



Inform – Engage – Act

2018 African Diaspora Investment Symposium

Symposium Synopsis

January 26-27, 2018



African Diaspora Network (ADN)

African Diaspora Investment Symposium

African Diaspora Network is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Since 2010, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) has energized collaboration among Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and African diasporans to uplift its local community towards the benefit of Africa. ADN is dedicated to providing virtual and physical forums to accelerate access to resources that foster partnership, knowledge sharing, and advance investment opportunities.

Visit our new website at <https://adn.memberclicks.net/>

Our Vision

African Diaspora Network's vision is to coalesce and fuel a global community of Africans and friends of Africa connected by a common purpose: to accelerate economic, business, and social welfare in Africa and the communities in which we live for the benefit of society.

Our Mission

African Diaspora Network's mission is to harness and engage the intellectual, financial, philanthropic and entrepreneurial capacity of Africans and friends of Africa in support of economic and social development across Africa and the communities we live in.

Board of Directors

Almaz Negash, Founder, African Diaspora Network

Chris Folayan, Board Chair, African Diaspora Network; Founder & CEO, MallforAfrica

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, Founding Board & Co-Chair, African Diaspora Network; President & CEO, Global Fund for Women

Hugh Molotsi, Investor, Advisor, Practitioner & Teacher of Lean Startup methodologies

Dr. Laura Hubbard, Associate Director, Center for African Studies, Stanford University

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Chioma Nwosu

Jenna O'Brien

Gladys Foyoh

Sinafik Gebru

Letter from the Founder of African Diaspora Network

Dear Friends,

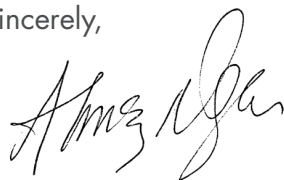
The African Diaspora Investment Symposium is unlike any other event or convening. What makes it special is that we are building a community that cares about uplifting the lives of Africans in Africa as well as the communities in which they live. People come to ADIS to learn and to network, but above all else, people support ADIS in order to build a community larger than themselves. For that, I am very thankful for all those who use our platform and who entrust us with their time, treasure, and insight not just for the two days of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium, but day in and day out.

The symposium is built upon the trust and support of our sponsors, national advisors, board, volunteers, interns, and attendees. We are enriched by your presence and the knowledge that you share with us. I feel personally enriched and energized by this experience each year. This was the most gratifying symposium to date, one that is true to our mission and honors our growth from our very first ADIS, "Under One Umbrella, One Family" to this year, "Magnifying What is Within."

Every year we take your feedback and do our very best to make the subsequent event even better. I promise that we will do the same in 2019. We strive to grow and improve each year.

Looking ahead, African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2019 stands on the horizon. I ask you to save the date for January 25 to 26, 2019, and I look forward to seeing you once more at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Almaz Negash', written in a cursive style.

Almaz Negash
Founder, African Diaspora Network

Introduction – Magnifying What is Within

The third annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS2018) took place in Silicon Valley from January 26-27, 2018. Entrepreneurs, technologists, educators, innovators, and public and social sector leaders from across the globe gathered to join us for a catalytic convening to uplift the African continent by building bridges among Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa.

The 2018 symposium profoundly illuminated the theme, “Building Africa’s Future: Magnifying What is Within,” that seeks to amplify the changemakers and leaders shaping the Continent’s future. Experts, panelists, and participants engaged in fruitful dialogue to examine the crossroad between human capital, natural resources, investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology in Africa.

With over 250 global leaders in attendance representing Africa, Europe, Canada, Australia, and the United States, the two-day conference provided opportunities for networking, community-building, and knowledge-sharing with symposium attendees. In celebration of the spirit of abundance, we are pleased to share the story of our third annual symposium that unearthed the richness of the Continent’s resources, as well as the talents and contributions of Africans, friends of Africa, and Diasporans.



Summary of Next Steps and Action

The third annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2018 illuminated new pathways for us to pursue in the coming year. Among the outcomes of the symposium are the following key priorities:

- 1) **Impact and Innovation Program:** We are delighted to announce that the African Diaspora Network has officially launched the Impact and Innovation program. The program is created to address the challenge of the lack of working capital and to build on the opportunity to promote entrepreneurship and spur economic development in the Continent. Through an open recruitment process, the program identifies 10-15 startups based on the criteria of innovation, uniqueness, growth potential, and impact potential on the Continent. The finalists will have mentors to prepare them to pitch their business at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium, a platform that offers a unique stage for the entrepreneurs to promote their venture, attract potential customers, and drum up investor and partner interest. The five best-in-class, established African businesses and a presentation of early-stage businesses that highlight the future of Diasporan African innovation will receive “The Builders of Africa’s Future” awards at an award ceremony. We began this year with the 2018 Builders of Africa’s Future: Impact & Innovation Awards to bring the top ten awardees to convene in Silicon Valley for the symposium is one idea to maintain momentum in mentorship.
- 2) **Africa Impact Investment Fund:** At the 2018 symposium, the Impact Investment Session moderated by Irene D. Pritzker President and Chief Executive Officer of IDP Foundation highlighted the need for the diaspora to have an impact investment fund. The participants and ADN team concurred with the ideas and currently exploring ways in which we can facilitate the development of an impact investment fund that can support youth, women, entrepreneurs and grassroots organizations to scale projects or launch startups.
- 3) **Mentorship by the African Diaspora:** How do we mentor and give rising innovators and entrepreneurs the support they need? Mentorship surfaced as a key need and responsibility within the African diaspora. ADN seeks to identify ways to engage the African Diaspora to be mentors to others in actionable ways, ranging from providing guidance to youth who are creating business start-ups to supporting university students who are finishing their degrees and developing business plans. Additionally, how can we engage African leaders and governments around the world in the work we are doing?

Looking Ahead to Impact Africa in 2018



Africa is poised to become a leading Continent for investment. Many African countries, regardless of the challenges they face, are diversifying their economies and adopting policies to increase employment and productivity. Together, we can work toward a future in which Africans have access to foundational needs, including food, health care, housing, income, and education. What role does the Diaspora play in impact investment?

