

OFFICIAL RECORD

Assembly of Members — First Convening

eduID.ng | Nigeria's National Federated Identity Infrastructure for Research and Education

Date	20 May 2026
Time	11:00 AM WAT
Format	Virtual Convening (WACREN Zoom)
Organised by	Eko-Konnect Research and Education Initiative

1. Purpose of the Convening

The Assembly of Members (AoM) was convened under the eduID.ng governance framework to strengthen governance, operational sustainability, and strategic direction for Nigeria's national federated identity infrastructure for research and education.

The convening focused on:

- Introducing the strategic vision and operational status of eduID.ng
- Explaining the significance of federated identity and trust infrastructure
- Discussing governance structures and institutional participation
- Presenting current and planned shared services
- Addressing interoperability and readiness considerations
- Constituting governance working groups and gathering expressions of interest

The meeting took place amid increasing national demand for trusted digital identity, research visibility, and shared digital infrastructure across Nigerian higher education and research institutions.

2. Speakers

<p>Prof. Charles Uwadia Governance Lead & Chair, Eko-Konnect Board <i>eduID.ng</i></p>	<p>Mr. Owen Iyoha Chief Executive Officer <i>Eko-Konnect</i></p>
<p>Mr. Omo Oaiya Chief Strategy Officer <i>WACREN</i></p>	<p>Ms. Yvonne Campbell Director <i>Datasphir Solutions Limited</i></p>

3. Attendance

The following individuals attended as representatives of their institutions.

<p>Mr. Musa Yakubu Deputy Director, ICT <i>Adamawa State University</i></p>	<p>Dr. Bashir Sani Deputy Director, ICT <i>Ahmadu Bello University</i></p>
<p>Prof. Emmanuel Adewale Adedokun Director, Iya Abubakar Institute of ICT <i>Ahmadu Bello University</i></p>	<p>Prof. Osagie Ekhator Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics <i>Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma</i></p>
<p>Prof. Robert Okonigene Director, ICT <i>Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma</i></p>	<p>Mr. Welson Alazigha Director, ICT <i>Bayelsa Medical University</i></p>
<p>Dr. Roland Ibenipere Funwei Director, Research <i>Bayelsa Medical University</i></p>	<p>Mr. Ebasa Onotasamiderhi Joseph Director, ICT <i>Dennis Osadebay University, Anwai Asaba</i></p>
<p>Mr. Yahya Mohammed Wara Director, ICT <i>Federal University Gusau</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mohammed Mansur Ibrahim Director, ICT <i>Federal University of Kashere</i></p>
<p>Dr. Fadele Ayotunde Alaba Director, ICT <i>Federal University of Education Zaria</i></p>	<p>Mr. Dada Kayode Sunday John Academic Librarian <i>Federal University of Education Zaria</i></p>
<p>Mr. Mahmud Ahmed Director, ICT <i>Federal University of Health Sciences, Azare</i></p>	<p>Dr. Lawal Idris Bagiwa Director, ICT <i>Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic</i></p>
<p>Mr. Abubakar Abdullahi Yaya Assistant Chief Librarian <i>Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic</i></p>	<p>Dr. Ashraf Adam Ahmad Senior Lecturer, Electrical & Electronic Engineering <i>Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna</i></p>
<p>Dr. Romoke Opeyemi Quadri Academic Librarian <i>Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna</i></p>	<p>Prof. Christine I. Ofulue Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Technology, Innovation & Research <i>National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)</i></p>
<p>Dr. Francis Osang Acting Director, ICT <i>National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)</i></p>	<p>Prof. Sunny Orike Director, ICTC <i>Rivers State University</i></p>
<p>Mr. Godwin Lenu Technical Services Lead, ICTC <i>Rivers State University</i></p>	<p>Mr. Ma’aji Ahmad Abdullahi Programmer I <i>University of Lafia</i></p>
<p>Prof. Muhammed Olawale Hakeem Amuda Director, ICT <i>University of Lagos</i></p>	<p>Mr. Rilwanu Mohammed Ladan Acting Director, ICT <i>Usmanu Danfodiyo University</i></p>
<p>C.itp. Muntaka Mukhtar Bube Chief Software Developer <i>Usmanu Danfodiyo University</i></p>	

PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

- Institutions represented: 16+
- University types: Federal, State, Open, Defence, and Specialised
- Other institutions: Polytechnics included
- Roles represented: ICT leadership, research, academic libraries, and governance

4. Key Discussions and Presentations

4.1 Opening Remarks — Prof. Charles Uwadia

Prof. Uwadia emphasised eduID.ng as Nigeria's federated digital identity infrastructure and highlighted the need for collective governance and sustained institutional participation. He stressed that connectivity alone is insufficient for modern digital collaboration — trusted identity and coordinated governance are equally essential preconditions.

"Connectivity plus trust creates capability."

4.2 Operational Status and Milestones — Mr. Owen Iyoha

Mr. Iyoha presented the historical evolution and current operational status of eduID.ng.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Federation activities began between 2013 and 2015, supported by WACREN
- Practical use cases emerged during the COVID-19 period through the WACREN-Zoom initiative
- Approximately ten institutions participated in early pilot activities

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

- Limited institutional governance participation
- Low adoption rates following initial pilots
- Pressures on infrastructure sustainability
- Rapidly evolving federation standards requiring ongoing compliance effort

REVITALISATION — 2024

In 2024, the infrastructure underwent substantial revitalisation work, including:

- Back-end re-architecture and federation modernisation
- Protocol updates and standards alignment
- Restoration of interoperability with the global federation ecosystem

CURRENT STATUS

- Operated hosted Identity Provider (IdP) services
- Active onboarding pathways for institutions
- Maintained interoperability with global federation ecosystems
- Ongoing engagement with service providers and institutional stakeholders

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Governance formalisation and institutional onboarding
- Standards compliance and service expansion
- Establishment of technical and policy governance structures

4.3 Federated Identity and Trust Infrastructure — Mr. Omo Oaiya

Identity was framed as foundational digital infrastructure — not merely an authentication mechanism — enabling trusted collaboration and scalable research ecosystems.

STRUCTURAL GAPS

- Fragmented institutional identity systems with limited interoperability
- Absence of coherent national federation frameworks
- Underutilisation of digital infrastructure owing to the absence of trust mechanisms

CIRCLES OF TRUST

Institutional trust frameworks feed into national frameworks, which connect to continental and global federation ecosystems. eduID.ng represents a Nigerian interface with these wider systems.

IMPORTANCE FOR RESEARCH ECOSYSTEMS

Identity infrastructure underpins:

- Repositories and publishing systems
- Learning management platforms
- Open science infrastructure
- AI-enabled research services
- Secure cross-institutional collaboration

"Connectivity got us online, but trust infrastructure makes digital collaboration usable and scalable."

4.4 Datasphir's Infrastructure and Operational Role — Ms. Yvonne Campbell

Ms. Campbell outlined Datasphir's role as infrastructure and technical services partner supporting eduID.ng, building on federation modernisation work undertaken with Eko-Konnect in 2024.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Infrastructure deployment, resilience management, and operational support
- Federation modernisation and protocol maintenance
- Hosted Identity Provider services
- Metadata, discovery services, and technical lifecycle support

SHARED SERVICE ECOSYSTEM

Services currently delivered or in development include:

- eduID.ng — federated identity infrastructure
- geteduroam — simplified eduroam onboarding
- ORCID integration support
- RUMBU — Invenio3-based institutional repository
- BookHub — open-access monograph publishing (Ketty-based)
- JournalHub — open-access journal publishing

GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY MODEL

- Eko-Konnnect: governance and institutional coordination
- Datasphir: infrastructure delivery and operational management
- Joint Partnership Committee (JPC) as the coordination mechanism

INSTITUTIONAL ONBOARDING PATHWAY

- Discovery and readiness assessment
- Planning and technical deployment
- Integration and onboarding
- Training and ongoing operational support

4.5 Interoperability and Ecosystem Coordination

Participants acknowledged multiple identity and trust initiatives within the Nigerian ecosystem and emphasised the need for coherent, interoperable approaches to avoid fragmentation and ensure long-term sustainability.

