

## Ovia calls for national network backup

CHARLES OKOH

**T**he founder, Visafone Communications Limited, Mr. Jim Ovia, has called for the establishment of a national network backup against any unforeseen disaster and to aid the recovery.

Mr. Ovia who made this call at the weekend in Lagos, during the one-day D-Link Contemporary Technologies and Solutions seminar, noted that as a nation Nigeria risks suffering a total Information and Communication Technology (ICT) network collapse without the skilled knowledge capacity to fix it quickly and timely.

Dwelling on "Knowledge networks: Strategic tools for bridging digital divide," Ovia who was represented by the Managing Director, Visafone, Mr. Nifan Thomas said the future of businesses, families, government and national survival, to a large extent, depend and continue to depend on ICT network infrastructure, design, content, application, technical support and security.

The former president of the Nigeria Internet Group (NIG) also called for an urgent need to build a critical mass of skilled networking engineering capacities for the business continuity of the nation, stating that the significance of the event was that it challenges the collective ability to better understand, apply and use ICT networks as fundamental instruments for bridging

digital divide and serves as a veritable tool for actualizing the opportunities and benefits presented by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

According to him, "today,

computer networks have become the centre of gravity of the global economy as ICT networks and their topologies signify the way in which intelligent devices in the network see their logical

relations to one another."

Mr. Ovia also said that in technical terms, there would be no internet without the computer networks such as Local Area Network (LAN), Metropolitan Area Network

(MAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN).

He added, for instance, that there will be no Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) and cell phone connectivity,

e-banking, e-payment, e-learning, e-government, e-education, e-books, telemedicine, distant learning and digital platform of today's global economy and globalization which are interconnected as e-everything is made possible by computer networks, better known as knowledge networks.



President of RIMA Foundation during AIIM Road show in London (May 2008)

**ROADSHOW** ...The President of Records & Information Management Awareness (RIMA) Foundation, Mr. Oyedokun Ayodeji Oyewole (right), with Development Representative, EMC Corporation, Cynthia Halim, during the recently concluded AIIM Roadshow in London.

## Davis praises Galaxy Backbone on data centre

**M**ANAGING Director, Huawei Nigeria, Mr. Leon Davis, has praised the management of Galaxy Backbone (GBB) Plc over its competence in operating and managing the firm's data centre in the last one year without downtime.

Speaking during a visit to Galaxy Backbone in Abuja as part of the activities to mark the first anniversary of the data centre recently, Davis expressed delight on the ability of the firm to sustain the centre.

Mr. Davis noted that though Huawei was able to complete the data centre project on schedule in spite of the very challenging environment, but attributed the success to the overall support and cooperation his firm received from Galaxy Backbone team.

"GBB is a serious and committed organization that delivers if it says it will deliver. You have demonstrated this by your ability to manage the facility, unarguably the most modern and sophisticated data centre in the Nigerian public sector for one full year, 365 days, without a down

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time. It's a feat considering the adverse operating environment" Davis said.

He also pledged Huawei's readiness to continuously support Galaxy Backbone Plc towards delivering more networks for its valued customers.

Earlier in his remark, the Chief Technical Officer, Galaxy, Mr. Martin Ahachi, expressed gratitude to the Huawei team for the positive relationship existing between the two organizations, demonstrated by the presence of the high powered delegation led by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Martin also pointed out that the first anniversary of Galaxy data centre was being celebrated by the company in recognition of the efforts, sacrifices and commitment of the management and staff of Galaxy Backbone Plc which resulted in its existence.

He emphasized that by not experiencing a single down time for 365 days even against the background of a challenging operating environment such as

public power outages and other recurrent variables is no doubt a feat.

Equally speaking, the Chief, Business Operations, Galaxy Backbone Plc, Mr. Yusuf Kazaure, reassured that the occasion of the first year anniversary of the data centre, is rather an opportunity for his firm to rededicated itself to its official mandate and the vision of being globally recognized as the leading facilitator of the use, by African public institutions, of ICTs towards regional attainment of global economic competitiveness and development through the provision of quality services and customer satisfaction.

GBB is a public enterprise of the Federal Government that was established to provide a common platform for the provision of network connectivity and other transversal services to the public sector.

It also has the objective of delivering connectivity and digital access that will enable relevant solutions to governance and other underserved communities and locations in Nigeria.

**L**EADING provider of telecommunications equipment and related services to mobile and fixed network operators, Ericsson, has announced its participation at this year's edition of West and Central AfricaCom conferences and exhibitions.

The event which is the fifth in the series and tagged "Optimising Business Models and Networks in West & Central Africa's Converging Communications Market" would hold at the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja between June 18 and 19, at the Abuja International Conference Centre.

Communications Manager, Ericsson West Africa, Mr. Olabode Sowunmi, said that the event comprises a high-level conference programme and separate co-located networking exhibition, the West and Central AfricaCom is fast gaining a reputation as being the place to learn from peers and network effectively.

"The event is aimed at creating an enabling environment where key issues affecting the communications industry, can be effectively discussed. The forum also attracts a large number of network operators, regulators, service providers like Ericsson, and non-governmental agencies," he said.

## Ericsson goes to AfricaCom-08

He stressed that the overall objective of Ericsson for taking part at the event would be to ensure that it's viewed as the industry leader for innovation and support.

"We aim to be perceived as the leading solutions provider for operators by devising and driving an industry ecosystem that would enable the maturity of the network as well as carving a niche within multimedia. There is also the need to position our advisory and integration services portfolio with both traditional and prospective clients in vertical markets such as non operator services," he said.

Sowunmi in a press statement made available to Champion Infotel said that as one of the sponsors, the focus area of the stand is full service broadband.

The Manager Customer Solutions at Ericsson Nigeria, Mr. Chinedum Akanio was quoted as saying that the telco would be making a presentation entitled 'Optimizing Network Quality

in High Growth Emerging Markets.'

Additionally, Ericsson will also be hosting a session for industry analysts during the conference on the 18th of June at Le Meridien Hotel, Abuja.

Participants at the event, he said, would include the Minister for Information and Communications, Mr. John Odey, chief executive, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Dr. Ernest Ndukwe, and his counterpart at MTN Nigeria Mr. Ahmad Farroukh, and a host of others.

Investment and Financial organisations will also be in attendance and participating at the event.

Ericsson positions itself as the world's leading provider of technology and service to telecom operators. An acclaimed market leader in 2G and 3G mobile technologies, Ericsson supplies communications service and manages networks that serve more than 185 million subscribers.