

## **Introducing Nigeria Hacker Space**

By Faith Olaniran

Nigeria Hacker Space is an open source hardware community wrapped around the ethos of the global hacker space movement. It was started by a group of technology enthusiasts who were inspired by the various exciting happenings at the Maker Faire Africa 2012 event, which held in was held in the commercial capital city of Lagos in Nigeria.

Hacker Space is aimed at helping to kick start communities of technology enthusiasts and users around the country. The group launched her maiden event at the Federal University of Technology, Akure with about 20 people in attendance. Attendees were drawn from the various sectors and strata of the university community. The event was a mix of professionals and amateur technology users.

The maiden event which was focused on introducing the community at large about to the rationale behind the global hacker space community. This was made possible with the aid of hard wares donated to the space by the organisers of Maker Faire Africa. Simple projects were also carried out at the event such as working around a seven segment display using an Arduino, jumper cables all mounted on a bread board. Attendees had the opportunity to program their own seven segment display with the provided kits.

The high point of the event was the Nigeria Hacker Space idea board activity. The events name plate board also served as the event's idea board. Attendees were able to tag ideas using multi-colored sticky notes, pens and makers to the board in random patterns. The event witnessed a high number of mind-blowing feasible project ideas. These ideas were collated and built into a photo panoramic display view by the events media lead.

The group aims to leverage the currently available social media tools alongside remotely available technological knowledge in order to reach a wider target audience in the general community. Discussion thread will be established over various internet mediums to enable all members of the group effectively follow activities of the group and make collective decisions as regards proposed project actions. On the long run the group envisions a strong online presence with features enabled to allow for the larger public audience to access video tutorial feeds on how to set up basic technological related projects - a virtual training platform.

Source: <u>CP-Africa</u>