



SUMMIT & GRAND FINALE



NOVEMBER 23RD-24TH 2023



KIGALI CONVENTION CENTER
RWANDA



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ABOUT AFRICA'S BUSINESS HEROES

Africa's Business Heroes (ABH) aims to identify, support, and inspire the next generation of African entrepreneurs who are making an impact in their local communities, working to solve the most pressing problems, and building a more sustainable and inclusive economy for the future.

Every year, ten finalists are selected to compete in the ABH grand finale pitch competition for a share of USD 1.5 million in grant money. All finalists also join an exclusive community of like minded entrepreneurs, business professionals, investors and mentors. In addition, they get access to training and networking opportunities to further support them on their business journey.

ABOUT THE AFRICA'S BUSINESS HEROES SUMMIT

The first day (Thursday, 23rd November) will be a gathering of entrepreneurs, investors, and the broader ecosystem players under the theme of "**AI: African Innovation, Insight, and Impact**". The summit will consist of talks and workshops carefully curated to add value to entrepreneurs and professionals at various stages of their journey. Below are some formats in which the first day conversations will occur.

- **TED style talks:** Short, powerful talks that spark curiosity from some of our heavy-weight speakers.
- **Live Podcasts:** In-depth discussions and interviews with entrepreneurs on the various lessons they have gathered as they built and scaled their businesses.
- **Debate:** Thought-provoking conversations and debates on critical topics.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Well- curated and educational workshops with topics that are relevant for entrepreneurs and professionals alike.

ABOUT THE AFRICA'S BUSINESS HEROES GRAND FINALE PITCH COMPETITION

The second day (Friday, 24th November) will feature the Grand Finale Pitch Competition, where our 2023 Top 10 Heroes will take the stage to pitch for their share of \$1.5 million! This year, we received over 27,000 applications from all 54 African countries, a record-high number since the beginning of ABH and our Top 10 finalists have been through a rigorous selection process that spanned 7 months.

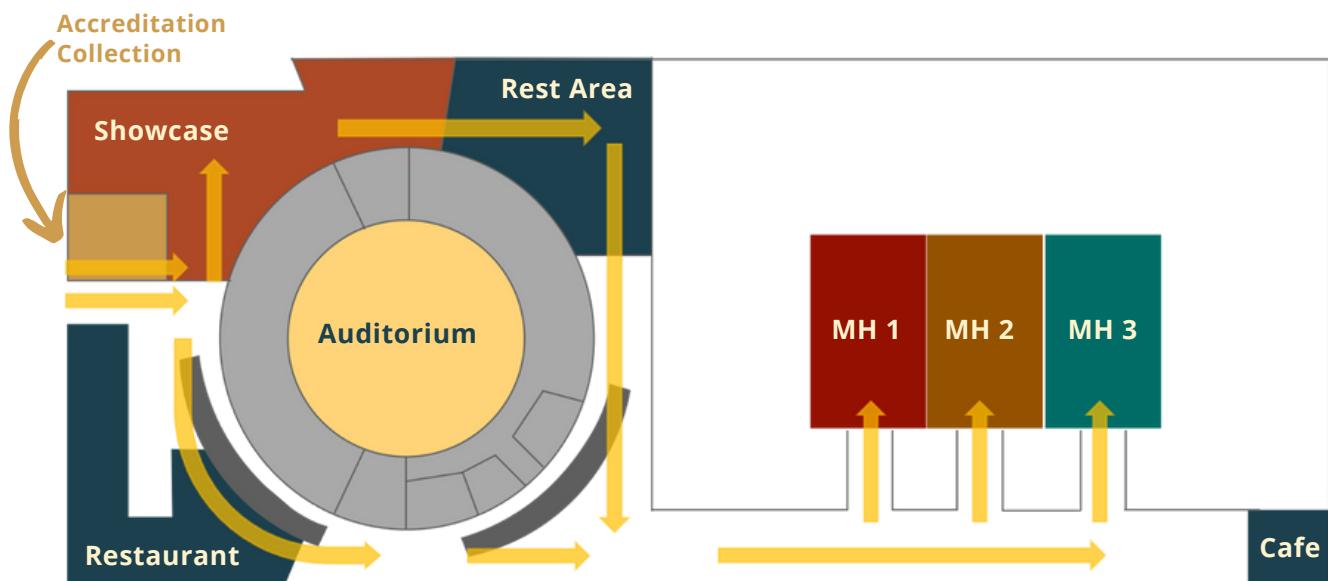
We worked with about 400 hundred judges in 3 different rounds to obtain the **Top 10 finalists**. They hail from **9 countries** and represent **6 sectors**, with majority in Healthcare, Agriculture, and Financial Services, and Retail. During this in-person Grand Finale event, our Top 10 will compete for Top 3 prizes (ranging from \$300,000 to \$150,000). All other Heroes will go home with a minimum of 100,000 USD.