African Diaspora Network is delighted to announce the “2018 Africa Impact & Innovation Forums.” The first in the series will feature Ernst & Young on April 28, 2018, at 2 p.m. at the Frugal Innovation Hub at Santa Clara University.

SAVE THE DATE: We will send you registration details soon.

Building Africa’s Future: Lessons from Growth Leaders *by Ernst & Young*

Why Africa? This forum provides a balanced perspective on the Africa growth story, current developments, and an outlook focused on opportunities and challenges for investors. The forum will include lessons from Growth Leaders on a practical approach to executing a growth strategy in Africa based on E/Y’s own experience and that of multinationals that have been successful in executing growth strategies on the continent.

In addition, the African Diaspora Network will be hosting a speaker series and workshops that align with the SDG on economic development and the principles of the African Union’s 2063 agenda, the continent’s long-term transformational blueprint. Agenda 2063 calls for all segments of African society to work together to build a prosperous and united Africa.

ADIS 2018 Symposium Overview

By 2050, Africa is expected to have 2.4 billion people. Is Africa ready? The growing population presents a great opportunity for the Continent to optimize its potential and resources. Access to food, education, income, health care, and housing are foundational for a thriving future. How are we going to make Africa ready to meet this great opportunity? We believe Africa can and will.

Growth starts at home. The African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2018 takes a long-term outlook on Africa as part of the global economy and seeks to explore approaches to positive economic growth and investment from within. Our panels highlight the evolving landscape of ventures and innovations dedicated to planting seeds of growth in the Continent and how to maintain this momentum moving forward.



“ ADIS2018 was by far THE place to be for execs and investors doing business in and with Africa. I was privileged to be part of and speaking at two panels of ADIS2018.

I was impressed with the depth, relevance and contents of panels and programme set out by Almaz and her team. The panelists, speakers and audience were ‘Africa-proved’ experts who have walked the walk of doing business in Africa. Their insights and experience was of a high value to the audience. As experts helping international investors on route-to-Ethiopian market, IBEX was pleased to share its own advisory on doing business in Africa. What stands out for me is ADIS is a place where innovators bring their idea to fruition as can be seen in the case Africa’s Unicorn-in-the-making- GEBEYA, Ethiopian headquartered Edtech startup for which I am privileged to be an Investment Adviser for a Series A round and was speaking on Gebeya’s behalf on the panel of Education Sunday morning.

Gebeya’s Co-Founder was present at the ADIS event two years ago, pitching an idea that led him to meet an investor then and there. Two years down the line, Gebeya has already graduated 211 razor sharp software engineers, incubated startups that launched 3D Mobile game, expanding to Francophone Africa as well as raising Series A fund to propel its growth. I was pleased to share this success story to the audience validating the high value of ADIS event and my gratitude and appreciation to the organizers of ADIS and the ever-strong and passionate convener Almaz Negash - THANK YOU. ”

– Zekarias Amsalu, Founder, MD
IBEX Frontier/Financial Consultant, Investment Advisor – Gebeya Inc.

Friday, January 26 | Magnifying What is Within: On the State of Africa

Morning Session | Welcome & Introduction To ADN



The African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2018 kicked off with a live musical performance by Mandjou Kone, a member of the well-known Kone Griot family of Mali and Burkina Faso, known for their unique ability to record events carefully and accurately. True to the responsibility of this caste of historians, musicians and healers to preserve the culture, passing history from one generation to the next, stirring performance of African music that sparked the beginning of a conference with beats reflective of the symposium's spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity, and global partnership.

The welcome and introduction to ADIS2018 began with opening remarks by Chris Folayan, CEO of MallforAfrica and ADN, Chairman. Then, Almaz Negash, Founder of the African Diaspora Network, gave a special thanks to speakers, reiterating that the goal of ADIS is to build a community based on understanding and mutual respect. "ADIS is an experience where we all come together to find ways to make a difference in the communities in which we live and the content where we come from." The African Diaspora Network was founded with the purpose of bringing everyone together to co-create tangible solutions and to recognize the richness of the African continent and magnify what is within.

Keynote Speech | Hon. Ertharin Cousin, Stanford University



Hon. Ertharin Cousin, the Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI)]

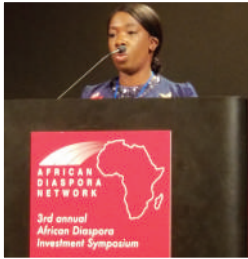
The first keynote speech for Day One: Magnifying What is Within featured the Honorable Ertharin Cousin, the Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Cousin's speech emphasized gender parity and the need to empower women and youth to harness their capabilities. "One of the simplest investments we can make is in girls," said Cousin. "Let girls be educated and they will become an engine of change not only in their communities but in society as a whole." According to Cousin, we must treat women with equality and equity and provide them with access to all resources because agriculture heavily relies on women being fairly and equally treated. Treating women differently leaves money on the table. "We need to perform the work that will make it happen, but most importantly, we need to stop saving lives and start taking actions that will enable people to change their lives."

Q&A Spotlight: Why are Africans not investing in the opportunities that arise on the Continent?

African diasporans need to mobilize and work within organizations to shake things up. They have the knowledge, experience, and network to drive impact across the Continent.

Friday, January 26 | Magnifying What is Within: On the State of Africa

Opening Remarks: The State Of Africa – Economic And Business Trends



Presented by Immaculate Nantale, Ernst & Young, on insights and analysis on how to make informed investment decision in Africa.

According to Immaculate Nantale of Ernst & Young, tech is the great enabler of growth on the continent. In her speech, she highlighted some of the major trends that are arising on the continent. Among these are peaceful elections across the continent, FDI shifting to consumer-facing sectors, governments refining policies to improve infrastructure and logistics to increase investments, and inflation returning to lower levels. Currently, growth on the continent is driven by urbanization and the diversification of sectors. By 2050, Africa will have the world's largest population, at approximately 2.4 billion. This growth will be mostly driven by millennials. Central leadership and governance are improving, though the continent still has a long way to go.

