

AFRILABS ANNUAL GATHERING

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Report



26TH - 27TH OCTOBER, 2022

AT
CIELA RESORT, CHONGWE,
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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The AfriLabs Annual Gathering was the latest milestone in a series of gatherings held in Ghana in 2016, Egypt in 2017, Tanzania in 2018, Ethiopia in 2019, online in 2020 and Nigeria in 2021. In Lusaka, 2022, the theme of this conference was “Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation”.

Over 350 people participated in the gathering, including Zambia’s Technology and Science Minister, Hon. Felix Mutati, senior government officials, board members and all guests.

The gathering had joint Masters of Ceremony namely Mark Dodsworth from South Africa and Amina Kaunda from Zambia. Various speakers were elected for the Gathering. The Gathering programme is given in (Annex 1)

Introduction

Proceedings

OPENING SESSION



The welcome address was given by Jennifer Okeke-Ojiudu, the Ecosystem Events Manager at AfriLabs. She welcomed the AfriLabs community, entrepreneurs, partners and innovators to Zambia for the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2022. Jennifer encouraged the community to network, get to know everyone and look forward to an exciting three day of impact driven conversations. She closed her speech by appreciating her team and the AfriLabs Board for the support provided for the event.



The opening session was addressed by Moetaz Helmy, Board Chair AfriLabs, who declared the AfriLabs Annual Gathering officially open at the end of his statement. Lukonga Lindunda, Co-founder of Bongo Hive, then gave the welcoming remarks, followed by Joseph Chakopo, CEO of Nyamuka Africa Solutions and followed by Patrick Shatamuka of W.A.E.C and then by Mara Michelo C.E.O of Jacaranda Hub.



Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director of AfriLabs gave the welcoming remarks. Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science of the Republic of Zambia delivered a speech and this was followed by a fireside chat with Anna Ekeledo.



The official opening ceremony of the Gathering concluded with a cultural poem by Dexter Fundanga

Moetaz Helmy in his welcoming address stated that AfriLabs had reached more than 400 tech innovation hubs across 52 African Countries and that Zambia in recent years had stood out for its interventions to support the innovation ecosystem. He mentioned that AfriLabs was very proud of the bold steps that the government and other key stakeholders have taken through collaboration and effort to build an ecosystem that can encourage tech and digital ventures. He added that the network aims to explore ways which can improve innovation support and tackle well-known challenges. He thanked the partners and sponsors for helping make the event possible. He welcomed on stage the consortium members that hosted the event of 2022, Bongo Hive, WEAC, Nyamuka Africa and Jacaranda Hub.

In his remarks, Lukonga Lindunda, Co-Founder of Bongo Hive shared a brief background of how he envisioned starting a hub while in Nairobi and the

journey of consultations he had with iHub. He further hoped that during the Gathering and in the days to follow, what all participants should take away should be an understanding and realisation of why and what one does and he again hoped that in the next 20 years, they remain relevant. He ended by stating that he was thrilled to be part of the opportunity to be able to meet with everyone to create the right platforms for everyone to engage in and also to get everyone to know what Zambia is about because together, he stated, “we change the world.”



Joseph Chakopo in his remarks explained that Nyamuka means rise and he believes that this was the right time to get up and get started because now is the right time for Africa to arise and provide a solution to the problems Africans face. He believes that it is time to collaborate and forge partnerships that would ensure that, “as Africans, we get up and get started.”



Patrick Shatamuka welcomed everyone to Zambia and also expressed that WAEC has always looked forward to contributing to enterprise development. He added that he was ecstatic to be part of the agenda of driving innovation and entrepreneurship across Africa.



Mara Michelo in her remarks conveyed how related she was to host everyone in Zambia. She encouraged everyone to stay on course because the people that are changing Africa were part of the Gathering. Additionally, she stated that start-ups had yielded results and what was remaining was to create an impact in Africa through interactions, partnerships and collaboration.

Acknowledging the presence of Hon. Felix Mutati and having the pleasure of introducing him to the audience as one of Zambia's outstanding politicians, the first ever ACCA global advocacy award winner and ACCA brand ambassador, Anna Ekeledo's overall welcome address centred on it being imperative to create an enabling environment for innovation and technology to thrive in Africa and the importance of the multiple stakeholders being committed to building Africa and thereby reaping the potential to create wealth, to improve quality of life, to promote peace, social security and unity that would come from achieving goals, and further stressed that was why we everyone was Gathering in Zambia. Furthermore in her address, she stated that the 2022 Annual Gathering theme was chosen to highlight the importance and need for continuous dialogue among African continental partners to improve cross-sectional collaboration and connectivity to solve Africa's problems by African innovators and creators. She stated that it was the responsibility of everyone to determine the next stage of development for the African continent and she encouraged everyone to take full advantage of the networking opportunities, insightful panel discussions, workshops and resources which would be shared over the next 3 days.

Keynote Address

by **Hon. Felix Mutati**



In the delivery of his keynote address, Hon. Felix Mutati was honoured to have Zambia host the AfriLabs Gathering and he also recognized the presence of the various ecosystem partners, Jacaranda Hub in particular for being known for entrepreneurship, innovation, an ecosystem builder always holding arms for young start-ups providing them with connecting services infrastructure and other specialised tools for them to make a difference. Hon. Mutati stated that it was a great moment for Africa because Africans needed to move, evolve and thrive for the current and future generations. He added that Africans needed to get to a place they had never been before and he felt that something needed to be done that had never been done before and he believed that is why everyone came together to the AfriLabs Annual Gathering. He highlighted that AfriLabs played a critical role in enhancing the various innovation platforms that deal with the most pressing problems in Africa. He addressed the issue of language barriers in Africa being a hindrance to moving forward and also encouraged everyone to practise UBUNTU, which he translated as collaboration. He thanked the critical ecosystem players in Zambia, Bongo Hive, Nyamuka Africa and Jacaranda Hub for the work they were doing in terms of levelling the playing field. He urged young innovators to exercise patience and demonstrate good work ethics and closed by stating that when the sun shines, Africa must keep running.

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When the sun shines Africa keeps running

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Fireside Chat

A conversation with Hon. Felix Mutati, MP, and Minister of Technology & Science – Zambia by Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director AfriLabs

MODERATED BY ANNA EKELEDO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRILABS



In response to Anna's question to the Minister on what the experience has been with regards to the importance of collaboration and partnerships in Zambia as a Ministry, Hon. Mutati submitted that it was fairly a new Ministry and what they did first was to carry out an assessment of where the ambitions of the country to be a digital economy were. Thereafter, they developed a National Transformation Strategy based on five pillars, then they also dusted up the ICT policy and looked at the various pieces of legislation that were required which included the start-up capital, cyber security and cyber-crime. Furthermore, they had to find ways to begin to work with the Innovators and the creators which have translated into creating platforms of engagement, partnerships and understanding each other.

The question on the harmonisation of trade policies with respect to other African governments he said there was the free trade area where people could transact using

mobile phones as opposed to the old ways of carrying cash giving examples of Tanzania and Kenya as countries where Zambia could trade using the free trade area.

With regards to the question of what the vision was for the Zambian Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem in the next 5 to 10 years and beyond, Hon Mutati indicated that the President of Zambia, H.E Hakainde Hichilema made it clear that Zambia needed to have a paperless economy, a cash light economy going forward.

Concerning the Start-up Act on the importance of collaboration and partnerships in achieving objectives, the Minister alluded that meetings such as the AfriLabs Gathering were the best places to share experiences and learn from each other. Such meetings according to him would help with coming up with the best practices.

Inspirational Speech by Tomi Davies, President ABAN

Tomi Davies' speech centred on the following. That:

- Innovative entrepreneurs are building a stronger and better Africa in the future
- Entrepreneurs were not only creating economic value but they were also delivering social impact.
- Support entities were a critical resource in the development of start-up entities.
- International support when locally led is an accelerator to our development.
- A hub is a collective, a hub is where inventors, investors, business people, facilitators everybody meets
- Innovation is vested in togetherness. You cannot innovate in isolation.



Panel Session 1

THE INTRA-AFRICA CONNECTIVITY, COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION



Speakers: **Nekesa Were**, Director of Strategy, AfriLabs (Moderator), **Dr. Sheila Ochugboju**, Executive Director, Alliance for Science, **Ben Roberts**, Group Chief Technology and Innovation Officer at Liquid Intelligent Technologies Kenya (Virtual), **Kudzai Mubaiwa**, Economic Development Specialist and Board Treasurer AfriLabs, **Lelemba Phiri, PhD**, Principal and Founder Africa Trust Group, **Arjuna Costa**, Managing Partner Flourish Ventures

The Chair of this session was Nekesa Were, Director of Strategy at AfriLabs. She began by giving a brief overview of the topic of discussion and further introduced the panel.

The introductory speaker was Ben Roberts, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer at Liquid Intelligent Technologies. In his introductory address, Ben Roberts gave a brief overview of Africa being connected to the rest of the world but now what is happening in Africa is connecting to itself; an intra-connection. He presented the magnitude of when the internet first came up. It was very expensive and people had to connect many different lines and satellites to get to Europe though it was slowly becoming fair and added that for Africa to benefit from this infrastructure we needed to have an intra-connection. Ben also identified the advancement in internet as no longer being a person-to-server connection but that it was a person-to-person interaction citing WhatsApp video call as an example.

Kudzai Mubaiwa in her discussion on the importance of economic policy looked at it from the government's perspective in that some of the tools like monetary policy, a fiscal policy which are things to do with budgets and tax

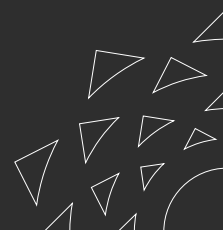
are indicators. He added that people were interested in interacting to the extent that it affects the immediate pocket but then again sitting in a room where innovators, partners and partners in an ecosystem is important, particularly as hubs, as people within networks participate in activities that are done by governments. Additionally, she stated that people needed to be cognisant that no one has greater scale and depth and being pro-creators was the action needed in this case. She further stated that it was important to be part of conversations and policy conversations at inception when governments lay the playing field. She added that young hubs must be assertive enough as a community and must be able to engage relevant stakeholders, especially the government through appropriate ministries to bring a voice to the fore.

In amplifying innovation stories, in augmenting the sentiments by Kudzai, Benson stated that, as a leading innovation centre, media Start-ups are being supported, allowing them to get some financing of about \$20,000 for a Start-up and trying to ensure that their voices are heard.

With regards to inclusion and statistics of representation on boards and the secretariat, there is no retention as seen by Lelemba Phiri whilst building the African innovation ecosystem. She advised that hubs have such a key role to play in building innovation ecosystems and producing and supporting the production of investable quality entrepreneurs. She also emphasised putting gender in focus as current statistics stand at 1% of the investment going to females and only 14% gender diversities meaning that 84% of the investments go to males. She highlighted that funds specifically for women in entrepreneurship were available but the numbers accessing them were very few so she encouraged a larger population of females to come forward, giving an example of the progress being made in Zambia.

In responding to the question about why it is a necessity for an organisation like Aquirachics to exist, Sheila answered in the affirmative and highlighted that she has been involved in innovation for a decade and that they also place emphasis on gender. She stated that Zambia was very inclusive in terms of gender and she informed the gathering that a small-scale farming cooperative of 5,300 farmers cultivating soya beans and led by a woman farmer had just been awarded funding of \$6,000,000 to supply oil to Congo.

Another speaker on the accessibility of skills stated that the issue of skills and digital skilling is co-essential to the conversation. In addition, he stated that the critical function of hubs is to be a convener of the core ingredient of innovation. Furthermore, he stated that hubs needed to think through



what these skills are and what they are needed for and how to deliver them to the people that need them. He also felt that connectivity was also an essential attribute when it comes to inclusion.

