A LECTURE TITLED: “SDGs CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INNOVATIONS” At The ASABA, DELTA STATE “MEGA RALLY” To Mark The 2ND GLOBAL ANNIVERSARY of The UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALs (SDGs) By The DIRECTORATE of SDGs, GOVERNOR’S OFFICE, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA in Partnership With HETAVAD SKILLS INITIATIVE & NETWORKS INTERNATIONAL on Monday 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 By DR. AMOS OBI-INNOVATOR/STRATEGIC DIRECTOR-HETAVAD SKILLS INITIATIVE at: http://www.amazon.com/author/amosobi OR https://balancedlivingacademy.blogspot.com

INTRODUCTION:

INNO-NATIVE DESIGN: LOCALLY CONTEXTUALIZED INNOVATIONS (SOLUTIONS) FOR THE LOCAL PROBLEMS -

The Special Guest of Honor, His Excellency, Dr. Ifeanyi A. Okowa, Executive Governor, Delta State, Nigeria,

- The Guest of Honor, Hon. Festus Ovie Agas - Secretary to the Delta State Government,

- The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on SDGs- Dr. Andy Ilabor,

- The Director, Directorate of SDGs Delta State, Mr. Chuks O. Nwani,

- All Heads of Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments,
The State National Youths Service Corps Officials and Members and All Youths Organizations Present,

Captain of Industries and the organized Private Sector Leaders here present,

Team HETAVAD SKILLS Initiative and Head/Members of all NGOs and Civil dSocieties Groups present,

Members of the Press and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Standing on the already existing protocol, permit me to begin by reflecting on one of the greatest truth and fact about life and that is, “Our greatest problem is not what we want to achieve but what is preventing us from achieving it.” It is therefore very obvious that this Mega Rally and Lectures to mark the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Anniversary of the UN Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs, which is being celebrated in over 100 countries of the world as “GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR THE SDGs”- with special tags of-#Act4SDGs-#TogetherWeSpeak, has been called and it is timely too, for us to take the bull by the horn. That is, to find and discover the indigenous technologies to solve the problems of Poverty, Hunger, lack of decent Jobs/Employment Opportunities and our Underdevelopment with Inequalities today. And to simply put in another way, what are the Indigenous solutions to the Nigerian and African’s problems? This question and reasoning is urgently needed now for us to move from this level of stagnancy and underdevelopment to the needed sustainable haven of sustainable peace, industrialization and development.
**THE CHALLENGES:** The world over, especially among the poor and developing nations are bedeviled by the endemic problems of poverty, hunger, underdevelopment and inequalities which are posing a real difficult challenge for humanity. Africa, like most part of the developing world for instance, despite vast materials wealth and human potentials, is still being regarded as the most impoverished continent on earth. Today, in Africa we still have the 40 poorest countries in the world. Her people are among the most destitute. A child born to an African parent on African soil report says, has a greater likelihood of dying before his or her fifty birthday than a child born elsewhere in the world. Still, it is on record that African children are less well-nourished, poorer, and less literate and have a greater possibility of contracting AIDS than children born elsewhere in the world.

Again and presently, in Africa, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the overall life expectancy is on the decline from 51 years in 1985 to 50 years in 2015. As for literacy, 29 of the 42 countries with the lowest literacy rates in the world are found in Africa.

But in the midst of this thick darkness and hopelessness, this presentation is focusing on the ray of hope and abundant opportunities for the developing Third World countries and people through “Inno-Native Designs. Most part of the Third World nations, through the potentials in local solutions through innovations, could be lifted from the levels of hopelessness and abject poverty to dignity.
Through this paper, therefore, we are advocating for a general re-awakening against the foreign dependency mind-set of most people and countries in the developing world. **We are hereby calling for a re-birth in the culture of native indigenous innovations to take our local communities, state, nation and Africa from the present state of decadence and underdevelopment to a robust and prosperous world in line with the PROSPERITY AGENDA of the Delta State Government which is directly in line with the United Nations Global Agenda.**

We must now count the cost and come to terms to agree with Edward De Bono, who said and I quote: “**Creativity and greatness involves breaking out of the established patterns in order to look inward at things in a different ways**”. Therefore, through “Inno-Native Designs”, we could take a new and critical look at the most friendly and “homemade” options that must be embraced and harnessed now to overcome the problems of **Poverty, Extreme Hunger/Malnutrition, Unemployment, Lack of Development, Incessant Wars/Conflicts and Youths Restiveness, Illiteracy and Injustices** for true freedom of the people and communities around Delta State, Nigeria, Africa and the Globe.