With regards to major investor concerns, Nantale brought up the concern of ease of doing business due to governmental policies and regulations, as well as insufficient tax revenues, differences in trading and business activities across the continent, and corruption as a critical concern. In summary, negative factors will highly influence investor decisions, but overall, technology will be a key growth enabler as we move forward with funding originating from different places, with China and India in the lead, as well as intra-Africa trade.



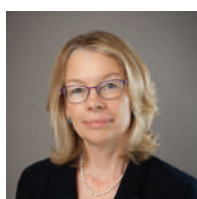
Elaborating on Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya, Siddhartha Chatterjee, UNDP Resident Representative, Kenya, the consumer market of Africa in the next few years is predicted to be over 2.5 trillion. Real partnerships will open up the space for opportunities that is not based on a donor mentality. Education and an advancement in skills will be critical to the change that we need, this relies heavily on the empowerment of women and children. According to Sid, two primary investments are needed to move forward: universal health care and the investment in education and skills.

"Education, science and technology are essential to long term sustainable growth," said Chatterjee. There will be approximately 830 million young people in Africa by 2050. We need to shift our focus to youth and gender equality issues, this is what will unleash the real potential of Africa. Now is the time for Africa's Marshall plan."

Day 1 Panels

Human Capital Investment Deep Dive Discussion: The Need for High Impact Investment in Education, Science, & Technology

By 2050, Africa is expected to have 2.4 billion people. Our panel experts will discuss the need to move up the value chain by creating an ecosystem that is efficient, innovative, and sustainable. Human Capital Investment is the economic transformation that will harness the strength of Africa. How can the continent leverage education and training to tap Africa's "demographic dividend?" How can we practically catalyze shared value and transformative public-private capital investments to accelerate SDG impacts and sustain the growth of Africa?



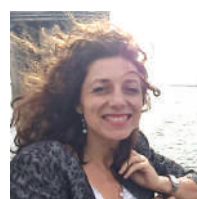
Heather Grady,
Rockefeller
Philanthropy
Advisors
Moderator



Siddharth Chatterjee,
UNDP Resident
Representative,
Kenya



Joshua Ghaim,
Johnson &
Johnson Family
of Consumer
Companies



Roberta Romano,
International
Organization for
Migration



Radhika Shah,
Stanford Angels
& Entrepreneurs

Key Takeaways

The Human Capital Investment Deep Dive Discussion explored the question of how the Continent could better tap the richness of Africa's talent and resources to uplift its people and ecosystem. Led by Heather Grady, the panel explored themes of what needs to fundamentally change on the Continent for growth to be sustainable. According to Joshua Ghaim, we have to shift our focus to education and empowerment of the girl child. "Economies are better when women and girls do better," says Ghaim. "We also have to make tech affordable in order for it to serve humanity."

Roberta Romano added that human capital development and mobility are crucial, as both rely on increasing people's capacities and access to opportunities. She suggests three means of engaging the impact of the Diaspora: engage, empower, and enable. As an example, she describes the impact of community-led development of small scale farmers, spurred by giving farmers access to fair trade markets. Investment should be diverse and inclusive. Fil Randazzo points out that we need to give people broad exposure to different mindsets and different ways of thinking. We also need to give people access to broad education and provide well-rounded leadership trainings. Finally, Siddharth Chatterjee pointed out the benefits of technology and the jobs that it can create. "Tech is the only thing that will solve most of Africa's problems," Chatterjee argues. "Because of this, we need to have technology to help us leap forward, as it will be a great enabler in terms of the outreach we can have."

Lunch & Networking

Between panels, participants had the opportunity to participate in an intentional networking lunch. The networking lunch provided an opportunity for ADIS2018 participants to make connections and learn more about one another's work and opportunities for collaboration. We encouraged informal conversation and discussion around table topics, including agriculture, energy, trade, logistics, technology, investment, venture philanthropy, women's entrepreneurship, and sustainable global development.

ADIS 2018 Table Topics:

- Impact Investment
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Education
- Technology
- Migration/Immigration
- Entrepreneurship
- Investment
- Venture Philanthropy & Development Funds



During the discussions, there were table topics ranging from impact investment, sustainable development, and education, to technology, entrepreneurship, and venture philanthropy. We recognize that there are no easy solutions for these challenges, but that many of our participants are already engaged in various ways. Our participants discussed challenges and opportunities. Here is an example:

Education

The actionable takeaways challenges that challenged the ADN/ADIS team were around the market. What is happening across the the African landscape in education, and where are the major gaps that government resources are unable or unwilling to fill? Another area is that everyone knows technology is not the silver bullet to solving educational issues, so how do we tackle things like governments paying teachers on their payroll that are not alive - while the teacher salaries encompass the largest part of educational spending? How are we to innovate and create better curriculum for 21st century skills and learners, when we operate from an outdated system that spends unwisely?

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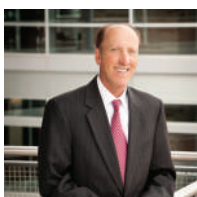
The African Diaspora Investment Symposium is emblematic of the increasing organization, mobilization, and dynamism of the African diaspora. I met audience members who had flown from various countries in Africa, Europe, and throughout the United States to attend the convocation of entrepreneurs, investors, NGO leaders, academics, and policymakers. The organization is launching a new platform to better enable its transnational members to communicate and distribute new ideas. ”

– Dr. Liesl Riddle, Associate Professor of Int'l Business and Int'l Affairs, George Washington



Panel Discussion: Magnifying Africa's Agriculture Sector: The Impact of Community-Led Development for Small-Scale Farmers

This panel examines Africa's agriculture sector and the role that community-led development plays in helping small-scale farmers build resilience. Leading experts will engage the audience in a conversation about the critical roles of social capital and gender in increasing farmers' access to resources and growing their incomes. Discussion also will focus on how to engage youth in agriculture value chains through the creation of entrepreneurial opportunities.