As regards the AfriLabs Academy, Ben Roberts stated that when they started, they wanted to find a place to meet start-ups and these start-ups were given free internet and whole partnerships that eventually would lead to development. He added that the focus was not only on major cities but other cities as well because having this connectivity helps hubs and start-ups by enabling them to work with other hubs. He acknowledged that the concept of having hubs enabled people to have international connectivity and collaboration.

Nanko's contribution concerning the academy was that AfriLabs Academy being an online platform and being the very first on the continent targets hubs and puts courses to better operationalize activities but most importantly improves support for communities and innovators. These courses were available to members and those outside the network. She further stated that the academy's key focus was on start-ups and she also encouraged the acquisition of new talent. She also added that so far, there were 300 new signups for the courses and they were free.

Nekesa's question to Arjuna was what kind of inequities have you observed when it comes to the funding landscape, especially in the African landscape? In his response, Arjuna stated that, when he started, one of the major inequities he faced was the lack of gender equality and health funds. He however stated that currently he is surrounded by four smart women and to go about this gender dimension, he stated geography as being a dimension because, under AfriLabs, the capital flow goes to four cities in four countries namely, Cairo, Cape Town, Lagos and Nairobi yet innovation talent and new ideas are democratic across the continent. Another dimension he looked at was the issue of networks adding that a pocket amount of money goes to founders who have strong networks and connections to places like the UK and the US. He also stated the bulk of funding goes to think tanks and this causes a disproportionate and unfairly disproportionate flow of capital. In trying to solve the problem he said a new programme designed to level the playing field had been launched. It is an attempt to focus on women, focus on unrepresented founders and focus on geographies that aren't just those four hubs. Another important message Arjuna had was the issue of mentorship stating that mentors were needed in the ecosystems.

Summary on Candid Conversation with the Audience on Panel 1

- A lot of investment in the market goes to tech companies but it's more to software-based companies and not device manufacturers and since it takes a long time to get returns a lot of investors shy away from investment in this area.
- Feels like people that are funding these initiatives select to fund the person and the person determines how the ecosystem works.
- Conversations in this room and the locals are not involved, this will be done year in, year out without tangible results.
- Need to groom successors in these different hubs instead of the same people working in these hubs or running these hubs.
- Invest in capacity building and the funding will come.

Presentation 1 by GLZ.



OLAF SEIDEL HEAD OF PROJECTS (SOUTH) MAKE-IT AFRICA

Olaf Seidel stated that the project seeks to support innovation and innovation ecosystems and the goal is to work with innovation support organisations. Funding is one of the core components of up-scaling policy and they collaborate to help accelerators, managers or program managers leverage global best practices and create a network around those individuals so that together, they lift the quality of the start-ups that go through their programs. Among other issues they are addressing are exchange and sharing activities and gender imbalance.

Catalytic Africa Presentation



Speakers: *Fadilla Tchoumba*, ABAN, *Peter Nawa*, Entrepreneurship Lead, Bongo Hive, *Simunza Muyangana*, Co-Founder, Bongo Hive

There was a brief presentation on the update that it had been a year since the launch and that it was built on strengthening the African Start-up innovation hub and Angel investor ecosystem on the continent highlighting the objectives. The major update was that since the launch, over 1000 stakeholders have registered on the platform and this includes around 507 hubs, 320 start-ups, 113 Angel Investors and 60 Angel networks. The accomplishments so far have been the development of the end-to-end management platform for Catalytic Africa, forming about 10 transactions in Cameroon, Botswana, Nigeria, Tunisia, Kenya, South Africa, Senegal, Mauritius, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Funds have been invested in start-ups and so far there has been registration of over four million and eighty thousand USA into African start-ups and more than fifty-eight thousand Euros have been distributed to hubs. The Angel Investor network has generated more than thirty thousand Euros. What is next for Catalytic Africa is:

- I. Increase the matching fund board so that we can support more innovative start-ups across the continent.
- II. To create sectors specific from the board. This will allow us to support tech companies in other sectors that will usually attract the capital that is needed
- III. To be more gender sensitive.

A discussion followed and the moderator invited the panellists to reflect on the aspects of the Angel Network. The main points that emerged were with regards to looking for capital for the start-ups, Peter Nawa stated that systems need to be in place first to determine how the money will be disbursed and for what purpose and also a system process to show how money has been utilised. Simunza who is the Vice Chair at Angel Network added that it is the process that encourages the relationship between local investors and start-ups. He further stated that entities must be legally registered with proper documentation of what is required by law in that country. Peter mentioned that the overall challenge start-ups and communities face is that of capital. And to deal with this issue, they have kept in touch with the community and invited them to networking events to get information from them. Simunza added that hubs must be encouraged to find within and outside the network.

The moderator asked Simunza to wear the heart of Angel Network and send a message to the hubs, what would he want to tell them? Simunza responded by stating, "There is an alignment between the Angel and the founder because we are all trying to make money at the very end of the day but the hub also knows that they are not doing free work so they have put up a good company which attracts investment. He encouraged the hubs to work with the founders and make sure that they get to a place where they become investor-ready and investor worthy.

Parallel Workshops

SESSION 1 – USING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TO FOSTER AFRICAN INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT BY AFRILABS RESEARCH GROUP



Speakers: *Courage Asase*, Managing Director, **Node Eight**, Ghana, **Kelvin Dafiaghor**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Artificial Intelligence Hub, Nigeria, **Jeremy Riro**, Fie Labs Innovation Hub, Kenya, **Chioma Ewurum**, Head of Research, Clean Technology Hub, Nigeria, **Odiong Akpan**, Managing Director Caspania, Nigeria, **Dr. Itoro Emembolu(PhD)**, Director TechQuest Lagos, Nigeria.

The discussion was introduced by a brief presentation by Jeremy Riro. The presentation was on cleantech and the renewable energy sector, focusing particularly on sources of funding, sustainability, and target market summarised as green building and infrastructure project end energy efficiencies. The presentation further touched on how to improve energy use in a building one occupies. He also talked about the use of solar in rural and informal settlements. Also presented was carbon emission, how to make transportation and energy within houses greener. Also, the need to look at business models for the purpose of funding.

The presentation that followed was Building and Using Research Capabilities within Hubs and AfriLabs' Support by Odiong Akpan, Managing Director Caspania, Nigeria. Emphasis was on research in collaboration with the AfriLabs research group. The focus was on how you can use research in collaboration with the AfriLabs research group and also how you can use research to determine decision-making and corresponding outcomes. Odiong Akpan gave a brief about what research was, highlighting the types of research and giving an overview of the research process, an insight on research for development, and the AfriLabs research objectives. Also shared were methods on how to engage AfriLabs.

The discussion among the presenters was further enriched by contributions from the group with a collective question being asked “How do we support academic researchers to turn their publications into business ventures and how do we bridge the gap between the academic researchers and innovators?”

In summing up the conclusions of the session, the collective answers were that,

- If hubs tell us real-life issues that they have, you could have students from school working on those projects, trying to find solutions to the problems while learning at the same time and getting real-life experience while in school and supporting the innovation network.
- You could also use research that has already been done and apply it to what you are doing.
- It is also important to document the process so that others know what works and does not, that way, others will not do what does not work but build on and try other methods.

The group also noted the importance of intersectoral collaboration and highlighted the significant progress increasingly being achieved in that direction. While there was still room for further progress in the area, there appeared to be a strong need to start addressing emerging issues, in particular those concerning clean tech and research with collaboration to foster African innovation development.

SESSION 2 – NATIONAL NETWORKS WORKSHOP



Josiah from Ghana Hubs Network opened the workshop by giving a background about the work they do. During the brief background, he recalled a conversation he had with the British Council which was about assisting hubs and enabling them to set up. Thereafter, 10 business and tech hubs were invited and issues that came up were that most support was

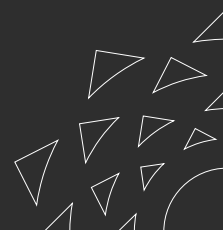
going to major cities like Accra and the conversation was to try to change that. Finally, in 2016 or 2017 they came together to support smaller hubs. That is how Ghana Hubs Network was born because it supports business hubs, tech hubs and ecosystems. Currently, they have a membership of 62 hubs and are pushing to have female hub owners because most of them just work for these hubs.

Steve Chumba from Active Spaces in Cameroon gave a similar background about conversations that led to their set up with the French Embassy funding them with £15,000 to recruit Community Managers to engage the community.

Gibert Rugiya's story from Uganda was slightly different as in their case, they thought of an inclusive approach so they got themselves an association of innovation and entrepreneurship support. They formalised and set up legally in 2018 and then launched in 2019. Starting with three hubs, they now have 32 members across the country. In the past three years, they have had events that deal with capacity building that do training for hubs and hub managers. They also do collective resource organisation and some programmes and activities that are run by members.

Many others shared stories of how they started and stated that they also faced challenges in the process. The takeaway from the meeting was that

- People in different hubs must come together and build a solid front like AfriLabs because that way, it is easier to approach and work with governments and that way the organisation grows even stronger.
- The advice that came from one of the participants was that when building national networks, don't look at major cities, look at the smaller cities as well. The smaller cities always give a far reach.
- People were encouraged to hold gatherings such as the one for AfriLabs but at their level, not as big as AfriLabs. With time and growth, they could have bigger gatherings.
- Another participant said the importance of having a national network is that when the government wants to do innovation and entrepreneurship strategy, they approach those who are in the network and leave those outside the network for any work.
- Another contribution was that during setting up national networks, proper structures must be put in place and also practise what you preach to entrepreneurs, members and hubs. Also, be transparent when it comes to finances and build proper governance structures.
- With regards to a question on how hubs can be strengthened to deliver better programmes in communities and the value of membership is seen, the response was that for example, Ghana Hubs Network focuses on capacity building with a focus on the hub managers because they run the activities.



SESSION 3 – REPORT ON THE SCALE APPROACH FOR EFFECTIVE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT BY WYLDE INTERNATIONAL



Speakers: *Chris Odongo*, CEO of WYLDE International Ltd and Co-founder of SNDBX, Kenya, who was the moderator **Franciscah Nzanga**, Chief Operations Officer at Villgro Africa, Kenya, **Maurice Caschingo**, Managing Director KumasiHive Ghana, **Sheilah Birgen**, Country Lead KTN Global Alliance Africa(GAA), Kenya, **John Rexford Nzira**, Executive Director, Twende Social Innovation Centre, Tanzania.

After the brief discussions by the panellists, everyone broke away into five groups appointing one person from each group to present the deliberations.

The moderator was Chris Odongo, who spoke about what characterises a successful acceleration program or an incubation program or an entrepreneurship program. He explained that they bring entrepreneurs together and support them, we support them in incubation and in terms of acceleration they provide them with money. He further explained the five stages Wylde practices when selecting entrepreneurs, that is, **Select**, **Charge**, **Address the Problems**, **Learn**, and lead by **Example = SCALE**.

The speakers were then invited on stage for the discussion. With brief introductions of themselves, Franciscah stated that Villgro Africa supports start-ups mainly in the healthcare space, mentorship, and coaching, invests in credit and support and they also provide funding and organise national showcases for them. 50+ hubs across the continent have been supported by Villgro Africa, and have invested over two(2) million dollars in funding.

Maurice after his introduction stated that the main purpose of KumasiHive is to raise funding to support hubs. It is a multi-space innovation hub, an incubator which selects promising hardware start-ups and aims to build a network of innovative Hives contributing to the sustainable socio-economic growth of Africa. Additionally, KumasiHive is an innovation hub which provides a Platform for rapid prototyping of ideas, supporting local

innovations and promoting entrepreneurship, as well as mentoring and coaching for some start-ups.

