Josiah Kwesi Eyison is currently the CEO and Co-Founder of the iSpace Foundation and Chairman of the Ghana Hub Network. He focuses on ecosystem development at multiple levels through his work with individuals, startups, and networks to build their strategy, soft, and technical skills.

In his work, Josiah has gained a reputation for supporting innovation hubs and entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, funding, and coaching. Josiah hosted the first AfriLabs Annual Gathering of hubs from across Africa in 2016 and used the platform to ensure the participation of 13 hubs from Ghana; he was also the project lead for the event’s content creation. In 2018, Josiah led iSpace Foundation on an ecosystem strengthening tour as part of the Unlocking Women and Technology (partner Comic Relief, Indigo Trust, MobileWeb Ghana – GBP 575,000), which allow the team to engage 120 entrepreneurs and give more than 10 hubs a greater ability to support entrepreneurs with considerations for DEI to increase participation of women and people from vulnerable communities. Josiah’s training and mentorship also gave more than 15 individuals the ability to establish hubs across Ghana.

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Description automatically generatedIn 2019, Josiah was elected to lead the Ghana Hubs Network and established structures that passed a suitability assessment performed by PwC, which led to a 2-year program-focused partnership with GIZ worth GHS 700,000. In this role, which he was re-elected for in March 2022, he also designed programs, built partnerships, fundraised, increased the membership base in number of hubs and diversity of members by more than 100%, and raised more than GHS 30,000 in membership dues.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, he assessed how innovation hubs in Ghana were affected and developed a Hub Management Series program to help hub managers build their technical and soft skills. Josiah also supported the development of the Resiliency in Hubs in Ghana project (partners Ashesi University, Ghana Hubs Network, GIZ) and worked on the project to support evaluating hubs and recommending programming development areas, which resulted in five organizations receiving funding support.

In his role as CEO of iSpace Foundation, Josiah provides mentoring and coaching services to entrepreneurs in business development-focused topics including strategy, pitching, content creation, and fundraising. He has been able to help entrepreneurs raise more than USD 320,000 (self-reported from entrepreneurs). In 2021, Josiah was a mentor for the AfriLabs Hub Manager Program where his mentored hub managers won 4 out of the 6 slots for a funding total of EUR 95,000. Josiah believes in combining capacity building in multiple ways. In March 2022, Josiah worked with AfriLabs to design an Innovation Ecosystem Building curriculum for innovation hubs that includes training videos, content, and a teaching methodology. His work in capacity building currently focuses on strengthening the capacity of other hubs and hub managers to prioritize gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion in daily operations and programs. He kicked off this agenda with the Gender Awareness Program (partners RISA, UKAID – GBP 68,000) that provided training, mentorship, and strategy work sessions to 22 hubs from across Ghana and funding to 18 hubs that were piloting programs that supported women, people living with disabilities, and people from vulnerable or marginalized communities. In addition to his work helping the development of the Ghana Startup Act and Social Enterprise Act, Josiah led the development of a Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Charter that provides a guideline and resources for organizations to operate with more equitable and inclusive practices.

Josiah has developed a strong working relationship with NEIP since 2017 when iSpace was selected as one of its training partners for entrepreneurs. This led to him being selected to support the development of the National Entrepreneurship Policy and to be a trainer and mentor on the YouStart program. He also works with other organizations that support entrepreneurship and ecosystem development.

**Recent Projects & Activities**

* **Gender Awareness Program**, iSpace Foundation, Dec 2021 - present
* **Innovation Ecosystem Building Curriculum Development**, AfriLabs, March 2022
* **TVET Curriculum Development**, Ghana Education Service Council for TVET, Sept – Nov 2021
* **British Council African Universities & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Mapping**, Ghana, Nov 2021
* **Ghana Social Enterprise Act Development**, Nordicity, Jun 2021 – Nov 2021
* **Ghana Startup Act Development**, Ghana Hubs Network, 2019 - present

**Committees & Boards**

* GIZ Digitalisation Committee - Member
* TVET for ICT Skills – Vice Chairperson

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Skills** | • Training and Development | • Business Development | • Project Management |
| • Talent Acquisition | • People Management | • Management Consulting |

**Career Experience**

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Description automatically generated**Chairman**, Ghana Hubs Network

Ghana, January 2020 – Present

Leads program design, partnership development, organizational management, and marketing to build strategy and structure while engaging current and potential members. Membership has increased by approximately 63%, revenue has increased by 100%, social media engagement has increased approximately 60%, and women’s engagement has increased since January 2020.

**Chief Executive Officer**, iSpace Foundation

Ghana, February 2011 – Present

Develops and leads iSpace to support individuals, ventures, and development of entrepreneurship and technology ecosystems with a focus on empowerment and equity for women, PWD, and members of vulnerable groups. iSpace programs have supported more than 3500 individuals (approximately 68% women), CSOs, and business across West Africa, East Africa, and the United Kingdom.

**Managing Director**, Learning Without Frontiers

Ghana Headquarters/Africa Region, *November 2010 – November 2012*

Implemented the strategic plan through partnership development and innovation ecosystem building for technology and education development in London and Ghana to facilitate stakeholder engagement and resource development for Learning Without Frontiers and community members. Clients included Apple, Samsung, Nintendo, and the UK Government.

**Partner, Managing Director, CEO, Strategic Business Development Advisor**, Quintessentially

Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria, *2007 - 2010*

Formed partnerships with luxury brands and banks for the new regional franchise to generate a multi-million USD annual revenue.

**Other Career Experience**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Global Subscription Manager and Credit Controller, Global Membership Secretary** | **Database and Information Manager** | **Web Content Manager, Audio and Visual Assistant** |
| Quintessentially  United Kingdom  *2002 - 2007* | Action for Prisoners’ Families, United Kingdom  March 2007 – March 2008 | Digital Arts, Ammo City  United Kingdom  April 200 – May 2002 |

**Education**

BA – Business Studies and Management • HND – New Technology Media and Communication

**References**

Available upon request

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