



\*Timothy



\*Jennifer, front (right) with other participants at Disney animal kingdom.

**T**HE first annual event held at Walt Disney Resort from April 19-25 mobilized the young leaders to address the critical issues facing the planet. The participants were selected by Dr Goodall, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and partner organizations.

All the attendees were outstanding young people with a strong history of community service and demonstrated leadership qualities. For example, I am very passionate about Journalism and Community development, and is actively involved in different youth leadership and volunteering programme and currently works as a Project Ambassador for One World Youth Project, participants in a youth-led non-profit organization link schools in different parts of the world in learning partnership and cultural exchange. This project enables participants discover friendship across borders, recognize the challenges that face our world and inspire them to take action on UN MDGs, thus contributing to the emergence of a more knowledgeable and compassionate generation.

The Jane Goodall Institute's competencies in community-centred, conservation and youth education made it particularly well-suited to organize the Global Youth Summit. Dr Goodall, who founded JGI in 1977, is inspirational "proof" that one committed individual can make a world of difference. And her message of hope speaks directly to young people. In a welcome letter to all participants, Dr. Goodall wrote "This is going to be an exciting and, I think, significant event. As we all know, there is an awful lot wrong in our world today, both environmentally and socially. But every time I am with a group of talented, thoughtful and committed youth, I feel a surge of hope..."

Over the course of the summit, the participants were able to dialogue with a dynamic panel of experts, share cross-cultural ideas, strengthen their leadership skills and build strategies and best practices which they can use to address the issues which they feel are most urgent, from poverty to climate change, to wildlife conservation. The most unique was breaking down cultural collaboration needed to solve the world's greatest problems and protect the future for posterity. They also had the opportunity to participate in the 10th anniversary celebration of Disney's Animal Kingdom.

At the summit, the participant worked with Mobile Learning Institute, a Pearson Foundation-Nokia alliance. The Institute created a forum which enabled all the participants work in small groups to create a short digital advocacy film about

## Youths for change

A year-two Nigerian Institute of Journalism student, Jennifer Ehidiemen recently returned from a life-changing one week trip to Lake Buena Vista, Florida US. She was one of the 100 youths from six continents and 28 countries brought together by world-renowned Primatologist, Jane Goodall to attend the Global Youth Summit.

difficult issues.

Other areas of intense learning for empowerment includes: climate change, involving people with disabilities in service programme, making media headline, wildlife conservation, Humane Education, discovering your leadership compass etc. These sessions were facilitated by experts on the field. For instance, David Shurma, Global Explorers program instructor during the Action Planning workshop used his wealth of experience to help each participant identify their personal service goal and layout concrete plan of action to make a positive difference in their local community.

"The up-close and personal session with Dr Goodall herself was life changing. She believes so much in the power of youths. This session strengthened my faith that indeed there is hope in our future despite the ills and corruption in Nigeria today. "There were times during the summit when learning about all the issues/

problems in the world left me exhausted. But my enthusiasm was quickly rekindled after brainstorming with other youths who are equally committed to working for a positive change."

For me and the other Nigerian representative, Timothy Oghene (from Delta State), the experience was not about one person standing on the pedestal and shouting for change. "It is about joining hearts and joining hands to take tangible action locally to effect the positive change want to see in the world. It is a big responsibility," she further explains.

At the end of the conference, the young leaders were better equipped with a "tool box for changing the world" and at the end of the summit, they headed home with a commitment and action plan to make positive change happen and the hope that -together- they can make the world a better place.

"The time I spent with these amazing young people has been incredibly

stimulating and moving", said Dr Goodall, who is also the founder of Roots & Shoots, a youth-focused environmental and humanitarian organization which currently engages about 100,000 youths all over the world. "I know I speak for everyone involved when I say we left the summit energized, inspired and filled with new ideas for encouraging others to bring about a more peaceful world" she added.

Dr Goodall, JGI and participants expressed their gratitude to the Summit's partners and corporate sponsors- Disney, Whirlpool Corporation, Delta Airlines and the Mobile Learning Institute, who share in the commitment to build the youths and empower them to become responsible leaders of tomorrow.

\*For more information about Global Youth Summit, Please visit [www.globalyouthsummit.org](http://www.globalyouthsummit.org). If you will like to get involved in Jennifer's local project, contact her on [youthmakingchange@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:youthmakingchange@yahoo.co.uk)

## 'Education gives you the right to compete with others'

By Omolara Akintoye

**E** DUCATION is knowledge and wisdom because it cannot be quantified with anything says Mrs Grate! Okoro who recently graduated from the University of Lagos.

Okoro, a graduate of English Language from the Faculty of Arts is happy that education has given her the right to compete with others. "I had to further my education after getting married because when I finished my secondary school, I came to Lagos from the village to stay with my uncle. Incidentally, the wife was a fashion designer, and she is a German. I wanted to do other things, but my uncle said I should do this work. That it was all right for me. From there, I joined the wife in the fashion business and I could not further my education again until after I got married, recalls Mrs Okoro.

She added that she went back higher education because of her desire for knowledge. Education is very important now, without education you are nothing. Education gives you knowledge and power to speak wherever you are. Education gives you wisdom. When one is educated, he/she

will have more wisdom, no one will be able to bully you around. You will be wise. You will know your rights in this country' Okoro noted.

Because she is now better equipped, Mrs Okoro says: "I'm going to the fashion business in a bigger way. This time around, we are going to get a bigger shop, engage more people in the designing work. If necessary, I would go abroad to learn the English part of it. Definitely, I will learn the traditional designs here."

Speaking about her dress sense, Mrs Okoro said she like to dress in a ladylike manner, "I don't like to dress like a man. I like skirt and blouse either long or midi, I like to tie my head tie if it need be.

"I like hairdos that suit my face, I like styles that will not be too small or too big for my face. Sometimes, I tell the hairdresser to choose style for me especially when I have an outing.

How has she been able to juggle the work of a housewife, student and her business together, Mrs Okoro said "Whenever my



\* Okoro

husband is not around, I sometimes skip school so that I can take good care of the home and children especially their school work. I arrange my house and put them together before I leave for school.

"Combining the home front and her studies has not been easy but God has been faithful to me, I go quietly and come back quietly depending on my schedule"