



LEAP AFRICA'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME EVOLVES INTO LEADERSHIP, ETHICS AND CIVICS TRAINING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

As part of its efforts towards ensuring that more youth are equipped with leadership and life skills, LEAP Africa has announced the introduction of its Leadership, Ethics and Civics (LEC) Training Programme for secondary school students.

LEAP Africa's Executive Director, Mosun Layode, noted that the LEC Training Programme is designed to train secondary school teachers to deliver LEAP's curriculum in select secondary schools in three Nigerian States. According to her, *"through the LEC programme, LEAP Africa would equip secondary school students with the skills and tools that they require to serve as change agents in the society"*. As part of the programme, these students are expected to commence social change projects that would positively impact the lives of individuals in their local communities.

The LEC training programme is a scaled up and redesigned version of the LEAP's Youth Leadership Programme which was launched by LEAP in 2004 and has been supported by Nokia and the International Youth Foundation since May 2006.

Commenting on this, Mosun Layode stated that *"over 568 Nigerian youth have been trained through the Youth Leadership Programme over the past two years. Beyond the leadership training programme, through Nokia's support, small grants were provided to the youth participants to enable them to commence social change projects in their communities. To date, approximately 291 participants have initiated projects that have made tangible positive impact in their local communities"*. In addition, LEAP successfully held the Annual Nigerian Youth Leadership Awards in 2006 and 2007, celebrating 20 Nigerian youth who are leading change efforts in their communities.

Building on the success of the programme, LEAP will train 72 teachers through a Training of Trainers (ToT) to reach 7,200 SS1 students in 24 schools over a two year period. According Mosun Layode, *"This program is targeted at public secondary school students who have limited access to training programmes such as LEC. In addition, the programme is focused on SS1 students because students in this grade level have the right mixture of maturity and impressionability. Given that the average student in SS1 is between fourteen to sixteen years old, they are old enough to understand the challenges placed before them as young adults in a developing country and can be more easily inspired and motivated to be change agents. In addition, instilling these skills and values in them at a young age will provide them with ample time and opportunities to work toward the change they want to see in Nigeria"*.

The initiative, which is funded by Nokia and supported by the International Youth Foundation will be piloted in secondary schools in Anambra, Lagos and Ogun States from September 2008 through December 2010. LEAP is partnering with the State Ministries of Education in these states to deliver the programme.

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