

NORTHERN BOOK TRUST
Bridging the Educational & Technology Gap
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BRIEF PROFILE OF THE NORTHERN BOOK TRUST
FI AIRPORT ROAD, AFRICAN ALLIANCE BUILDING, 7th FLOOR,
KANO, NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Book Trust is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Kano, Northern Nigeria. The NBT was established for the purpose of bridging the educational and information technology gap that currently exists within the nineteen states of Northern Nigeria.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NBT

The Northern Book Trust initiative was started in April 2003, when I attended an international seminar sponsored and conducted by Book Aid International (BAI) at Brighton, following my meeting/discussion with Mr. Robert Amoako, Executive Director of Ghana Book Trust. Mr. Amoako subsequently facilitated my meeting with the Executive Director of the Sabre Foundation, Tania Vivitsky, and her colleagues, when they were on a working visit to London. The short meeting was held at the BAI head- quarters in London. Our subsequent meeting was with Mr. Tim Nikula, who was also on a working visit to Nigeria between 17 June and 2 July 2003 in Kano. The Northern Book Trust was duly registered as an NGO by the Kano state government on the 30th of April 2004, with registration No. RYC/200. The formal incorporation of the NBT with the Corporate Affairs Commission has also reached its final stage.

SERVICES/OBJECTIVES OF THE NBT

The main objectives of the Northern Book Trust are as follows:

- i. To provide and source educational/informational materials within and outside the country from donors and to distribute them free of charge to all educational institutions such as schools, universities, tertiary institutions, public and special libraries, Torey homes, and needy members of the community.

- ii. To provide support for research activities on the development of education, information, and the cultural heritage of our people.
- iii. To provide training opportunities to especially unemployed youths in vocational trades and information technology, which would consequently improve the living conditions of our people free of charge.

NBT PARTNERS

The main partner of the NBT is Sabre Foundation of the United States of America and the Ghana Book Trust. As mentioned earlier, the NBT came into contact with Sabre through the introduction of the Executive Director of the Ghana Book Trust, Mr. Robert Amoako.

Arrangements for a full working relationship between the NBT and Sabre Foundation are now in top gear. Already all necessary documentation has been completed, as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two partners.

NBT is expecting delivery of forty pallets of books from Sabre for distribution. Twenty pallets are to be distributed to Bayero University, Kano and the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, while the remaining twenty pallets are to be distributed according to criteria laid down by the Sabre Foundation. As for the impact of the books, the NBT has yet to assess that.

SOURCES OF NBT'S FUNDS

As an NGO, the NBT depends solely on the contributions of its Board of Trustees, and on the administrative charges on books distributed to its beneficiaries.

PROBLEMS OF THE NBT

As a newly established NGO, the NBT is grappling with the problems of sourcing funds, permanent offices, etc. to enable it to operate effectively and efficiently.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the initial 'teething' problems of the NBT, the following successes have been recorded:

- i. The Trust has sponsored and pioneered the development of computer application software programmes in three major Nigerian languages. The software is for communication, education, entertainment and productivity.
- ii. The Trust has established a central library at its main office for the use of the general public and school children.
- iii. The Trust has been providing free computer and internet training services using the language-based soft ware to the public and research fellows.
- v. The Trust has conducted, in conjunction with the University of North Texas, an ICT Training programme for fifty Nigerian librarians from universities, schools, and public libraries.
- vi. The NBT has successfully conducted a sensitization workshop for selected school principals.

NBT BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The NBT is being run and managed by the following Board of Trustees:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alhai Sanusi Abdullahi Nassarawa | Chairman/Executive Director |
| 2. Alhaji Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna | Member |
| 3. Alhaji Jibrin Yahaya Harbau | Member |
| 4. Alhaji Aminu Wambai | Member |
| 5. Aihaji Farouk M. Yabo | Secretary General |

Signed

Sanusi Abdullahi Nassarawa
Board of Trustees Chairman.