ACCREDITATION DETAILS

For those guests who either live in Kigali or will be arriving early, you will be able to pick up your badge from **Foyer 1A** at Kigali Convention Center on either **Tuesday, November 21st** from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm** or **Wednesday, November 22nd** from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm**. We encourage you to collect your badge early if you are able to, to avoid any delays on the day of the event as we have quite a few guests traveling to Kigali and we would like to ensure you don't miss any of the program! Please come with a **government-issued ID** or your **Passport** to help ensure the process goes smoothly.

If you are unable to collect your badge before the event, you will also be able to collect your accreditation on **Thursday, November 23rd**, and **Friday, November 24th** from **7:00 am**. We encourage you to arrive early to receive your badge and explore our showcase before the summit begins.

VENUE MAP



All guests need to collect their badges from **Foyer 1A** at **Kigali Convention Center** as indicated above in the map in **GOLD**. Make sure you keep your badge with you **at all times** throughout the two days of the event.

In the **Showcase** there will be an interactive display and numerous facilitated networking sessions for attendees to meet each other at:

- 6:00 pm, November 23rd
- 8:30 am, November 24th
- 2:30 pm, November 24th

Food can be purchased from three locations within the convention center:

- **Fillini Resaturant**
- **A kiosk in the rest area**
- **A cafe**

MH1, MH2 and MH3 will be the location of the Summit, Workshops and Finale Live-stream.

AGENDA

DAY 1

SUMMIT



23rd
November 2023



09:30AM to
13:00PM CAT



MH1, MH2 & MH3
KCC

09:30 - 09:55

WELCOME VIDEO & SPEECHES

09:55 - 10:40 AM

AFRICAN INNOVATION

In mini TED Talk formats, our speakers will bring to life stories of African innovation ranging from clean cooking solutions to scientific research.

Inventions and Patents: An African Journey
Mohamed Ali, **Chief Executive Officer, PowerLock**

Innovating Beyond Clean Cooking
Charlot Magayi, **Founder, Mukuru Clean Stoves**

Audience Quiz (5 mins)

Innovation for Scientific Research in Africa
Omar Sakr, **Chief Executive Officer, Nawah Scientific**

Why Africa Should be at the Forefront of Innovation
Natalie Jabangwe, **Group Digital Executive Officer, Sanlam**

Audience Q&A (10 mins)

Host: Anita Erskine

10:40 - 10:50

BREAK

10:50 - 10:55

QUIZ

10:55 - 11:50

AFRICAN INSIGHT

In a podcast style conversation, our speakers will share insights they have gathered on their entrepreneurship journey ranging from adapting during global crises to shaping Africa's Green Future.

The Future of Content (15 mins)

Naa Ashorkor, **Broadcast Journalist**

Nomzamo Mbatha, **Actress & UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador**

Host: Nuseir Yassin, **Founder & CEO, NAS Company**

Resilience and Surviving Tough Times (15 mins)

Moulaye Taboure, **Chief Executive Officer, ANKA**

Tesh Mbaabu, **Chief Executive Officer, MarketForce**

Host: Just Ivy Africa, **Multimedia Content Creator**

Africa's Green Future (15 mins)

Chebet Lesan, **Chief Executive Officer, BrightGreen Renewable Energy**

Christelle Kwigera, **Managing Director, Water Access Rwanda**

Host: Georgie Ndirangu, **Global Moderator**

Audience Q&A (10 mins)

Hosts: Anita Erskine, **ABH Official Host** & Georgie Ndirangu, **Global Moderator**

12:00- 12:50

AFRICAN IMPACT

In a debate format, two speakers examine themes that tend to create tension on the entrepreneurship journey and unpack the benefits and challenges of each one.

