

Quest for Internet

In this, the 38th installment of our weekly series at emeagwali.com, we present Part 14 of Philip Emeagwali's lecture on "Africa in a Globalized Internet Economy." This article was transcribed from his lecture delivered in Geneva, Switzerland on April 26, 2010.

Internet 'Worth Billions' to Africa

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

emeagwali.com

Transcribed and edited from a lecture delivered by [Philip Emeagwali](http://emeagwali.com). The unedited [video](#) is posted at emeagwali.com.

I am often asked to share my visions of the future. And to predict how the internet could be used to solve Africa's problems and create new possibilities for its people. My answer is that the internet will accelerate globalization and transform Africa and that in the globalized world of the twenty-second



century, there will be more Africans outside Africa than inside it.

Lagos will become an international metropolis or a new London, while Africans will give up their traditional clothing, cuisine, and cultural markers, becoming no more African than the

black British or Americans. Many Africans will have a mixed racial heritage, like that of Barrack Obama.

While I predict this trend, I also question it: Is it progress for Africa to lose that which makes it unique?

Ironically, developing a better technology also Europeanizes the African identity through globalization. A similar historical example can be found in the invention of the compass, which made it possible to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. This spawned the devastating Atlantic slave trade, which began in Africa on August 8, 1444.

It covered four continents, and lasted four centuries. It forcibly uprooted millions of Africans to the Americas. It stripped Africans of their language, culture, and identity.

At the same time, this led to the creation of the African diaspora, with one in five Africans resettling in the Americas.

This conference is a deep conversation between continental Africans and its Diaspora. For every expatriate American working in Africa there are a thousand Africans also working as expatriates in America. For every one thousand American professionals helping develop Africa there are one million African professionals helping develop America. Worse, the American expatriate will

return to America while the African expatriate will not return to Africa.

A half-century ago, Africa enjoyed brain gain. The first Africans to come to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century returned to Africa. Among them were Nnamdi Azikiwe and Kwame Nkrumah, who became the first black presidents of Nigeria and Ghana, respectively.

Fifty years later, the late Barack Hussein Obama Sr., came to America. He returned to Kenya and entered local politics in the 1960s. It was an era that produced great thinkers that carried the light for Africa.

The [video](#) of this speech is posted at [emeagwali.com](#).



YouTube



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The People Speak about **Emeagwali**

Some Famous, Some Little
Known

Date: 5/23/2009, 2:48 pm, GMT
+6

Name: JAMES KINGSLEY
OKORO <125.60.235.204>

Location:  Philippines

Number: 303

AM PROUD OF YOU,
EMEAGWALI PHILIP. YOU ARE
A GIFT FROM NDI IGBO TO THE
WORLD. WHEN THE ROLE OF

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT
SHALL BE CALLED, THE IGBO
NATION SHALL BE
REPRESENTED.

Date: 5/22/2009, 3:55 am, GMT
+6

Name: Amond Uchechi
Uwadinke <68.54.90.236>

Location:  United States

Number: 302

You have been an inspiration to me.
And most importantly, you are
worthy to be emulated by Africans
all across the world.


It is good that we share the same

Igbo culture as well.

Igbo Kwenu!

Date: 3/15/2009, 1:43 am,
GMT +6

Name: Ijeoma
Chukwu <78.138.31.107>


Location:  Nigeria

Number: 301

Dr. You make me proud to be a
Nigeria, most esp. an Igbo.

Date: 3/11/2009, 5:53 pm,
GMT +6

Name: Nat
Apir <41.219.229.194>

Location:  Nigeria

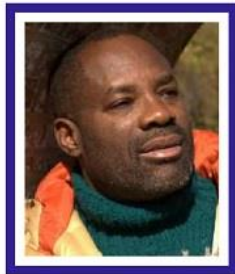
Number: 300

Prof. You are truly amazing, but most importantly you are a pan African. I was however intrigued and somewhat disappointed by the failure of our government to buy a supercomputer costing \$120m for your research work back home.

While I concede that there are no barriers to Technology, but it is like you rightly pointed out in one of your articles those who export it are the rich

nations of the world.

What will it take for you to come back and put your knowledge and skills for the advancement of the black man here in Africa?



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