



AKWA IBOM TECH WEEK

Impact Report
2025

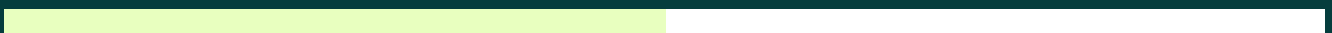


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A Bridge Built From the "Land of Promise"

Six years ago, Akwa Ibom was not this bold on the global technology map. Today;

- Founders from Uyo are pitching and exhibiting at global summits.
- Students from rural communities are building AI solutions.
- African languages are being digitized.
- Local startups are solving global problems.

Akwa Ibom Tech Week (AKTW), powered by Ibom Innovation Network (IIN), has evolved from a regional gathering into a continental innovation movement — connecting **local talent to global capital, global conversations, and global markets.**

This report captures the measurable and human impact of that journey.

The Transformation Timeline

2021

Laying the Foundation

The debut of Akwa Ibom Tech Week (AKTW) served as the ecosystem's "**big bang**" moment. It was the first deliberate step toward organizing fragmented local talent into a cohesive innovation community.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 1. Ecosystem Mapping:** Initiated the first formal census of tech hubs, developers, and early-stage founders.
- 2. Validation of Local Talent:** Proved that world-class hardware and software solutions were already being built in Uyo.
- 3. Youth Positioning:** Focused on shifting the mindset of local youth toward global competitiveness and digital literacy.

The 2021 Akitech Pitch Competition: The inaugural challenge identified high-impact ventures solving critical regional problems with scalable potential:

- **Winner (#1 Million):** Alpha 1 Tech (Kingsley Ekanem) – Developed locally-fabricated medical oxygen generators, addressing critical healthcare infrastructure gaps.
- **1st Runner-Up (#500,000):** Iko Ibom – An early mover in the digitization of African heritage through a language learning application.
- **2nd Runner-Up (#300,000):** EelSpace – A marketplace platform designed to bridge the trust gap between SMEs and technical talent.

2021 established the cultural cornerstone:

- Initial community trust
- Proof of local problem-solving
- Seed funding for grassroots builders

It signalled one core message:
The "Land of Promise" is ready to produce.



2023

Building on the Foundation



Akwa Ibom Tech Week 2023 marked a decisive shift: **From technology conversations to ecosystem construction.**

KEY OUTCOMES

1. Strengthened local developer and founder networks
2. Created structured innovation challenge pathways
3. Attracted diaspora participation
4. Positioned Uyo as an emerging innovation cluster

2023 Established the Intellectual Infrastructure

- Structured mentorship
- Industry partnerships
- Startup visibility frameworks
- Policy-level conversations around digital economy

It signaled one core message: **Akwa Ibom is ready to build.**



2024

Grassroots Innovation Meets Excellence



In 2024, the movement deepened. One moment captured the spirit of the year: Students from **Adiaha Obong** won the Innovation Challenge with a remote fish-farming monitoring system — an AI-powered agritech solution born from a local problem. This was more than a competition win.

It demonstrated three powerful ecosystem shifts:

1. Rural innovation can compete globally.
2. Young builders can create scalable solutions.
3. Local problems can produce exportable technologies.

2024 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Expansion of Innovation Challenge participation
2. Increased institutional partnerships
3. Growth in women-led participation
4. Strengthened industry–education linkages
5. Akwa Ibom was no longer consuming innovation — it was producing it.



2025

From Local Stage to Global Platform



Akwa Ibom Tech Week 2025 became the most internationally positioned edition yet.



2500+

Paid Attendees



22+

Specialized Sessions



36

Expert Speakers



22

Exhibitors



18

Featured Innovators



Dedicated Women in Tech Day

But beyond metrics, 2025 produced export-ready outcomes.

Case Studies: Innovation With Measurable Impact

ACAD AI – Reimagining Education Through Artificial Intelligence

Winner of the Ibom Air Innovation Prize 2025

What they built:

- AI-powered exam creation
- Automated grading (objective + theory)
- Instant student feedback
- Malpractice detection
- Auditable transparency systems

Impact

1. Saves teachers hundreds of hours annually
2. Reduces bias in grading
3. Improves learning outcomes
4. Enables scalable assessment systems

Global Leap

- Awarded a fully sponsored trip to the 2026 Global Web Summit in Qatar, funded by Lumo Hubs.