"Entrepreneur vs. Investor: Exploring Tension Points" - (20 minutes)

Chibuzo Opara, **Chief Executive Officer, DrugStoc**

Hasan Haider, **Founder and Managing Partner, Plus Ventures**

Should African Entrepreneurship focus on Global expansion or build for Local take-over? (20 minutes)

Bogolo Kenewendo, **Global Economist, Kenewendo Advisory**

Fred Swaniker, **Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Sand Technologies**

Q& A - 5 minutes after each debate

12:50 - 13:05

CLOSING SESSION

Building Our New Africa

Lucy Quist, **Author & Founder, The Bold New Normal**

Closing Remarks

AGENDA

DAY 1

WORKSHOPS



23rd
November 2023



14:30PM to
18:20PM CAT



MH1, MH2 & MH3
KCC

14:30- 15:00

ABH TOP 10 MEET & GREET

The Africa's Business Heroes Top 10 community features inspiring entrepreneurs from various sectors and countries who drive catalytic change in their communities. Our meet & greet session will allow the audience to interact with our Top 10 Heroes (past and present), learn more about who they are, and ask questions about their entrepreneurship journeys. Each workshop room will feature 3-4 Heroes from 2019 - 2023.

Participating Top 10 Heroes: Albert Munyabugingo (2023), Amena Elsaie (2022), Andrew Takyi-Appiah (2023), Ayman Bazara (2023), Bola Bardet (2023), Charlotte Magayi (2021), Chebet Lesan (2020), Chibuzo Opara (2019), Christelle Kwigera (2019), Christiana Gyisun (2023), Elia Timotheo (2022), Flavien Kouatcha (2022), Ghirmay Abraham (2021), Ikpeme Neto (2023), Ismael Belkhayat (2023), Joan Nalubega (2020), Kevine Kagirimpundu (2019), Moulaye Taboure (2019), Omar Sakr (2019), Tesh (2022), Theo Baloyi (2023), Yvette Ishimwe (2021)

15:05 - 16:35



MH3

IMPACT AND PROFIT: ARE THEY MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE?

At the core of entrepreneurship, there is problem solving. All solutions, however, are not equally lucrative. This creates a tension for entrepreneurs to either prioritize social impact or maintain a healthy bottom line. In this workshop, we interact with companies and leaders that are aiming to strike a balance between profit and purpose, and they guide us through what has worked in their business cases.

Session Contributors:

Amena Elsaie, **Chief Executive Officer, Helm**
Rene Parker, **Chief Executive Officer, RLabs**
Yvette Ishimwe, **Chief Executive Officer, Iriba Water Group**

Moderator: Isaac Ewaleifoh, **Vice President, BDT & MSD Partners**

AGENDA

DAY 1

WORKSHOPS



23rd
November 2023



14:00PM to
18:00PM CAT



MH1, MH2 & MH3
KCC

15:05 - 16:35



MH2

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Technology is a game changer that is here to stay and yet businesses do not always maximize its use. In this conversation, we sit with experts who have leveraged technology for their businesses and those who have built systems that aim to help several other entrepreneurs.

Session Contributors:

Aboubacar Karim, **Chief Executive Officer, Investiv**

Ade Bajomo, **President, FinTechNGR**

Alan Zong, **Tech Investor**

Lucy Mbabazi, **Head of Partnerships, UN Better Than Cash Alliance**

Moderator: Karim Sy, **Founder, JokkoLabs**

15:05 - 16:35



MH1

RAISING CAPITAL: TESTED STRATEGIES FROM INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

To scale, entrepreneurs usually rely on external sources of funding. In this workshop we hear from venture capitalists, ecosystem builders, and entrepreneurs on the tested strategies to raise money for one's business.

Session Contributors:

Benjamin Bonnel, **Chief Executive Officer, Expand in Africa**

Hany Soliman, **Regional Head, PayTabs**

Moulaye Taboure, **Chief Executive Officer, ANKA**

Sherif Nessim, **Founder, Jedar Capital**

Tamim El Zein, **Partner, Seedstars**

Moderator: Kome Ouade, **Global Program Manager, Acumen Angels**

**16:45 - 18:15**

MH2

BRANDING AND PR IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Digital platforms including social media platforms have revolutionized how we network, market, and build both company and personal brands. In this workshop, we hear from entrepreneurs, influencers, and media companies on how to build a recognized brand that will make any business stand out.

Session Contributors:

Adebola Williams, **Founder, RED Media Group**

Ewetse Khama, **Communications Specialist**

Georgie Ndirangu, **Global Moderator**

Naa Ashorkor, **Broadcast Journalist**

Ruvheneko Parirenyatwa, **Broadcast Journalist**

Moderator: Just Ivy Africa, **Multimedia Content Creator**

**16:45 - 18:15**

MH1

POWERFUL NETWORKS: WHY YOU NEED THEM AND HOW TO BUILD THEM

There is a saying that your network is your net worth. Becoming successful in life and in entrepreneurship requires having the right connections and knowing how to maintain them and leverage them at the right times. In this session, we invite master networkers to share practical insights on how they have built and leveraged their networks.

