



## **SENATOR TOKUNBO ABIRU UNVEILS SAIL INNOVATION LAB IN IKORODU**

There was excitement on Friday 19, May 2023, in Ikorodu, Lagos State. As youths from different parts of the neighborhoods gathered to witness the inauguration of the First Innovation Lab designed for the acquisition of technological skills in the community built by Senator Tokunbo Abiru and Co-founder Mrs Feyisola Abiru.

The innovation lab was commissioned and unveiled by the State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and the event was well attended by traditional rulers, captains of industries, elder statesmen, National Assembly members, Lagos State House of Assembly members, members of the State Executive Council and local government chairmen, among others.



Also present at the event was a former Deputy Governor, Mr Abiodun Ogunleye; a former Secretary to the State government, Mr Bashorun Olorunfemi; a former minister, Senator Muslim Obanikoro; a former Head of Service, Olusola Ogunlewe.

Traditional rulers in attendance included the Ayangburen of Ikorodu Kingdom, Oba Adewale Shotobi; the Alara of Ilara Kingdom, Oba Olufolarin Ogunsanwo; Sekumade of Ipakodo, Oba Aremu Shotonwa; Eweye of Isiwu, Oba Raji Balogun; Alagura of Agura, Oba Ahmed Olalekan; Onibeju of Ibeju, Oba Waliu Olanikanmi; Oba Mudashiru Ajibade; Ranodu of Imota, Oba Ajibade Bakare-Agoro; Oba of Oworonshoki, Babatunde Saliu; as well as the Oloja of Epe, Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun.

<https://www.ikoroduonline.com.ng/senator-tokunbo-abiru-unveils-sail-innovation-lab-in-ikorodu/>

## SAIL INNOVATION LAB



The lab is named [Senator Abiru Innovation Lab](#) (SAIL), an initiative of the Senator representing Lagos East Senatorial District, Senator Tokunbo Abiru. SAIL is expected to facilitate training programmes in digital skills such as product design, data science, metaverse, and in-demand tech skills. It will also provide support for start-ups, community events and ecosystem engagement, which will build entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth within ikorodu and the Lagos East Senatorial District.

SAIL Innovation Lab is an initiative of Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, aimed at equipping young Nigerians with relevant technology, business, and digital skills to thrive in the digital revolution era. This is crucial, especially considering Nigeria's economic challenges and the alarming 53.40% youth unemployment rate reported by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2020. Located in Lagos East

Senatorial District, SAIL Innovation Lab is a collaboration between Abiru and Co-creation Hub (Cc-Hub), leveraging social capital and technology to accelerate economic prosperity.

### **Programs in SAIL Innovation Lab**

- **Tech Talent:** Training for entry-level jobs or internships in tech.
- **STEM Education:** Physical computing concepts for senior secondary students
- **Startup Accelerator:** Supporting business ideas with technology.
- **Lagos East Teachers' Fellowship:** Equipping educators with new skills.
- **Data Science for Society:** A six-month scholarship program applying the knowledge of Data Science to solve social problems.
- **Game Development:** Training in interactive design and development for gaming applications
- **Advance Digital Marketing Mastermind:** A three-month scholarship program designed to equip individuals with the latest trends and techniques used by top marketers, maximizing ROI, optimizing campaigns, and staying future-proof.
- **Software Development:** Comprehensive courses on software development best practices and tools.
- **Blockchain:** Workshops and training on blockchain fundamentals and applications
- **Frontend Developer:** Turning your dream of building a sleek, modern website into reality.
- **Product Design:** Taking your design skills to the next level and create products that truly make a difference.
- **SAIL Backend Development:** Unlocking the power behind the web.
- **Sail Mentorship Programme:** Guiding you to unlock potential, achieve milestones, and inspire lifelong success.
- **Female Focus Community:** Building a network of empowered women, creating pathways for leadership and innovation.
- **Co-working Space:** A place where creativity meets collaboration and ideas transform into reality.
- **STAWI Creative Event Free Space:** Where innovation comes to life, and every event sparks creativity.

