



ADIS22

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022

Foundations for the Future: Policy and Infrastructure in Africa

January - June 2022

Impact Report

Featuring the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future

About African Diaspora Network

Founded in 2010, African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit that promotes entrepreneurship and economic development on the African continent and in the communities where we live.

We bring together Africans on the continent, in the diaspora, and friends of Africa to actualize their full potential, activate their entrepreneurial spirit, and strategically mobilize financial and intellectual resources to ensure a brighter future for the African continent.

Mission

The mission of ADN is to sustainably serve its constituencies, marketplace, and partners. This is inextricably linked to engaging the African diaspora through an ethics of care, enhancing their well-being in their adopted homelands, and facilitating their strategic involvement in the development of Africa.

Vision

ADN's vision is to activate capital from the African diaspora and friends of Africa for the development of Africa and communities around the world. We aim to be the global leader in diaspora philanthropy, investment, and innovation.

ADN Board

JOSH GHAIM, Chairman of the Board, Founder and Managing Partner – IgniteGB Inc.,
Co-Founder and CEO - Small World Brands Inc

RAJ AJI, General Counsel and Compliance Officer, Bill.com

TWUM DJIN, Head of Engineering, Stripe Issuing

DR. JOSEPHINE FUBARA, Chief Science Officer, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare

RICK LEVENSON, CTO, Rippleworks

NDEYE MAKALOU, Senior Director - Product Strategy Leader, Global Supply Chain, Roche- Genentech

ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

INNOCENT SHUMBA, US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young

KEDEST TESFAGIORGIS, Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges,
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

AGNIESZKA WINKLER, Founder, Winkler Group

ADN Team

ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

DANIEL HARTZ, Founding Board of ADN & Director of Finance and Operations

MEGAN HUNSBERGER, Program and Digital Media Manager

DEBRA PACIO, Program Manager, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

HATIM CHRAIBI, Executive-in-Residence, ADN Telehealth Pilot

YINKA DJIN, Information Technology Associate

BENNETT LACERTE, Graphic Design Intern

MUHAMMED S. BAH, Telehealth Pilot Volunteer Intern

GODFRELLA JONAT-GEORGE, ADN Diaspora Leaders Research and Communications Volunteer Intern

DELVIN MARIMO, ADN Diaspora Leaders Research and Communications Volunteer Intern

Advisory Council

YOHANNES ASSEFA, Board of Directors, Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund and Director of Agriculture and Agribusiness at the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub

RUMA BHAGAT, Senior Science Leader, Health Equity & Population Science, Product Development Medical Affairs Genentech, Inc.

LOKSAN HARLEY, Independent Migration and Diaspora Expert

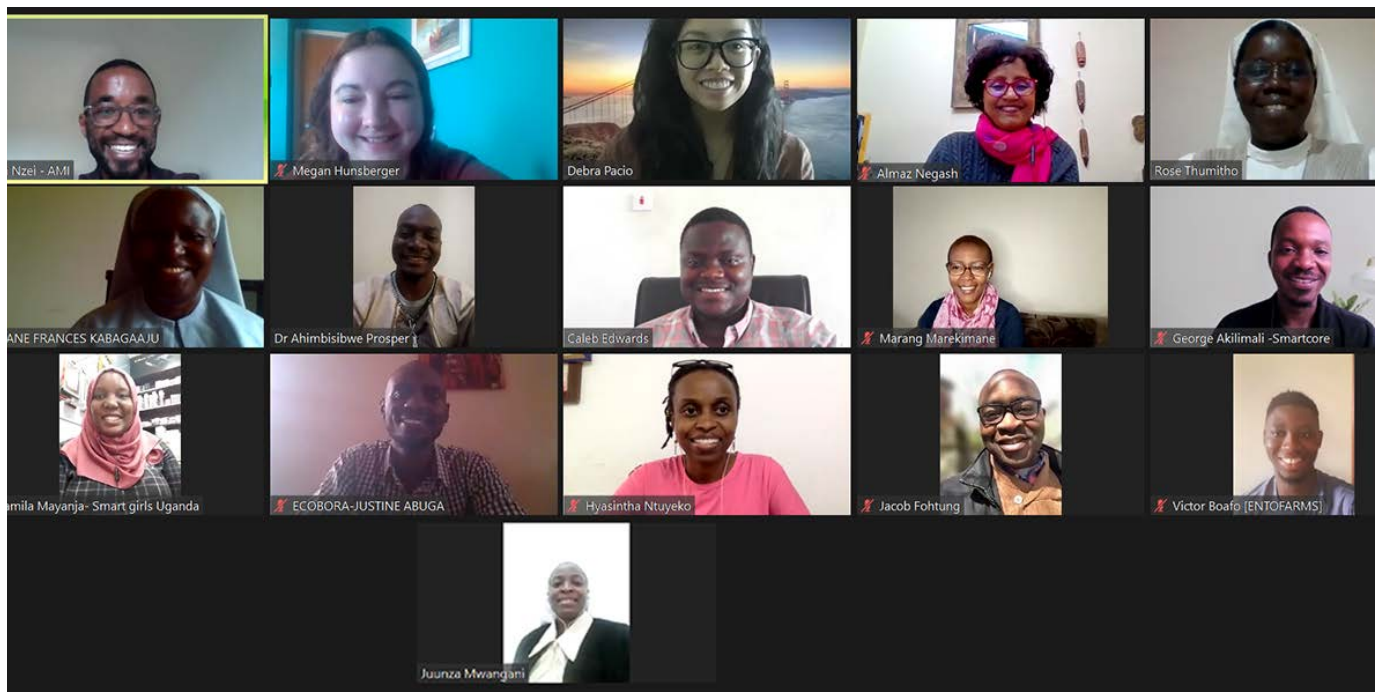
DR. MICHAEL MOSCHEROSCH, Director R&D, Fellow, Social Innovation, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.