John Nzira from Tanzania in his introductory speech stated that Twende Social

Innovation Centre deals with the innovation of technologies to solve community challenges. The Centre runs programs from one day to 8 weeks which encourage creativity and innovative thinking. They currently have 10 start-ups and these are different technologies.

What followed after were the five breakaway group discussions, and Chris posed a question for them to discuss. The question was as follows:

- a. When we go into our groups let us discuss whether to charge or not to charge and how and why?
- b. The other discussion that I want us to talk about is data. How do we collect data from Entrepreneurs and still give it back to them because it's not enough just to collect it and consume it? Are you giving data back to the businesses? So how do you collect it and give it back to them? Is there a best way?

Participants Broke Into Five Groups

1. The first group talked about the selection
2. The second group talked about charging or not charging.
3. The third group talked about addressing the problem.
4. The fourth group talked about whether to charge or not to charge.
5. The fifth group talked about learning and leading by example

The moderator highlighted that the importance of going into groups was to get people to talk to each other and mine the wisdom from every single person.

The groups then came back to give the presentations and the following were the outcomes:

In terms of selection, they looked at the expected outcome. What is the expected outcome for what we want to do with it? The second expected outcome looked at was the call for action. What are the target groups? Are the target women, children, and local people? Then issues of partnerships with other hubs. How can this collaboration be done by already existing hubs on the ground and how can groups be linked? Also looked at were stages, is the participant at the idea stage, or advanced, where? So staging was one of the aspects that came up and they felt it was imperative to look

at the stage critically. Compatibility was another factor that was looked at when it came to pairing the various participants. They also looked at advancement in terms of progression. Maybe one can start to say it becomes automated and other issues of hands-on, issues of boot camp proposing to have five groups or just the way it was decided in the group to say okay have a representative from every group.

Group Two

There was a decision to charge for the purpose of sustainability but there were also some key questions which arose and one of them was you need to know who to charge and who not to charge. There was a question of who to charge. So you charge those who can afford it and then for those who cannot afford it, find an alternative. The last bit of it was to make money you charge for what we can afford. So when it comes to boot camps you may not charge because of course sustainability of your beautiful campaign and then there is another issue of you charging from people who are already generating revenue.

Group Three

Group three discussed that it is important to know the exact programs that the Entrepreneurs are having so that a diagnosis is done and sense is made out of where they are. In group three, they were people who said those that have entrepreneurs, attach them directly to a mentor. That mentor helps them to figure out where they are and then they also help them map up where they want to go with the KPI of how long it will take them to get there. So that mentor works with them from where they are to where they want to be. Others go through a master class and then get a mentor. There were also different tools that the group suggested such as business surveys and tech surveys. The last part they discussed was helping entrepreneurs solve problems by first giving a listening ear.

Group Four

Group four agreed to charge because they needed to be sustainable and also pay bills. They also discussed the umbrella model where one is expected to pay a percentage of their salary to cover training costs when they get a job. In conclusion, they agreed to use the two-tier approach where a group of people that can afford are charged and that money can be used to train people who cannot afford it since some programs attract a 50% pocket-level contribution. So that money for the full charge can be distributed proportionately.

With reference to learning, they talked about data. So this data is dependent on the participant, who you are training or the people you want to impart knowledge. They discussed data collection in a setting that has a computer and internet or a manual setting without the internet. They discussed pre and post-surveys and how to give feedback to participants. They further discussed that feedback was imperative and it was important to communicate to participants how the data collected will be used and emphasis on confidentiality was advised. Also discussed was data analysis and sharing the solution afterwards with recipients.

The closing remarks were given by Michelle who thanked everyone for participating and urged them to follow Wylde on LinkedIn.

SESSION 4: THE FUTURE COLLABORATION BETWEEN NORTH AFRICA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IN THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



Speakers: *Rene Parker*, CEO RLabs South Africa, *Adnane Addioui*, Président Moroccan Center for Innovation and Social Innovation and Ashoka Fellow, *Yahya Yousif*, Founder at Savannah Innovation Labs Sudan, Operations Lead at Bloom (YCW22).

It was highlighted that Sudan entrepreneurs, consumers and start-ups have to use VPN to log into anything they want to do. Sudan has been segregated from North Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa. Additionally, it was observed that at the national level, Sudan lacks national networks. Once these national networks are in place then the conversation with regards to bridging Sudan with other national networks to the mainstream with the whole continent becomes very effective.

With Tunisia, it started with the first co-working spaces and then some

accelerators and investment funds came to life without finding a lot of start-ups to invest in.

In the case of South Africa, they argued that what is portrayed is not necessarily what is happening as most people think South Africa is supported when not. "A few people who can write well or those with a strong social network can access these funds but the majority of the communities don't even have the infrastructure. An example of Cape Town was given that it has beautiful scenery and is a tourist destination but if one takes a drive a few kilometres from the tourist drive then what is seen is completely different, there is a discrepancy. This is exactly what happens in the ecosystems, people always talk about the nice things. There is money on our continent. We don't need foreign investment to come in. We have money. We have entrepreneurs, we have innovators so how do we bring it together so that many people benefit."

Ahmed Bastawy however felt that it was not a good idea to close funding coming to Africa but the best way to go about it was to channel funds in a better way so that everyone benefits.

Contributions from the rest of the participants were that there is a lack of collaboration between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa especially in terms of cross-collaboration integration and the solution to this problem is the only people who can bring about this change are the ecosystem players who were in the room apart from the investment funding. Also, he stated that it was important to look at partnerships, collaboration, and how to integrate programs to create knowledge opportunities across Africa. The group was later asked a question if money was a factor, some said yes and others felt that collaboration was more than just money. In closing, Ahmed Bastawy stated that so much can be shared but what counts at the end of the day is the action each person takes.

SESSION 5: THE ROLE OF ECOSYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS IN CATALYSING DEEP TECH GROWTH IN AFRICA BY INTEL



Speakers: **Dr. Bienvenu AGBOKPONTO SOGLO** - Director, Government Affairs Africa & IGA CTO Liaison (PE), **Kate Hach** - Head of Program at Intel Ignite's Accelerator, **Ralph de Wargny** - Director Intel oneAPI for Startups program

The welcome remarks were by Bechmann and he stated there was a need to create change in technology adding that there was a need to have more innovation in technology and also expand its presence in Africa through technology. It was noted that Intel is conducting a study in collaboration with AfriLabs. It was also stated that deep tech is based on the desire to solve problems, real life problems that are faced daily. It was observed that deep tech starters are using cutting-edge technology to tackle problems that are being faced in climate change and health care. The technology in the ecosystem is growing through new programmes. It was stated that some factors hinder the invention in industry and these are factors such as costs of research and development, lack of sports systems, and lack of funding in the industry among others.

After group discussions, Dr. Soglo gave a presentation followed by Ralph de Wargny which in summary was:

Intel helps start-ups to build their products faster through technology and this is done through high-performance computing programmes. Intel also looks for start-ups that are using high-performance GPUs, and high-performance CPUs to be members of its programme. On offer is technical

expertise to start-ups to help them build their products. A team of experts provide training and the software designed for Intel is of significance. It was advised that co-marketing activities help make start-ups more visible, hence helping to grow the business. There were no comments or questions at this point.

Kate Hach proceeded to give her presentation thereafter. She stated that she leads a programme for Intellect Knight in Munich, Germany. The procedure is that first, they work with a batch of 10 start-ups who then work with the founding team of start-ups and help them with the issues regarding scaling and technology issues. A requirement is that all have technologies that are related to Intel and they help them with getting companies to help them take their products to market. She stated that they get about 250 applications from start-ups all over Europe and select 10. She said she was eager and happy to have African start-ups in the next batch.

Dr. Soglo also added that deep tech companies had been identified across Africa and from this finding, he noted that start-ups either develop deep tech manufacturing or provide services on the technology hubs identified. He also discussed the state of Deep tech clusters and advised that they need to support infrastructure for start-ups in terms of funding and also needed to involve governments to support these. With regards to funding, lending, vehicle market place and commerce need to be explored.

The way forward:

- Digital deep-tech skills training programmes-offers
- Technical assistance, specialised training research and development, resources offer technology validation and verification platforms
- Engage investors for support in providing more capital and help drive funding into the sector
- University and industry collaboration
- Government support advocacy for governance to engage start-ups
- Market access offer deep-tech forums for companies

Nina from Liquid Telecom asked, "What do you see as critical development of policy and conversations that are important for Africa on the world stage? The response was that there is some policy work that has gone into that, looking at how markets will be reached by 2025. The idea is how to work within them to understand the key policies. What has to be done is very key, there is a relation with what is being done in the universities.

Panel Session 2: Policies for Fostering Intra- Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation.



Speakers: *Serge Ntamack*, Policy Advisor (Moderator) **Ahmed Bastawy**, Founder IceAlex Egypt, **Michael Oluwabemi**, Co-founder & Executive Partner at LoftyInc Allied Partners, Nigeria, **Judith Mwaya**, Senior Policy Analyst – Tech for Development Unit, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, **Prudence Ngwenya Nonkululeko**, Ag Director, Gender and Youth Division, African Union Commission

In introducing this panel, the gathering was informed that the gentleman who managed to help Microsoft stay compliant in Africa for 15 years is Serge Ntamack, an experienced corporate lawyer and tech policy expert and was going to lead the next panel session. Serge thereafter came on stage and allowed the panellists to give a brief introduction of themselves.

At the beginning of the discussion, Serge Ntamack explained that there has been a lot going on and it was noted by the Minister, Honourable Mutati about Zambia being open and willing to attract innovators and putting in place high policies for instance that they are working on one of the KPI's. He stated that there have been a lot of innovations in favour of start-ups. There is a Start-ups Act Movement across Africa, Tunisia, Senegal, and recently in Nigeria bidding for the community and also that

the Africa Continental Free Trade Area had been launched. He added that people were at the gathering because of a fragmented policy landscape in Africa. It is in that regard that some challenges needed to be addressed.

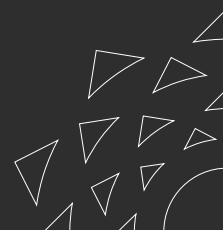
He then turned to Prudence and asked, why policy? Why is it relevant to talk about policy in front of Innovators? In her response, she stated that the conversation on policy starts with foundations. She added that foundations needed to be right and set up an enabling environment. For instance, something around the AU coming up with ambitious policies around innovation, setting the tone of the foundation and creating an enabling environment for all the things that the ecosystem is doing.

Ahmed Bastawy's contribution was that he was not speaking from a policy perspective but from a practitioner background where part of his work was consulting international governments on how they as practitioners could invest their money in a bottom-up approach.

Judith, to put it simply asked, why policy, why innovation policy, why now? According to her, policy is about levelling the playing field. Without policies, what you have in any ecosystem in any economy would lack creating a policy around innovation, around start-ups, it creates a more structured way that then allows everyone to participate in that sector be it innovation be it agriculture, policies are a necessity. Policy in short is about levelling the playing field and giving equal chances to everyone no matter their background across the continent

Michael explained that the first rule of policy is to create an informed template that is not only fair but also dynamic enough to adjust itself to new situations. So policy as a dynamic tool for creativity and innovation is the way I like to think about it. He added that if a policy is formulated for another country, it may work in Brazil or Norway but you find that it does not work in Africa because no two associate ecosystems can be exactly replicated, it must be created for Africa by Africans. In addition, he stated that the second thing that policy interacts with is what people at the gathering were interested in at that moment. They want to see what comes after the incentives for venture capital, the ability to access money.

From the audience came a contribution that, policy should be something more like the structure of the building itself. That shows you where the door is, where the windows are and how to manoeuvre around the building rather than just cement. Governments have made repeated mistakes because solutions that are tailored are not well planned or structured. Resources run out midway and the same solution is not aligned with a strategy.