Session Contributors:

Dr. Anino Emuwa, **Managing Partner, Avandis Consulting**

Flavien Kouatcha, **Chief Farming Officer, Save Our Agriculture**

Malik Shaffy Lizinde, **Country Manager, Africa Management Institute**

Nomzamo Mbatha, **Actress & UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador**

Yussouf Ntwali, **Chief Executive Officer, BAG Innovation**

Moderator: Iris Irumva, **Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Lead Access**

16:45 - 18:15



MH3

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURS

African Entrepreneurs face unique challenges when it comes to raising funds, accessing markets, and competing with other entrepreneurs from all over the globe. In this session, we hear from entrepreneurs and business leaders who are defying those odds and how they were able to unlock their entrepreneurship and leadership potential to achieve their success.

Session Contributors:

Nathalie Munyampenda, **Chief Executive Officer, Kepler**

Frannie Leautier, **Chief Executive Officer, Southbridge**

Isabelle Kamariza, **Founder, Solid' Africa**

Kevine Kagirimpundu, **Chief Executive Officer, Uzuri K&Y**

Reda Lakhifi, **Founder, Founco**

Moderator: Monica Sumbi, Associate Director of Marketing, Carnegie Mellon University

18:30 - 20:30 SHOWCASE AREA (FOYER 1A)

NETWORKING & COCKTAILS

AGENDA

DAY 2

GRAND FINALE



24th
November 2023



10:00AM to
18:00PM CAT



MH 1, MH2 & MH3
KCC

10:00 - 10:15

Opening Performance & Welcome Address

10:15 - 10:20

Jury Introduction

10:30 - 12:00

Company 1-5 pitch

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:30

Company 5-10 Pitch

14:30 - 15:30

Jury Discussion & Break

15:30 - 16:15

Round Table Conversation with Top 3 Winners

16:15 - 17:15

Break & Final Jury Discussion

17:15 - 17:45

Award Ceremony

18:00 - 20:00

After Party Celebration

AFRICA'S BUSINESS HEROES 2023 TOP 10

Top 10	Name of Business	Countries of Operation	Sector
Adrew Takyi-Appiah	Zeepay Ghana Limited	Ghana	Financial Services
Albert Munyabugingo	Vuba Vuba Africa LTD	Rwanda	Retail
Ayman Bazaraa	Sprints	Egypt	Education & Training
Bola Bardet	Susu	Côte d'Ivoire	Healthcare
Christina Gyisun	Sommalife Limited	Ghana	Agriculture
Ikpeme Neto	Wellahealth Technologies	Nigeria	Healthcare
Ismael Belkhayat	Chari	Morocco	Financial Services
Nthabiseng Mosia	Easy Solar	Sierra Leone	Energy
Theo Baloyi	Bathu	South Africa	Retail
Thomas Njeru	Pula Advisors Limited	Kenya	Agriculture



Christina Gyisun
Sommalife



Theo Baloyi
Bathu



Nthabiseng Mosia
Easy Solar



Ayman Bazaraa
Sprints



Thomas Njeru
Pula Advisors Limited



Bola Bardet
Susu



Albert Munyabugingo
Vuba Vuba Africa LTD



Andrew Takyi-Appiah
Zeepay Ghana Limited



Ikpeme Neto
Wellahealth Technologies



Ismael Belkhayat
Chari

FINALE JUDGES



Diane Karusisi **CEO, Bank of Kigali**

Since joining the Bank of Kigali in 2016, Diane has steered the bank through a digital transformation journey with aspirations to increase customer satisfaction, improve profitability and drive retail and SME customer acquisition. Diane has also driven the expansion of the BK Group business into General Insurance, Investment Banking and Technology to respond to growing needs of the market and diversify sources of income for the company.

Prior to joining Bank of Kigali, Diane served as the Head of Strategy and Policy and Chief Economist at the Office of the President.



Ibukun Awosika **Founder, The Chair Center Group**

Ibukun serves on a number of corporate and not-for-profit boards amongst which are: First Bank of Nigeria Limited, Cadbury Nigeria Plc, Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), and the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority.

With a high interest in social issues and women, Ibukun is a co-founder and past chairperson of Women in Business, Management, and Public Service (WIMBIZ).

She is also a multiple award-winning entrepreneur and the First Nigerian recipient of the prestigious International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge Award (IWEC) as a nominee of the US Department of State in 2008.



Joe Tsai **Chairman, Alibaba Group**

Joe joined Alibaba in 1999 as a member of the Alibaba founding team and has served on the board of directors since its inception. He was the chief financial officer until May 2013, the executive vice chairman until September 2023, and is currently the chairman of the company.