ABBEY OMOKHODION, CFO for Intel PSG, Programmable Solutions Group

ROLAND PEARSON, Director, Economic Growth (Finance & Investment) at Palladium: Make It Possible

Our Programs

- ▶ African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)
- ▶ Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)
- ▶ Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)
- ▶ Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF)



Letter from Almaz



Dear friends, partners, and colleagues,

At this midway point of 2022, I am filled with gratitude as the African Diaspora Network concludes its seventh annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS). This has been a fantastic season, comprising six monthly virtual events that have gathered audiences from 80 countries. Special thanks to our esteemed speakers, participants, funders, the ADN board of directors, ecosystem partners, and our team for making this possible.

ADIS22 marks the second year that ADN has pivoted to provide a fully virtual series in order to provide a more inclusive platform for our global audience amidst the ongoing pandemic.. Technology has enabled us to stay connected with our network, to whom we are grateful for your patience, persistence, and active participation across our timely panels and dialogues on healthcare, education, agriculture, renewable energy, and connectivity. Our seventh annual symposium concluded on a high note, as we celebrated the fifth annual Builders of Africa's Future cohort composed of eleven changemakers from 100% fully African-led and owned-organizations. A special thank you to the United States African Development Foundation and Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for your continued support of these entrepreneurs as they work to make a difference in their communities across the continent each day.

The African Diaspora Investment Symposium is a testament to the power of convening and the ripple effect that this platform for dialogue, action, and co-creation can have on building a global community. I am humbled and inspired, and I invite you to learn more about the poignant panel discussions and key learnings and takeaways from our seventh annual global convening.

Commitment and consistency are the hallmarks of African Diaspora Network. We are proud to have hosted seven consecutive years of our annual symposium, and next year, we are delighted to host the return of our in-person signature event. **Save the date for March 22-24 to join us for the eighth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS23) at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California.**

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Almaz Negash". The script is fluid and cursive.

Almaz Negash
Founder & Executive Director
African Diaspora

Five Years of Elevating African Entrepreneurship

The BAF program annually awards 10 to 15 of Africa's most promising entrepreneurs with enterprise development training, mentorship opportunities, and a platform to boost brand visibility and investment potential in Silicon Valley. The goal is to help scale entrepreneurs' ventures and impact in the areas of health, education, energy, agriculture, financial inclusion, gender inclusion, nutrition, commerce, industrial development, and other socioeconomic goods.



MEET THE BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE 2022 COHORT



Justine Abuga,
CEO and Founder,
Ecobora (Kenya)



George Akilimali,
CEO & Co-Founder,
Smartcore
Enterprise Limited
(Tanzania)



Victor Boafu,
Co-Founder,
Entofarms
(Ghana)



**Dr. Hanane
Chaibainou,** CEO
and Co-Founder,
Biotesia (Morocco)



Caleb Edwards,
Co-Founder and
CEO, Wami Agro
Limited (Ghana)



**Sr. Jane Frances
Kabagaju,**
In-Charge Clinical
Officer, Nkuruba
Health Centre
(Uganda)




Jamila Mayanja,
CEO, Smart Girls
Uganda (Uganda)



**Sr. Christabel
Juunza Mwangani,**
Emerging Farmers
Initiative (Zambia)



Hyacintha Ntuyeko,
CEO,
Kasole Secrets
(Tanzania)



**Dr. Ahimbisibwe
Prosper,**
Co-Founder,
mSCAN (Uganda)



Sr. Rose Thumitho,
LSOSF, Co-Founder,
Mother Kevin
Providence Social
Enterprise (Uganda)

