

VISIT TO LAGOS FOR GITEX NIGERIA WITH **TECH NIGERIA ADVOCATES**

On 2nd-4th September, I visited Lagos to speak at and attend GITEX Nigeria. I attended the event alongside Emem Usanga, the Lead of Tech Nigeria Advocates.

The visit began with two receptions hosted by the British Deputy High Commissioner in Lagos. On 2nd September, Jonny Baxter hosted a business reception which featured Florence Eshalomi MP, the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria, along with Ben Ainslie, HM Trade Commissioner for Africa.

The second reception featured leaders from the UK's Global Entrepreneur Programme (GEP), including Akua Owusu-Ansah, Eamon Tuhami, and Stephen Mooney, and welcomed many Nigeria-based founders who are looking to scale beyond Nigeria to the UK and elsewhere.

Following these two receptions, Emem and I moved on to Day One of GITEX Nigeria at the Eko Hotel, to learn more about the Nigerian tech ecosystem and meet many entrepreneurs. During the afternoon at the Landmark Centre, there were a number of panel sessions focusing on:

- The rise in blended capital
- Building vibrant AI ecosystems
- The role of corporates and corporate venture capital in driving innovation



During one of the panels, it was mentioned that earlier this year the Nigerian Government introduced the National AI Strategy, called the National AI Trust, to guide Nigeria's approach to AI and position the country as a continental leader in artificial intelligence. Nigeria has built a strong position in fintech (with a number of fintech unicorns emerging) and is also focusing on areas like agritech and healthtech. It is also working to drive better connectivity across the country, especially in remote rural areas:

<https://techafricanews.com/2025/02/05/nigeria-advances-ai-and-connectivity-with-two-major-government-initiatives/>

On Day Two of GITEX Nigeria, I joined a panel discussion with tech hub leaders from Nigeria and Africa to discuss whether there should be one large tech hub or many smaller regional hubs—and how these could collectively promote Africa as a world-leading tech ecosystem.

A key highlight for me was meeting so many entrepreneurs and founders from across Nigeria. I was impressed with their focus to address challenges and infrastructure issues, along with their willingness to learn how to build Nigerian scaling businesses. The potential for a successful tech future in Nigeria is incredible.

A final note of thanks goes to Emem Usanga, the Lead of Tech Nigeria Advocates. Emem was incredibly helpful during my visit (and beforehand), introducing me to this vibrant tech ecosystem. She connected me with many impactful leaders, and we had numerous conversations about the future of the tech sector. Emem is simply a brilliant Global Tech Advocate!