- **STAWI Free Desk Space:** Empowering you with the freedom to focus, create, and achieve your goals.

## Current Programs At SAIL Innovation Lab

1. **Data Science for Society Cohort 2:** A six-month scholarship program in partnership with Sahara Group Foundation.
2. **Lagos East Teachers' Fellowship:** Equipping educators with new skills
3. **Software Development 4:** Comprehensive courses on software development best practices and tools.
4. **Frontend Developer:** Turning your dream of building a sleek, modern website into reality
5. **Female Focus Community:** Building a network of empowered women, creating pathways for leadership and innovation.
6. **Co-working Space:** A place where creativity meets collaboration and ideas transform into reality.
7. **STAWI Creative Event Free Space:** Where innovation comes to life, and every event sparks creativity.
8. **STAWI Free Desk Space:** Empowering you with the freedom to focus, create, and achieve your goals. These programs are designed to empower participants with practical skills to drive economic prosperity through grassroots innovations, networking, and creating employment opportunities.
9. **SAIL Mentorship Programme:** Guiding you to unlock potential, achieve milestones, and inspire lifelong success.
10. **SAIL Generative Artificial Intelligence Cohort 1:** Transforming your tech career and bringing your innovative ideas to life.
11. **SAIL Product Design Cohort 1:** Taking your design skills to the next level and create products that truly make a difference
12. **SAIL Backend Development Cohort 1:** Unlocking the power behind the web.

## Past Programs At SAIL Innovation Lab

1. **Data Science for Society Cohort 1:** A six-month scholarship program applying the knowledge of Data Science to solve social problems.
2. **Lagos East Teachers' Fellowship:** Equipping educators with new skills
3. **Game Development 1, 2:** Training with interactive design and development for gaming applications
4. **Software Development 1,2,3:** Comprehensive courses on software development best practices and tools
5. **Digital Marketing Mastermind 1:** A three-month scholarship program designed to equip individuals with the latest trends and techniques used by top marketers, maximizing ROI, optimizing campaigns, and staying future-proof
6. **Blockchain:** Workshops and training on blockchain fundamentals and applications
7. **Dare to Dream Tech BootCamp:** Scheduled at LASUSTECH, turning dreams into plans and plans into achievements
8. **AMA Session - Game Dev:** Where curiosity meets expertise, turning questions into stepping stones for your game development journey.

## Next Programs Coming Up At SAIL Innovation Lab

- **SAIL Game Development Cohort 3:** Training with interactive design and development for gaming applications
- **SAIL Startup Accelerator Cohort 3:** Supporting business ideas with technology.
- **SAIL Advance Digital Marketing Cohort 2:** Equipping individuals with the latest trends and techniques used by top marketers, maximizing ROI, optimizing campaigns, and staying future-proof



## **Learn Who Partners With SAIL Innovation Lab**

The SAIL Innovation Lab partners with Co-creation Hub (Cc-Hub), Sahara Group Foundation, 3MTT, and many more, leveraging social capital and technology to accelerate economic prosperity and create employment opportunities.

# LAGOS GAC COMMENDS ABIRU FOR SAIL TECH INNOVATION LAB



*The Apex leader of the Lagos Prestigious Governance Advisory Council, Tajudeen Olusi has commended Senator Adetokunbo Abiru and his wife for establishing SAIL Innovation Lab as well as creating jobs for the people in Lagos East senatorial district.*

The Apex leader of GAC, Tajudeen Olusi who toured the Innovation Lab in Ikorodu area of Lagos State where over 8400 constituents majorly youths had learnt different life-transforming skills in digital, tech and innovation, thanked Senator Abiru for the initiative.

The elder statesman called for more collaborative efforts in unlocking young people's potential through digital skills and innovation.

He thanked President Bola Tinubu for encouraging Mr. Abiru to join politics to deploy his wealth of experience in the corporate sector for the service of the people.

Senator Abiru who received the political leaders said beyond the facility created, they bring accomplished people to speak and inspire the participants.

