



**YOUTH
CONNEKT
AFRICA
SUMMIT '18**

**Connekting Youth for
Continental Transformation**

8 - 10 October 2018 | Kigali | Rwanda

Information Pack


Organized by



Republic of Rwanda

In Partnership with



A large audience is seated in a hall, facing a stage. The stage features a large blue banner with the text "YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT 17" and "From Potential to Success". The banner also lists several goals: "10 million jobs", "25 million opportunities", "1 million leaders", "Reduce gender inequality", and "100 million digitally empowered". The audience is diverse, and the hall has a modern design with a large circular light fixture on the ceiling.

**“ We are not poor, not at all.
The issues have more to do
with mindset.”**

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, AU Chairman

Connekting Youth for Continental Transformation

Africa's greatest resource is arguably its nearly 420¹ million youth. Yet, this tremendous asset is relatively untapped. This is largely due to limited access to education, mentorship, finance, employment opportunities and health required to meaningfully participate in the continent's socio-economic transformation and realize the economic dividend.

YouthConnekt Africa (YCA) has emerged as a high-impact solution for African countries to realize the demographic dividend. Launched in Rwanda in 2012, YouthConnekt has been embraced for its innovative design and implementation providing youth with the skills, networks and information needed to scale their initiatives and gain meaningful employment. To date, six countries have already launched YouthConnekt and many others are in the process of implementing the model.

The Inaugural July 2017 YCA Summit mandated the setup of a Hub and Fund to scale-up the initiative. The Hub will equip YCA members with the knowledge to integrate relevant best practices in youth economic and civic empowerment to their existing initiatives. The Fund will provide the needed financial and technical support to scale Youth-led ventures for economic opportunities.

The proposed YCA Hub and Fund strategy aims to touch Youth in Africa over five years. YCA would thus contribute to achieving the SDGs and the AU 2063 agenda.

The YCA Hub will empower young African innovators to shape a better future for themselves and the continent at large by expanding access to economic, social and civic opportunities through National YouthConnekt initiatives.

The Hub will achieve this through

- nurturing and strengthening a regional network of youth empowerment experts and hubs;
- providing young innovators with the necessary, skills, coaching and networks and strengthening youth empowerment ecosystem.

The YCA Fund will increase access to finance and technical assistance for scalable youth-led ventures. The Fund will address three key needs for youth-led SMEs:

- increase equity growth capital;
- de-risk youth firms through guarantees via banks & credit lines to MFIs;
- catalyze technical assistance to increase the skills and knowledge of youth entrepreneurs.

Fact






- Currently 420 million youth aged between 15 - 35 live in Africa. However, one-third of the youth are currently unemployed
- Africa's youth population is rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050

¹The ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook 2016

6 Countries have launched YouthConnekt



5 Key Goals of YouthConnekt Africa

-  Create 10 million jobs for youth
-  Empower 25 million youth with skills
-  Nurture 1 million young leaders
-  Connect 100 million young Africans
-  Close the gender gap.

How are we getting there

Policies

Bridging the gap between different nations by bringing together government leaders & policy influencers implementing youth policies to share knowledge & ideas that can assist others in achieving their own goals for their youth aligned with the African Youth Charter and the SDGs.

Programs

Identifying existing programs aligned with the YouthConnekt goals and facilitate a platform to work together to achieve our common goals. These programs will further assist in measuring, monitoring & maintaining successful initiatives aligned with the YouthConnekt objectives.

Partnerships

We will seek partnerships with private sector, government institutions, civic society, development partners, and academia that will be responsible for delivering programs, bringing other partners on board, innovating & providing solutions for implementation challenges.



About **YouthConnekt Hub & Fund**



"Ask yourself as a young entrepreneur. What do you want? What don't you want? How much time do you want to commit and what will you do to reach it?"

Jack Ma, Founder of Alibaba group
YouthConnekt Africa 2017

What is the YouthConnekt Hub?