5. Discussion — Questions and Contributions

INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

Participants raised concerns about varying levels of technical preparedness and the support required during onboarding. These were acknowledged as a primary design consideration for the phased onboarding pathway.

eduroam DEPLOYMENT

Institutions shared past deployment challenges; geteduroam was highlighted as a simplified pathway for institutions with limited technical capacity.

RESEARCH VISIBILITY AND ACCESS

Strong interest was expressed in repositories, publishing platforms, and persistent identifier integration. Clarifications were provided on the distinction between authentication and authorisation, and on the continued role of institutional licensing for commercial scholarly resources.

NATIONAL COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Participants emphasised coordinated national infrastructure, sustainable operational models, and governance continuity as essential conditions for long-term success.

6. Resolutions of the Assembly

The Assembly formally resolved to:

- **Formally constitute the Assembly of Members under the eduID.ng governance framework**
- **Constitute two governance working groups:**

- Policy Review Working Group (PRWG)
- Technical Committee (TC)
- **Initiate a review of the current governance framework to align with current legal, operational, and ecosystem realities; to incorporate shared national service considerations; and to support interoperability and sustainability objectives**
- **Encourage participating institutions to engage in onboarding and service discussions relating to federation participation, eduroam, ORCID integration, repositories, publishing systems, and related shared digital infrastructure**

The working groups will operate initially as time-bound structures reporting to the Assembly.

7. Governance Working Groups

7.1 Policy Review Working Group (PRWG)

MANDATE

- Review existing edulD.ng governance policies
- Recommend updates aligned with current institutional and regulatory realities
- Develop governance and sustainability recommendations for the Assembly

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP

<p>Prof. Christine I. Ofulue Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Technology, Innovation & Research <i>National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)</i></p>	<p>Mr. Dada Kayode Sunday John Academic Librarian <i>Federal University of Education Zaria</i></p>
<p>Mr. Rilwanu Mohammed Ladan Acting Director, ICT <i>Usmanu Danfodiyo University</i></p>	

7.2 Technical Committee (TC)

MANDATE

- Review technical readiness and institutional onboarding requirements
- Support interoperability and deployment discussions
- Advise on operational and infrastructure considerations

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP

<p>C.itp. Muntaka Mukhtar Bube Chief Software Developer <i>Usmanu Danfodiyo University</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mohammed Mansur Ibrahim Director, ICT <i>Federal University of Kashere</i></p>
<p>Dr. Lawal Idris Bagiwa Director, ICT <i>Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic</i></p>	<p>Dr. Roland Ibenipere Funwei Director, Research <i>Bayelsa Medical University</i></p>
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8. Next Steps and Action Items

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline
Consolidate expressions of interest from polls and chat	eduID.ng Secretariat	Immediate
Formally constitute the Policy Review Working Group	eduID.ng Secretariat	Immediate
Formally constitute the Technical Committee	eduID.ng Secretariat	Immediate
Convene initial working group meetings	eduID.ng Secretariat	To be scheduled
Circulate governance and policy documents for review	eduID.ng Secretariat	Following committee formation
Begin institutional onboarding discussions	Datasphir & Eko-Konnect	Ongoing
Collect institutional expressions of interest for eduroam, ORCID, repositories, and related services	eduID.ng Secretariat	Ongoing
Develop roadmap for governance and service expansion	Working Groups	Upcoming

9. Expressions of Interest

Participants were invited to submit expressions of interest in the following areas:

- Technical Committee membership
- Policy Review Working Group membership
- eduroam and related network services
- Repository and digital infrastructure onboarding

Expressions of interest can be submitted via:

<https://www.eduid.ng/community#committees>

10. Closing Remarks

Prof. Uwadia reiterated the importance of governance in sustaining national infrastructure, the value of collective institutional participation, and the need to maintain momentum following the convening. He expressed appreciation for the commitment shown by all participants.

11. Concluding Observation

The convening marked a transition from an operational federation initiative to a participatory governance and shared digital infrastructure framework for Nigerian research and education institutions. The breadth of institutional representation and the establishment of working groups provide a strong foundation for the next phase of eduID.ng's evolution.