



# Quest for Internet

In this, the 135<sup>th</sup> installment of our weekly series at [emeagwali.com](http://emeagwali.com), we present an excerpt transcribed from Philip Emeagwali's lecture on "Africa in a Globalized World."

## Globalization Not New; Look at Slave Trade

by [Philip Emeagwali](http://emeagwali.com)

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Transcribed from a lecture delivered by [Philip Emeagwali](http://emeagwali.com) on September 18, 2004, at the Pan-African Conference on Globalization, Washington, DC, USA.

Look at African science stories that were retold by European historians; they were re-centered around Europe.

The earliest pioneers of science lived in Africa, but European historians relocated them to Greece.

Science and technology are gifts ancient Africa gave to our modern world.

Yet, our history and science textbooks, for example, have ignored the contributions of Imhotep, the father of medicine and designer of one of the ancient pyramids.

The word “science” is derived from the Latin word “*scientia*” or “possession of knowledge.” We know, however, that knowledge is not the exclusive preserve of one race, but of all races.

By definition, knowledge is the totality of what is known to humanity. Knowledge is a body of information and truth, and the set of principles acquired by mankind over the ages.

Knowledge is akin to a quilt, the latter consisting of several layers held together by stitched designs and comprising patches of many colors.

The oldest patch on the quilt of science belongs to the African named Imhotep. He was the world’s first recorded scientist, according to the prolific American science writer Isaac Asimov.

The oldest patch on the quilt of mathematics belongs to another African named Ahmes. Isaac Asimov also credited Ahmes as being the world’s first author of a mathematics textbook.

Therefore, a study of history of science is an effort to stitch together a quilt that has life, texture and color. African historians must insert the patches of information omitted from books written by European historians.

There are many examples of the mark Africans have made on world history. Americans are surprised when I tell them Africans built both Washington's White House and Capitol.

According to the US Treasury Department, 450 of the 650 workers who built the White House and the Capitol were African slaves.

Because the White House and Capitol are the two most visible symbols of American democracy, it is important to inform all schoolchildren in our globalized world that these institutions are the results of the sweat and toil of mostly African workers.

This must also be an acknowledgement of [the debt America owes Africa](#).

Similarly, discussions of globalization should credit those Africans who left the continent and helped build other nations throughout the world - most nations on Earth.

Africans who have made contributions in Australia, in Russia, and in Europe must be acknowledged so our children can have heroes with African roots - so they can know their own roots and be proud of them.


The enormous contributions of Africans to the development and progress of other nations has gone unacknowledged.

We have yet to acknowledge, for example, that St. Augustine, who wrote the greatest spiritual autobiography of all time, called “Confessions of St. Augustine,” was an African; that three Africans became pope; that Africans have lived in Europe since the time of the Roman Empire; that Septimus Severus, an Emperor of Rome, was an African; and that the reason Beethoven was called “The Black Spaniard” was because he was a mulatto of African descent.



**Date:** 8/2/2008, 6:05 pm,  
GMT +6

**Name:** Jenni  
Lynam <86.47.164.9>


**Location:**  Ireland

**Number:** 281

Good day.I am not african,pure Irish .Im lloking for more nfo on Biafra.Please maill me links at [jenni.lynam@gmail.com](mailto:jenni.lynam@gmail.com)  
Thankyou

**Date:** 8/2/2008, 4:27 pm,  
GMT +6

**Name:** Olurotimi  
Adeola <41.205.183.163>

**Location:**  Nigeria


**Number:** 280

Even though i will like to acknowledge you as a true son of Nigeria. I am not please with your strong attachment to the past. You seems to have an unforgiven memory of the civil war. Please neither the late sage Awo, his yoruba tribe or the Hausas that you errorously try to portray as those who plotted evil against igbos are guilty of the crimes you are trying to ascribe to them on your site. The Nigerian Civil war was an unneccessary ill, everyone suffered the consequences of that war. Beside do not forget the igbos attack yoruba land to Ore in present day Ondo state

during the start of the war. Lets  
forgive past and move forward p-  
l-e-a-s-e.