The YouthConnekt Africa Hub will nurture and strengthen a regional networks of youth empowerment experts and hubs. This will provide young innovators with the necessary, skills, coaching and networks whilst strengthening youth empowerment ecosystem. YouthConnekt programmes will achieve this through:

- Exchange of best practices between YouthConnekt national programmes
- Seeking South-South synergies between successful youth empowerment initiatives
- Nurturing of a regional network of youth empowerment experts and hubs in Africa
- Continental communication about the YouthConnekt initiatives
- Providing resource mobilization and partnership support to YouthConnekt national programmes
- Connecting national YouthConnekt innovators with regional and global mentors
- Facilitation of the Youth for Africa and SDGs platform
- Supporting youth volunteering platforms across Africa

What is the YouthConnekt Empowerment Fund?

The YouthConnekt Africa Empowerment Fund is an initiative to empower young people in Africa to impact their communities. Supported by private sector, donors, national governments, foundations and civil society organizations, the Fund will offer regional support to Youth empowerment initiatives including:

- Offer grants, financing and training to youth-led projects and social enterprises that advance the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 across Africa
- Invest in the creation of innovative and highly scalable start-ups and SMEs, grass roots, community innovative projects.
- Provide seed funding for the establishment of national YouthConnekt initiatives, infrastructure, equipment, software, ICT and other similar logistical support. Facilitation of the Youth for Africa and SDGs platform
- Supporting youth volunteering platforms across Africa

YouthConnekt Africa 2017

attendance



66%

34%



Registered

7,079



Accredited

3,121



67% International Delegates

90+ Countries Represented

Commitments made in 2017

Commitment from UNDP

UNDP committed to provide technical and financial support to the establishment of the Regional Hub in Kigali and the design of the YouthConnekt Africa Innovation and Empowerment Fund. They also committed to partner with the Government of Rwanda and the AfDB to co-host the YouthConnekt Africa Summit 2018.

Commitment from AfDB

AfDB committed to host and support the 2018 edition of YouthConnekt Africa summit

Commitments from Alibaba Group

Jack Ma, Founder & Chairman of the Alibaba Group, committed to train 100- 200 African young entrepreneurs at the Alibaba headquarters in various sectors including E-commerce & Artificial intelligence.

He also committed to work with universities and governments in Africa to provide training in the same fields.

He further committed to work in partnership with the Paradise foundation to launch an Africa-wide conservation fund.

The Alibaba Group committed devote a 10 Million dollar fund for African entrepreneurs.

2017 Partners





About

YouthConnekt Africa

Summit 2018

Who will attend

- Heads of State
- Global Business Leaders
- AU Commissioners
- Ministers of Youth
- Multilateral Organizations
- Development Partners
- Heads of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Young Men & Women Entrepreneurs
- Gender Equality & Women Empowerment Champions
- Civil Society and Academia
- Youth-led Organizations
- Accelerators, Incubators & Innovation Labs
- Venture capitalists, Business Angels & other Specialist Investors

Why attend

Africa's future is bright. Great strides are being made everyday because of you, your passion & commitment to build a better future for Africa's current & next generations.

The summit highlights

AU Youth Volunteer Corps

The 9th Batch Training African Union Youth Volunteerism Corps (AU-YVC) will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 26th Sept – 7th October 2018 bringing together more than 100 youth representatives of every African Union member state for an intensive training on volunteerism before deployment in different regions.

Discussion with the Leaders

This year's Summit, will feature a unique opportunity to the African youth with a exceptional discussion with leaders across the continent , including the AU Chairman, H.E Paul Kagame around the summit theme "Connekting Youth for Continental Transformation" that will tackle topics around youth cross-border employability, nurture African's young visionary leaders, close the Gender gap and many more.