FUNDERS



CONRAD N.
HILTON
FOUNDATION



UNITED STATES
AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

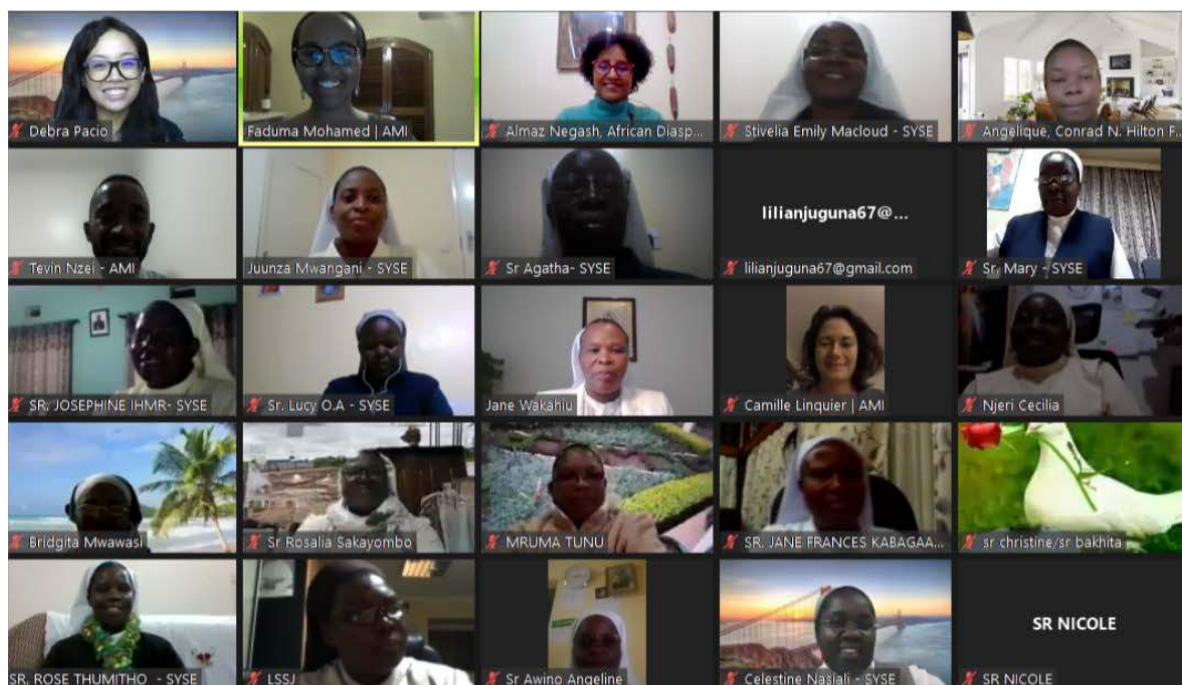
ACADEMIC PARTNER



African
Management
Institute

Start Your Social Enterprise

In 2021, African Diaspora Network partnered with Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to provide a preparatory training for Catholic Sisters who were committed to transforming their charity models into sustainable enterprise models. 10 Sisters completed the program and three were selected to be a part of the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future cohort.



BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE 2022 COHORT IMPACT STATS

AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURS LEADING
100% AFRICAN-OWNED
ORGANIZATIONS



GENDER
REPRESENTATION



COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



SECTORS
REPRESENTED

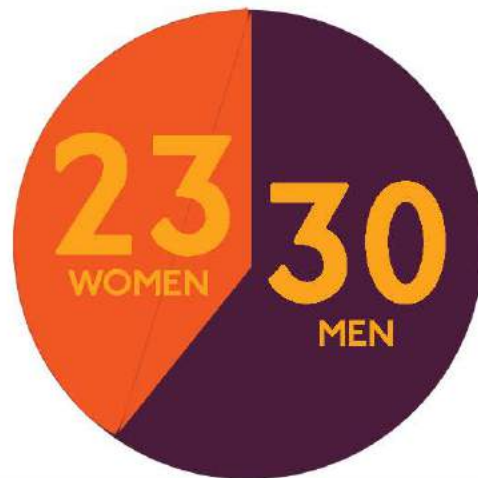


BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE ALUMNI IMPACT STATS

AFRICAN STARTUPS



GENDER REPRESENTATION



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



SECTORS REPRESENTED



About the Symposium

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022

Featuring the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future



ADIS22

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022

The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley

Foundations for the Future: Policy and Infrastructure in Africa

Virtual Sessions: January-June 2022

Celebrate Builders of Africa's Future 2022 ~June 23, 2022 @ 8:00 AM PST

African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS22) is the seventh annual global convening that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa. Hosted by African Diaspora Network, the symposium inspires participants to be agents of change and active contributors to Africa's development. The conference activates the potential of collaboration, drawing over 3,800 participants from around the world over the last seven years. Together, the African Diaspora Investment Symposium and Impact and Innovation Forum series have brought together people from 80 countries. The reach continues online where over 100,000 people have engaged with ADIS on social media since 2016.

For 2023, ADN will convene entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, government officials, and public and private sectors leaders from across the globe at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, to build bridges among Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa with the common goal of uplifting the African continent and the communities in which we live. The 2023 ADIS theme is "Future Ready: Africa". ADIS 2023 provides a platform for reflective and strategic thinking on approaches, innovations, and infrastructure critical to propelling Africa toward a thriving future.

Foundations for the Future: Policy & Infrastructure in Africa

Across the globe, nations are beginning to steer the COVID-19 pandemic that has laid bare systemic shortcomings and longstanding inequities. How does the continent move forward? ADIS22 provides a pathway for strategizing Africa's era of active epidemic management as we try to recover and maintain the advancements made thus far. With traditional structures upended and challenged in the face of change, there is an opportunity for intentional disruption. What are the regional needs and assets across Africa? How do we transform the landscape of policy and infrastructure to better support the advancement of opportunities and communities? What best practices can be learned from models of infrastructure across countries in Africa? Join us as we explore the role of Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa in building a stronger foundation for the future of the continent

Overview of the topics

January: The State of Africa in Healthcare Access

February: From E-Learning to Educational Systems Transformation

March: Changing the Landscape of Agriculture in Africa

April: Energizing Investment in the Solar and Renewable Sector

May: Bridging the Connectivity Gap

June: Builders of Africa's Future 2022 Pitch Session and Celebration

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM 2021 & 2022 IMPACT STATS

ADIS21
COUNTRIES
ATTENDED



ADIS22
COUNTRIES
ATTENDED



ADIS21
TOPICS
COVERED



ADIS22
TOPICS
COVERED



ADIS21
SPEAKERS



ADIS22
SPEAKERS



AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM 2021 & 2022 ENGAGEMENT MAP

Including the Impact and Innovation Forum sessions so far in 2022, the African Diaspora Network has engaged 80 different countries



January Recap

The State of Africa in Healthcare Access

Number of Countries Attended: 38



The banner for the ADIS22 event features a purple and orange geometric design. The title "The State of Africa in Healthcare Access" is on the left, and the date "Jan 26, 2022 / Wednesday" with time zones "8AM PST, 11AM EST, 4PM GMT, 5PM CET" is on the right. The center displays the "AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK" logo with the tagline "INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT." and the "ADIS22" logo with the subtitle "African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022" and "The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley". Below the logos are four circular headshots of the speakers: Josh Ghaim, Ph.D. (Moderator), Dr. Deepa Maharaj (Head, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare), Dr. Dumani Kula (Chief Operating Officer, Africa, Evercare Group), and Joy Ncomile Ruwodo (Senior Director, Public Affairs, END Fund). A registration link "Register @ bit.ly/janadis22" is centered at the bottom.