That means that you need to pick a strategy, value, resources and even performance which you will do later. That is one of the mistakes that governments have been making and solutions become shelved and not used.

There was a question on what is being done concerning linking the one formulating the policy and the one implementing it. What are we doing to make sure that this is implementable?

Michael Oluwagbemi responded that it was an issue of human systems and social systems all being at the same level, but noted that not all can move at the same pace so human systems should be designed to be dynamic, interlinking systems which will ensure that no one is left behind.

Judith on the other hand responded to the question stating that at the institute some of the work they do is to convene other policymakers and other actors in the ecosystem to get their views to understand what are the challenges, how we address these challenges and what sort of policies need to come out to address these challenges. She also added that in the recent past, they brought together policymakers around the issue of start-up bills and other policies that are made to address the innovation ecosystem and one of the outcomes was a formation of a Pan-African policymakers task force which is meant to address exactly that.

Ahmed Bastawy contributed that normally when you speak to policymakers or about policies in general, exclusive language is used. He added that the language needed to be simplified so that others are integrated into conversations.

Prudence stated that her message was summarised in four points. Firstly, collaboration and education which entails moving the conversation from the panel to action. Her second point was to the hubs, the founders and the tech people, as they do what they do, they should think about conceptualization, think about things that solve Africa's problems. The third message was that as things are being done, check if they address scale and impact. The last message was to think about specialisation in terms of innovation.

END OF DAY

ONE

27TH OCTOBER, 2022 Day two Proceedings.

Welcome Address by Ajibola Odukoya, Chief Operating Officer



Ajibola Odukoya, COO of AfriLabs welcomed everyone to day two of the AfriLabs Annual Gathering. In his welcoming address, observing all protocols, he began by stating that the Gathering was the largest convening of innovators in Africa which was followed by a round of applause from the audience. He further added that lined up for the day were a number of engaging activities which would be as interesting as the previous days activities and to kick start the day, he welcomed Rebecca Enonchong to the stage to give her keynote address.

Keynote Address 2



Speakers: *Rebecca Enonchong, Founder and CEO AppsTech*

Rebecca started her speech by stating that, as Tommy gave his speech the previous day, she thought about how far AfriLabs had come as an organisation. She added that sometimes people hide behind their accomplishments. She said she has had her journey and many times people ask her where she lives, her answer is she lives where AfriLabs is in real-time so her answer would be in Zambia. She then gave a brief background of herself and how she started a company in 1999 called AppsTech. She added that that experience helped her even much later in life to understand that doors will slam and other doors will open. Whatever happens, it should never stop you from becoming who you need to be. Her message was that don't give up. In a couple of years, she has built a multimillion-dollar company because she used the skills she used when she went door to door. By 2004 her business AppsTech was valued at \$50,000,000. She further stated that entrepreneurs go through failure which she also went through because of bad decisions and lack of funding. She added what her journey has been like starting with African Technology Forum, to African Centre for Technology Innovation Ventures (ACTIV), and eventually ActivSpaces then AfriLabs. She said it has not been a smooth journey and in the end, "we are one."

Presentation by AfreximBank



Speakers: *Emeka Uzoigwe, Director of Strategy and Innovation at AfreximBank*

Emeka Uzoigwe, Director of Strategy and Innovation at AfreximBank was invited on stage. He started his presentation by saying that AfreximBank are financiers with a difference. They are a multilateral development bank. Their mandate is very clear, it says they should facilitate, they should promote and they should expand intra and extra-African trade. That means AfreximBank has the responsibility to ensure that they increase trade between and amongst ourselves as Africans, trade between ourselves and those outside Africa and also ensure shock from outside is absorbed. What is it that the bank is doing in the innovation or ecosystem in the continent and how is the bank supporting SMEs which includes start-ups or the ecosystem in the continent? He explained that the bank has strategic planning that they use to advance medium to long-term goals. He briefed the gathering on the four pillars they use.

From where they are, what do they see in the African innovation ecosystem space?

- Ecosystem banking
- A marketplace of services and smart payment using block chain,
- Lending to banks for onward lending to other financial institutions.
- SME lending

He stated that in the last few years the bank had also developed a loan, and has also worked with FinTechs to develop a multiple platform business model. He also informed the gathering that he was inviting business incubators to work with them, and also start-ups in Africa to join them in

trying to solve the issues of the continent. The platforms he mentioned provide market access and that is what those ecosystems are providing. “You would understand that it is a challenge getting financing as a small business but have you ever thought about some kind of innovative corporate model where you can pull your resources and use that as a basis for capital, as innovators, I am inviting you to think through that.” He stated that before leaving, he had \$7,000 to \$10,000 to give on trade finance and asked AfriLabs and anybody interested to take it up.

Launch of the Founders Guide to Fundraising by GIZ Make IT and Briter Bridges



Presentation by David James Saunders Director of Strategy and Growth, Briter Bridges.

“Simunza of Bongo Hive played and won the ‘who wants to be a start-up founder’ game to become a start-up founder.”

David started his presentation by stating that a lot of information comes from work that they have been doing with Bongo Hive and nine other ecosystem partners across nine different ecosystems in Africa and what this partnership entails is the development of the founders’ guide to fundraising. Included is an overview of lessons learned and best practices from these different hubs that they have packaged into a fundraising 101 section. Also included are case studies from other start-ups and also information on different accelerator programs, and it also includes an investor catalogue. He further stated that they have done this across Benin, Ethiopia, Morocco, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia

and people could learn more about them, by visiting GIZ make IT in Africa where they have QR codes you can click on and it will take you to their website.

AU Digital and Innovation Fellows' Showcase



*Presented by **Nanko Madu**, AfriLabs Director of Programs*

To present this segment was the Director of Strategy and she began by stating that AfriLabs was very excited to introduce the African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Program, a program that is funded by GIZ AU and deployed to the African Union. In 2021, AfriLabs was commissioned by GIZ AU to identify and deploy tech innovators on the continent to different organs of the African Union headquarters as well as different organs across the continent. The role of these tech fellows was to understand the systems and processes of the units that they were deployed to co-create and offer solutions to these challenges and build sustainability around there. It is a twelve months program and she went on to give a background.

Ademola gave an address on how the fellows are engaged and what is expected of them while Prudence briefed the gathering on how these

fellows have been coordinated and also how they are supported. She further stated this was one of the ways connections are made from policy to action. Prudence further added that what they are seeing from these 13 Fellows is young people being part of the decision-making table of the African Union Commission and influencing the way things are done in the African Union Commission. She said all the 13 fellows are doing a lot of digital work. The institution is being built in terms of technical capacity and digital services. She thanked GIZ and AfriLabs for moving from just sitting at podiums and speaking policy to doing things that were concrete and things that are practically on the ground.

Presentation of Awards to the Fellows



Awards and deployment presentation by Nanko Madu, followed by speeches by Board Chair, Moetaz Helmy and Anna Ekeledo who greatly thanked GIZ and the AU and also congratulated and encouraged the fellows to strengthen the Institution and different departments from the inside.

Presentation by DER



Carine VAVASSEUR, Chef de Division Innovation et Animation de l'Écosystème à la DER/FJ

Carine from Senegal, Head of the Ecosystem Innovation Division at DER spearheading African Innovation in the Tech Space. She stated in her presentation that in Africa at the moment, there is a country with 17 inhabitants Francophone countries which is in the raider of top investors, top entrepreneurs, as well as some Accelerators. Senegal is home to vibrant and fast-growing start-up ecosystems. The story she shared was mainly about vision and collaboration and Dakar growing into an international hub and she explained that tremendous progress has been made to make sure you can connect Dakar to the main cities across the World and the superpower of this system is the Francophone Africa pioneer in the various structured ecosystem has brought collaboration and they have been able to structure ecosystems together as the different stakeholders are part of it. She stated that they have a specific fund dedicated to Innovation to address the start-ups and that now Senegal is in the top five in Africa that has been for example capturing Investments and this is because mostly they now have one unicorn as it is well known. They use two pillars to support start-ups and then collaborate with national players in the ecosystem. She added that what they do is fill the gaps, what they don't have on the market is where they identify international players that can come and build with them what is missing. They have been building a lot in the country and there is still some progress to be done.



AMAZON VIDEO PRESENTATION

Fola Olatunji David opened this session with a video presentation of Amazon web services goals. The overall goal of the program is to help guide start ups, making them free to join and gives access to AWS credits to help get started on AWS support credits for expert systems if needed and technical training. Others on offer are discounts.

Following the video, Fola talked about how best Amazon and specifically AWS can support start-ups. He stated that he had been prepared for his job his whole career, as a Fund Manager. Having worked in incubation, he felt that he was being prepared for a bigger job because he has the background. He further stated that the job that he is currently doing mainly helps people that work with start-ups and it also helps them be better start-ups. He encouraged everyone to typically think about Amazon and start-ups when they think about credit. He further stated that it was a lot more than credit they offered but also a lot of tools like access to mentors and its access to a global community among others. He then went on to invite everyone to be a part of it by swiping out their phones and scanning the QR code that was shown on the screen which he mentioned would take them to the portal to become a provider. He stated that the difference between the Amazon video they had just watched and his pitch to start-ups was that, in his pitch, he would like partners in getting start ups and the partner would be the one to give out credit unlike Amazon. He further informed the gathering that, what people didn't realise is that as a partner and as a provider one could give an unlimited number of start-ups up to a \$100,000 in credit. He ended by encouraging everyone to visit the link that was shown, register and apply. He stated that he looked forward to working with them.

3 Hub Inspirational Stories on Collaboration



Speakers: *Dr. Itoro Emembolu, (Ph.D), Director TechQuest Lagos Nigeria & Lead of AfriLabs Research Group, Samir Da Cruz Silva, Executive Director Maio Business Center, Cape Verde, Maurice Otieno, Executive Director Baraza Media Lab*

Dr. Itoro Emembolu in her inspirational story explained that they wanted to support female led Start-ups and females that wanted to go into business with Capacity building, connecting them to mentors and business support. The aim was to impact 400 females across Nigeria and South Sudan. The programme was initiated at the peak of Covid and the issue was how they were going to run the programme. They went for a digital programme leveraging the AfriLabs network and succeeded in connecting these women with mentors across different countries. After the call for mentors was put out, they got over 90 mentors across 13 countries and at the end of the day, the total number of female entrepreneurs they worked with was 794 instead of 400. They were supported in master classes, business support, capacity-building programmes and one on one mentorship.

Panel Session 3A: “The Role of Fostering Intra-Africa Connectivity and Collaboration.”



Moderator was **Benson Mutahi Githaiga**, Community Manager & Executive Officer at Aga Khan University Media Innovation Center, Barbara (**Birungi**) **Mutabazi**, Co-Founder, Hive CoLab Uganda (Virtual), **Mayssa Mrabet**, Chief Incubation Officer at Afkar Tunisia. **Lukonga Lindunda**, Executive Director and Co-founder of the Bongo Hive Group in Zambia.

The speakers attended physically with only one virtually. Mayssa stated that collaborations save a lot of time for ecosystems, especially Startups. She also added that they were the first country that started with the Start-up Act and has been helping a lot of countries with collaborations to start their own, start to build and start the start-up act. She stated that it goes beyond beneficiaries and it’s something the whole ecosystem benefits from.