Youth driving SDGs

This program will facilitate discussion on how African youth serve as a driving force to achieve SDGs. It will engage young entrepreneurs, youth volunteers, policy experts, community leaders, and youth-led organizations to exchange experiences, skills, inspiring stories, and innovative programmes contributing to scale-up the SDGs achievements. It will create and harness partnerships, provide policy recommendations to educate, empower, and support youth-led initiatives that positively impact Africa's SDG mandate





Urban youth Forum

Led by UN Habitat, the Africa Urban YouthConnekt 2018 session will make focus on influencing jobs and entrepreneurship through education, innovation, civic participation and leadership as well as reducing gender inequality. The session will also open up dialogues and come up with integrated & crosscutting approaches to enhance results. This will include: Art, Sports, Culture and Access to finance.

YouthMobile

In partnership with UNESCO, The YouthMobile Initiative aims to create a platform of coding experts as a lever for economic and social empowerment of young generation. The session will serve to strengthen capacities of youth in mobile applications development for community solutions creation. Most promising coders, will be awarded and connect them with significant partners & incubation hubs.

YouthConnekt Awards

YouthConnekt awards is a competition of innovative projects where most innovative projects will be selected around the continent. Selected innovators will spend 3 days of intensive courses to improve their business models to scale. Through a rigorous competition, 3 best finalists would be awarded financially.

This year's Summit tracks

YouthConnekt **4 Trade**

JobConnekt & GigKorner

Connekted **Innovators**

Youth**Konverse**

Connekted Innovators

Face the Gorilla

The Innovative Race

YouthConnekt **4 Trade**

The recently signed African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has put cross border trade at the forefront of the African development agenda. Challenges faced in accelerating intra Africa trade will take center stage as participants forge new policies & programs to:-

- **Enable trade facilitation**
- **Improve & optimize border infrastructure**
- **Accelerate access to finance**
- **Harmonize & disseminate market information**
- **Eradicate corruption & insecurity**
- **Increase knowledge, education & business management skills**





JobConnekt & **GigKorner**

JobConnekt

This track is focused on career advice, connecting job seekers to potential employers, allowing them to post their CVs online. It will also be connected to the YouthConnekt app, which will feature an employment section.

GigKorner

As the gig economy starts taking shape in Africa, the GigKorner Hub will provide guidance and tools that allows young people to explore opportunities.

ConnektedGirls

A lot of progress continues to be made towards reducing gender disparities. The ConnektedGirls programme will celebrate achievements, acknowledge progress and share knowledge on how to increase community involvement in the empowering girls.

Education for Girls

- Spotlight conversations on education for girls champion
- Visual content featuring available programs & opportunities for girls

Women & Girls in STEM

- Celebration of Girls & Women in STEM through story telling & interactive knowledge sharing

Finance for girls & women in trade

- One-1-one intensive meetings & consultations between financial specialists & women entrepreneurs
- "Where is the money" - An interactive, provocative & dynamic debate on financing for women in trade





YouthKonverse

Driven by hope & motivated by Africa's growth, the next generation is poised to be the most innovative & solution driven work force.

YouthKonverse will feature talks from Africa's achievers who will share their journey from idea to success. Our speakers will discuss Youth and SDGs, volunteerism, and other topics to motivate young people and show how to overcome challenges.

This track will feature:

- 30 min presentations
- Videos featuring 'Young African Achievers' will be shown
- 10 min interaction with the audience

Connekted **Innovators**

Form a task force that will link knot between innovation labs and identify most innovators' barriers to succeed at the continental market and propose solutions through innovative approaches (Hackthon).

Face the Gorilla

Is a competition that provides a unique opportunity to young aspiring African entrepreneurs and young innovators to make a 5-minute pitch to a panel of renowned business moguls in hopes of accessing capital up to USD 200,000, partnership or mentorship in front of a live audience



The **Innovative Race**

Inspired by the successful 'The Amazing Race' TV show, the Innovative Race will group in six teams ranging from CEOs to young entrepreneurs, software developers and others to solve challenges and collect clues around Kigali to arrive at a specific destination for a grand prize.



Apply to attend by visiting
www.youthconnektafrica.org

