My Desire to be a part of the NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp, 2012

I wish to express my desire to be a part of this year's NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp. At present, I am a Ph.D. student with the Dongwu Business School, and the Centre for Enterprise Innovation and Development, Soochow University, Suzhou. My research interests comprise Entrepreneurial Finance, Financial Innovations and System, as well as Competition and Strategy.

My choice of Entrepreneurial Finance is predicated upon my desire to have a better understanding of the theories and principles behind financing small businesses. I concur with studies that have established that Entrepreneurs create businesses with a view to solving identified problems or opportunity gaps. Ironically, only a few of the studies focus on the development of small businesses in Africa. Yet, financing opportunities for small businesses remain a big challenge to small business owners in Africa and other developing countries. The need to establish this assertion scientifically motivated my ongoing study on "Innovative Financing Options for Small Businesses in Africa; Challenges and Opportunities."

This study seeks to provide an evaluative overview of Small Business Financing literature, in which the issues of small business finance, financing options, and financing decision making feature as central components underlying the causes, the process, and the outcome of the financing options available to small businesses in Africa. The convergent findings, in terms of conceptual and empirical issues, will be discussed. I believe that the finding from this study would help set forth the need for innovative financing options for small businesses in Africa. This would be of benefit to the policy decision makers and the providers of funds for small business owners. I also believe that this study would help stimulate a positive thinking within the academics, most especially in the field of Economics and Finance, on the need for committed empirical studies on financing small businesses in Africa.

In addition, I am also involved in the study of competitive advantage in the mobile telecommunications industry in Nigeria. This study seeks to provide a simplified evaluation of the positioning success of Glomobile (Nigeria) Ltd., in the Nigerian telecommunications industry. Following the privatization of this industry in 2001, five private companies have been granted the license to provide the GSM services for the teeming population in Nigeria. Today, the Nigerian telecommunication industry is adjudged the most competitive in Africa. Our choice of Glomobile is based on two facts; the company remains the only surviving indigenous firm owned and managed by an entrepreneur in the GSM mobile service sector, and next to MTN, it maintains the highest subscribers base, which it attained three months after it started operations in 2003. Hence, this study seeks to identify the competitive strategies employed by Glomobile in order to sustain its competitive positioning in this industry.

Please find attached a copy of my curriculum vitae, the list of the courses, which I have completed, as well as those I am currently taking. The current semester will be rounded off in the first week of July, 2012. The recommendation letters required will be sent directly to Brett Maranjian. I am optimistic that if I am granted the opportunity to be a part of this programme, it would be an opportunity to enrich my knowledge and skills in the field of Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Finance.

I look forward to receiving your favourable response. Thank you.

SHITTU, Ayodele Ibrahim

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苏州大学企业创新和发展研究中心
Center for Enterprise Innovation and Development , Soochow University

Prof. Jielin Dong

Soochow University

Dongwu Business School

March 19, 2012

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you to support the application of Mr. Shittu Ayodele Ibrahim for the program of the NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp.

Mr. Shittu Ayodele Ibrahim is working under my supervision for his Ph.D. thesis in the areas of Entrepreneurial Finance, Financial Innovations and System, etc. He is an excellent student with passion and intelligence on this subject. He has finished necessary courses to fully taking advantages of the NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp.

As a student from Africa, I believe this education opportunity in the United States is especially important and precious for Mr. Shittu Ayodele Ibrahim, which I deeply appreciate since I was a foreign student of Carnegie Mellon University from the under-developed China 30 years ago. I wish you could accept Mr. Shittu Ayodele Ibrahim to the NBER Boot Camp and provide him scholarship, which could make a great impact to him and his country in future.

If any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Prof. Jielin Dong (EMAIL: jielindong@gmail.com)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria

Professor Omololu Soyombo
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22nd March, 2012

The Coordinator
5th Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (ERBC)
United States of America

LETTER OF REFERENCE

I write in support of Mr. Ayodele Ibrahim Shittu's application to participate in the 5th Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (ERBC) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Shittu is an academic staff of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Lagos, and is currently on approved Study Leave from the University to pursue his Ph.D. (Finance) degree programme at the Dongwu Business School and Centre for Enterprise Innovation and Development, Soochow University, China. Since joining the academic staff of the Department of Economics, University of Lagos, Mr. Shittu has shown himself to be very diligent and consistent. He is very resourceful and has a very promising academic future ahead of him. His areas of research interest include Entrepreneurial Finance, Financial Innovations and System and is currently conducting a study on "Innovative Financing Options for Small Businesses in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities". This is a subject that is of high relevance to the financing of businesses in contemporary Nigeria in particular and Africa in general. Mr. Shittu's study and academic programme, as well as his future career plan in Nigeria will, no doubt, benefit immensely from his participation in the 5th Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (ERBC). It is in this regard that I strongly recommend him for selection for participation in the Boot Camp.

Mr. Shittu has a good personality and is physically and emotionally stable.

I strongly recommend him for selection for participation in the 5th Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (ERBC).

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Omololu Soyombo
Professor and Dean



Name: SHITTU, Ayodele Ibrahim

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East Campus, Soochow University
50, Donghua Road, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, P.R. China.
Phone: +86-18862109679
Email: shittuayodele9197@yahoo.co.uk

Date of Birth: July 16, 1980
Place of Birth: Lagos, Nigeria

Qualifications

2011-Date: Soochow University, Suzhou. (Degree in view, Ph.D., Finance)

2006-2008: M.Sc. (Economics), University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

1999-2005: B.Sc. (Hons) Econs., University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria.

1998-2000: OND (Accountancy), Yaba College of Technology, Yaba-Lagos, Nigeria.

Academic Experience

2010.11-Date: Assistant Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

2010.01 Graduate Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

2005.08 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Benue State University, Makurdi, Benue State, Nig.

Research Interests:

Primary Interests; Entrepreneurial Finance, Financial System and Innovations

Others; Financial Econometrics, Competitions and Strategy

Academic Association:

Student member, American Finance Association

Publications

SHITTU, A.I (2012) Financial Intermediation and Economic Growth in Nigeria, *British Journal of Arts and Social Sciences,* Vol 4(2), pp. 164-179.

Ongoing Researches (In Progress)

[1]. Competitive Advantage in the Nigerian Mobile Telecommunications Industry: A Case Study of Globacom, Nigeria with Jelin Dong and Li. J.

[2]. Innovative Financing Options for Small Businesses in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.

LIST OF CURRENT AND COMPLETED COURSES

2011/ 2012 ACADEMIC SESSION

Common Courses:

Course Title	Study Period/ credit	Semester	Status
Chinese language	108 periods/ 4 credits	First Semester	Completed
Survey of China	36 periods/ 2 credits	First Semester	Completed

Basic Courses:

Course Title	Study Period/ credit	Semester	Status
Theory and Policy of Finance	54 periods/ 3 credits	First Semester	Completed
International Finance	36 periods/ 2 credits	First Semester	Completed

Course Title	Study Period/ credit	Semester	Sttus
Theory and Practice of International Trade	54 periods/ 3 credits	Second Semester	Current
Econometrics	54 periods/ 3 credits	Second Semester	Current
International Economics	36 periods/ 2 credits	Second Semester	Current
China Economics	36 periods/ 2 credits	Second Semester	Current
Organizational Behavior & Management of Human Resources	36 periods/ 2 credits	Second Semester	Current