**Date:** 9/20/2008, 5:52 pm,  
GMT +6

**Name:** onyeka <88.202.124.6>

**Location:**  Nigeria

**Number:** 279

You've amazed me, the way you  
did your supercomputer, its  
good to know that someone like  
is a role model in face of people  
like us and, truly you have  
inspired me in a lot of ways. But




one important suggestion from  
to you is to make sure you have  
your foundation here in  
Nigeria, at least to encourage  
our young generation, thank  
you, God bless u you family

**Date:** 9/13/2008, 1:03 am,  
GMT +6

**Name:** Ekeze Michael  
C. <41.205.177.246>


**Number:** 278

I love You

**Date:** 9/9/2008, 9:40 pm, GMT +6  
**Name:** samson  
olorunda <217.20.250.47>  
**Location:**  Nigeria  
**Number:** 277

you are worthy of emulation. so far  
yet very near your roots through  
your works

**Date:** 9/4/2008, 8:59 am, GMT +6  
**Name:** Daniel  
Hakizimana <210.74.227.118>  
**Web:** <http://daniel.rugamba.com>

Location:  Burundi

Number: 276

Hello great man,

We are very proud to have you man. People like you and Obama are changing Blacks' history. I grew up in Burundi learning the achievements of Whites and all those lies such as Euclide is Greek and all other useless thing like the birthdays of French kings. You guess from where? From a Black teacher and a french made book. But I had to.


Thanks to God now I have a computer and connection, I can learn the truth of human history.

Good luck from a Brother in Shanghai, China.

Daniel

**Date:** 8/23/2008, 9:45 pm,  
GMT +6


**Name:** gweje  
hulobu <208.74.114.133>

**Location:**  Nigeria

**Number:** 275

Good day sir, indeed you are a genius per excellent. Nigeria as a

country and Africa as a continent is proud to have somebody great like. Sir how can i have contact with you cos i want to be known like can you help me?

**Date:** 8/20/2008, 3:36 pm, GMT +6  
**Name:** Ola Oke <82.45.214.165>  
**Web:** <http://www.fujimitsu.com>  
**Location:**  United Kingdom  
**Number:** 274


Your messages are truly thought provoking.

Your life story is both motivating  
and very inspiring

If only Africa has the will to attract  
her invaluable human resources...

**Date:** 8/17/2008, 7:03 am, GMT +6

**Name:** Frank.Ezeokeke <96.231.47.178>

**Location:**  Nigeria

**Number:** 273

I write in response to the irresponsible insinuations of someone who calls himself Abbey Ige who wrote in from Nevada. Mr Ige claims to have an objective assessment of what he considers to be the unfair treatment the

Late Gen Philip Effiong received from the Igbos. This according to him, started from Prof Emeagwali's website which the Igbos ('of all people') are using as a platform for 'insulting Gen Efiong who saved them'. One thing is immediately evident in that write up: Mr Ige was born an Igbophobic. He has an axe to grind with Igbos and he alone can explain what the matter is. But I have one message for Mr Ige (if his burning hatred will let him listen). The Igbos were created by God just like all other tribal groups in Nigeria. It is God's intention that the Igbo race will remain. No amount of hatred by the likes of Ige will exterminate the Igbos. Mr Ige must learn to accept that the Igbos are a part of Nigeria. If Nigeria was

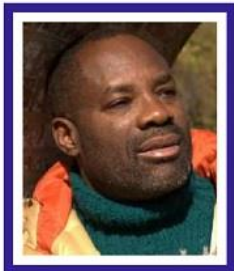
made bad by Mr A or Chief B or General C, it is not because he/she is Igbo or Yoruba or Hausa or Ijaw etc. Decent people do not hold tribes responsible for actions carried out by persons. I'm sure this is too high an ideal for the likes of Mr Ige but the truth must be told. Dr Chris Ngige whom Mr Ige maligned is one of the best governors that Nigeria ever had and Anambra State indigenes have never failed to acknowledge that fact. I hope and pray that the real problem is not that Abbey Ige is jealous of Prof Emeagwali's achievements. If that is his aggro, then I am very sorry for him. Meanwhile, Prof fire on. The Good Lord is on your side. He has chosen you for countless graces and no one can change



it, no matter his tribe or inclinations.  
Jisike!

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**Booking  
Request**



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