NIMC Joins Secure Identity Alliance
Engr. Aziz to Chair Advisory Committee of the Open Standards Identity API Initiative

L-R Engr. Akanimo Edet, Mr. Toibudeen Oduniyi (NIMC Board Members), General Manager, LR&CS, NIMC, Mrs. Hadiza Ali-Dagabana, DG/CEO, Engr. Aliyu A. Aziz, David Epaud, Deborah Comparin and Stephanie Delabriolle of Secure Identity Alliance, at the execution of the membership agreement... recently.

The use of restricted proprietary technology and solutions in the past prevented identity service providers from accessing and sharing data across the different devices and systems available to them.

This is because many components of the existing technologies and solutions fail to function at optimum level as they are not compatible with those of competitors, resulting in vendor lock-in.

Vendor Lock-in this case, is a situation where vendors makes a customer dependent on its products and services and ensures that no customers can switch technologies or solutions without a substantial switching costs.

This abnormality will however come to an abrupt end; as Nigeria, represented by NIMC, has joined the Secure Identity Alliance (SIA), the global identity body responsible for promoting legal and trusted identity for all.

The membership agreement was recently executed in Paris and announced at the 5th ID4Africa Movement holding in South Africa; and the NIMC DG/CEO named the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee of the Open Standards Identity API (OSIA) initiative, in his capacity as an advisory observer and the representative of NIMC.

Going forward therefore, Engr. Aziz will play a critical role in overseeing the work carried out by the OSIA GitHub Community and OSIA Workgroup, which is comprised of identity providers and vendors that came together to create standardised Identity management interfaces.

The Committee meetings will allow identity providers and vendors set standards guarding against vendor lock-in for technologies and solutions used by government agencies worldwide in the implementation of their respective identity programmes.

It will also provide the standardized data formats and open interfaces that eliminate the interoperability challenges which all too frequently hamper the evolution of national Identity systems.

The Open Standards Identity API initiative would expectedly enable governments and it agencies like the NIMC to exert full control over their national identity programmes, eliminate today's identity silos and extend coverage to provide universal legal identity for all its citizens and residents.

Speaking on this development, the NIMC DG said: "I am delighted that the era of vendor lock-in is fast coming to an end, yet many agencies and governments across Africa remain unaware of the potential opportunities that OSIA unlocks— including a reduction in the total cost of ownership of their Identity systems. Part of my role will be to spread the word and ensure everyone knows they can access the interconnectivity resources they need to enable high functioning and interoperable Identity ecosystems," Aziz said.

5th ID4Africa Movement, 2019 in Pictures

L-R: NIMC Board Member, Mrs. Saratu Shafii; GM, LR&CS NIMC, Mrs Hadiza Ali-Dagabana; DG/CEO NIMC, Engr. Aliyu Aziz, NIMC Board Member, Mr. Bello Gwandu; TA to DG, Dr. Ba Umaru and DGM Software, Mr. Lanre Yusuf, on the sidelines of the event.

L-R: NIMC Board Member, Mrs. Saratu Shafii; TA to DG, Dr. Ba Umaru; DG/CEO NIMC, Engr. Aliyu Aziz; GM, LR&CS, NIMC, Mrs. Hadiza Ali-Dagabana; NIMC Board Member, Mr. Bello Gwandu, at an interview session on the sidelines of the event.

L-R: NIMC Board Members, Mrs. Saratu Shafii, Mr. Bello Gwandu and GM, LR&CS, NIMC, Mrs. Hadiza Ali Dagabana, on the sidelines of the event.

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