From 1995 to 1999, Joe was a private equity investor based in Hong Kong with Investor AB, the main investment vehicle of Sweden's Wallenberg family. Prior to that, he was general counsel of Rosecliff, Inc., a management buyout firm based in New York. From 1990 to 1993, Joe was an associate attorney in the tax group of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, a New York-based international law firm.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Aboubakar Karim **Founder & CEO, Investiv**

Agronomist Aboubakar has pioneered precision agriculture using drones fitted with sensors to create land-use maps and boost farmland productivity in Côte d'Ivoire. After graduating from Canada's Laval University, Aboubakar founded Investiv, which pinpoints poor and dehydrated soil to carry out precise fertilization and detect crop diseases.



Ade Bajomo **President, FinTechNGR**

Ade is a financial services technology and business leader with global experience in Banking, Insurance and Capital Markets, and a track record of delivery in complex digital transformation programmes, strategic leadership, cybersecurity, innovation, advanced data analytics and global payments technology.



Adebola Williams **Founder, RED Media Group**

Adebola is a Global strategist and communication expert popularly known for his exploits in Political Consulting. He has been recognized by Forbes and CNN as the man who galvanized youth voting blocs across Africa to elect a trifecta of presidents with two currently in office; Ghanas President Nana Akuffo Ado and Senegals President MackySall.



Alan Zong **Tech Investor**

With a wealth of experience, Alan has held pivotal roles such as the Head of Innovation Ventures in Hangzhou and served as the Investment Lead for Taobao. He has specialized in diverse domains, including content platforms, the metaverse, and e-commerce. He is a strategic tech Investor based in China.



Amena El-Saie **Co-founder & CEO, Helm**

Amena co-founded Helm in 2012, an organization that serves more than 200 companies and 2,700 persons with disabilities in Egypt and the region. Amena drives the organization's vision, strategy, and growth as it provides sustainable and unique solutions for public and private institutions to foster policies and strategies towards effective and sustainable inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace and marketplace.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Dr Anino Emuwa

Managing Director, Avandis Consulting

Dr Anino is a global expert in the field of D, E & I working at the intersection of women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies. A former corporate banker with Citibank and MD of Avandis Consulting in France. She is also the founder of women leadership communities including Africa Women CEOs Network.



Benjamin Bonell

CEO, Expand in Africa

Benjamin is the founder of Expand in Africa, a boutique consulting company specializing in business development and investment on the African continent that provides strategic, operational, and financial expertise to startups and more mature companies. He counts among his long-time recurrent customers and portfolio companies, many actors from the Digital and Financial Services Sector.



Bogolo Joy Kenewendo

Global Economist, Kenewendo Advisory

Bogolo's career spans trade and investment, finance and development, and public policy. She is the Regionalisation Director, and Special Advisor to the UN Climate Change High Level Champions. Bogolo served as a Specially Elected Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry in Botswana. She also advises governments and international institutions on trade and economic development policy.



Charlot Magayi

Founder & CEO, Mukuru Clean Stoves

Charlot was moved to provide safer cooking technologies for her community when her daughter got burned by a traditional stove. She believes in a toxin and smoke-free world and has dedicated her time, skills, and experience to fighting household air pollution. Her company, Mukuru Clean Stoves, has manufactured and distributed over 400,000 life saving cookstoves, impacting the lives of 2,000,000 Kenyans.



Chebet Lesan

Founder & CEO, BrightGreen Renewable Energy

Chebet's BrightGreen Renewable Energy manufactures life-saving recycled fuel bricks from agricultural waste. Sold widely across Kenya, these fuel bricks replace charcoal and firewood. They provide a simple, effective, and affordable heat source both for domestic and industrial use. The fuels are easily adaptable and reduce life-threatening household air pollution caused by firewood smoke.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Dr Chibuzo Opara Co-founder & CEO, DrugStoc

Dr Chibuzo co-founded Drugstoc, a cutting-edge, cloud-based pharma tech distribution platform in Nigeria. Deeply affected by the challenges faced in his own medical practice, Chibuzo's determination was further fueled by the tragic loss of his father, a professor of surgery, due to the lack of medicines that should have been easily accessible.



Christelle Kwigera Founder & Managing Director, Water Access Rwanda

Christelle is a social entrepreneur and long-term activist involved in initiatives around water, environmental, and youth issues. She founded Water Access Rwanda to address issues of water scarcity and youth unemployment in Rwanda. Under Christelle's management, Water Access Rwanda has become a powerhouse of solutions that deliver safe tap water to everyone, everywhere.