In responding to the question about how ecosystems have benefitted from collaboration, Lukonga stated that Start-ups have benefitted from collaboration in the sense that, for Bongo Hive, their experience in the past 11 years is that they would not have managed to accomplish what they have without collaboration. Due to collaboration with a local law firm which approached Bongo Hive years back because their client wanted to be listed on the London Stock Exchange the main interest was to find other businesses that they will be able to take from the start to listing on the London Stock Exchange. They were aligned in expectations because

they also had a great interest in being able to provide the start-ups with legal advice as none of the team members at Bongo Hive are lawyers and so they got to a point where they agreed to have pro bono services by one of the lawyers. Lukonga stated that recently, they upgraded and Bongo

Hive benefitted from that because they now have a lawyer sitting on Bongo Hive Board and every Friday, startups can go through and consult. The win-win is that the law firm can get the pipeline of potential businesses. For Start-ups, if one of them was to become a unicorn, the potential would be top-notch. The overall benefit he stated was free legal advice. The benefit for Bongo Hive is that the programmes they run have depth and they can leverage partnerships with the private sector to be able to provide deep knowledge in the accelerators and incubation programmes that they run. He added that that kind of collaboration is important to make sure that the ecosystem is participating in the start and the growth of entrepreneurs via the vehicle of the innovation hub.

Benson then asked the audience to give an example of success or failure they may have had in terms of collaboration. A representative from the Tanzania Start-up Association volunteered to respond and he shared a recent success story they have had due to collaboration. He stated that due to their collaboration with Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority, one thing they also provide amongst others is USSD short codes. And because of this collaboration, they have made sure that start-ups and innovators get exempted from the fees to acquire USSD codes. The benefit is that today in Tanzania, start-ups can get USSD codes for free. Before that, the cost for that was US\$4000 annually. He further added that if you are a start-up or innovator, you apply for USSD through their organisation which is subject to verification and due diligence of which they write a letter of recommendation thereafter to the regulatory authority.

Lukonga was then asked to give a walk-through on collaboration giving the ingredients that are needed. In his response, he stated that some things were important internally and externally. One of these is, a high level of integrity, basically doing a good job! He added that diligence and integrity are necessary when creating partnerships. Secondly, he stated that capacity was imperative. He stated that it was important to be clear on what one can and cannot do when creating partnerships. And lastly, he stated that visibility was one thing that is a challenge across the continent as most people rely on Google in search of innovators or hubs and added that if it does not show up, it does not exist. He further added some opportunities could be missed when you are not proactive about sharing the work that you do.

When Benson asked Lukonga the question of why Hubs in countries feel like they are in competition and further asked how we address that. He responded by saying there's a rule opportunity to compete and to collaborate and some of the lessons we learn from how the big techs work. He illustrated by stating that, behind the scenes, you find that Google and Facebook are working together on some research project and the end users think they always compete. So we can learn from how big corporates work. One way to drive collaboration is through specialisation because it creates opportunities for us to be able to collaborate easily.

Mayssa was asked to give an example of when she tried to collaborate but failed. She responded by stating that today, to be able to collaborate requires that you share the same values and objectives because if you share the same objectives, both parties would do their best to ensure that objectives are met. She added that in terms of outreach collaborations, when someone comes to you for an outreach partnership, you feel that it's a one-way partnership agreement because you are doing your best to make the other partner visible in the ecosystem and there's nothing in return. When two partners co-design a programme and one partner feels like they are doing all the work, usually it's the big partner that gets all the money and the name.

To the audience, he posed the question, as partners, what are you doing to ensure we are collaborating as hubs?

Annette from GIZ gave East Africa as a case and what they have done in Rwanda. She said in Kigali, they reach out to the different hubs and incubators, and then they bring them together. They assess the gaps, they assess the opportunities for collaboration, and what can be done to collaborate more as an ecosystem. Since it's such a small ecosystem, you find that naturally there is more collaboration when it comes to opportunities and how different hubs work together and make IT and the partners are more like the fostering community but letting the hubs and incubators do the work. It's working in Rwanda and Arusha.

The last question to the audience was, "What are the red flags that show you that a hub is not ready for collaboration?"

Eric responded by stating that one of the partners may be interested in the money and less about the project. Some partners focus on the money and not the execution of the goal. Second is the level of engagement and this means resource allocation. Who is working on the project? Sometimes some people do not take up the responsibility of working on the project. Thirdly, is the flow of communication, sometimes people do not show up for meetings. Fourth is cheerleading. Do people 'cheerlead' each other? It's important to say you guys are doing a great job and I am willing to connect you to opportunities long term.

(AMAZON VIDEO PRESENTATION)

Panel 3B: “Le Rôle des Hubs dans la Promotion de la Connectivité et de la Collaboration Intra-Africaines”



Speakers: **Berry Numbi**, Founder & Chair Board Member Centre d'innovation de Lubumbashi (CINOLU) DRC, **Paul Mbu**, Founder and CEO, Zix Tech Hub, **Sarobidy N. RAKOTOARIVO**, Manager Habaka Innovation Hub Madagascar, **Elodie Nonga-Kenla**, Founder WETECH: Women In Entrepreneurship and Technology Cameroon – Moderator.

Collaboration allows having a platform with different resources, like human resources, investment funds and professionals of different aspects. It simply means, can limit the risks that you can meet around your project. Collaboration makes you strong too, it helps build your capacity, and you are learning a lot like Jokolabs. You can have a certain dimension, totally economic for incubators. Already for the economic model, it is very important if you put that in your economic model like a necessary plan for you to draw some new project. On the other side of collaboration, there is something very essential which is critical, what you have to know is that, if you remove that part of sovereignty if you need collaboration, you cannot all remain at the same level, it simply means, you cannot say we are all presidents at one point. You need to accept that the other one has to take the lead knowing that, just for the global lead. Whether you are Francophone or we are Anglophone, today we are just a family and in that family, we have linked thanks to technology and we have a chance

to collaborate and understand each other and share our experiences. We have to learn by sharing so that we impact each other. We have to move together, that is the principle of Jokolabs.

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Transforming Agriculture through Continental Collaboration, Innovative Financing, Support for Agritech Startups and Fostering Growth and Impact through Hubs



Paul Mbua - Zixtech HUB - Cameroon, **Ntieche Njilou Christian** - Founder IT Kola - Cameroon, **Buffy Okeke-Ojiudu** - Founder EAT Africa - Nigeria, **Sasa Straus** - DIH AGRIFOOD - Slovenia, **Paul Jeanjille** - Ivory Coast, **Francis Omorojie** - Founder Ennovate Hub - Tanzania, **Flo Mosoane** - AgriFood Ecosystem Developer

The goal of this session was firstly to showcase what entrepreneurs are doing in the field and secondly to have a combination of system enablers who would share what can be done to improve the value chain and also what can be done to improve agriculture. The background that was shared was that, agriculture holds 65% of the uncultivated land left to feed over 9 billion people on the face of the earth, but only 10 % of this land is cultivated. Also Africa has the youngest population in the world with 70% in sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. It was done in two sessions, the Eat Series and the Panel Discussion.

Buffy started by playing a short video from a known poet called Alhun Islam on agriculture and the eat series. He likened the Eat Series to TEDx

for agriculture. He further called on two entrepreneurs from Tanzania and Zambia respectively to share insight on how they operate.

Victor Ekene located in Tanzania introduced himself as an administrator but farmer by choice. He stated that he studied agricultural science but during covid, he observed that his neighbour was growing tomatoes and that is how he brainstormed and after creating a whatsapp group, he started collecting orders on behalf of his neighbour. Through this opportunity, he decided to provide locally made power solar units so that farmers appropriately store their goods for longer periods and in this case, his neighbour could effectively store ripe tomatoes for a long period of time. He urged everyone to support this project so that African productivity could increase.

Cassandra from Zambia, an entrepreneur who runs Agric Verdicts, talked about the use of technology for precision farming and the need to build an ecosystem. She stated that, agri-verdicts is focussed on the small scale farmers and use of technology to help small farmers in their challenges with access to agricultural information. She added that agriculture needed to focus on technology and further stated that solutions to challenges should increase productivity, improve food security and reduce poverty. It was unanimously agreed that Technology was key in creating such an ecosystem and the challenges that the small scale farmers face ought to be tackled.

Uche Ekeledo of Fosu which stands for Food for Sustainability stated that their aim is to make the supply chain the logistics arm of agriculture to be more efficient and more adaptive.

Frederick from Kenya stated that their organisation chose to look at the holistic value chain approach because agriculture is a complex sector and every subsequent area comes up with solutions and interventions. He also added that they also try to support the entrepreneurs across the whole value chain to be able to find lasting solutions to some of the problems around business advisory.

At the end of this session, a consortium named Pan-African Agri-tech Consortium (P.A.A.C) was formed.

Greenovations Africa (Youth and Women)



Presentation by Dr. Erick Gankam Tambo Project Coordinator

In his presentation, Erick stated that the project aims to empower African youth and women green entrepreneurs and innovators in Africa. The Greenovations project responds to calls for the exploration and development of structures and mechanisms to support the identification, ideation and development of solutions by start-ups to attract funding and absorb large capital and grow green innovation enterprises. The project aims to achieve this by establishing a framework that brings together actors and stakeholders of the green innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa to identify and ideate solutions as well as organise and support innovators and entrepreneurs with a focus on empowering African youth and women. It will also initiate appropriate measures and structures to support and strengthen the ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa. Greenovations focuses on overall support and enhancement of green sectors such as renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, waste management, climate action and water management. They will work jointly with AfriLabs and give AfriLabs \$100,000 that they will distribute per sector to go into an incubation process.

Collaboration Opportunities and How to be involved

- Join the alliance and apply as a champion to strengthen the community of practice in the respective sectors.
- Contribute as subject matter expert to the development of hard skills courses in the respective sector and collection of soft and entrepreneurial resources.

- Contribute with your experience and expertise or as a consultant to the blueprint design and implementation of the virtual incubator and accelerator.
- Act as a mentor or recommend mentors for the incubation and acceleration program.
- Information sharing among countries on green innovation and introduction to various green networks.
- Collaboration with other similar communities of practice to broaden green innovation perspectives and ideas.

Start-up Visas for Africa Workshop by Lawyers Hub



Presentation on the different legal aspects you need to consider when planning for a start-up in African and European Countries

Speakers: *Poncelet .O. Ileleji*, CEO JokkoLabs Banjul Gambia, **Maurice N.A. Caschingo**, Managing Director KumasiHive Ghana, **Morgan Gikonyo**, Digital Policy Officer at the Lawyers Hub, **Eric Kariuki Mwangi**, Founder and Head of the HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa

The host for this session was Morgan Gikonyo, Digital Policy Officer at the Lawyers hub. He gave a quick overview of Kenya and the cost of a visa and stated that there was no visa specifically for start-ups but that the general visa was renewable. In Nigeria, they have different categories and a category for start-ups may exist except one needs an investment of \$250,000 according to the information gathered during the session. In South Africa, the minimum capital is \$3,000 with a visit fee. In Zambia, they have employment visa and work permit which comes with a statutory fee

of \$1,126 but administrative fees and renewal fee of about \$1,300. Africa does not have a Start-up Visa. In terms of Legislation for start-ups, only three countries have gotten to the stage of implementation, that is Tunisia, Senegal and Nigeria and 16 other countries are already developing their drafts.

He alluded that the Tony Blair Report would prompt one to ask what policies and legislation have been put in place for start-ups. Senegal has tried in giving fiscal support. It was noted from one of the contributions that Tunisia is providing a legal framework and also for investors encouraging them to see what they could put in taxes in start-ups. Also noted was the Tunisian start-up Act which has been in existence for three years. He stated that the reason this discussion was taking place was to understand what initiatives have been taken policy-wise and in terms of legislative initiatives and if they cover the migratory pathways for start-ups to scale.