Bob Bloom,
Heifer
International
Moderator



Rashid Sesay,
Heifer
International



Ade Freeman,
World Bank



Tebabu Assefa,
Blessed Coffee

Key Takeaways

Led by Bob Bloom of Heifer International, the panel began with predictions of Africa's growth. By 2030, it is predicted that agriculture will be a trillion-dollar business. Technological trends and changes in diet will drive this growth. Thinking about the present-day, African farmers are currently in poverty because they do not have access to the global market. Bloom prodded his panelists with questions including: How do we modernize the agricultural business in order to increase the productivity of small scale ag-business? How can agricultural power economic transformation in Africa?

The panelists provided a number of responses, generally summing up that agriculture can power economic transformation on the Continent by putting in place interventions that will allow small-scale farmers to grow. To do this, we need to:

- Link farmers to global markets
- Work with small scale markets and link them with agric business producers
- Linkages to upstream and downstream processes
- Co-create solutions and understand the challenges by coming together at the table
- We need to move away from traditional agriculture
- Use technology to come up with more creative solutions.

Keynote Speech | Jim Shelton, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative



Jim Shelton, President of Education, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, former Deputy Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama

The afternoon featured a keynote address by Jim Shelton, President of Education at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and former Deputy Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama.

“There is tremendous, untapped human potential on the Continent,” began Shelton. “If we want to change things systematically, it takes a combination of both policy and incentive systems, along with collaboration between different stakeholders to craft tangible, sustainable solutions.” According to Jim, actual freedom is tied to wealth creation and investment in long-term solutions. People learn while using technology, allowing us to answer questions about how learning happens, what works for whom, and in what context. He proposes that learning through tech is the only way we can move forward, but that human capital is an essential first step.

“A most inspiring experience to have engaged an incredibly talented and successful pool of tech and investment savvy African Diaspora at the recent African Diaspora Investment Symposium hosted by the CEO Almaz Negash. Well plugged into this diaspora ecosystem were some of the most exciting thinkers, innovators and blended financiers that my colleagues and I from Kenya met in Silicon Valley including diverse faculties of Stanford, Berkeley, as well Google, Facebook, the Packard Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisers, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation etc. ”

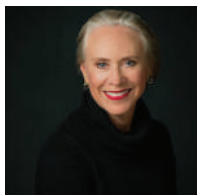
– Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Kenya Co-Chairman of the SDG Partnership Platform, Kenya



Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

Dialogue with Entrepreneurs, Innovators, and Investors

What does it take to become a successful and impactful entrepreneur? This panel provides a behind-the-scenes look at the journey of pursuing the path of entrepreneurship, exploring challenges, opportunities, and insights along the way. Drawing on human capital investment as a means of optimizing human talent and resources, what kind of ecosystem is necessary for a thriving system that will allow global entrepreneurs and investors to thrive?



Marsha Wulff,
LoftyInc
Moderator



Mussie Haile,
Moya
Technologies



**Zekarias
Amsalu,**
IBEX Fronteir



**Kwame K.
Marfo,**
African
Empowerment
fund



Aneri Pradhan,
ENventure



**N. Kweku
Nduom,**
Groupe Nduom

Key Takeaways

Moderated by Marsha Wulff of LoftyInc, the panel focused on the question of successful fundraising by addressing major issues and proposing solutions. According to our panelists, access to capital is still a major issue, and there is a need to provide access to all the different resources that entrepreneurs need to be successful. Investment readiness is another huge issue to tackle – we need to teach entrepreneurs how to prepare for investment meetings and how to answer investor questions. In order to do this, we need to build institutions that prepare entrepreneurs for investor probing.

“What a beautiful weekend! This past weekend I attended The African Diaspora Investment Symposium which opened my eyes and gave me a different perspective about the future of Africa. I have always looked forward to do something positive in Africa but I did not know where to start as I have been gone for over ten years. Therefore, I walked into this meeting with lots of questions but my questions were completely addressed. The successful stories that were shared gave me more than enough information and most importantly, I came out motivated than ever. Without a doubt, this, could not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of Almaz and her team. Thank you. ”

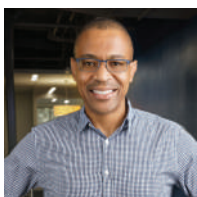
– Frank Bashumika, RN BSN,MPH(c)



Design-Thinking Session With Planetary Health On Applying Technology To Promote Small Shareholder Poultry Farming In Africa

This human-centered design workshop focuses on applying technology for promoting small shareholder poultry farming across communities in Africa. We will use design-thinking to develop solutions that address challenges faced by poultry farmers including productivity, market value chains, and measuring impact. We engaged with experts from the Planetary Health Center of Expertise which identifies solutions that will help populations, both human and animal, to foster resilience in the face of changing environments.

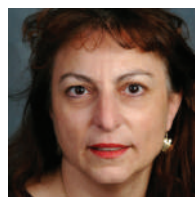
Using design-thinking principles, participants worked together on different challenges that the African continent is facing; identified a suitable action plan to tackle some of these challenges; defined project ideas; connected, networked, and created a project consortium; and identified sustainability plans.



Hugh Molotsi,
Ujama



Hisham Ibrahim,
Ibrahim
mPathic, LLC



**Sophia
Papageorgiou,**
University of
California,
Davis



Paige Passano,
MPH, Sahel
Leadership
Program, The
OASIS Initiative

Key Takeaways

There is an urgent need to articulate the case for higher education in creating pathways for youth. Crucial conversations need to be had to come up with tangible solutions in a much clearer way. According to our panelists, in order for innovation to happen on the Continent, we need to have access to broader information and address problems with the current educational system.

Some of the major problems with education in Africa is that it is not contextual, practical, relevant or specific enough to the continent. The current education system is not creating an ecosystem with the relevant skills that are needed to address local problems. One of the reasons for this is that it is not being financed appropriately by governments.