“**Perfect freedom, it has been observed, is only reserved for the man who finds his own thing and does it in his own perceive best way**”.
THE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE SDGs AND INNOVATIONS

For Africa and the undeveloped world to be truly freed and prospered, there must be a re-visitation of our local resources through innovativeness and the applications of science and technology in the indigenous ways. And this is the vast opportunities presented by the Global Goals simply tagged: the SDGs of the United Nations. The SDGs represent universal symbol of transformation for man and planet earth and are well designed towards total Economic, Social and Environmental transformation. Thus, the 17 Goals of:

Goal NO. 1- POVERTY; 2-ZERO HUNGER; 3- GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING; 4- QUALITY EDUCATION; 5- GENDER EQUALITY; 6- CLEAN WATER & SANITATION; 7- AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY; 8- DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH; 9- INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE; 10- REDUCED INEQUALITIES; 11- SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES; 12- RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION; 13- CLIMATE ACTION; 14- LIFE BELOW WATER; 15- LIFE ON LAND; 16- PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS and 17- PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS. These Global Goals provides a participatory platform for all to be involved from the local, state, national, regional and global levels. These UN transformational agenda is summed up with the 5Ps of:

P1-PEOPLE; P2-PEACE; P3-PROSPERITY; P4-PARTNERSHIP for P5-PLANET
THE WAY FORWARD THROUGH INNO-NATIVE DESIGNS AND SOLUTIONS

To me, ECONOMIC RECESSION and backwardness are simply due to the neglect of the:

R - Recovery of,
E - Earthly opportunities,
C - Concealed,
E - Everywhere,
S - Sufficiently for,
S - Sustainability through,
I - Innovations,
O - On,
N - Natural Resources.

While the monster- Poverty- which is

POOR- Passing, Over, Opportunities, Regularly

The pain of economic recession was the catalyst for the greatness of America, Europe, Hungary and Russia present economies. They are world powers today because they took the bulls by the horns and looked inwards with new insights and approaches. For "Success is on the far side of failure," asserted Thomas Watson Sr.

Yes! Indeed, with reduced spending, good budgeting, prudent management and even external borrowing but without the revisiting and rediscovery of our hidden mental
(creative power) and innovative ideas to harnessing our natural resources, there will hardly be a way out on the present global economic depression and high level of poverty especially among the developing nations of the world. And the best options and way out from the present downward economic realities in the world today could include:

**A-Organic Agro-preneurship** for sustainable production- The green revolution in green economy, environment and production such as: Crops production, Snail, fishery, vegetables, horticulture-including **Pomology** [Fruits], **Olericulture** [Vegetables], and **Floriculture** could create millions of opportunities to engaging the most active but restive youths and women today,

OTHER **AGRO-ALLIED AND AGRO-PRENEURSHIP SCHEMES** (Here, we have hundreds and thousands of isolated and selected micro projects which we have carefully identified and documented in our compendium in the book: “HOW AND WHERE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE JOBS TODAY”, which could be located at: [http://www.amazon.com/author/amosobi](http://www.amazon.com/author/amosobi)

**B- What about the Creative Industries like**

--- **HERITAGE-PRENEURSHIP**- e.g. Traditional Cultural expressions: Art Crafts, Festival Celebrations, Cultural sites, Historical Monuments, Museums, Libraries, Archives,
--ARTS-PRENEURSHIP e.g. –Visual arts like Painting, Sculpture, Antique, Photography and Performing Arts- live music-preneurship, Theater Dance-(Dance-Preneurship), Puppetry circus,

----MEDIA-PRENEURSHIP – e.g. –Publications and Printing, Books and e-books like this one in your hands now, Newspaper, Press publications, Audio- visuals- like Films, Television, Radio, Broadcasting,

NEWS MEDIA like- Digitized Contents, Software, Video games and Animations and

FUNCTIONAL CREATIONS like- Designs-Interior, Graphic, Fashions, Jeweler, Toys,

CREATIVE SERVICES like Architecture, Advertising, Creative R&D, Cultural services and Digital services etc – are multiple avenues to engage people and promoting peace today.

C- Innovations in E-SKILLS and ICT, Telecommunication and Renewable energy are vast potentials with the best opportunities for empowerment and engagement of the citizenries towards sustainable decent jobs and peaceful living in every community in the world today because the world is now a GLOBAL VILLAGE through the Internet. For more examples here, please refer to my book: “E-SKILLS FOR DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP” or BIG, CRAZY and DISRUPTIVE IDEAS at http://www.amazon.com/author/amosobi for some more details.
Poverty reduction and job creation through sustainable land use is not, however limited just to agriculture land-related activities but are also relevant in the broader context of rural development. Examples of poverty reducing and job generating sector are those sustainable forest management, Sustainable tourism and clean energy production as well as ecosystem restoration.