(Presentation demonstrating Africa, shaded areas show people with visa: A map done by the Bloomberg migration policy institute)

- It shows on the world of start-up Visas looks like, who has it and who doesn't. As you can tell, the lovely green land of Africa is very plain and white, so the marked areas are the ones with the Visa. Our lovely continent has nothing to do with start-up Visas. Let's take the case of the UK, I believe for the hub or start-up founders you have a few friends who migrated here.
- I believe there are a lot of established people, technology talent, and start-up founders early stage, advanced stage. I know the top 3 start-up founders in Nigeria, those start-up founders have moved their entire families to the United Kingdom.
- They are stealing our talent, but also they are giving us a lot of money to keep other talents in our countries. For example, we are into media, we have the help of European hubs initiatives which is encouraging us to create new opportunities for innovators to stay in Tunisia.
- I love that perspective, we are losing to them, they are not stealing our talent and why we are losing to them it is because they are offering something which we are not offering
- In Tunisia, we have a program for those in the diaspora to encourage them to set up hubs in Tunisia but can live in Europe
- My name is Charles and I run two hubs in Nigeria. I am also on the board for the innovation support network. So beyond what I see with some of the start-ups in our organisations, there is also a lot of information coming out from the ecosystem that I will try to share basically from my own experiences today. Personally, my family and I have spent a lot of time in the UK. We have done 3 journeys as a family to the UK and back. But my business has remained in Nigeria.

Morgan in closing the discussion stated that there were lovely perspectives on tech talents being built, even internal policies which relate to our incubators and accelerators. So the beginning policy starts at home. Charity starts at home, but even then he encouraged everyone to build the policies from home and to also drive the conversation further.

The Future of Your Ecosystem Is Female by GlZ



Presented by Lelemba Phiri (PhD) Principal and Founder Africa Trust Group.

Lelemba started her presentation by speaking of gender which she stated has been happening for many years and has had events in a box, one of them being the pandemic. She further stated that because of the pandemic there was a realisation that women tend to be at the back and are expected to work and take care of their families. She however stated that there has been a shift, and there is less talk and raises in policy and theory. Some of the policies happening are that there is a board that lobbies with big finance Institutions to be more gender-based in how they are investing. She asked everyone to think quietly about their teams, especially gender balance in management. She stated that most hubs fail to recruit women because they are perceived fit for certain roles. Men are perceived as professionals while women as labourers. She then asked them to think quietly about where they would like to be in the next six months or one year, how they would like the team to look like, to think of what habits they would like to move away from. A five minute break followed after that.

BREAK

The section resumed and each group shared what came out in each group.

The first group talked about their first win and their first win was sponsorship, the second one was collaboration, partnership and support. The challenges they mostly experience is sponsorship and lack of funds to push their hubs forward and they also experience a lack of equipment. And they have to work on training more people. Another group stated that what came out was being gender balanced in their place of work and hubs and training people who were more gender-focused. The other group discussed putting things in place, especially those which favour women. The programs they run should also be favourable for women. Another group also discussed that they should concentrate on creating organisations' assessment tools for gender inclusion. They also said it is important to include policies and more diversified programs. The other group discussed that this was also very well important to recruit more females and young girls to more tech programs, it is very important to show women that it's very possible to achieve most of these things and also at grass root level try to encourage by forming clubs that will be able to break some enforcement when it comes to this gender role telling them that they can't thrive in certain positions.

Igniting Growth of the Zambian Tech and Innovation Ecosystem by International Trade Centre (ITC)



Patrick Shatamuka in his contribution stated that there was a statement the previous day of the gathering that without policies, it all depends on luck. The number of organisations that are involved in this space, a lot of them have bottom-up approaches, people decide if they are going to set up an entity and again you start fighting battles with them every day. Over the past years from a top-down perspective, you begin to make sure that it is much easier for entrepreneurs to start their businesses. So, the creation of new Ministries like SME, Technology and Science and having a president who is more active about business, is a critical factor that has been missing and typical expels across the continent are usually Rwanda, Kenya and others that to a certain extent, the political will contributes to the success of the economy, because they can create a conducive environment for businesses and investment. The critical factor that Zambia has been missing from its policy and institution perspective is the government to provide the right framework for innovators to be able to start and grow businesses such as the Angel Network. People should be able to invest in credible businesses that are investable in the ecosystem because funding has been a challenge and how the government has been in support and

over the last two to three years, those have been the significant changes that have happened.

A representative from the government briefed participants that the government now has a lot of activities, people, hubs coming up, there is a gap and there is no policy so, they are redoing the policy because all these gaps need to be captured so that when it comes to creating the institutional framework, which speaks to how coordination is done with the ecosystem, we would have all the pieces put together.

Patrick also felt that the consortium is very important and they are always thinking of moving the women from the informal to the formal sector. By doing that, they came up with a program we call Zambia Entrepreneurship Summit. The purpose of the Zambia Entrepreneurship Summit was to bring together the private-public that is the government and also other eco-players. We saw that when people come together there are a lot of benefits, especially when such an opportunity happens, we saw that some of the women were linked to banks and some to a government institution. We also proceeded by even trying to work with WHO, where we had an advocacy training program, where we brought the government and ZDA on board. The importance is that when you work together as a team, it would be very easy for us to achieve our objectives of supporting the women, the youths and all the innovators across Zambia. The benefit of that is that we are going to attract people who are going to be entrepreneurs and be ready to access the funds and be able to pool a large fund and by working together, we are going to have one voice, we will speak the same language that will help our entrepreneurs to penetrate the markets either local or international. I feel coming together as a consortium, we are going to strengthen ourselves. Yesterday we saw 10 African networks that were represented and today we have also seen some examples like Senegal and Tunisia, so I think leveraging on those networks could speed up the networks here in Zambia.

Innovation & Data Stewardship - What's Lean Data Practices (LDP) got to do with it, Anyway? By Mozilla



In her introductory presentation, Britney Crooks stated that the biggest thing was not to collect more data than needed especially if you one doesn't know how to manage it or not sure and one can end up like Facebook who will tell the regulators they don't know where the data is. She stated that the biggest priority for SMEs when it comes to spending on technical products is privacy and security. She added that hacks are happening at a higher rate and they are getting expensive to solve.

During her presentation, she advised that when data is collected, it must be organised, prioritised and categorised into hyper-sensitive and less sensitive, either credit card numbers, maybe healthcare data, passport numbers or something much more sensitive. She stated that there was a company called Ethica that has a tool which can help you document the data policy as you develop and it's quite easy to use. It's not exactly a Mozilla product but it's a product that a bunch aren't a fan of and it's something pretty easy to use for smaller companies in early-stage innovations.

“The other thing to call out is that it’s a lot more expensive to address compliance after the fact but there is a balance so most of you if you are raising money tons of VC’S do not ask about data and privacy they are not just there yet it hasn’t become as strategic for them yet the priority is still growth funding the product. The last one was just an example or two. What happens when you are not intentional about your data and data practices you end up with these leaks. We accidentally kept everyone’s password for Twitter and GitHub and we are going to say this was not a major breach and nothing is wrong. We would like to hear from you.”

Tech Hubs : Utiliser l'innovation et la Collaboration pour une Croissance Inclusive organized by AfriLabs Francophone Community.



Description de la mission

Depuis la pandémie COVID-19, le terme « croissance inclusive » connaît un succès fou dans les activités en rapport avec la relance de l'Économie. Alors qu'il s'agit encore d'un terme peu connu, il s'est très vite figuré dans presque tous les domaines : innovation, social, environnemental, etc.

Mais qu'entendons nous par « croissance inclusive » ?

La croissance inclusive, d'une manière très simple, peut s'expliquer comme étant une croissance menée par tous au bénéfice de tous.

L'idée de ce atelier était donc de provoquer la réflexion sur le concept de développement inclusif tel qu'il est appréhendé et pratiqué dans nos hubs, comment les tech hubs peuvent intégrer le concept et le diffuser dans ses programmes d'accompagnement, quels sont les modèles de succès à travers le monde qui peuvent nous inspirer, dans le cadre de l'ODD 17 - quelles initiatives développer pour favoriser l'ancrage du concept chez les hubs et les entreprises?

en la personne de OUEDRAOGO Jean Dominique, Chargé des programmes d'accompagnement au sein du hub Mahna au Burkina Faso.

Objectifs



L'objectif premier de cet atelier est de créer pour la communauté francophone un cadre d'expression, de collaboration et de co-crédation de solutions inclusives pour tous les tech-hubs de Afrilabs.

Les résultats attendus sont les suivants :

- Réunir au moins une dizaine de hubs francophones pour cet atelier
- Proposer un contenu attractif
- Faire émerger des pistes d'initiatives collaboratives utilisant l'innovation pour une croissance inclusive des Tech Hubs;
- Produire un rapport d'atelier en Français et en anglais pour la capitalisation.

Cadrage de l'atelier

La réunion de cadrage s'est tenue en ligne via Google Meet le Samedi 08 Octobre 2022.

Ce fut l'occasion d'échanger sur les points suivants:

- Les participants : leur profil, le nombre de personnes attendues...
- Les résultats attendus;
- La feuille de route et le partage des responsabilités pour la préparation du workshop.

L'un des points important de cette rencontre à été de déterminer la méthodologie d'animation à utiliser.

Une seconde réunion virtuelle à eu lieu le 13 Octobre 2022 afin de définir :

- La méthodologie d'animation : la méthodologie retenue fut celle du Brainwritting
- Le chronogramme de l'atelier

DEROULE DE L'ATELIER

Initialement prévu se tenir de 14H à 16H LE 27 Octobre, il à finalement débuté avec 40mn de retard dû à un retard accusé lors des activités précédentes de la journée.

Il s'est déroulé comme suit:

Mot introductif de l'atelier :

Il à été réalisé par Dominique OUEDRAOGO et a consisté à la présentation de l'ambition de l'atelier, des facilitateurs et de la méthodologie d'animation.

Ice breaker (Chamallow challenge) :



Cette étape permet aux participants de faire connaissance de manière ludique afin de les rendre plus ouverts aux phases de brainstorming.

Le Chamallow challenge est un exercice collectif pendant lequel le challenge est de construire la structure la plus haute possible uniquement des spaghettis, du scotch et bien évidemment un chamallow. Ce ice breaker à permis de stimulé la créativité des participants, et de créer des liens entre les groupes créés pour l'atelier. Une bonne entente assure une construction plus solide et une meilleure synergie lors de la phase de brainstorming



Présentation et validation de la problématique et constitution des groupes de travail:

A partir du thème général de l'atelier, nous avons procédé à une reformulation sous forme de défis : " Comment les Tech Hubs peuvent-ils utiliser l'innovation et la collaboration pour créer une croissance inclusive ? "

Ce défi a été validé par l'ensemble des participants

Brainwriting

Après la présentation du défi, les participants de chaque groupe en utilisant un canevas qui leur ont été préalablement partagé, notent 3 idées, dans un délai de 5 minutes. Par la suite, chaque papier est transmis au voisin de table pour refaire le même processus, jusqu'à ce qu'il soit récupéré par le premier participant qui a inauguré le tour de table.

Chaque liste d'idées créée peut contenir des pensées complémentaires, dont certaines étendent et développent certaines idées principales. Ou bien, elle peut regrouper des idées différentes qui offrent des alternatives variées pour résoudre le problème défini.

A l'aide du brainwriting, les idées sont exprimées de manière anonyme et plus spontanée (sans barrières linguistiques ou psychologiques). De ce fait, ces pensées peuvent être évaluées sur la base de leur pertinence et non sur base du caractère ou de la personnalité du participant qui les a proposées.

