

Nii Narku Quaynor: Father of the Internet in Africa



Nii Narku Quaynor, Ph.D. ('father of the Internet in Africa') pioneered Internet development and expansion throughout Africa for nearly two decades, establishing some of Africa's first Internet connections and helping set up key organizations, including the African Network Operators Group. He also was the founding chairman of AfriNIC, the African Internet numbers registry.

He graduated in engineering science from Dartmouth College, a private Ivy League research university in Hanover, New Hampshire in 1972 and received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College in 1973, he studied Computer Science and earned a M.S. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (a public university located in Stony Brook, New York) in 1974 and a Ph.D. from the same institution in 1977. He helped establish the Computer Science Department at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, where he has taught since 1979.

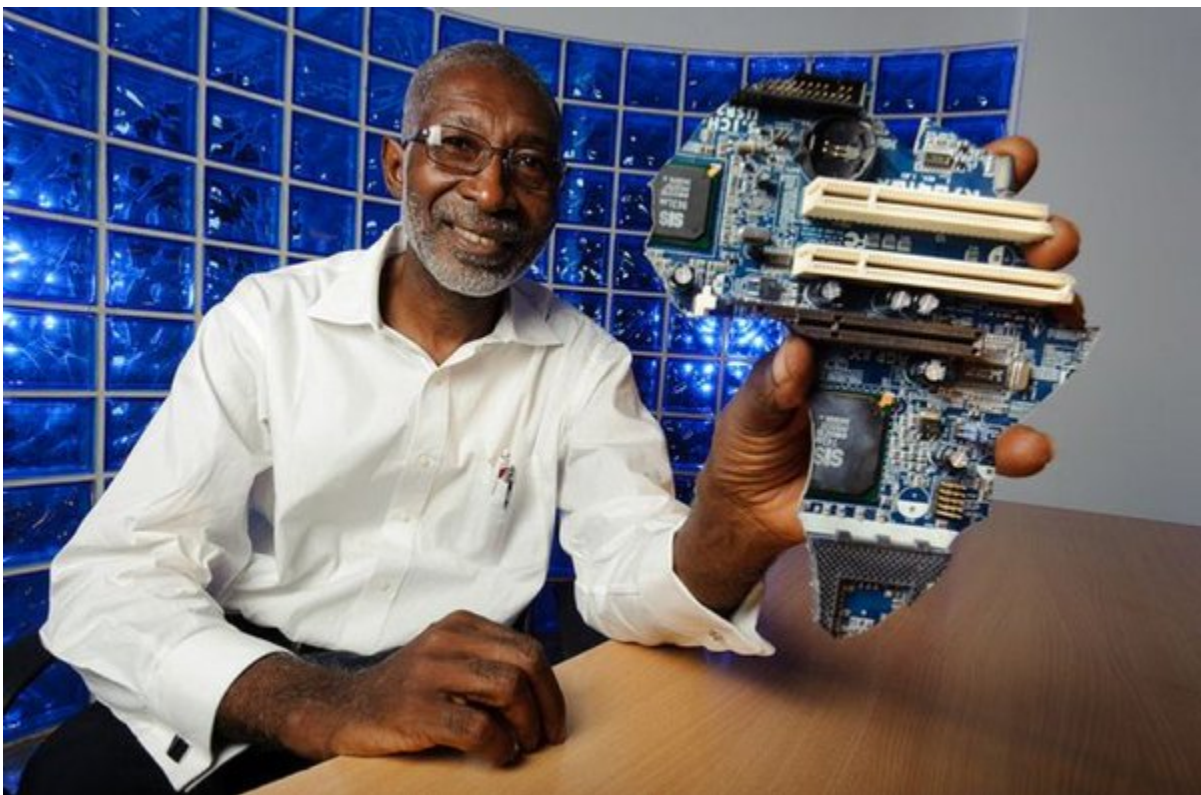
He was the first African person to be elected to the board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and served as an at-large director of ICANN for the African region from 2000 to 2003; he was a member of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Group on ICT, chair of the Organization of African Unity Internet Task Force and President of the Internet Society of Ghana; in 2007 the Internet Society (a global cause-driven organization dedicated to ensuring that the Internet stays open, and transparent) awarded him the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award for his pioneering work in advancing the Internet in Africa; he is a member of the Council of the University of Ghana, and he is a member of the IGF Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group. He is also a member of the Global Commission on Internet Governance that provides recommendations and practical advice on the future of the Internet with the primary objective of creating "One Internet" that is protected, accessible to all and trusted by everyone. Quaynor is also a member of the Diamond Club at the University of Cape Coast, a strategic thrust of the University aimed at recognizing some key stakeholders by providing a platform for harnessing ideas and mobilizing resources to help develop the University. Unselfishly, he has assisted several African nations strengthen their Internet networks; notable among them were Togo, Gambia, Nigeria, Liberia, Swaziland and Ethiopia (in addition other nations in the world). His Twitter handle is niinarkuquaynor.

A

Actually I don't know, but perhaps I made a lot of effort to get my colleagues to understand and to participate and to begin to contribute to the internet. And I have been fortunate with a very good educational background and so I also wanted to impart the knowledge and I was a major contributor in building some of the important technical institutions that make up the internet ecosystem in Africa. In the process of doing that a lot of people perhaps felt that my leadership was good for them, and you might say, gave me that kind of description.

---- Nii Narku Quaynor

Source: Meet Africa's 'Father of the Internet' (*African Voices* [September 2013] meets Ghanaian Internet pioneer Professor Nii Quaynor); <http://www.cnn.com/videos/international/2013/09/02/african-voices-nii-quaynor-a.cnn>; accessed July 17, 2017, 7:40 PM California.



B

Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies, vol.10, no.7, 2017