The design-thinking session raised possible solutions that can be scaled to transform the African educational system. The starting point for education on the Continent is all about policy. We need to have new policy initiatives, innovation, and adaptation in governmental policies. We need to have the right policies coupled with collaboration between different stakeholders in terms of what needs to be done. Additionally, governments need to increase spending on education in relationship to what their individual countries can afford. Access to education need to be broader and extended to remote areas, and rigorous curriculum specific to the African ecosystem needs to be developed. For this to happen, we need to establish the necessary infrastructure – mentorship programs, internships, educational hubs, vocational training facilities, etc. All this can only be possible if we have central leadership jumping in and talking about how crucial this is.

Reception With Live Musical Performance And Awards



The African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2018 kicked off the first day reception and celebration with a live musical performance by Calid B, a Chicago-based producer and emcee who is pioneering his own innovative sound titled "Afrobang." Fusing together tribal percussions and chants from West Africa with contemporary hip-hop production elements, his music caught the attention of conference-goers as they entered the Computer History Museum to register, have breakfast, and network.



The evening concluded with a reception and live musical performance featuring Chris Bryant, a professional saxophone player frequently performing in downtown Palo Alto, CA. Participants had the opportunity to network leading up to the closing awards ceremony that honored the second annual Barka Award recipient. This ADIS2018 recipient is Melissa Greer of aGlobalDifference.

The African Diaspora Network Presents the Barka Award

"Barka" is an expression of gratitude. It is a word used in multiple languages and cultures in Africa. In fact, usage of the word can be found across the continent including in Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. To say "barka" in Mooré, Burkina Faso, is to express a gratitude so sincere and profound that it also conveys a blessing; imparting a dual meaning to the word: thank you, and be blessed.

**African Diaspora Network is pleased to present its second Barka Award to:
Ms. Melissa Greer**



“ There are few people in life whose commitment to the greater good goes above and beyond the call of duty. One such person is Melissa Greer, an investor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, community leader, and a friend. The latter is important to Melissa. She makes time to be available when needed, is responsive and supportive when asked, and generous beyond imagination and measure. Most importantly, she does everything with love and care.

In 2016, Melissa became the lead sponsor for the inaugural African Diaspora Investment Symposium, launching our signature convening to where it is today. She continues to be one of our lead sponsors and annually hosts our ADIS speakers dinner to get to know and thank all those who offer their time and expertise. She exemplifies a generous spirit like no other, and the very best in humanity. ”

– Almaz Negash, Founder, African Diaspora Network

Saturday, January 27 | Amplifying Abundance – Deep-Dive Panels & Fireside Chats

Morning Session: Day Two Amplifying Abundance



Day Two began with a rousing drum performance by Pope Flyne, Ghanaian master drummer who has served on the faculty of St. Mary's College of California since 2000. Energizing the crowd, he brought participants to their feet to dance to the drumming beats. The audience formed a circle that encompassed the entire width of the room and danced away to the drums before settling into a summary of the day one, provided by Master of Ceremonies Nicholas Bassey.



“The panel sessions provided some of the crescendo. The concurrent sessions offered great practical insights, including how to effectively engage with investors in Silicon Valley and beyond who are becoming ever more powerful in determining the directions African startups.

For me, there was a real ‘ah ha!’ moment when the audience was challenged to think bigger and bolder, and to magnify the stories of women entrepreneurs in Africa as part of the continent’s innovation engine. Moreover, Professor Liesl Riddle’s work about how place or country of origin motivate diaspora-led investment made us think how we might use our influence to change lives in Africa. ”

– Kennedy Jawoko, Founder, Media Peacebuilders

Keynote Speech | Joshua Ghaim, Johnson & Johnson Family Of Consumer Companies



Joshua Ghaim of Johnson & Johnson Family

Joshua Ghaim, PhD, is the Chief Technology Officer at Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer Companies. He shared an inspirational story of his life. Starting with an inspirational talk about his childhood journey in East Africa, he spoke of how he came to the United States with the support of his family and community that brought him to be where he is today. His family was a great inspiration – his parents worked with relief agencies and orphanages, exposing him to healthcare workers from all over the globe who provided support during wars and famines. Ghaim adopted this spirit of giving time, volunteering as a translator and helping wherever he could. These formative years were essential for developing the deep gratitude for the possibilities that education, medicine, and science could bring.

His appreciation evolved into a dedication to the STEM fields as he grew in his career. Ghaim spoke of the investing in young entrepreneurs, and developing meaningful enterprises that support families, and in particular, women and girls. He spoke of Johnson & Johnson's recent collaboration with Sustainable Health Enterprises (SHE), an organization that works with local banana farmers to manufacture and provide affordable sanitary products made from the absorbent fibers of discarded banana leaves. The impact of these efforts have helped women and girls from missing school or work due to a lack of sanitary products, supporting both their education and livelihoods in this way.

“

The 3rd annual ADIS aims to magnify what is within in order to create high impact innovative businesses in Sub Saharan Africa. We aim to build networks and engage in thoughtful and meaningful discussions on how to build foundations on the African continent. ”

– Nicholas Bassey, USAID and ADIS2018 Master of Ceremonies



The State Of The African Diaspora

presented by Professor Liesl Riddle, The George Washington University



How does place or country of origin motivate diaspora-led investment? Professor Liesl Riddle will highlight the different segments of the diaspora investor community. We often talk about investing back home, in the country of origin, particularly from the demand side. However, many diasporans on the supply side of the diaspora investment ecosystem conceive of and prioritize investment at highly localized levels — in their village, city, or region. These are the “demand” areas, yet they are often less of a priority for demand-side actors. Learn more about the intersection between investment and location and their implications for policy makers, financial institutions, and investors.

Key Takeaways

“The State of the African Diaspora,” began Dr. Liesl Riddle, “who am I to summarize that? I know one thing to be true: answers to questions lie within the African Diaspora itself and within this very room.”

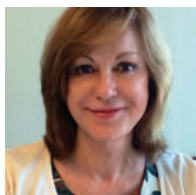
Riddle highlighted the impact of leaders and participants in the room who have tirelessly worked to mobilize for change. She emphasized the importance of working within organizations to change conversation, shake things up, and lead organizations in new directions.

