**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE**

Information Technology is the study or use of systems (especially computers and telecommunications) for storing, retrieving, and sending information.

It can also be defined as the use of any computers, storage, networking and other physical devices, infrastructure and processes to create, process, store, secure and exchange all forms of electronic data.

With this, there are several merits that can be obtained through information technology for the benefits of higher education institutes. Benefits can be mentioned of;

1. Establishment of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): In the last ten (10) years, education has benefited from a real e-revolution. Most schools and universities now have a functioning Virtual Learning Environment at the heart of their teaching and e-learning programs. VLE, also known as a learning platform, is an online system that allows teachers to share educational materials with their pupils via the web. With this, most tasks and assignments that are meant to be done in class are done via the web. This technology of transmission of information had been in the system for quite a long time, but its use has not been efficient, which could be the reasons of inadequate access points (APN’s such as routers, switches, wireless networks and so on) which enables the user to access the internet. Every educational establishment ought to integrate into their lessons and allow it to become second nature to learners and educators outside the classroom. Here are some reasons

* Communication: Opens up an infinite number of channels in the format of forums, discussion threads, polls, surveys - instant feedback either as a group or individually.
* Producing work: Students do not physically have to find their teacher to hand in work due to secure virtual ‘hand-in’ folders that have time windows.
* Resource hub: Teachers have infinite online storage space for PowerPoints, Word documents, worksheets, etc. that can either be secure or shared with students.

1. The use of Cloud Computing: Cloud Computing is a practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the internet to store, manage and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer. Due to prevailing financial crises and growing needs, higher education institute are facing challenges in providing necessary IT support for educational, research and development activities. With cloud computing, all this challenges would be met. Cloud computing as one of the greatest technologies in information system can be so beneficial to tertiary institutions.

Cloud computing has the following advantages for the benefits of higher educational institutes;