The State of Africa in Healthcare Access

Jan 26, 2022 / Wednesday
8AM PST, 11AM EST, 4PM GMT, 5PM CET

AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK
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ADIS22
African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022
The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley

JOSH GHAIM, PH.D.
FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER,
IGNITEGB INC., CO-FOUNDER & CEO,
SMALL WORLD BRANDS INC
MODERATOR

DR. DEEPA MAHARAJ
AFRICA SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
HEAD, SANOFI CONSUMER
HEALTHCARE

DR. DUMANI KULA
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
AFRICA, EVERCARE GROUP

JOY NCOMILE RUWODO
SENIOR DIRECTOR,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, END FUND

Register @ bit.ly/janadis22

On January 26, African Diaspora Network (ADN) hosted the first virtual webinar of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022, "January 2022: The State of Africa in Healthcare Access."

The future of healthcare in Africa doesn't look like what we see today. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the global shortage of healthcare workers at all levels. Across Africa, overburdened healthcare systems are drowning with the demands of the pandemic while attempting to address non-pandemic patients with limited budgets and inefficient systems. Prior to the pandemic, a person between 30 and 70 years old in Africa had a 1 in 5 chance of dying from a major chronic illness, such as cancer, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease. This number is expected to rapidly increase.

At the same time, telehealth technologies developed by Africans to diagnose, treat, and monitor health conditions remotely are leapfrogging traditional systems of healthcare and enabling new, exciting collaborations to deliver quality digitized healthcare services wherever they may be. The transition to telehealth provides an opportunity to transform African healthcare systems. How are existing healthcare providers adapting their services to the COVID environment? What challenges and opportunities are there in accelerating telehealth? What foundations are needed to fully and effectively implement telehealth services?

January (cont)



Josh Ghaim, PhD, CEO of Small World Brands, Co-Founder of Ignite Venture Studio, and former CTO of Johnson & Johnson.

"Regardless of country, we are almost all facing the same healthcare issue. Who thought that those living in the United States would be facing issues in terms of the whole healthcare system being overburdened? When you see this happening in the U.S., Europe, and other parts of the world, can you imagine what's happening in Africa also in terms of the challenges that exist and the constraint this disease is bringing? More importantly, the biggest concern that continues to happen is that as everyone is focused on COVID, are we missing all the progress that is made with so many other diseases?"



Dr. Dumani Kula, Chief Operating Officer of Africa, evercare

"Omicron was identified by African experts. My general impression is that on the African continent for various reasons, populations have been relatively spared. We must credit the leadership on the continent for reacting quickly and the time we had because COVID hit us last in a way. We had some time to adapt. By in large, African healthcare systems are very resilient through efforts from the private and public sectors working together."



Dr. Deepa Maharaj, Africa Scientific Affairs Head at Sanofi CHC

"Africa really showed that we can leapfrog and embrace the digital technology. We used it to communicate and spread the message and inform and educate patients even in remote communities, through SMS and through education of community workers. For me, Africa proved its resilience and really showed it is a continent and force to be reckoned with. I am hoping these good practices will continue, especially with Telehealth and that we can expand into other areas like noncommunicable diseases which are rapidly on an increase and probably has not had the focus it should have had."



Joy Ncomile Ruwodo, Senior Director of Public Affairs at the END Fund

This is an opportunity for us to really deeply look at the issues of equity-not only in the terms of care, but also in terms of access and in terms of acknowledging everyone's contribution because the contributions were far and wide and vast. That's the kind of momentum we need to keep going in order to reach the final mile. We've got a lot of work to do but I'm encouraged because I think we have just the right people to do it."

Josh and Almaz concluded the session by introducing ADN's Telehealth pilot. The key to building the future painted by the panelists during ADIS22 January is African-led collaboration, for which ADN is known. ADN is developing a project with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to leverage technology that expands digital health access, at home or point of care diagnostics, wellness and prevention opportunities, and medicine delivery directly to consumers and patients when needed.

Learn more and support ADN's Telehealth pilot:

If you are interested in learning more and receiving updates, please fill out a brief form at: <https://mailchi.mp/dbd8b14a6592/adntelehealth>.

To Learn more and support ADN's Telehealth pilot: <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/telehealth-pilot/>

Action Steps

- ▶ **Network with and mentor African Healthcare workers:** Diasporan healthcare professionals can help leapfrog African healthcare by offering their expertise to healthcare workers on the ground.
- ▶ **Learn more about NTDs and spread awareness:** Visit the [END Fund's website](https://endfund.org/) to learn more.
- ▶ **Learn more and support ADN's Telehealth pilot:** <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/telehealth-pilot/>

February Recap

From E-Learning to Educational Systems Transformation

Number of Countries Attended: 36



The graphic is a promotional banner for the ADIS22 webinar. It features a dark purple background with a large orange triangle pointing downwards in the center. The text 'From E-Learning to Educational Systems Transformation' is on the left, and 'Feb 23, 2022 / Wednesday 8AM PST, 11AM EST, 4PM GMT, 5PM CET' is on the right. The ADIS22 logo, which includes a map of Africa and the text 'AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK', is on the left. The main title 'ADIS22' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022' and 'The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley' in smaller text below it. Four circular headshots of the speakers are arranged horizontally in the center. Below each headshot is the speaker's name and title. At the bottom, the registration link 'Register @ bit.ly/febadis22' is displayed.

From E-Learning to Educational Systems Transformation

Feb 23, 2022 / Wednesday
8AM PST, 11AM EST, 4PM GMT, 5PM CET

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ADIS22
African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022
The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley

LIESL RIDDLE
VICE DEAN FOR STRATEGY,
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
MODERATOR

DJIBY ANNE
DIRECTEUR RELATIONS,
INTERNATIONALES ET SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES
CHEZ GROUPE SUP DE CO DAKAR

ANGELA OWUSU-ANSAH, PH.D.
PROVOST AND PROFESSOR,
ASHESI UNIVERSITY

CHRISTOPHER HOSKEN
CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, STARTUP SCHOOL

Register @ bit.ly/febadis22

On February 23, African Diaspora Network (ADN) hosted the second virtual webinar of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022, "February 2022: From E-Learning to Educational Systems Transformation."

