

# 1 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Emeagwali*



1101 30TH STREET, NW, SUITE 500  
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

info@emeagwali.com  
donita.brown@emeagwali.com

202-203-8724 - Washington  
+44 (0)20 7078 7400 - London  
443-850-0850 - Curator, Dr. Donita Brown  
801-640-9971 - Fax & Voicemail  
800-673-6737 - Booking Agent

## My Quest for an Internet

In this, the 32nd installment of our weekly series at [emeagwali.com](http://emeagwali.com), we present Part 8 of Philip Emeagwali's lecture on reversing the brain drain of scientists and technologists from developing nations to the United States. It was delivered in Geneva, Switzerland on April 26, 2010.

In human history ... a nation that is second to none in science was second to none in economic power.



## How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

by Philip Emeagwali

[emeagwali.com](http://emeagwali.com)

## 2 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Smeagwali*

---

Technology rules. How did America develop its nuclear weapons? The answer is brain gain from Europe. It was Albert Einstein and refugee scientists



Nigeria knows how to dig a hole into an oil field but lacks the critical knowledge of reservoir simulation necessary to know what to do after the hole has been dug. (Nigeria, Rivers State, Bonny, Workers On Off-Shore Oil Rig.)



who fled from Europe to America that helped America develop its atomic bomb.

How will Nigeria acquire and control the petroleum technology it needs to dig a hole in the ground

to recover its own oil and save 40 percent royalty payment to foreign oil companies? The answer, in part, will be brain gain from its Diaspora in Europe and in America.

How did America land a man on the moon? The answer is brain gain of rocket scientists captured at the end of the Second World War. Refugee rocket scientists like Robert Goddard transferred the technological capital from Germany to the United States that enabled Neil Armstrong to walk on the moon.

The United States became a superpower by converting Europe's brain drain into its brain gain. Nigeria could become an economic powerhouse by reversing its brain drain and turning it into brain gain.

European brain drain became American brain gain and made America stronger.

### 3 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Smeagoli*

---

England profited from brain gain as a result of the Catholic oppression in Europe, which exiled all Europe's free thinkers. Some of



In Nigeria, militants and politicians fight for control of 60 percent of oil revenue, instead of for control of the technology that will yield double the nation's revenue. [Original Caption: Nigerian militants in open-hulled boats attacked an oil rig of Royal Dutch Shell more than 100km from land. Photo by BBC]



those free thinkers fled to the Netherlands, making that nation stronger for a while, before the British Empire eclipsed it.

Technology will allow Nigeria to do more with less, without depleting its natural resources, but with a greater demand for and reliance on technology.

Scientific discoveries lead to technological inventions and are the foundations of knowledge: the new knowledge that must precede the development of new products, services, industries, jobs and new wealth.

In human history, technological development and economic growth proceed together and a nation that is second to none in science was second to none in economic power.

The grand challenge for African scientists is to make discoveries and inventions that can be domesticated and diffused into the continent's economy.

#### 4 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Emeagwali*

---

Below are lecture companion photos taken on April 26, 2010 at Intercontinental Geneve, Switzerland. The captions were as provided by the conference planner.



Gov. Uduaghan and lead speaker, Prof. Philip Emeagwali, Nigerian-born world acclaimed-computer programmer and inventor of the internet.

## 5 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Emeagwali*

---



Gov. Uduaghan watches as Prof. Emeagwali displays a memorabilia on Delta State presented to him after his captivating address in Geneva, Switzerland.



Mrs. Moremi Soyinka-Onijala, Special Assistant to the President on Migration at the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.

## 6 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Emeagwali*

---



A cross-section of Delta Diasporans at the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.



Mr. Gordon Bristol, Nigeria Ambassador to France in a warm handshake with Prof. Emeagwali during the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.

## 7 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Smeagoli*

---



A cross-section of diplomats and guests listen to a presentation with rapt attention during the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.



Mr. Bernard Okumagba, Commissioner for Economic Planning with Dr. Lucky Akaruese of the University of Port Harcourt listening to a presentation with rapt attention during the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.

## 8 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Smeagwali*

---



Emeagwali captures the attention of the audience with his riveting presentation during the launching of the European hub of the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) programme in Geneva, Switzerland.



Amb. Torn York Chor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, Geneva, Gov. Uduaghan, and Dr. Martins Uhomoibhi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geneva, who was chairman of the event.

## 9 How Can Brain Gain Alleviate Poverty?

*Philip Emeagwali*

---



Prof. Emeagwali (right) displays a souvenir of the True Face of Delta presented to him by Gov. Uduaghan at the Delta Diaspora Direct (D3) summit held in Geneva, Switzerland



Mr. Simon Ighofose, a Deltan Diasporan in the UK, Mr. Sam Omatseye, Chairman, Editorial Board of The Nation Newspaper, Mr. Okumagba, Prof. Emeagwali, Mr. Oma Djebah, Mr. Eddy Odiwri, Member, Editorial Board of Thisday Newspaper, and Dr. Akaruese.