Engaging the audience in an envisioning activity, Dr. Riddle asked the audience to close their eyes and think of the word home, and what that looks like. Where is it? Who else is in that vision? What are they doing? Are you in that vision? What are you doing? The activity served as a lead into “home bias,” or the idea of investments specific to the geographic range of one’s home. For example, studies suggest that Ghanaian Diasporans are actively interested in investment opportunities. She also highlighted selection bias, or the idea that Diasporans who volunteer to participate in Diaspora organizations join because of their ties to particular communities or towns. To conclude, she tied her speech back to the “socialization effect” created by Diaspora organizations like ADN that bolster ideas and support networks back to home.

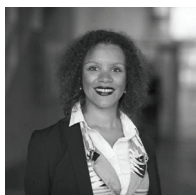


Deep Dive | Impact Investment In Africa, Sponsored By IDP Foundation

Discussion around the impact investing space in Africa and ways the diaspora can invest in the continent. The session will include discussion on how social enterprises get into funds, how fund managers get investors and some obstacles with impact investing in Africa.



Irene Pritzker,
IDP Foundation
Inc.
Moderator



Yasmin Kumi,
Africa Foresight
Group



**Pardon
Makumbe,**
CRE Venture
Capital



**Duncan Goldie-
Scot,**
Musoni Kenya
Ltd.



Mark Correnti,
Miller Center for
Entrepreneurship,
Santa Clara
University

Key Takeaways

Irene Pritzker of IDP Foundation opened the session by asking panelist-specific questions to better understand their philosophies and experiences with impact investing. To Yasmin Kumi, Founder of Africa Foresight Group, Pritzker asked about findings from Kumi's research with regards to impact investment in Africa. According to Kumi, impact investment is oftentimes seen as a niche. "Nearly every investor needs to think of themselves as an impact investor," says Kumi. "Any investment you make needs an impact investment philosophy." Part of the work of Africa Foresight Group is to help companies define a social impact framework.

Duncan Goldie-Scot, Chairman of Musoni Kenya Ltd., spoke of changes he's seen in impact investing. He told the story of how he had attended a microfinance group meeting in Tanzania in 2005 with about 30 clients who used log books and handled cash. Recognizing the need to expedite accounting systems, they implemented technology via mobile money payments to help their clients. "We've gone from zero connectivity to total connectivity," says Goldie-Scot.

Pardon Makumbe, Managing Partner of CRE Venture Capital, shared his story of co-founding his organization, which does early-stage investing in tech-driven companies. Through a focus on technology, he suggested, "You can go a long way with very little." Makumbe spoke of the importance of investing across education; financial services; logistics; and domestic services. He also spoke of the importance of backing female entrepreneurs and women-led companies.

“ ADIS 2018 was an incredible experience that is close to my roots, and was full of exciting conversations surrounding how we can make a difference in building the future of Africa. **”**

– Josh Ghaim, Ph.D. - Chief Technology Officer,
Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer
Companies



Deep Dive | Accelerating African Development Through Higher Education

The opportunity to address the current state of education in Africa and to explore innovative ways to educate young minds is ever urgent. Our panelists will explore what new learning strategies need to be instituted to help reduce unemployment, address skills gaps, and prepare the leaders and workforce of tomorrow.



Jackie Copeland-Carson, PhD, Pan-African Women's Philanthropy Network



Kofi Appenteng, Africa-America Institute



Joshua Ghaim, PhD, Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer Companies



Zekarias Amsalu, IBEX Frontier and Gebeya

Access to quality education and skills training are basic requirements for advances in African technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment. This panel explored the current state of education in Africa and innovative ways to educate young minds. Together, they spoke of what new learning strategies need to be instituted to help reduce unemployment, address skills gaps, and prepare the leaders and workforce of tomorrow. The paneled opened with introductions facilitated by Jackie Copeland-Carson, who spoke of the importance of higher education in her own journey of leadership. She asked the panelists questions starting with their perspective on the most compelling challenges facing higher education in Africa. The panelists then discussed exciting innovation emerging in African higher education and skills training that expands educational opportunity on the Continent, and in its old and new Diaspora. Lastly, they discussed the strengths and replication of innovations in higher education and adult training to accelerate development in Africa and its Diaspora. In conclusion, the panel emphasized the action that audience members can take to promote higher education to accelerate Africa and its Diaspora's development via the Q&A.



Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

Channels and Vehicles for Investing in Africa: How Do You Build and Run a Company a Thousand Miles Away?

Facilitated by Pamela Roussos, Miller Center for Entrepreneurship, Santa Clara University



What does it take to become a successful and impactful entrepreneur? This panel provides a behind-the-scenes look at the journey of pursuing the path of entrepreneurship, exploring challenges, opportunities, and insights along the way. Drawing on human capital investment as a means of optimizing human talent and resources, what kind of ecosystem is necessary for a thriving system that will allow global entrepreneurs and investors to thrive?

Key Takeaways

Facilitated by Pamela Roussos of the Miller Center for Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, the panel began with the goal of working together to solve issues that the audience may be facing as entrepreneurs. Roussos began with an outline of challenges commonly faced when running a business a thousand miles away. Tebabu Assefa offered a model of challenges and successes by sharing the story of the creation of his impact-driven model, Blessed Coffee.

"The thing about a vision that you see, is that just because you see it, doesn't mean that others do," said Assefa. "The task of making others see it is up to YOU. If you fail to communicate it, the problem is you. Get your message right. Get your strategy right. Vision is like fire. Unless you like fire, it will burn you down if you don't know how to handle it."

Pamela followed up by sharing themes of challenges and asking the audience for what challenges they would like to discuss via a World Cafe style. Participants discussed topics including: how to deal with corruption, the banking process, red tape, effective team communication across distance, picking the right people, cash flow, and investing.

“ At African Diaspora Network, our goal is to facilitate dialogue and action. And we thank all of you for being here. And I'm very proud to be a part of the African Diaspora Network board. ”

– Hugh Molotsi, Founder and CEO of Ujama;
African Diaspora Network board member



How I Started My Business - African Women Entrepreneurial Journey

Come and meet women of influence, perseverance, and expertise as they share their journey on how they started their business/social enterprise. This session explores how to navigate the initial stages and sustainability of a new business and how to turn an idea into a business venture. Discover essential practices as they share insight on how to navigate obstacles.