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the traditional brick-and-mortar model of education, driving African countries to respond in innovative ways. School closures sparked myriad high-tech and low-cost solutions for asynchronous or hybrid approaches that help ensure the safe continuity of learning. This era marks an opportunity to reimagine the future of education in Africa that are safer and healthier school environments, integrate digital technologies, and develop and support educators and administrators.

What are the new models emerging? How is this going to change the traditional brick-and-mortar approach to education? What are the challenges and opportunities associated with readying students for a new education format? What are the challenges in incentivizing and supporting faculty for new educational realities? What role can the African diaspora and friends of Africa play in shaping Africa's education system? What can be learned globally from Africa's innovation? This session explores opportunities for educational systems transformation across the continent.

February (cont)



Liesl Riddle, Vice Dean for Strategy at George Washington University.

"Globally the pandemic has lowered those perceived transaction costs around using technology for both teaching and learning that now opens up all kinds of new ways of thinking how to package learning and really creating lifelong learning solutions, in addition to and complementing more traditional degree-based learning as well."



Angela Owusu-Ansah, Ph.D, Provost and Professor at Ashesi University

"At Ashesi the main three challenges we had at the onset were safety, accessibility, and wellbeing. We decided we would distill it to the simplest approach seeing as it was already too complicated. For example, with safety, knowing there was no end in sight, our first priority was to make sure we got everyone home safely. We planned group travel to make sure students had some company in the process."



Dijby Anne, Director of International Relations and the School of Languages and Communication at Groupe Supdeco Dakar (Senegal)

"In terms of accessibility, we had to respond very quickly. Fortunately, we were among those lucky schools that already had an online platform many years ago. In Africa, we have a population of youth that is more and more interested in technology, education, and innovation. The future of education needs to be reimaged by raising awareness among key stakeholders that education is not only classrooms and blackboards. People can learn from anywhere and anytime. Hybrid models of education will be the new normal."



Christopher Hosken, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Startup School

"A lot of businesses, institutions, and social entrepreneurial ventures are all trying to solve this problem in Africa which is a pipeline of great startups and scale-ups. I think the more the merrier from a social standpoint. Like any new industry, there is always an influx of excitement, interest, energy, and capital. When you're doing work as important as education sector work, we have a mandate to support them (users and beneficiaries) for the long-term and not just a short-term profiteer view."

Action Steps

- ▶ **Support African Innovation:** Share connections and experiences with individuals and groups in the edtech sector.
- ▶ **Build Community:** Schools need the partnership of the Diaspora and friends of Africa and continued relationships with alumni.
- ▶ **Invest in Education:** Consider giving beyond remittances to support Africa-led schools and education platforms.

March Recap

Changing the Landscape of Agriculture in Africa

Number of Countries Attended: 47

Changing the Landscape of Agriculture in Africa

March 23, 2022 / Wednesday
8AM PST, 11AM EST, 3PM GMT, 4PM CET

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AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK
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ELISABETH FELEKE
CHIEF PROGRAMMING OFFICER,
U.S. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (USADF)
MODERATOR

DR. ADEGBOLA ADESOGAN
PROFESSOR OF RUMINANT NUTRITION,
DIRECTOR OF THE FOOD SYSTEMS INSTITUTE AND THE FEED
THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

DORCAS LUKWESA
FOUNDER,
MOBILE AQUAPONICS

JEHIEL OLIVER
FOUNDER AND CEO,
HELLO TRACTOR

Register @ bit.ly/marchadis22

On March 23, African Diaspora Network (ADN) hosted the third virtual webinar of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022, "March 2022: Changing the Landscape of Agriculture in Africa."

According to surveys conducted by the World Bank, the share of households involved in agriculture across various regions of Africa has increased since the start of the pandemic. 60% of the world's uncultivated, arable land is in Africa, yet many African countries import food at high costs, depleting their forex reserves.

How do we reverse this process to support local agriculture and boost employment? What role can African governments play to set targeted policy initiatives to ensure secure land, tax incentives, work permits, supply chains, and other mechanisms to enable a flourishing agricultural sector? What investment frameworks would help regional farms be more attractive to international private equity investment? This session explores opportunities, funding avenues, and best practices for shaping the future of the agricultural sector in Africa.

March (cont)



Dorcas Lukwesa, Founder of Mobile Aquaponics

"Over the years, agriculture has become very expensive. We need to encourage innovative systems of farming like Aquaponics that require little import. We need to look at what we already have in Africa. We have the potential to produce quite a lot, just as much as in developed countries, but it will take the entire continent to collaborate with different stakeholders."



Dr. Adegbola Adesogan, Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and the Director of the Food Systems Institute and the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

"One of the biggest issues is the lack of awareness across the continent about the huge potential of agriculture to be a catalyst for national growth and development. Most developed countries got to where they are because of agriculture. Many of our youth see agriculture as a backward enterprise. We need to help them to understand the tremendous possibilities that exist."



Jehiel Oliver, Founder and CEO of Hello Tractor

"We need to be focused on how we invest. There is so much climate diversity across the continent, there are so many different opportunities to invest, but I think it would be wise, especially for smaller countries, to focus on a value chain and look at not only where you can support production-level agriculture, but also processing and logistics. I think that a comprehensive approach can put more money into the hands of farmers."



