

Investing in Educational Development of Akwa Ibom children

INOYO TORO FOUNDATION

The Inoyo Toro Foundation was founded in 2007 in response to the felt need for private sector involvement in eradicating poverty through quality education. The vision of the Foundation is “to improve the standard of education in Akwa Ibom State, using teachers as the focal point and to complement Government’s effort in enhancing the quality of education”.

To give practical vent to its objectives, the Foundation has embarked on the following programs:

- ***Annual Award for Teaching Excellence in Akwa Ibom State Public Secondary Schools.***

This program focuses on rewarding the achievements of teachers primarily in the science subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. It also covers English language and Mathematics. The award aims to restore the integrity and glory of our teachers thereby, motivating them to be more diligent in their work and by so doing produce better students. Since its inception, the Foundation has successfully organised four (4) award ceremonies beginning in 2008. A total of sixty two (62) teachers have benefitted from the awards to the tune of 10 million Naira. Each subject attracts a total of N500, 000.00 per award year with the 1st place winner receiving N250, 000; 2ND place N150, 000 and 3rd place winner N100, 000.

- ***Teacher Training and Professional Development*** – The Foundation strongly believes that quality teachers are a sine qua non to producing quality students for the future. To this end, the Foundation collaborates with local and international agencies and institutions in sharing information and facilitating training and re-training opportunities for teachers. Annually, the Foundation sponsors the all awardees to attend the Nigerian International Schools Conference (NISC) organised by the American International School, Lagos and also collaborates with ACCENTURE (a world class consulting firm) to organize workshops and seminars aimed at honing their skills for better performance and improved mentoring capabilities. In 2010, the Foundation firmed up a partnership arrangement with the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, University of Uyo to provide training and skill enhancement opportunities to science teachers, equipping them with

innovative teaching methods thereby enhancing their overall teaching capacity of science subjects. Together with this body, the Foundation has also established research networks in schools for the purpose of incubating indigenous technology that meets local technological needs.

- ***Student Mentoring Program*** – This is a flagship program of the Foundation aimed at creating a platform for well-meaning professionals to adopt schools of their choice (either their alma mater or a school in their community) and engage in mentoring of selected students from the school on an ongoing basis. The aim is to broaden participating students’ perspective about life, enhancing their self-esteem, confidence and motivate them to become better students who will eventually become leaders of tomorrow. The program also offers the individual mentors the opportunity to give something back to their communities by investing in the development of education in their respective communities. Currently, the Foundation has 30 mentors, who are all successful professionals from Akwa Ibom state who have excelled in their chosen careers and are committed to growing the next generation of professionals. Over 40 schools have been adopted for mentoring and about 180 students have benefitted from this program.
- ***ICT Skills Acquisition for Students*** – The Foundation believes that a well- trained student should be conversant with modern ICT tools. In line with this belief, the Foundation in partnership with Keystone Bank in 2011 provided a robust ICT center in four (4) secondary schools across the three (3) Senatorial Districts of Akwa Ibom State. Each center provides for a fully equipped computer lab with thirty (30) VSAT internet ready computers, a dedicated 27kva generator, a British curriculum and a privately employed Project Coordinator to effectively coordinate studies across the 4 schools.
- ***Upping the Game - Grand Mentor Teachers’ Award (GMTA)*** – This is our star event. The program is designed to challenge all teachers who are past and present winners in the Annual Awards for Teaching Excellence to “up” their game and not to rest on their oars. The Award is intended to encourage the awardees to reproduce excellence in their fellow colleagues through series of mentoring sessions and other activities. To hone the skills of these Teachers in mentoring, ACCENTURE, over the last 2 years has held annually an intensive workshop for the would-be mentors. Each mentor is expected to register between 4-7 teachers in his/her group and

should any of the mentees of the past award winner wins the annual award for teaching excellence, the mentor will be recognized in another award called the Grand Mentor Teachers' Award attracting a cash prize of N500,000.00. The first edition of the GMTA was held in 2011 and four (4) teachers emerged winners in four subjects receiving the sum of 2million Naira during the ceremony.

Sponsorship Information:

The Foundation presents a veritable platform for those who want to give back to society. To become a sponsor or partner in any of the above listed programs, kindly contact the Foundation through the under listed persons:

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Idorenyin Mbang
Ultrafit Building, Ewet Housing Estate, Uyo Akwa Ibom State

Dr. George Akpan

or email us at info@inoyotorofoundation.org.

For more information and update on the Foundation's activities, visit our website at www.inoyotorofoundation.org.

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