Haweya Mohamed,
Afrobytes
Moderator



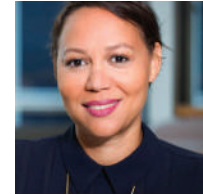
Almaz Negash,
African Diaspora
Network
Moderator



Cheryl Contee,
Fission Strategy



Warira Nijiru,
Food for
Education



Shirley Billot,
Kadalys

Key Takeaways

The session highlighted the need for more investment toward women, as women continue to be awarded less than men. The discussion surfaced the need for women to also be as diligent as their male counterparts in grasping the language of investment, particularly the language of pitching. Women need to own a sense of responsibility with regards to this preparation, and need to find people who can serve as mentors and help them through this path. The need for mentors and supporters is high, however, access is not equal. There is still a high need and demand for access to finance and investment that has historically been unequal in availability for many women.

“ Like other conferences ADIS had an impressive speaker lineup and attendee list. But what was different was that everyone was accessible. This isn't a conference; it's a community. A community coming together for a two-day “family reunion” ready to give and share. There was a spirit of warmth and openness. Most importantly there was a spirit of action. It was not just talk. ”

– Corinne Gray, MIT Sloan Fellow in Innovation and Global Leadership



Builders Of Africa's Future Impact & Innovation Awards

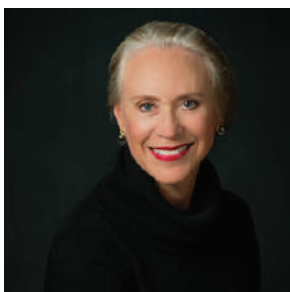


During the Third Annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium, we celebrated “Builders of Africa’s Future” through an awards ceremony honoring the best-in-class, established African businesses and a presentation of early-stage businesses that highlight the future of Diasporan Africa innovation. A curated list of African Diaspora entrepreneurs showcased their startups to ADIS participants. Startups were selected based on the criteria of innovation, uniqueness, growth potential, and impact potential on the continent.

The ADIS platform provided a unique stage for the entrepreneurs to promote their venture, attract potential customers, and drum up investor and partner interest. We are pleased to announce the 2018 awardees of the inaugural African Diaspora Impact & Innovation Awards.

Special thanks goes to Twum Djin of Goodwater Capital and Marsha Wulff of LoftyInc for curating the session and the Miller Center for Entrepreneurship for mentoring the awardees.

Innovation & Impact Awards on Finance & Investment



Marsha Wulff

Founder & Managing Partner, LoftyInc Afropreneurs Fund

Marsha Wulff is raising capital for the Loftyinc Afropreneurs Fund, which she co-established with a distinguished Nigerian team. Having worked twenty years with African diaspora and impact investments, her background includes portfolio management, board governance, corporate communications and private equity investments.

**Maya Horgan Famadou**

Founder & Managing Partner, Ingressive Capital

Maya Horgan Famadou is a venture capital investor and entrepreneur. She founded Ingressive Capital, a \$5 Million venture fund focused on early stage African tech, and Ingressive, a tech integration company that provides market entry services and tech research for corporates and investors, and operates their Africa strategy over time.

Builders of Africa's Future Awardees

**Akin Jones**

Co-Founder & CEO, Aella Credit

Akin Jones held key investment banking roles in Africa & North America. Working with Technology/M&A Investment Banking Teams at Primera Africa, Wachovia Securities, BGL Investment Bank, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey and UBS.

**Louison Mbombo**

Co-Founder & President, SOLIDARIEDADDE NA MOKILI

Louison was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and studied Entrepreneurship in Stiftung Entrepreneurship (Germany). He has been active in helping youth-led startups around the world. Mr. Louison Mbombo lives in Brazil where he works as Global Partnership Manager at the Afro-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce AFROCHAMBER.

**Belinda Ilenge Lofone**

Co-Founder, SOLIDARIEDADDE NA MOKILI

Belinda was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has over a decade of experience advising executives and business leaders in auditing, risk management, compliance, and corporate governance. Belinda earned her MBA from Dallas Baptist University and resides in Irving, Texas.

**Wawira Njiru**

Founder & Executive Director, Food for Education

Wawira founded Food for Education in 2012 while doing her Nutrition and food sciences degree at the University of South Australia. She has been recognized as a Spark* International Changemaker 2012, Transform Nutrition 'Nutrition champion' 2013 and a Hunger Free Ambassador.

**Yasmin Kumi**

Founder & Managing Director, Africa Foresight Group

Yasmin Kumi founded AFG in 2015 to follow her passion of fostering local economic value creation in Africa. She is a Ghanaian/German senior business consultant with extensive working experience in the consumer goods and financial services sector, the research of family business groups and agriculture in African markets.



Abolade Lawal (Bola)
Co-Founder & CEO, ScholarX

Bola is a Social Entrepreneur who co-founded ScholarX due to his passion for human capital development in Africa. The ScholarX app was recently nominated by Apps Africa as Best App in West Africa. Prior to ScholarX, he worked as a Business Analyst with companies such as ConocoPhillips, Accenture and Shell.



Peter Kegode
CEO, Nishati Koffee

Peter is an international agribusiness consultant with over 25 years of experience with Africa coffee value chain, coffee retail and institutional development initiatives. Peter has consulted for Coffee Research foundation, Kenya, coffee Board of Kenya, Kenya Coffee Producers Association, Kenya Cooperative Coffee Exporters Ltd, African Fine Coffee Association.



Curtis Vanderpuije
Co-Founder & CEO, expressPay

Curtis is co-founder and CEO of expressPay, a leading fintech company in Ghana enabling real-time money transfer and seamless consumer – merchant payments. Curtis has a wealth of payments and management experience having spent several years at Visa Inc. and Bain & Company prior to starting expressPay.