Elisabeth Feleke, Chief Programming Officer of U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF)

"It is clear that Africa has the natural ingredients to greatly expand production. Stronger demand, higher prices, better micro and sector policies, as well as an improved overall business climate, create the opportunity for higher returns. Inducing increased investment both from home and abroad is something we heard today. The spread of technology and mechanization can help solve some problems that have plagued agriculture development in the past."

Action Steps

- ▶ **Support African farmers:** The diaspora can play a big role by investing some of their paycheck in local farms.
- ▶ **Involve the youth:** Change the narrative of farming as an outdated practice by telling youth about the potential of the profession and the impact agriculture has on the continent.
- ▶ **Buy African products:** Oftentimes, whether it be clothes or food items, Africans prefer foreign items. Africans can dedicate their purchasing power to locally-sourced and made products and support local businesses.

April Recap

Energizing Investment in the Solar and Renewable Sector

Number of Countries Attended: 49



The banner for the ADIS22 event features a purple and orange color scheme. At the top left, the text reads "Energizing Investment in the Solar and Renewable Sector". To the right, the date and time are listed: "April 27, 2022 / Wednesday 8AM PST, 11AM EST, 3PM GMT, 5PM CET". The center of the banner displays the "AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK" logo with the tagline "INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT." and a map of Africa. Next to it is the large text "ADIS22" followed by "African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022" and "The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley". Below this, four circular headshots of speakers are shown with their names and titles: Thomas Debass (Chief Partnerships Officer and Managing Director of the Office of Global Partnerships, U.S. Department of State Moderator), Abbie Laugtug (Private Sector Team Lead, Power Africa), Frederick Mallya (CEO, Safi Power Renewable Energy Company), and Evans Wadongo (Partner, Wadson Ventures, Co-founder, GreenWize Energy, Founder, Sustainable Development For All). At the bottom left is the U.S. Department of State seal. The bottom right contains the text "Session hosted in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. Register @ bit.ly/apriladis22."

On April 27, African Diaspora Network (ADN), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, hosted the fourth virtual webinar of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022, "April 2022: Energizing Investment in the Solar and Renewable Sector."

Solar and renewable energies are rising as a commercially viable resource across Africa, being cheaper than coal, diesel, or gas. Recognizing that fossil fuel energies tend to be historically concentrated across the developed world, there is a huge opportunity to leapfrog energy infrastructure in Africa through decentralized solar grids that accommodate and optimize for renewables. Despite its potential and cost-effectiveness, the challenge lies in drawing in commercial investment. Governments currently lack the investment template and assurances to attract private equity investment. There is an opportunity to develop crucial infrastructure in Africa without incurring foreign debt.

What are the challenges in introducing renewable energy in Africa? What new technologies can be adaptable to local situations that are different from traditional energy grids? How will renewable energy maximize profits and how can we produce more? How will we spur growth in US investment in the African renewable energy sector? How can we tap into resources and investment from the African diaspora? This session explores models of effective renewable energy output across Africa and opportunities for future expansion of investment in solar and renewable energies.



Innocent Shumba, US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner at Ernst & Young and ADN Board member

"I really love being in the community, I love to give back, and there's no better place to do that than being a member of the African Diaspora Network. This organization speaks to everything that I want to do in the community to pay it forward. When we created the African Diaspora Network, the objective was to bring African diasporans, African Americans, and friends of Africa together, and bring what I call the entrepreneurial spirit, so we can all look at our continent and figure out what we can do to really put some investment there and in the communities we live."

April (cont)



Abbie Laugtug, Private Sector Team Lead at Power Africa

"One of the things that the Power Africa team focuses on is partnering with African governments and supporting them in creating those transparent, legal, and regulatory frameworks. We work with creating power sector plans and metering standards. When there is clarity in the market in terms of what technologies can be used across the board, it makes projects more bankable. What we do to promote that business and cost, we have our advisors who are usually from the countries they are working in and embedded in the ministries, helping create those frameworks to increase investments and to bring down the cost of these investments."



Frederick Mallya, CEO of Safi Power Renewable Energy Company

"We start with the government. The government needs to create an atmosphere where people can invest in various energy sectors. The grid used to be closed to investments. Recently my president has been to the United States and they have signed a number of agreements for companies to be able to invest in solar farms whereby they can put power into the grid and they have opened a lot of doors. The doors need to start with the government and we are grateful that our presidents did that. When you do that then they open the private sector. The private sector becomes more interested and then private households."



Thomas Debass, Chief Partnerships Officer and Managing Director of the Office of Global Partnerships at the U.S. Department of State

"The Biden Administration has put climate change at the central part of foreign policy. We have Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry leading the charge in ensuring that climate change not only take the central point in our foreign policy, but also that it becomes the driving force or energy that we need-no pun intended- of what the Biden Administration calls 'Building Back Better' agenda, not just domestically, but around the world. We believe that climate solutions will play a critical role in creating the next generation of jobs and cultivating the economy."



Evans Wadongo, Partner at Wadson Ventures, Co-founder of GreenWize Energy, and Founder of Sustainable Development For All

"My main issue is the cost that goes to the consumer-that's a really big hindrance-because if the cost of power is high, the only people who benefit and maximize their profit are the investors. And to be honest, a lot of these investors are coming from the West. But on the other hand, the power consumers in our countries continue to suffer. There must be a way where we look at it in terms of ethical investment. How can we make sure that renewable energy project developers can maximize profit, but not at the expense of making millions of people continue living in poverty? There must be a way to balance the two."

Action Steps

- ▶ **Invest in African renewable energy companies:** The African diaspora can be a key player in breaking Africa's dependence on other continents for renewable energy supplies.
- ▶ **Form partnerships:** Can your organization form a partnership with a local African renewable energy company to help derisk investment in renewable energy companies?
- ▶ **Check out the toolbox from Power Africa:** Designed to unlock power project development in sub-Saharan Africa, the [Power Africa Toolbox](#) is a one-stop shop for information and funding opportunities for private sector developers, governments, investors, utilities, and others seeking to increase access to electricity on the continent.