This created another opportunity where an Akwa Ibom startup transitions directly from a regional innovation challenge to a global technology summit stage. That is ecosystem exportation in action.



USEM AI — Preserving 2,000+ African Languages

Without intervention, 523 African languages risk extinction by 2100.

USEM AI is building:

- 1. Indigenous LLMs
- 2. Voice agents
- 3. Text-to-speech systems
- 4. Learning tools
- 5. Digitization frameworks for African languages like Ibibio

Impact

- 1. Cultural preservation at scale
- 2. Educational inclusion for marginalized language communities
- 3. Digital access expansion
- 4. AI development rooted in African epistemology

This is not just a startup, It is linguistic sovereignty through technology.

PowerLabs — Clean Energy for Productivity

PowerLabs delivers:

- 1. AI-powered solar inverters
- 2. Renewable mini-grid systems
- 3. Climate tech solutions

Impact:

- 1. Reduced fossil fuel dependence
- 2. Stable electricity for homes and SMEs
- 3. Increased agricultural productivity
- 4. Economic resilience

PowerLabs demonstrates how climate technology can originate from emerging ecosystems and compete globally.



Straqa – AI Operating System for African SMEs

African SMEs account for:

90% for Businesses

60% for GDP

Straqa provides:

1. Sales management
2. Inventory systems
3. Payment tracking
4. AI-powered business intelligence

Impact

1. Increased SME efficiency
2. Reduced business failure rates
3. Improved accountability
4. Scalable digital transformation

Jemfave — Secure Campus Commerce

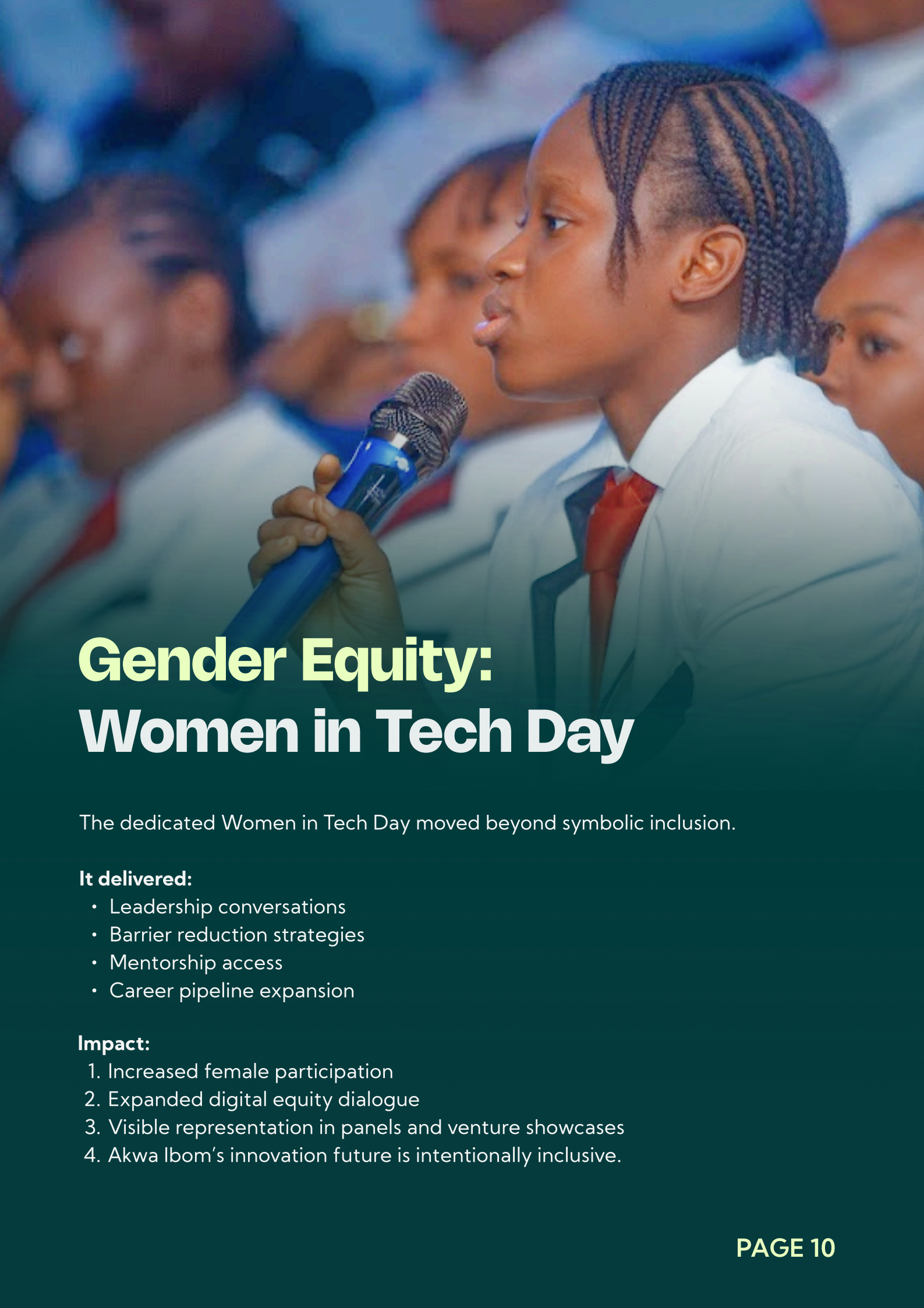
Jemfave addresses:

1. Vendor verification
2. Escrow-secured transactions
3. Student marketplace access

Impact:

1. Youth employment
2. Vendor income stability
3. Reduced security risks
4. Entrepreneurial opportunity within campuses





Gender Equity: Women in Tech Day

The dedicated Women in Tech Day moved beyond symbolic inclusion.

It delivered:

- Leadership conversations
- Barrier reduction strategies
- Mentorship access
- Career pipeline expansion

Impact:

1. Increased female participation
2. Expanded digital equity dialogue
3. Visible representation in panels and venture showcases
4. Akwa Ibom's innovation future is intentionally inclusive.

Economic and Social Impact

Across three years, Akwa Ibom Tech Week has catalyzed:

Talent acceleration

1. Hundreds transitioned into global tech roles
2. Developers connected to remote-first startups
3. Founders matched with mentors and investors

Job creation

- Direct startup employment
- Indirect ecosystem jobs
- Student vendor marketplaces
- Renewable energy field operations

Ecosystem Identity Shift

Akwa Ibom has moved from:

- Technology consumer to Technology producer and exporter

Akwa Ibom Tech Week aligns with:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ESG-driven innovation frameworks
- African Union digital transformation agenda
- Global South ecosystem emergence theory

This is not a conference.
It is regional economic transformation infrastructure.

Capital attraction

- International sponsorships
- Diaspora-backed funding exposure
- Global summit participation



Metrics at a Glance (2025 Edition)

2500+

Paid Attendees

22+

Specialized Sessions

36

Expert Speakers

18

Featured Innovators

22

Exhibitors

40+

Innovation Challenge Applications

16

Semi-Finalists

8

Top Ventures Selected

5

International-Level Judges

Sponsors/Partners



Indigenous Startups With Global Potential

Showcased ventures included:

CollectWire – Cross-border payroll infrastructure

DefComm – Military-grade encryption, Africa's first privacy phone

PowerLabs – Renewable energy systems

Straqa – AI-powered SME OS

ACAD AI – Education AI infrastructure

Jemfave – Secure campus marketplace

Schexus – AI-driven student performance analytics

USEM AI – African language AI ecosystem

StayEasy – Cloud hotel management for African hospitality

Each represents a vertical in the global tech economy:

- Fintech.
- Defense Tech.
- EdTech.
- Climate Tech.
- GovTech.
- SME Infrastructure.
- Language AI.

Akwa Ibom is building a diversified innovation portfolio.

The Shift in Mindset

The most powerful metric is not attendance, it is belief.

Students now believe they can build from Uyo and scale globally.
Founders now see venture pathways.

Corporations now recognize local talent.
Diaspora organizations now reinvest locally.

This is psychological infrastructure.



The Road Ahead

The bridge has been built.
The ecosystem has been activated.
The world has begun to notice.

- Akwa Ibom State is emerging as:
- A regional innovation capital
 - A climate-tech experimentation zone
 - A language AI frontier
 - A youth-driven digital economy

From 2023 to 2025, Akwa Ibom Tech Week has proven that global relevance can rise from local conviction.

The next chapter is not participation, it is global competitiveness.

