

MISSION

To work for the improvement of the lives of children, young people and women from disadvantaged backgrounds through information sharing, training, research, education and innovative early interventions; bridging the gap between theory, policy and practice. The lack of visible female representation in STEM fields, especially in popular culture, make it difficult for girls and young women to envision themselves in leading roles that will shape future technologies.

2019 Regional STEAM and Innovation Symposium: Mapping an Inclusive STEM Future

How the inclusion of girls and women in STEM fields leads to greater innovation and more breakthroughs

At the Aspire Artemis Foundation we utilize a three-pronged approach we call EMI (or “Emmie”). We believe that supplementary **education**, structured in-person **mentorship**, and **internship** experiences bridge the gap and support young women as shape their own paths for a STEM-centered future.

Through leadership and cultural exchange summits and other holistic training methods, the Aspire Artemis Foundation (AAF) continues to play a critical role in highlighting the similarities faced by marginalized youth globally through empowering them towards productive avenues. AAF has paired youth with mentors, hosted successful female empowerment summits, leadership and entrepreneurship training sessions, as well as placed young people in internships that matched their aspirations with both international organizations and private sector companies. The Foundation has effectively guided and supported youth through the college and university selection process and provided career counseling services and workshops on a global scale. AAF is also actively executing programs and activities in line with the UN Decade for People of African Descent.

The Aspire Artemis Foundation is actively working to expand the concept of STEM Education to include Arts & Culture (STEAM) as it recognizes the critical role that science, technology, and innovation plays in the development and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Foundation believes that increasingly complex global challenges are best addressed by adopting an interdisciplinary and creative approach. To this end its leadership team boasts a strong international network of leaders from a variety of sectors.

One of the major projects currently being undertaken by the Foundation is the introduction of an innovative, cutting edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Center in the Caribbean to increase the exposure of young people in that region to the education that will help them enter the fastest growing career fields in the world.

AAF is also in the process of launching a series of global symposia to take place regionally. The intended set of symposia will build on the success of our past events such as the 2018 summit we held in St. Lucia and most recently our 2019 International Women’s Day event at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

The 2018 event launched effective global partnerships, trained new trainers and highlighted the successful collaboration between the private sector, civil society, and other regional organizations.

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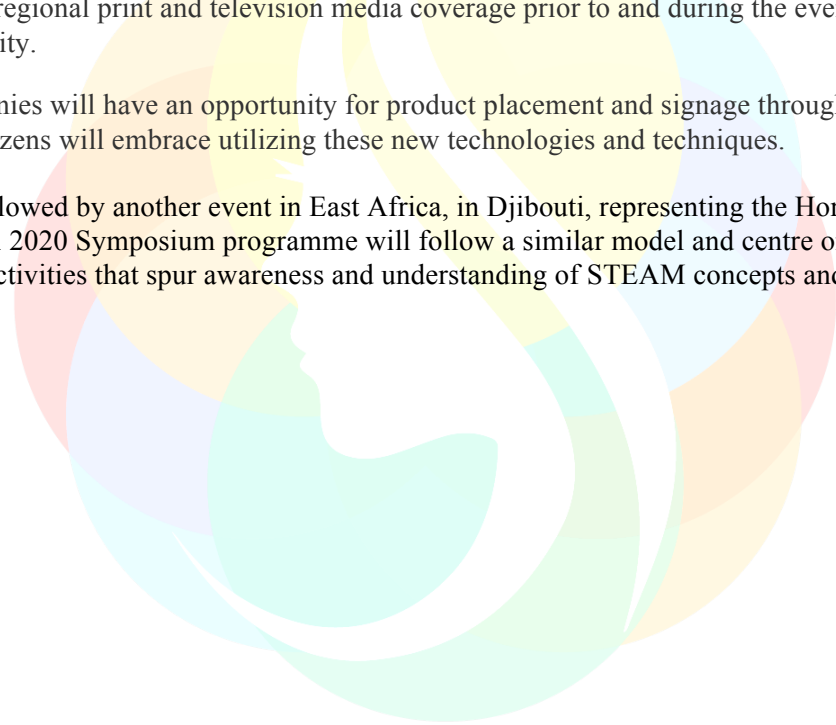
We empower future leaders

The NY event brought together several UN delegations, UN organizations like UNICEF, UNESCO, UNCTAD, OSAA, along with young leaders, industry leaders, directors and CEOs from private sector companies for a series of interactive panel discussions. Panelists discussed topics centred around the inclusion of arts and culture in STEM education and programming. A key ingredient of the IWD event was the inclusion of performing artists who enlivened the discussion and integrated the note of creativity so necessary for inspiration.

The proposed set of regional symposia will be kicked off in Saint Lucia (covering the Latin American and Caribbean region) to highlight the opportunities for innovation in science, technology, engineering, arts & culture, and math in the Caribbean region. Caribbean entrepreneurs are constantly surpassing expectations and devising products, technology and ideas that have global impact. This will be an introduction to a few of the events that the STEAM Center will encompass. The Caribbean STEAM Center seeks to increase the local innovation capacity of the region through Aspire Artemis Foundation's EMI approach. The symposium will contain musical performances and speeches from private sector companies, policymakers, heads of regional governments, celebrities, and artistic displays, will reach an estimated 100-150K people directly in Saint Lucia, and will be live broadcast online and through social media. There will also be regional print and television media coverage prior to and during the event to expand brand visibility.

Tech companies will have an opportunity for product placement and signage throughout the country. Citizens will embrace utilizing these new technologies and techniques.

It will be followed by another event in East Africa, in Djibouti, representing the Horn of Africa. The Djibouti 2020 Symposium programme will follow a similar model and centre on structured and varied activities that spur awareness and understanding of STEAM concepts and principles.



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