May Recap

Energizing Investment in the Solar and Renewable Sector

Number of Countries Attended: 33



The banner for the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022 (ADIS22) features a purple and orange color scheme. At the top left, it says "Bridging the Connectivity Gap" with a small graphic. At the top right, it lists the date and time: "May 18, 2022 / Wednesday, 8AM PST, 11AM EST, 3PM GMT, 5PM CET". The center features the ADIS22 logo, which includes a map of Africa and the text "AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK" and "ADIS22". Below the logo, there are two circular portraits of the speakers: Abbey Omokhodion and Philip Thigo. Their names and titles are listed below their portraits. At the bottom, it says "Register @ bit.ly/mayadis22".

Bridging the Connectivity Gap

May 18, 2022 / Wednesday
8AM PST, 11AM EST, 3PM GMT, 5PM CET

AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK
INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT.

ADIS22
African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022
The Premium Convening of the African Investment Ecosystem in Silicon Valley

ABBEY OMOKHODION
CFO, INTEL PSG,
PROGRAMMABLE SOLUTIONS GROUP
MODERATOR

PHILIP THIGO
DATA INNOVATION STRATEGIST
IN NAIROBI, KENYA
CONTEXT SETTER

Register @ bit.ly/mayadis22

On May 18, African Diaspora Network (ADN) hosted the fifth virtual webinar of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022, "Bridging the Connectivity Gap."

Over the last two years, African Diaspora Network has engaged individuals from over 69 countries, with an increased reach on the continent through our virtual convenings. In May, we brought together our community for a deeper conversation on how to close the digital divide.

With the rise of digital globalization comes the challenge of connectivity. Africa continues to lag behind in infrastructure, including electricity, energy, and transportation, which poses a significant challenge to the continent's economic development. According to a 2020 report by McKinsey & Company, about 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to electricity and comprise over 2/3 of the global population without power. Moreover, Africa faces an infrastructure paradox — infrastructure investments have been increasing, but not enough money is being spent as 80% of infrastructure projects fail at the feasibility and business plan stage.

This session invites attendees to an interactive discussion addressing opportunities to advance connectivity and infrastructure in Africa. We invite the audience to participate in breakout rooms and connect with leaders from NGOs, academia, government, and corporations within the ADN community to discuss the gap and what the Silicon Valley Ecosystem and the Diaspora can do to mitigate the challenges.

May (cont)



Philip Thigo, Data Innovation Strategist in Nairobi, Kenya

"How we allocate resources in the physical world is also affecting how we think in the virtual world. Unfortunately, benefits and opportunities around technology will always flow to early adopters. So how do we ensure that we are early adopters? By investing in this critical infrastructure. We have to invest in energy, data access and protection, internet quality free of shutdowns, retooling our schools, agile governance in terms of ensuring our laws and policies do not stifle innovation, and sustainable financing. We cannot build this new infrastructure on debt. We find a way to get Africans to invest in it."



Abbey Omokhodion, CFO for Intel PSG, Programmable Solutions Group

"The one over-arching item that was shared in our group was the lack of capital either by individuals to buy gadgets that require connectivity or lack of capital for a more robust infrastructure within the economy of the country to allow for connectivity. There were other conversations on learning and skills. Even if you have the gadget, how do you know how to use it? Or if you have infrastructure, how do you continue to innovate and build more infrastructure or maintain infrastructure?"

Action Steps

- ▶ **Invest connectivity in Africa:** In investing in connectivity, we need to invest in more than just infrastructure. We need to invest in energy, data access and protection, internet quality, technology skills, governance, and sustainable financing.
- ▶ **Engage Africa's Youth:** With their ease in using technology, youth have a role to play in the adoption of technology in Africa.
- ▶ **Check out the toolbox from Power Africa:** Designed to unlock power project development in sub-Saharan Africa, the [Power Africa Toolbox](#) is a one-stop shop for information and funding opportunities for private sector developers, governments, investors, utilities, and others seeking to increase access to electricity on the continent.

June Recap

Builders of Africa's Future 2022 Pitch Session

AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK
INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT.

**BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE 2022
PITCH SESSION AND CELEBRATION**

Justine Abuga, CEO and Founder, Ecobora (Kenya)

George Akilimali, CEO & Co-Founder, Smartcore Enterprise Limited (Tanzania)

Victor Bofo, Co-Founder, Entofarms (Ghana)

Dr. Hanane Chaibainou, CEO and Co-Founder, Biotessia (Morocco)

Caleb Edwards, Co-Founder and CEO, Wami Agro Limited (Ghana)

Sr. Jane Frances Kabagajju, In-Charge Clinical Officer, Nkuruba Health Centre (Uganda)

Jamila Mayanja, CEO, Smart Girls Uganda (Uganda)

Sr. Christabel Juunza Mwangani, Emerging Farmers Initiative (Zambia)

Hyacintha Ntuyeko, CEO, Kasole Secrets (Tanzania)

Dr. Ahimbisibwe Prosper, Co-Founder, mSCAN (Uganda)

Sr. Rose Thumitho, LSOSF, Co-Founder, Mother Kevin Providence Social Enterprise (Uganda)

FUNDERS **ACADEMIC PARTNER** **African Management Institute**

On June 23, African Diaspora Network hosted the fifth annual Builders of Africa's Future Pitch Session and Celebration. The virtual pitch session recognized the eleven entrepreneurs of the 2022 cohort, comprised of changemakers leading 100% fully-African led and owned organizations spanning six countries: Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

The 2022 Builders of Africa's Future program is organized by the African Diaspora Network in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the United States African Development Foundation, and enterprise trainer the African Management Institute of Kenya. Since 2018, Builders of Africa's Future has recognized and catalyzed 42 African startups.

