

OPENING ADDRESS

GLOBAL CERTIFICATION ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

CISA, AAIA AND ACCA DATA ANALYTICS FOR FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

Distinguished facilitators, respected professionals, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this important Global Certification Orientation Programme organized by A. J. Silicon. I sincerely appreciate everyone who has created time to join this session, particularly at a period when professionals are under increasing pressure to remain relevant, competitive and globally visible.

Today's programme focuses on three important global certification pathways: CISA, Certified Information Systems Auditor; AAIA, Advanced in Artificial Intelligence Audit; and ACCA Data Analytics for Finance Professionals. These programmes have been carefully selected because they speak directly to the realities of the modern workplace and the future of the accountancy, audit, risk, compliance, finance and assurance professions.

The world of work has changed significantly. Technology is no longer a support function sitting somewhere in the background. It is now at the centre of business operations, governance, internal control, audit, reporting, risk management and decision-making. Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity threats, data analytics, digital finance, regulatory technology and automated business processes are redefining the skills required of today's professionals.

For accountants, auditors, finance professionals, bankers, consultants, risk managers, compliance officers and IT professionals, the message

is very clear. Technical knowledge alone is no longer enough. Professional relevance now requires a strong understanding of technology, data, systems, controls, digital risks and emerging assurance models.

This is why global certifications have become increasingly important. They provide structured learning, international recognition, professional credibility and access to wider career opportunities. More importantly, they help professionals to demonstrate competence in areas that employers, regulators and clients now consider critical.

CISA remains one of the most respected certifications for professionals involved in information systems audit, control, governance, cybersecurity assurance, risk management and compliance. ACCA Data Analytics for Finance Professionals provides finance and accounting professionals with practical exposure to data-driven decision-making, analytics tools and digital finance skills. AAIA addresses the emerging area of artificial intelligence audit, AI governance, AI risk management and digital assurance, which will become increasingly important as organizations adopt AI-enabled systems.

At A. J. Silicon, our objective is not merely to introduce certification programmes. Our broader mission is to support professionals in building the capacity required to compete locally and globally. We believe that Nigerian professionals can stand shoulder to shoulder with colleagues in any part of the world, provided they acquire the right skills, the right exposure and the right certifications.

This orientation has therefore been designed to help participants understand the value of these certifications, the career opportunities they create, the structure of the programmes, and the practical steps required to begin the journey. We have assembled experienced facilitators who will share insights on AAIA, CISA, ACCA Data Analytics and the broader career opportunities in IT audit, data

analytics, artificial intelligence audit, risk management and digital assurance.

I encourage every participant to listen attentively, ask questions and reflect deeply on personal career direction. The future belongs to professionals who are willing to learn, unlearn and relearn. It belongs to those who are prepared to move beyond traditional boundaries and embrace new areas of competence.

Let me also emphasize that the decision to pursue a global certification should not be seen merely as an academic exercise. It is an investment in professional relevance, career mobility, confidence, credibility and long-term value. Whether you are already established in your career or just beginning your professional journey, this is an opportunity to position yourself for the emerging digital economy.

On behalf of A. J. Silicon, I warmly welcome you once again to this orientation programme. I thank our distinguished facilitators for accepting to share their knowledge and experience. I also thank all participants for joining us.

I wish us all a fruitful, engaging and impactful session.

Thank you and God bless you all.