Many of those green jobs are known for their multiplier effects and can be attractive to young people. These jobs also confer a certain social status, require advanced skills and provide a good income. Moreover environment stewardship is far from being a job killer of employment. A recent study suggests that the total employment effect of the restoration economy ranges from 10.4 to 39.7 millions jobs per USD 1 million invested. To set this into perspective, the oil and gas industry support approximately 5.3 millions jobs per USD 1 million invested. In this context, it is further suggested that restoring just 12 per cent of degraded agricultural land could boost smallholder’s incomes by USD 35-40 billion per year and feed 200 million people per year within 15 years which is in accordance with the UN 2030 Agenda.

So, where then is the starting point? The entry points are the wide range of participatory and community concepts that build upon skill development, cooperation and shared decision making. Indeed, this will create increased opportunities for both men and woman especially the active and energetic but idle youths. While changes is not instant, the basic step that shape trust, self-confidence and
empowerment amongst stakeholders involvement will provide a good start for peace and prosperity for all.

PRACTICAL INNO-NATIVE SOLUTIONS-INNOVATION

Today, we have such local revolutionary technologies such as: The conversion of the African sunshine into renewable solar energy in Malawi, the African wild bamboo trees as bicycle parts manufacturing in Ghana, the abundant Moringa plant as herbal tea in Cameroon Republic, RUZU Bitters formulated as herbal supplements are also some local solutions to the African problems.

In this wise also, the local innovation by the HETAVAD SKILLS INITIATIVE of turning Organic Wastes into Organic Green Productions such as:

1- HETAVAD SoyPlus Meals-(A soya beans blended with other natural additives as Anti-malnutrition feeding stuff especially formulated for children and mothers of child bearing age),
2- HETAVAD Obique Alkaline Water,
3- HETAVAD Patented Organic Floating Fish feeds-(To help Small Holders Fish Farmers to venture into profitable fish farming instead of the imported and high cost fish feeding stuff ),
4- Organic Liquid Fertilizer and Soil conditioning agents
5- HETAVAD E-SKILLS 4 Digital Enterprises for ICT based digital works revolution for engaging the active
but idle youths. Here also, we have perfected practical E-skills and real sources of online paying jobs in WRITING AND PUBLISHING, FREELANCING, E-COMMERCE, AFFILIATE MARKETING etc for youths and women empowerment,

Some of these designs and innovations are waiting for partnership and investors for full implementation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Delta State, Nigeria, Africa and the world for total recovery. And in line with Goal 17 of the SDGs-PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS, we are ready and much available to partner with various stakeholders- Public and Private in harnessing and implementing any of those innovations and projects on a wide scale through our other campaigns such as:

A- THE “A B C & 1 2 3 ON SKILLS FOR THE SDGs FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING,

B- DFD”- Developing Future Drivers- SDGs Volunteering Training Clubs,

C- “POVERTY and Extreme HUNGER: Causes and How to Eradicating Them”, and

D- “GENDER FRIENDLY INNOVATIONS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS EMPOWERMENT”, a research work being undertaken in partnership with the Radcliffe Institute of Advance Studies, Harvard University, USA. Please kindly refer to http://www.amazon.com/author/amosobi for some details on these programs.
Today, even the repackaging and digitalizing of our cultural heritage -costumes, dancing, festivals, dressing and crafts could fetch the needed foreign exchange more than the crude oil. Thus, with a mix of innovations to the vast opportunities in the creative sector, the recovery economy as well as the harnessing of the vastly endowed mineral resources, who says that Africa for instance cannot be sustained and be great again?

Thus, without mincing words, the best and most viable way for the African people and continent is more and sustained efforts in Inno-Native Designs. We need now more than ever, local solutions to the local issues and problems. And that is our focus in this paper presentation.

As I end, permit me again to stimulate and provoke our thoughts with the golden words of Harvey Firestone who asserted and I quote:

"Capital is not so important in business. Experience is not so important. You can get both of these things. What is important is idea. If you have ideas, you have the main asset you need, and there is not any limit to what you can do with your business and your life."---So let us INVENT, INNOVATE AND CREATE on the SDGs for a better future and better world through innovative thinking,

Still, the wise words of George Kneller who said: “Creativity, as has been said, consists largely of rearranging what we know in order to find out
what we do not know. Hence, to think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted". Thus, to achieve the 2030 Global Goals, we must invent, innovate and create new things and new concepts through partnership, from the old and the present for the future of mankind and planet earth. That is where Goal 9- INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE connects all the other SDGs together for the expected transformation. "There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of all. Without creativity, there would be no progress, and we would be forever repeating the same patterns."— Edward de Bono

And we must not be weary or afraid at this because "Doing the same thing over and over, yet expecting different results, is the definition of madness by Albert Einstein."

Thank you for listening and God bless The United Nations SDGs, God bless Africa, Nigeria and Delta State,

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