Ewetse Khama Communications Specialist

Ewetse is a well-rounded media comms professional with over 20 years of experience in Film, Print, Journalism, Publicity, and Public Relations. His Africa-centric world view is grounded in the Khama family's generations-long leadership role from pre-colonial times to the modern era. His experience in African markets has seen him work with a wide range of industries including Government, Finance, Technology, Sustainability and Development.



Flavien Kouatcha Founder & Chief Farming Officer, Save Our Agriculture

Flavien is a Cameroonian agricultural engineer and entrepreneur passionate about agriculture and committed to the development of Africa. He is the Founder of Save Our Agriculture, a start-up helping Cameroonian farmers improve their yields and incomes by producing four times more vegetables and fish in small areas. Flavien is considered a pioneer of sustainable agriculture in francophone Africa.



Dr Frannie Léautier Senior Partner & CEO, SouthBridge Investments

Dr. Frannie has worked in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. She was previously Vice President African Development Bank (AfDB) and Chief Operating Officer Trade and Development Bank (TDB), and served fifteen years in several senior roles at the World Bank, including as Infrastructure Director, Vice President, and Chief of Staff to the President.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Fred Swaniker

Founder & CEO, Africa Leadership Group and SandTech

Fred is on a mission to bring better leadership to Africa and the world. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Sand Technologies, a global information technology services and consulting company that works with organizations to build end-to-end technology solutions and augment their technology teams. He also leads the African Leadership Group - an ecosystem of organizations that are catalyzing a new era of ethical, entrepreneurial and digital leaders in Africa.



Georgie Ndirangu

Head (Pan-African Communications), Mastercard Foundation

With a stellar career spanning the BBC, CNBC Africa, and Forbes Africa, Georgie has earned accolades such as the Rwandan Journalist of the Year award. His remarkable journey includes captivating interviews with global leaders. In the agency sector, he has been part of the team driving transformative projects for renowned clients like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Evercare, and TPG, across diverse regions—Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the UK.



Hany O. Soliman

Regional Head/Operating Partner GCC & Africa, PayTabs

Hany has a demonstrated history of working in the banking industry and supporting the entrepreneurship ecosystem. He is skilled in Portfolio Management, Banking, Private Banking, SME development, and Branch Banking.



Hasan Haider

Founder & Managing Director, Plus Venture Capital

Hasan is an experienced investor in MENA startups, having invested in more than 200 startups in the region since 2010. Hasan was previously Managing Partner, MENA at 500 Startups, and led the firm's growth in the MENA Region since 2017, turning 500 Startups into the most Seed stage active VC fund in the MENA region.



Iris Irumva

Co-founder, Lead Access Ltd

Iris is a seasoned business leader, executive advisor, speaker, and author with a proven track record of success in the corporate world. With a wealth of experience managing teams of over 1,000 people in East Africa, she has established herself as an authority in the field of Human Resources, Leadership and Career development. Lead Access Ltd is a consulting firm with a mission to empower leaders at all level through coaching and mentoring.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Isaac Ewaleifoh

Vice President, BDT & MSD Partners

Isaac is an investment performance and risk analytics professional with over a decade of financial services experience spanning across multiple functions including product control, valuation, audit, due diligence review, SOX compliance testing, trading operations and GIPS.



Isabelle Kamariza

Founder, Solid' Africa

Isabelle is the Founder and President of Solid'Africa, a non-profit organization that helps socioeconomically vulnerable patients in public hospitals in Kigali, Rwanda. She is a social entrepreneur, dynamic problem solver, and socially conscious member of society. She is a highly determined and progressive individual with 13 years of experience developing, implementing, and executing operations within her organization.



Just Ivy

Award-winning Influencer

Ivy Wanjiru Mugo, renowned as 'Just Ivy Africa,' stands as an Award-Winning Marketer, a recipient of multiple awards for her outstanding contributions as a Content Creator, a Digital Entrepreneur, and an astute Investor. Ivy has emerged as a Pan-African Voice in Money Matters, an adept Conversation Moderator, and a skillful Experience Curator.



Karim Sy

Founder, JokkoLabs

Karim is a serial entrepreneur, business angel, and active builder of the African innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem with strong international alliances. Since 2010, by founding the Jokkolabs initiative, he has been creating an invisible infrastructure across Africa and beyond, to support entrepreneurs and innovators. Jokkolabs innovation labs are located in 8 African countries and France.



