getting the Governors together to find out if they would be interested in investing in ICT so that they could work together with the Ministry of ICT.

The meeting ended at about 11.30am.