



Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development:

Innovating on the digital frontier

5 December 2018 – PALAIS DES NATIONS ROOM XXVI



Innovators and technologists for digital development

Hruy Tsegaye Berehe, Project Manager, co-founder, iCog Labs - ETHIOPIA

Specializing in artificial intelligence R&D, iCog contributed to the development of the humanoid robot Sofia.

PROBLEM: There is a wide knowledge-gap among Ethiopian students, higher institutes and policymakers have failed to grasp the impact of emerging technologies as a development tool.

SOLUTION: iCog Makers, one of iCog Labs spin-off companies, works in capacity - building, technology transfer, and other innovation activities in collaboration with more than 30 public universities and government organizations. Opportunities and challenges for innovation and digital enterprise development in an LDC are a real proposition.

Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

High-growth innovation and firms and supporting policy actions are needed to leverage the opportunities created by the emerging digital economy.

PROBLEM: Innovative and high-growth enterprises are essential drivers of innovation-led sustainable growth but often develop below their potential in the ECE region and in economies in transition.

SOLUTION: Help policy makers understand the dynamics, characteristics, and needs of potential high-growth enterprises. Institutions and processes matter, policies should be based on clear and measurable evidence.

Michel Y. Lacave, Technopolis Group - FRANCE

What is the role of science and technology parks accelerating digital start-ups in developing countries?

PROBLEM: A lack of R&D and innovation policy support, gaps between policy intentions and implementation, coupled with a lack of effective legal framework.

SOLUTION: Realistic innovation support instruments, policies and programs adapted to the local context that can be effectively used by grassroots actors.

Fatoumata Ba, CEO, Janngo - CÔTE D'IVOIRE

What it takes to build, grow and invest in "digital champions" with proven business models and inclusive social impact?

PROBLEM: Africa's 17+ million SMEs represent 98% of all enterprises but lack access to markets, capital to grow their business and improve participation in global trade and impact on their local economy.

SOLUTION: Janngo builds, grows and invests in tech platforms enabling access to market, financing and capacity for African SMEs; the platform Jexport.ci enables any Ivorian SME to export globally in one click.

Charles Muhindo, CEO, MamboPay – UGANDA

Charles Muhindo is the brains behind MamboPay – a digital payment solutions that serves financially excluded groups such as pupils and students.

PROBLEM: Lack of financial inclusion, accountability and transparency remain key trouble points for digital money users.

SOLUTION: Digital payment solution that serve the financially excluded and ensure transparency and accountability in payments. MamboPay has partnered with MTN and Microsoft to bring its services to the market.

Contact:
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