Kevine Kagirimpundu

Co-founder & CEO, UZURI K&Y

Kevine is the CEO & co-founder of UZURI K&Y, the eco-friendly footwear brand in Rwanda. She obtained her degree in creative designs and environmental build from the University of Rwanda, and she also acquired her business development and leadership skills from global entrepreneurship accelerators. She is passionate about the environment and leverages her skills to educate youth & women from urban vulnerable communities.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Lucy Nshuti Mbabazi

Head of Partnerships, UN Better Than Cash Alliance

Lucy passionately champions digital financial inclusion for all Africans and inspires African girls to choose STEM careers. Currently, Lucy serves as Lead of Africa Policy, Advocacy, and Partnerships at the United Nations Better Than Cash Alliance, working to ensure digital public infrastructure, led by digital payments, is a part of the continental and regional agenda to deepen financial inclusion for the success of the One Africa Market (AfCFTA).



Lucy Quist

Author, The Bold New Normal

Lucy is a C-suite telecommunications and financial services executive. She was most recently a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley serving as the Global Head of Firm (Business & Operations) Resilience. She is widely known for being the first Ghanaian woman to lead a multinational telecommunications company as the former CEO of Airtel in Ghana.



Malik Shaffy Lizinde

Country Manager (Rwanda), AMI

Malik is a creative entrepreneur passionate about design, innovation, and the power of collaboration. His professional path has been defined by a deep commitment to developing brands, managing operations, and pioneering product innovation, all while keeping a keen eye on the evolving landscape of digital communication. His dedication to creative entrepreneurship, branding, and technology, coupled with my leadership, has garnered him respect across industries



Mohamed Ali

Founder & CEO, PowerLock

Transforming from an aerospace engineer to an inventor, Mohamed initiated his business journey in 2016, spurred by a personal incident involving his daughter's safety. Fueled by a vision to enhance home electrical safety worldwide, he invented four products, leading to the birth of ilock company in 2018. Starting with no business experience or connections, Mohamed's unwavering belief in the equation of effort and time propelled ilock to global success.



Monica Sumbi

Associate Director of Marketing, Carnegie Mellon University Africa

Monica is a marketing and communication pundit with over 20 years of experience whose career spans from over 10 years of experience in broadcast journalism to a soon-to-be-accredited PR practitioner with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR). Monica's commitment is to play an active role in telling the African narrative of brilliance, innovation, and creativity through the lens of empowered and innovative African Leaders.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Moulaye Tabouré
Co-founder & CEO, ANKA

Moulaye Tabouré launched Afrikrea as a marketplace for Africa-based and inspired fashion, clothing, accessories, arts and crafts. It serves more than 7,000 sellers from 47 African countries and buyers from 170 countries. The ANKA platforms provide several additional features including a customized online storefront linked to sellers' social media platforms and marketplace channels; access to shipping products with DHL, and the ability to receive payments in various currencies.



Naa Ashorkor Mensah-Doku
Broadcast Journalist

Naa is a distinguished Ghanaian broadcast journalist and talented actor. With her multifaceted career, she excels as a specialized compère, TV producer, and creative content creator. Naa's remarkable journey includes the production of over 200 live shows, transcending geographical boundaries to captivate audiences in Ghana, Nigeria, and beyond.



Natalie Jabangwe
Group Digital Executive Officer, Sanlam

Natalie is the Group Digital Executive Officer at Sanlam, a multinational, diversified financial services group offering services to individuals and institutional clients. Sanlam has an international footprint with a presence in more than 10 African countries, India, Malaysia, Philippines, the UK and Ireland, the US, Switzerland, and Australia.



Natalie Munyampenda
CEO, Kepler

Natalie is an educator and CEO of Kepler which is transforming higher education and skilling in Rwanda and Ethiopia by focusing on the outcomes of employment and entrepreneurship. Kepler also runs preparatory programs for displaced and vulnerable youth and upskilling programs in order to transition Africa's youth into meaningful employment or entrepreneurship.



Nuseir Yassin
Founder & CEO, Nas Company

Nuseir's Nas Company has over 65 Million followers globally. His company's mission is to "Bring People Together." Nas Company operates several brands such as Nas Daily, Nas.io, and Nas Academy - all of which are designed to empower communities both online and offline.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Nomzamo Mbatha

Actress & UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

Nomzamo Mbatha is a South African model, actress, humanitarian, and brand ambassador. She is well known for acting in Paramount/Amazon Studios' hugely successful film, Coming 2 America, the sequel, to the hit 1988 comedy, Coming To America. Nomzamo is also a brand ambassador for several iconic global brands, including Neutrogena Africa, Audi South Africa, L'Oréal Paris Hair and Veuve Clicquot Africa.