The Lagos State commissioner for Commerce, Cooperative, Trade and Investment, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and Managing Director of the Bank of Industry, Olasupo Olusi described the initiative as great.

The initiative has the potential of accelerating the nation's economic growth and unlock untapped opportunities for many young people in Nigeria.

<https://www.tvcnews.tv/2024/09/lagos-gac-commends-abiru-for-sail-tech-innovation-lab/>

## **Awari AI, SAIL Innovation Form Partnership To Train Youth In AI Across Africa**

Nigeria's communication minister Bosun Tijani hailed Senator Abiru for his innovation in training over 100 youth in AI.



Awari AI, a rapidly expanding AI/robotics company that is facilitating the development and adoption of cutting-edge technology on the African continent, starting from Nigeria, has

hired more than a hundred young people who completed Tech Talent and Data Science training at the SAIL Innovation Lab for respectable artificial intelligence positions.

In a press statement released by the Special Adviser to Senator Tokunbo Abiru, Enitan Olukotun, it was said that the company has partnered with the SAIL Innovation Lab in Ikorodu to source talent continuously for the multibillion-dollar AI industry, which is predicted to transform every aspect of life in the coming years. The company has selected the SAIL Innovation Lab as a launchpad for multiple locations in Nigeria and Africa.

In his remarks, the co-founder of the SAIL Innovation Lab and a senator from Lagos East, Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, FCA, stated that the cooperation with Awari AI marked the start of a revolutionary journey in Ikorodu and the Lagos East Senatorial District overall.

The senator said, “The Awari AI project, which we launch today, stands as a testament to our resolute commitment to embracing technology and innovation. It heralds a new era where industries will be redefined, jobs will be created, and our youth will be empowered.

Throughout the annals of history, humanity has been witness to extraordinary revolutions. From the advent of steam power to the electrifying dawn of electricity, and from the proliferation of computers to the connected world of the internet, each era brought profound transformations to our lives.

“Today, we stand on the precipice of the 4th Industrial Revolution, a realm characterized by artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, biotechnology, and automation. This revolution promises unprecedented opportunities for Nigeria and Africa, and it is incumbent upon us to seize this moment”.

Given the abundance of job prospects and potential for economic growth in the technology industry, Senator Abiru revealed his passion for tech and digital abilities. He revealed that over 150 in-class participants and 1,200 online learners have benefited from his SAIL Innovation Lab initiative since he started it with five trial programs in 2022.

Abiru said, “Today, the SAIL Innovation Lab has left an indelible mark on the lives of over 4,173 participants through a diverse array of programs, including Tech Talent Development, STEM initiatives tailored for Senior Secondary School Students, Lagos East Teachers Fellowship, Start-Up Accelerator, and Data Science for Society.

These programs have now evolved to offer job prospects through our esteemed partner organizations. Awari AI has taken the lead by employing nearly 100 of our graduates and pledging to continue its role as a platform for future outstanding participants seeking employment.

“In an era where digital skills have become an essential currency, the SAIL Innovation Lab serves as a bridge, closing the digital divide. Our vision is to provide free training to young individuals in high-demand tech skills and work collaboratively with our partners to secure them decent job placements.”

The co-founders of Awari AI, Silas Adekunle and Ms. Eniola Edun, stated that artificial intelligence is the new wave that Nigeria should embrace in its efforts to seize possibilities in the contemporary digital and innovation age.

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, said that it has taken less than seven months for the SAIL Innovation Lab to reach its objectives since the state of the earth innovation lab was put into operation.

The minister said, “We set out to open up the minds of young people to opportunities that are available globally, and these opportunities are no longer the preserve of the developed world. We live at a time when technology now connects each and every one of us strongly. The technologies have given us the opportunities to overcome barriers and be part of the global economy.

Tijani then said that due to the foreign origin of Artificial Intelligence, “We (Nigerians) have not been able to participate fully and harness its benefits. For the first time in the history of Nigeria and anywhere in Nigeria, Awari AI have decided to start a company that will focus on building that knowledge so that computers will also think like us. For the first time in Nigeria, hundreds of people are being hired from the SAIL Innovation Lab.”