Voici les pistes qui furent dégagés à l'issus de cette étape, voici les propositions qui furent réalisés par les différents groupes :

- Création plateforme bilingue accessible partout et à tous les hubs de Afrilabs
- Participation de chaque hub dans la conception et diffusion des programmes de formation
- Les hubs entre eux peuvent avoir des knowledge sharing session afin de partager leurs expériences, parcours, difficultés rencontrées et leçons apprises afin de renforcer les capacités des plus "petits ou plus jeunes" hubs.
- Renforcement de capacité thématique & homologue (Mise en relation entre Hub francophone et anglophone dans un système de correspondance pour que chacun apprenne des spécificités de l'autre)

Sélection des meilleures propositions (cadran Faisabilité/Impact)

Pour des raisons de temps, cette partie a été raccourci au profit d'un partage d'expérience et du recueil de l'appréciation des participants. Nous avons à cet effet réalisé un nuage de mots.

AfriLabs Board Fireside Chat



Speakers: *Moetaz Helmy*-Board Chair, *Linda Kwamboka* - Board Secretary, *Kudzai Mubaiwa*- Board Treasurer, *Elodie Crescence Nonga-Kenla* - Board Francophone Representative, *Daniel Chinagozi* - Board Member, *Steve Tchoumba* - Board Member, *Takunda Chingonzoh*- Board Member, *Ito Emembolu* - Board Member, AfriLabs

Takunda Chingonzoh began the presentation by stating that, going through research of hubs and the sustainability model, we realise that AfriLabs has become an institution of innovation across Africa and this is visible through the different research papers, reports and insights from the ecosystems. he added that it is very visible through the resources that are being ploughed into the network to member hubs through different activities and the value as a network has become stronger, and this is visible through the increase in the number of hubs that are paying membership and this is cascading to even the start-ups that hubs are supporting through the catalyst programs that AfriLabs is expanding. "Having gone through all of this and seeing AfriLabs become an institution, the hubs themselves have to transform into institutions in their local ecosystems and as our numbers increase, we need to see that permeating across the ecosystems that AfriLabs supports," he said. he further went on to say that, AfriLabs will continue to move from one country to the next for AGMs, it helps to activate into the minds of people that even though the network is growing into this large organisation, there is value in the essence of local ecosystems. "

Having had a lot of speakers on the network, the Board Chair was asked about lessons that he has learnt, improvements changes and the plan

for the next year, Moetaz responded that his experience was that they organised the first one in 2017. When it comes to organising AfriLabs, he stressed the importance of the involvement of local hubs and the local governments which is what they expect next year. He felt that there is a need for more local representation, local entrepreneurs, local start-ups, local organisations and hubs in the events for the benefit of both the AfriLabs community and local hubs as well. He further added that when it comes to such discussions during capacity building, it's important for organisations to take lead and lead the government and ecosystem into coming up with a proper innovation ecosystem in Africa. He further added that AfriLabs can play a very important role in the future in that regard. He added that they go to the government and lobby for start-up hubs, lobby for new recreation from FedTech, and AgriTech for digital technology as well. It is important to come together and come up with one agenda and this is when governments can take you more seriously.

Nanko in thanking Moetaz, added they had heard about collaboration and AfriLabs standing right. Being an organisation with foresight envisages that there will be a need for updating and changing the way that hubs interact and communicate with communities. She further added that most communities are very cooperative and WhatsApp groups are created to engage with them better but there's a need to do more as AfriLabs grows rapidly. And she intimated that Ajibola Odukoya, AfriLabs COO would present AfriLabs newest solutions.

Ajibola alluded that the community had spoken and they had heard. He went on to present initiatives from the secretariat on how to manage the community better. He stated that, as AfriLabs grows, there is a need to have inmates collaborate better. A video was presented thereafter of AfriLabs Connect was presented where Ajibola introduced the platform. AfriLabs Connect is a purpose-built ecosystem engagement platform that is the digital face of AfriLabs. The platform brings together the largest community of innovation enablers in Africa Founded in 2022 as the solution to the challenges of manually operating the vast AfriLabs network, AfriLabs Connect unites all the stakeholders of the African innovation, technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem digitally to connect, collect, share, collaborate, measure, meet KPIs individually and collectively on the web. It is a one-stop domain that provides support and positions the African technology, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem as catalyzers for economic growth, development, and transformation while providing easy access to opportunities. AfriLabs Connect intends to build upon lessons learned by AfriLabs over the years and leverage the unique competitive advantages that each stakeholder group has to offer in order to build a more vibrant pan-African ecosystem.

Closing by Board Chair and Mark



Annex 1 Agenda for the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering

DAY 1

Wednesday 26th October 2022

7:30 - 8:50

Registration

8:30 - 8:55

Cultural Performance

8:55 - 8:58

Ecosystem Events Manager Introductory Speech
Jennifer Okeke-Ojiudu

8:58 - 9:15	Speed Networking
9:15 - 9:30	<p>Welcome Address</p> <p>Moetaz Helmy, Board Chair AfriLabs (4 Mins) Annual Gathering Consortium Members (8 Mins) Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director AfriLabs (3 Mins)</p>
9:30 - 9:40	<p>Keynote Address 1</p> <p>Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science Zambia (TBC)</p>
9:40 - 10:00	<p>Fire side chat - A conversation with Hon. Felix Mutati, MP, Minister of Technology & Sciences - Zambia. By Anna Ekeledo Executive Director AfriLabs</p>
10:00 - 10:05	Cultural Poem (Dexter Fundanga)
10:05 - 10:20	Inspirational Talk (TBC)
10:20 - 10:50	Tea Break
10:50 - 11:00	Energizer by the MCs
11:00 - 11:05	Video Presentation
11:05 - 12:05	<p>Panel Session 1: Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation</p> <p><i>In order to actualise our reimagined African futures, we must acknowledge our fragilities, celebrate our growth and map our collective path to prosperity. There is a need for continuous dialogue amongst African innovation leaders, in order to improve cross-sectoral collaboration and connectivity. Collective, inclusive action allows us to build African solutions better and faster.</i></p> <p><i>This panel will challenge decision makers, innovators, thinkers and doers to develop solutions leveraging Africa's genius.</i></p>

Speakers-

1. Nekesa Were, Director of Strategy, AfriLabs **(Moderator)**
2. Dr. Sheila Ochugboju, Executive Director, Alliance for Science
3. Ben Roberts, Group Chief Technology and Innovation Officer at Liquid Intelligent Technologies Kenya
4. Kudzai Mubaiwa, Economic Development Specialist and Board Treasurer AfriLabs

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1. Lelemba Phiri, PhD, Principal and Founder
Africa Trust Group
2. Arjuna Costa, Managing Partner
Flourish Ventures

12:05 - 12:20

Candid Conversation with the Audience on Panel 1

12:20 - 12:30

Presentation 1 by GIZ,

Olaf Seidel, Make-IT in Africa Head of Project SOUTH

12:20 - 12:30

Catalytic Africa Presentation

12:30 - 12:40

Briefing by the MCs

12:40 - 14:10

Parallel Workshops

Using Collaborative Research to Foster African Innovation and Development by AfriLabs Research Group

During this workshop, hosted by the AfriLabs Research Group, participants will be introduced to the uses and benefits of collaborative research for innovation and development. Speakers will discuss the relevance of research in different sectors, with examples in Artificial intelligence (AI), Clean Tech and Renewable Energy. Also, the central role of the AfriLabs Research Group as a research Centre of Excellence will be explained.

Speakers-

1. Courage Asase, Managing Director, Node Eight, Ghana
2. Kelvin Dafiaghor, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Artificial Intelligence Hub, Nigeria
3. Jeremy Riro, Fie Labs Innovation Hub, Kenya
4. Chioma Ewurum, Head of Research, Clean Technology Hub, Nigeria
5. Odiong Akpan, Managing Director Caspania, Nigeria
6. Dr. Itoro Emembolu, (Ph.D), Director TechQuest Lagos Nigeria

National Networks Workshop

Workshop by AfreximBank

Report on the SCALE approach for Effective Enterprise Development by Wylde International

The session will be hosted by Wylde International and will provide a space for sharing the scale methodology with the AfriLabs participants through conversations that touch on effective delivery of incubation, acceleration and business development services. This includes identification of criteria of entrepreneurs, identifying of the critical success factors, monitoring

DAY 1

Wednesday 26th October 2022

and evaluation of successful coaching, charging entrepreneurs and implementing the same lessons they are teaching entrepreneurs. The breakout rooms will give them a platform to engage in panel sessions with hub managers implementing these concepts and consider the SCALE method in view of their current practices.

Speakers-

1. Chris Odongo, CEO of WYLDE International Ltd and Co-founder of SNDBX Kenya.
2. Franciscah Nzanga, Chief Operations Officer at Villgro Africa Kenya.
3. Maurice N.A. Caschinco, Managing Director KumasiHive Ghana.
4. Sheilah Birgen, Country Lead KTN Global Alliance Africa (GAA) Kenya.
5. John Rexford Nzira, Executive Director Twende Social Innovation Centre Tanzania.

The Future Collaboration between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem

Speakers-

1. Rene Parker, CEO RLabs South Africa
2. Adnane Addioui, Président Moroccan Center for Innovation and Social Innovation and Ashoka Fellow
3. Yahya Yousif, Founder at Savannah Innovation Labs Sudan, Operations Lead at Bloom (YCW22).

The Role of Ecosystem Stakeholders in Catalysing Deep Tech Growth in Africa by Intel

This will be a 90 minute session that will be hosted by Intel and will engage ecosystem stakeholders to share some insights on their Deep Tech report and open for further discussion with participants. The session will include a brief introduction to Intel, introduction to Intel Ignite, introduction to Intel one API for startups, and then a launch of Intel Deep Tech Report with insights from the report.

Speakers-

1. Dr. Bienvenu AGBOKPONTO SOGLO - Director, Government Affairs Africa & IGA CTO Liaison (PE)
2. Kate Hach - Head of Program at Intel Ignite's Accelerator
3. Ralph de Wargny - Director Intel oneAPI for Startups program

Ministerial Round Table (This event is strictly by invite) - UNDP

14:10 - 15:40

Networking Lunch Break + Press Briefings + Pictures

15:40 - 15:50

Energizer by the MCs

DAY 1

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15:50 - 16:15

Catalytic Africa Presentation

16:15 -16:45

Live from AfriLabs

This session highlights major updates from the AfriLabs secretariat including new direction, new products and new partnerships.

We will share high level updates on key partners we worked with in the past year. We will also reveal our plans to connect our ecosystem digitally, and finally, we will share our plans to amplify the voices of our hubs in the policy space.

16:45 - 17:50

Panel Session 2: Policies for Fostering Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration, and Innovation.

With the support of AfriLabs and other initiatives, hubs have been active locally to engage governments and advocate for policy changes, provide thought leadership and work with investors, innovators and donors to influence startup acts, digital tax legislation or digital access policies. Arguably, there is a significant upside in promoting intra-African collaboration and connectivity-related policies and getting partners to work more on cross-border projects that impact innovation and technology adoption.

In this panel, we are going to discuss the critical policy issues that could enable intra Africa connectivity, including the role of AfCFTA, and the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders at the national, regional and Pan-African levels.