Oghenekome Oruade

Global Manager, Acumen

Oghenekome is the Global Manager for Acumen Angels, a US \$1 million investment facility deployed across four continents to catalyze the growth of early-stage organizations using for-profit and nonprofit solutions to solve problems of poverty. Until recently, she led Acumen Academy in West Africa, growing its alumni community to 110 Fellows working across 20 different sectors and impacting approximately 2 million lives in West Africa.



Dr Omar Sakr

Founder & CEO, Nawah Scientific

Dr. Omar is the founder and CEO of the first private multidisciplinary research center in Egypt, catering to research in the fields of natural and biomedical sciences. Dr Omar's career extends over 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical field, both in academia and industry. He is also an adjunct assistant professor of entrepreneurship at Zewail City of Science and Technology.



Reda Lakhifi

Founder, Founco

Reda is passionate about leveraging technology and innovation to drive meaningful change in the world. With a diverse background in Finance and Mathematics, he thrives in dynamic environments where creativity, collaboration, and strategic thinking are valued. Throughout his career, he has developed a strong expertise in innovation in Francophone Africa.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Rene Parker

Co-founder & Director, RLabs

Rene is a social impact entrepreneur with extensive experience in building social ventures at scale. Her role as the Director of RLabs has led to its transformation from the humble beginnings of a community project in Cape Town into an award-winning global social enterprise. RLabs is a global movement that has been replicated in 23 countries and impacted more than 20 Million people since its inception in 2009.



Ruvheneko Parirenyatwa

Broadcast Journalist

Ruvheneko is an award-winning Broadcast Journalist. She is also a Media Consultant through her company Neko Incorporated Media. After 10 years on Radio and Television, as a News and Current Affairs Anchor, Ruvheneko is now an international MC, Director of Ceremonies, Host and Moderator. She is a Graça Machel Fellow as part of the Women in Media Network, runs a mentorship programme for girls, and has year after year been on the Top 40 Most Influential Zimbabweans List.



Sherif Nessim

Founder & Managing Partner, Jedar Capital

Sherif is a technology professional with 24+ years of experience in providing solutions and products to enterprises, mobile carriers, and service providers (B2B) as well as consumer services (B2C) in Egypt & MEA region. He is a tech operator turned tech investor who founded Jedar Capital, an emerging VC firm focusing on early-stage startups from Pre-Seed to Series A with focus on Africa & Middle East.



Tamim El Zein

Partner, Seedstars

Tamim is an experienced investor with a demonstrated history of working in the venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) industries. Also, a former entrepreneur, Tamim has been through many ups and downs of an early-stage company. He has strong Emerging Markets experience and at Seedstars Africa Ventures, Tamim invests in early-stage innovative ventures across Sub-Saharan Africa.

SPEAKER OVERVIEW



Tesh Mbaabu
Founder & CEO, MarketForce

Tesh is a serial technology entrepreneur who lives to blend commerce and technology. MarketForce is a B2B Commerce platform that empowers over 200,000 neighborhood merchants across 5 African markets to source, order, and pay for inventory, access financing, and earn more by reselling financial services in their communities.



Yussouf Ntwali
Co-founder & CEO, BAG Innovation

Yussouf is a Rwandan entrepreneur. He is the CEO and co-founder of BAG, an award-winning platform that equips job seekers with vital skills through real-world simulations. Recognized by the African Union, BAG has revolutionized workforce readiness. Yussouf also spearheads Startups in Rwanda, the country's largest network of founders, tech enthusiasts, and investors.



Yvette Ishimwe
Founder & CEO, Iriba Water Group

Yvette's mission to offer Rwandans affordable drinking water began when her family moved to the countryside, where it was in short supply, and people were at risk from waterborne diseases. Yvette established IRIBA Water Group in 2017 to distribute purified water through a network of community cyclists which has since evolved to novel water ATMs in schools and communities.

EVENT HOSTS



Anita Erskine
Founder & ED, Erskine Global Communications | ABH Official Host

Anita is an esteemed figure in Media and Communications, who passionately advocates for owning narratives to drive Africa's prosperity. Her work not only spans across Africa but also extends to North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. She is particularly passionate about entrepreneurship and the elevation of women's socio-economic status.



Victor S. Kagimu
Co founder & COO, Tabiri Analytics Inc

Victor is the co-founder of Tabiri Analytics Inc, a cybersecurity tech startup committed to protecting organizations from cyber threats, he integrates global tech expertise with a local focus to craft practical solutions for enterprises in Africa.

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