The commissioner for Science, Innovation, and Technology, Hon. Tunbosun Alake, then revealed that the State Government would be working with the initiative in partnership. He also expressed gratitude to Senator Abiru for spearheading the project.

<https://www.arise.tv/awari-ai-sail-innovation-form-partnership-to-train-youth-in-ai-across-africa/>



September 26, 2024 by [Our Reporter](#)

## ABIRU DONATES STEM LAB, OTHERS TO GOVT COLLEGE SURULERE



•One of the buildings donated by Abiru. Inset: Ibiru speaking at the event

As part of events lined up to mark the 50th founders' anniversary of the Government College, Lagos, Surulere, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has inaugurated the GCI STEM Lab equipped and managed by the SAIL Empowerment Foundation, an endowment of Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru and his wife, Feyisola.

The governor also inaugurated other landmark projects provided by the senator, through the intervention of the office of the Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs. Abiru graduated from the elite school over 40 years ago.

The projects include: Complete rehabilitation 700-seater capacity auditorium, including the gallery. Twenty four toilets were also provided on the first and ground floor. Five administrative offices at the top floor and two big lecture halls at the ground floor were also reconstructed, including two staff rooms for teachers and two waiting areas.

The senator, who is also the chairman of the 50th founder's day lecture while delivering his speech, lauded President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Sanwo-Olu for their contributions towards the provision of quality education.

Abiru assured that this is “just the beginning. Our goal is not confined to Ikorodu or Lagos East. We aim to extend these opportunities to all of Lagos and, eventually, to every corner of Nigeria, ensuring that every child has access to a world-class education that empowers them to dream, innovate and succeed”.

He added: “Growing up in Lagos, I had the privilege of attending this great institution – Government College, Eric Moore, Lagos. It was here that I received the foundation for everything I have achieved, both personally and professionally. Watching my father's dedication to education and public service deeply influenced my own path as a Lagosian committed to public service and the development of our great city.

“In my time, Government College, Eric Moore, was a place where students from all walks of life came together, bound by the shared pursuit of knowledge and excellence. Our teachers, led by the late Mr. E. A. Banwo, as principal, were committed to not only teaching us but also inspiring us to reach our full potential. The facilities were well-equipped, allowing us to explore and excel academically.

#### Related News

“However, today, we face a different reality. The separation between public and private schools has widened, with the children of elites attending private institutions far removed from the experiences of the average Nigerian child. The decline in public education has further deepened this divide, leaving many without access to the quality education that was once a given.

“So, the question we must ask ourselves is: how can we restore the pride of Government College, Eric Moore, and schools like it? How do we rebuild an education system that brings students from different backgrounds together and prepares them for the future?



“This is where my commitment lies. Through the SAIL Empowerment Foundation, which my wife and I founded, we’ve established the SAIL Innovation Lab in partnership with Co-Creation Hub, the foremost innovation lab in Africa. Together, we are providing a state-of-the-art innovation centre that is free for graduates and students, while equipping thousands of teachers with modern teaching methodologies. This partnership brings global expertise and a future-focused approach to the heart of Lagos, ensuring that we are not just restoring, but reimagining, the public education system for the 21st century.”

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Commissioner of Basic Education, Jimoh Alli-Balogun, praised Senator Abiru for his legacies in human capital development and other areas.

The Global President of Government College Lagos Old Boys Association, Rear Admiral Leye Jaiyeola (retd), also lauded the gesture of Senator Abiru, and other illustrious personalities, particularly Princess (Mrs.) Adejoke Orelope-Adefulure, who contributed immensely to the development of the school.

Renowned professor of intellectual property, Professor Bankole Shodipo, SAN, who is also an alumnus of GCI, delivered the keynote lecture at the well-attended programme.

<https://thenationonlineng.net/abiru-donates-stem-lab-others-to-govt-college-surulere/>