Pitch Presentations by the 11 Builders of Africa's Future

This session recognizes the rising stars of African entrepreneurship as they build the future of the continent through nonprofit and for-profit businesses addressing key community needs. The BAF program awards Africa's most promising entrepreneurs with enterprise development training, mentorship opportunities, and a platform to boost brand visibility and investment potential in Silicon Valley. This virtual showcase of pitch presentations by grassroots African entrepreneurs presents the perfect opportunity for venture capitalists as well as angel, impact, and philanthropic investors.

The 2022 presentations were made by the following entrepreneurs:

- » Justine Abuga, CEO and Founder, [Ecobora](#); Kenya
- » George Akilimali, CEO and Co-Founder, [Smartcore Enterprise Limited](#); Tanzania
- » Victor Bofo, Co-Founder, [Entofarms](#); Ghana
- » Dr. Hanane Chaibainou, CEO and Co-Founder, [Biotessia](#); Morocco
- » Caleb Edwards, Co-Founder and CEO, [Wami Agro Limited](#); Ghana
- » Sr. Jane Frances Kabagajju, In-Charge Clinical Officer, [Nkuruba Health Centre](#), Uganda
- » Jamila Mayanja, CEO, [Smart Girls Uganda](#); Uganda
- » Sr. Christabel Juunza Mwangani, [Emerging Farmers Initiative](#); Zambia
- » Hyacintha Ntuyeko, CEO, [Kasole Secrets](#); Tanzania
- » Dr. Ahimbisibwe Prosper, Co-Founder, [mSCAN](#); Uganda
- » Sr. Rose Thumitho, LSOSF, Co-Founder, [Mother Kevin Providence Social Enterprise](#); Uganda

June (cont.)

A Community Commitment to Supporting Grassroots African Entrepreneurs

The program opened and closed with a cadre of esteemed speakers who galvanized and energized the audience.

**BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE 2022
PITCH SESSION AND CELEBRATION**

JOSH GHAIM, PHD
CHAIRMAN OF THE ADN
BOARD, FOUNDER AND
MANAGING PARTNER,
IGNITEGB INC., CO-FOUNDER
AND CEO, SMALL WORLD
BRANDS INC
SESSION HOST

THOMAS DEBASS
CHIEF PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER
AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIPS AT U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONTEXT SETTER

KWASI DONKOR
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER,
UNITED STATES AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**SISTER JANE WAKAHIU,
LSOSF, PH.D.**
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS
AND HEAD OF CATHOLIC
SISTERS INITIATIVE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ANDY BRYANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BEATRICE ONYANGO
MANAGER,
AFRICAN VISIONARY
FELLOWSHIP,
SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Opening Session



Josh Ghaim, PhD, Chairman of the ADN Board; Founder and Managing Partner, IgniteGB Inc.; Co-Founder and CEO, Small World Brands Inc.

"Whether you are an African, African Diasporan, or friend of Africa, we ask you to consider ways of being engaged and supporting the entrepreneurs. The Diaspora has a lot to offer, through time, talent, connections, investment, and resources. We encourage you to catalyze and bridge opportunities for these entrepreneurs along their journeys."



Thomas Debass, Chief Partnerships Officer and Managing Director of the Office of Global Partnerships at U.S. Department of State.

"Galvanizing the world is about partnership and collaboration. We need all hands on deck to solve the wicked challenges that we face. What better way to collaborate than through startups and ventures like you, from Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, and Zambia – all have a rendition of trying to solve the healthcare crisis, agriculture, and energy crisis, and with a pan-African vision in the way they are doing it."



Kwasi Donkor, Chief Strategy Officer, United States African Development Foundation

"We are thrilled to be a part of this year's Builders of Africa's Future program in partnership with ADN [...] USADF has been working to dispel myths about Africa and encourage investment and creativity in Africa. The eleven changemakers you will hear from are part of a larger culture of innovation and creativity in Africa."



Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, PhD, Associate Vice President of Program Operations and Head of Catholic Sisters Initiative, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

"To the entrepreneurs: thank you for your vision, dream, hard work in your projects, and patiently waiting for these ideas to mature. I am delighted to see three Catholic sisters among these seasoned entrepreneurs. I invite you to think of the ways that individuals, companies, private sectors, and development groups can partner, collaborate, and network to tackle socioeconomic issues and increase job opportunities in Africa."

June (cont.)



Beatrice Onyango, Manager, African Visionary Fellowship, Segal Family Foundation
"As Africans, we are taught to be humble and let others speak about us. Sing your praises and let the world know all the good you have done. For funding, ask for it boldly."



Andy Bryant, Executive Director, Segal Family Foundation
"To Western funders and investors, go local in all facets of your model, from the grantees to companies you invest in, to the composition of your staff and investors. You don't have to do it all today. Start somewhere."

Action Steps

- ▶ **Connect with the Entrepreneurs:** Find the bios, websites, and podcasts of the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future [here](#). We encourage you to learn more about their enterprise and identify opportunities and ways to support their enterprises and provide connections or resources.
- ▶ **Attend the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2023:** The 2022 Builders of Africa's Future will be invited to attend the return of the in-person African Diaspora Investment Symposium in Mountain View, CA, from March 22-24, 2023. Please save the date! We encourage you to join us to meet the entrepreneurs in-person in Silicon Valley.

Thank You!

A special thank you from the African Diaspora Network for all of the organizations, individuals, and supporters who have made this program possible.

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Questions?

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news on ADIS22!**



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