Speakers-

1. Serge Ntamack, Policy Advisor **(Moderator)**
2. Ahmed Bastawy, Founder IceAlex Egypt
3. Michael Oluwagbemi, Co-founder & Executive Partner at LoftyInc Allied Partners, Nigeria
4. Judith Mwaya, Senior Policy Analyst – Tech for Development Unit, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
5. Prudence Ngwenya Nonkululeko, Ag Director, Gender and Youth Division, African Union Commission

17:50 - 18:00

Closing Ceremony

20:00 - 23:00

African Met Gala

Launch of the RevUp Women Programme

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10:00 - 10:10

Speed Networking/ Energizer

10:10 - 10:15

Welcome Address

Ajibola Odukoya, Chief Operating Officer AfriLabs

10:15 - 10:20

Keynote Address 2

Rebecca Enonchong, Founder and CEO AppsTech

10:20 - 10:50

Presentation by AfreximBank

Emeka Uzoigwe, Director Strategy and Innovation at Afreximbank

10:50 - 10:57

Launch of the Founders Guide to Fundraising by GIZ Make-IT and Briter Bridges

David James Saunders, Director of Strategy and Growth Briter Bridges

GIZ Make-IT and Briter have partnered with support organisations and local experts across 9 countries across Africa to develop local guides with the ecosystems for founders fundraising in the ecosystem. The guides cover Benin, Ethiopia, Morocco, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia. The partners include BongoHive (Zambia), Energy Generation (Togo) Shega (Ethiopia), Impact Labs (Morocco), Sahara Ventures (Tanzania) and local experts include Lourwana Issaka (Niger), Aziza Inoubili (Tunisia) and Jessica Gaba (Benin).

10:57 - 11:02

AU Digital and Innovation Fellows' Showcase

Nanko Madu, AfriLabs Director of Programmes

11:03 - 11:06

Presentation by DER

11:06 - 11:10

Energizer

11:06 - 11:10

3 Hub Inspirational Stories on Collaboration

Speakers-

1. Dr. Itoro Emembolu, (Ph.D), Director TechQuest Lagos Nigeri (5 Minutes)
2. Samir Da Cruz Silva, Executive Director Maio Business Center, Cabo Verde (5 Minutes)
3. Maurice Otieno, Executive Director Baraza Media Lab (5 Minutes)

11:25- 11:55

Panel Session 3A: "The Role of Hubs in Fostering Intra-Africa Connectivity and Collaboration."

Over the past decades, hubs have begun to collaborate on a continental level, thereby providing a soft landing for their start-ups to expand across the continent. We also see seats connecting local networks of investors, and entrepreneurs to continental and extra continental initiatives and expertise, stimulating change from governance agenda from governments by engaging them in international gatherings and

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conversations reflecting different African policies and pan-African dynamism, especially in the innovation and tech markets. We also see an increased number of design sprints with development and research agencies engaging hubs and connecting them to other hubs and startups across the globe to drive governance improvement, co-design development plans and support market exchange in many cases. In this panel, we are going to be highlighting the roles and trends we have in fostering Intra African connectivity in the continent.

Speakers-

1. Barbara (Birungi) Mutabazi, Co-Founder Hive CoLab Uganda
2. Mayssa Mrabet, Chief Incubation Officer at Afkar Tunisia.
3. Lukonga Lindunda, Executive Director and Co-founder of The BongoHive Group in Zambia
4. Benson Mutahi Githaiga, Community Manager & Executive Officer at Aga Khan University Media Innovation Center-

Moderator

11:55 - 12:00

Amazon Video Presentation

12:00 - 12:30

Panel Session 3B: “Le Rôle des Hubs dans la Promotion de la Connectivité et de la Collaboration Intra-Africaines”

Au cours des dernières décennies, les hubs ont commencé à collaborer au niveau continental, offrant ainsi un atterrissage en douceur à leurs start-ups pour se développer à travers le continent. Nous voyons également des sièges reliant les réseaux locaux d'investisseurs et d'entrepreneurs aux initiatives et à l'expertise continentales et extra-continrentales, stimulant le changement du programme de gouvernance des gouvernements en les engageant dans des rencontres et des conversations internationales reflétant différentes politiques africaines et le dynamisme panafricain, en particulier dans l'innovation. et les marchés technologiques. Nous constatons également une augmentation du nombre de sprints de conception avec des agences de développement et de recherche engageant des hubs et les connectant à d'autres hubs et startups à travers le monde pour améliorer la gouvernance, co-concevoir des plans de développement et soutenir les échanges sur le marché dans de nombreux cas. Dans ce panel, nous allons mettre en évidence les rôles et les tendances que nous avons dans la promotion de la connectivité intra-africaine sur le continent.

Speakers-

1. Berry Numbi, Founder & Chair Board Member Centre d'innovation de Lubumbashi (CINOLU) DRC
2. Paul Mbua, Founder and CEO Zixtech Hub Cameroon
3. Hélène Guéhenneuc, Founder of Mahna Mali
4. Elodie Nonga-Kenla, Founder WETECH: Women In Entrepreneurship and Technology Cameroon - **Moderator**

12:30 - 12:35

MCs Briefing

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12:35 - 14:05

Networking Lunch Break + Press Briefings + Pictures

14:05- 16:05

7 Parallel Workshops

Transforming Agriculture through Continental Collaboration, Innovative Financing, Support for Agritech Startups and Fostering Growth and Impact through Hubs.

This workshop will focus on how hubs, Accelerators and ESOs can better support agritech startups, how hubs can be well equipped and create programs to harness the best from these agripreneurs. What are the financing options available and how can we start by creating cross border solutions that will boost our production volume.? How can we create value across the board and how can we use tech to blur the lines in our value chain.? Creating synergies to support brick and mortar entrepreneurs to be tech enabled entrepreneurs How can technology be a lever to transform agriculture in Africa.?

Speakers-

1. Paul Mbua - Zixtech HUB - Lead for Agritech Workshop - Cameroon
2. Ntieche Njilou Christian - Founder IT Kola - Cameroon
3. Buffy Okeke-Ojiudu - Founder EATs Nigeria - Nigeria
4. Sasa Straus - DIH AGRIFOOD - Slovenia
5. Paul Jeanjille - Ivory Coast
6. Francis Omorojie - Founder Ennovate Hub - Tanzania
7. Flo Mosoane - AgriFood Ecosystem Developer

African Connectivity & Innovation Policy Workshop by Lawyers Hub

This Workshop will, therefore, seek to explore and inform about the digital policy challenges and opportunities that tech startups, ecosystem enablers and governments can influence to create an enabling continental environment for scaling of tech innovations.

Speakers-

1. Poncelet . O. Ileleji, CEO JokkoLabs Banjul Gambia.
2. Charles Uche Emembolu, Co-Founder and Director of Roar and Tech Quest Nigeria
3. Morgan Gikonyo, Digital Policy Officer at the Lawyers Hub.

"The Future of your Ecosystem is Female by GIZ

This interactive workshop will be hosted by GIZ Make IT and will explore challenges in achieving gender parity within hubs internal teams and participating cohorts of entrepreneurs; identify opportunities for building hubs with a deliberate gender-lens; and point to quick wins that build momentum towards a longer term position and strategy for real transformation."

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Speaker-

1. Lelemba Phiri, PhD, Principal and Founder
Principal and Founder
Africa Trust Group

Igniting Growth of the Zambian Tech and Innovation Ecosystem by International Trade Centre (ITC)

The workshop will focus on reigniting the Network of Zambian Hubs. After ITC's the launch of the Tech Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Mapping in Zambia, ITC aims to use report findings and take this opportunity to bring back all Zambian hubs and reignite discussions and connections for the benefit of the ecosystem. The session will include a discussion about the role of Zambian hubs, government, and partners to develop an innovative start-up ecosystem, a brief presentation of the new Consortium of Zambian hubs, goals, and future ambitions and, a workshop discussion on what opportunities remain, how can ecosystem actors be involved, what's next for hubs in Zambia.

Speakers-

1. Patrick Shatamuka, Head Operations & Programs - WEAC Zambia
2. Lukonga Lindunda, Executive Director and Co-founder of The BongoHive Group in Zambia
3. Nuria Rull, Programme Officer at United Nations International Trade Centre (ITC)
4. Jane Mubanga Chinkusu, Director, Science and Technology at the Ministry of Higher Education Zambia"

Innovating for African Governments by AU Digital and Innovation Fellowship

The AU Digital and Innovation Fellowship session will be hosted by AU Tech and will provide a unique opportunity for its 13 program fellows that are deployed to different units/ organs of the African Union to showcase and amplify the program achievements but to also engage the larger innovation ecosystem and its stakeholders during the Annual Gathering. This comes at a time where most of the fellows are already advanced in building their frameworks and products for their respective units There is a need to continue to showcase the program and fellows through the right platforms to amplify the achievements of the program as the first cohort rounds up early 2023. This will include a showcase session, a workshop and brochures/ information packs shared to attendees.

Speakers-

1. Sabina N. Nforba PMP., Digital and Innovation Tech Fellow at the African Union HQ - **Moderator**
2. Prasanth Kumar, Partnerships & Programs Advisor, AfriLabs.
3. Ms. Janice Khumalo, Youth Engagement Lead, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD).

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1. Kofi Sedalo, Senior Technology Officer, AfriLabs; CEO of SIMNET Ghana
2. Demola Adesina, Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)"

Innovation & Data Stewardship -What's Lean Data Practices (LDP) Got to Do With it, Anyway? by Mozilla

An Interactive Session on Concrete Applications of the Lean Data Practices: the ABC's of LDP

After the workshop, participants will have a clear understanding of Mozilla's values and products generally, and specifically our initiatives in the Africa region. Workshop attendees will unpack one of the LDP principles using real life examples, and have the opportunity to troubleshoot and ask questions around any "pain points" to operationalizing LDP in their organizations

Speakers-

1. Alice Munyua, Sr. Director of Africa Innovation Mradi, Mozilla.
2. Britney Crooks, Director of Innovation & Product Strategy, Mozilla.
3. Nneka Ekechukwu-Soyinka, Sr. Privacy Manager, Mozilla.
4. Noémie Hailu, Africa Innovation Mradi Program Manager, Mozilla.

Tech Hubs : Utiliser l'innovation et la Collaboration pour une Croissance Inclusive organized by AfriLabs Francophone Community.

L'objectif premier de cet atelier, en dehors du fait que cela concerne beaucoup plus les francophones, sera de limiter au maximum cet écart franco-anglo que ce soit dans la compréhension, participation durant les ateliers et dans l'appropriation des résultats de travail.

Speaker-

1. Jean Dominique OUEDRAOGO, Chargé de Programmes d'accompagnement Mahna Mali.

16:05 - 16:35

Tea Break

16:35 - 16:45

Energizer

16:00 -16:30

AfriLabs Strategy

9:15 - 9:30

AfriLabs Board Fireside Chat

Speakers-

1. Moetaz Helmy, Board Chair AfriLabs.
2. Linda Kwamboka, Board Secretary AfriLabs.
3. Kudzai Mubaiwa, Board Treasurer AfriLabs.
4. Elodie Crescence Nonga-Kenla, Board Francophone Representative.

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1. Daniel Chinagozi, Board Member AfriLabs.
2. Steve Tchoumba, Board Member AfriLabs.
3. Nanko Madu, Director of Programmes AfriLabs **(Moderator)**

17:45 - 18:00

Closing by Board Chair and Mark

19:00 - 22:00

Dinner Events

Hosted by Bongo Hive
Hosted by WEAC

Work In Progress Dinner - Lessons Learned from Female Founder Focused Accelerator Programs

The dinner will be hosted by VC4A and will focus on the need for more programs for young African female founders and how to get them organized. The session will be in line with the "Work In Progress" Oxfam led project currently running across Nigeria, Egypt and Somaliland and will feature a panel discussion together with representatives from project partner organizations like ICEALEX, Innovate Ventures, She Leads Africa and VC4A. The representatives will share lessons learned from running programs focussed on female founders and later on engage the audience in the discussion.

Speaker-

1. Muna Ahmed, Country Program & Operations Manager at Innovate Ventures
2. Ahmed Barrada, Business Development Expert
3. Chimfumnanya Nwandu, Lawyer and Senior Programs Associate at She Leads Africa.

Hosted by Liquid Intelligent Technologies

DAY 3

Friday 28th October, 2022

06:30 - 08:30

Breakfast

09:00 -13:00

Ecosystem Tour/ Africa Womens Gallery