Ugwem Eneyo
Co-Founder & CEO, Solstice Energy Solutions

Ugwem I. Eneyo is the co-founder and CEO of Solstice Energy Solutions, a start-up company specializing IoT and software to connect & intelligently manage distributed energy resources in emerging markets. Ms. Eneyo's Nigerian heritage created a strong passion for addressing the challenges and opportunities across the African continent.



Dena Montague
Co-Founder, Energie Rich

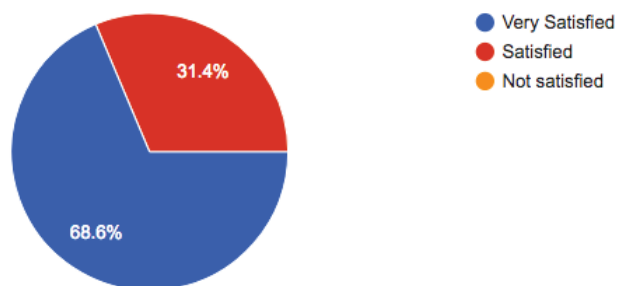
Dena Montague is the Co-Founder of ÉnergieRich a social enterprise working with engineers and entrepreneurs in Africa and the African Diaspora to develop sustainable, innovative clean energy solutions for low-income communities. ÉnergieRich was launched with Burkina Faso based co-founder, Boureima Kabre, who is a leader in advancing solar access for rural communities in West Africa.

ADIS 2018 Feedback

Attendee Evaluation Feedback

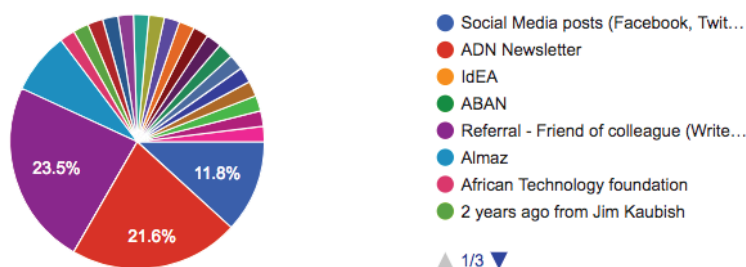
1. How satisfied were you with the symposium in general?

51 responses



2. How did you hear about the symposium?

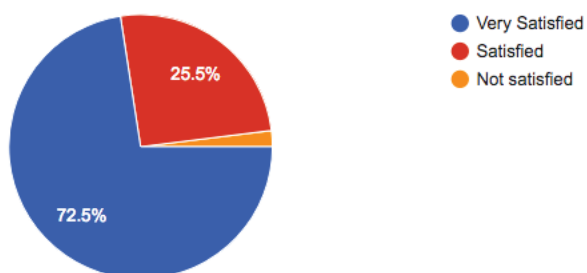
51 responses



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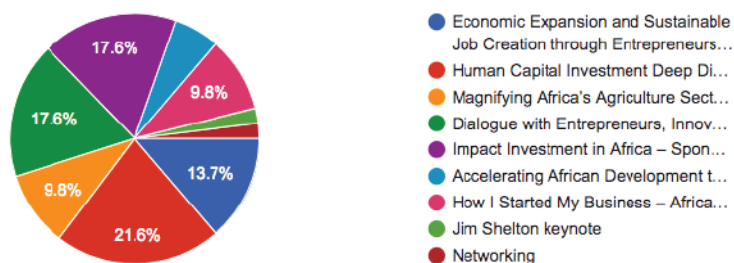
3. How satisfied were you with the caliber of speakers and panelists?

51 responses



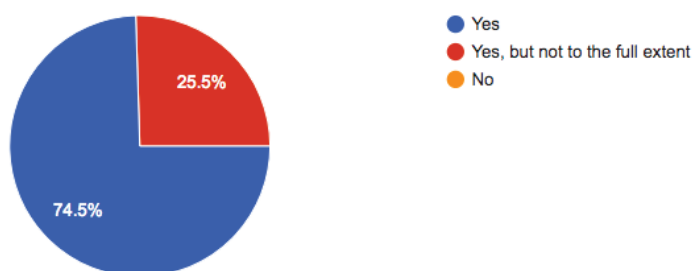
4. Which panel discussion was of most interest to you?

51 responses



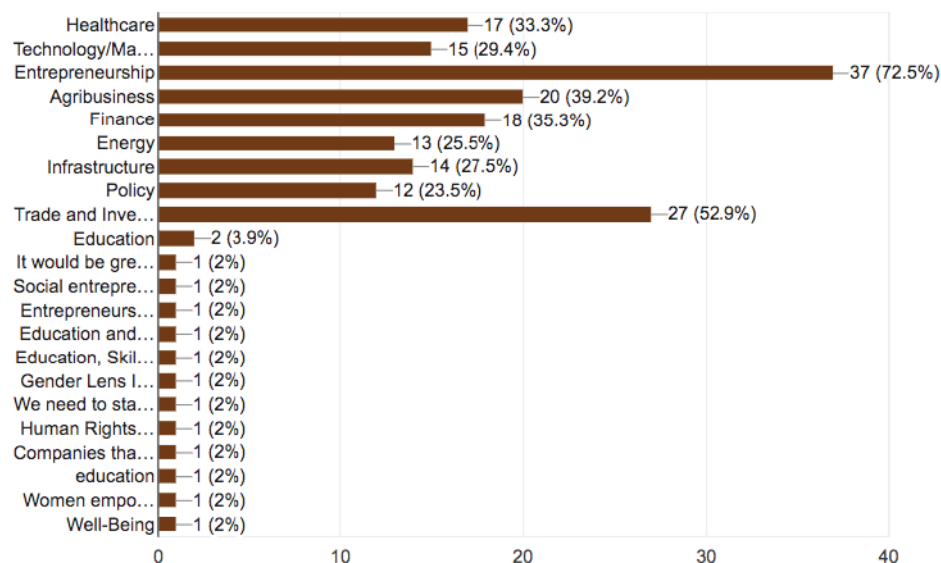
5. Did the symposium fulfill your reasons for attending?

51 responses



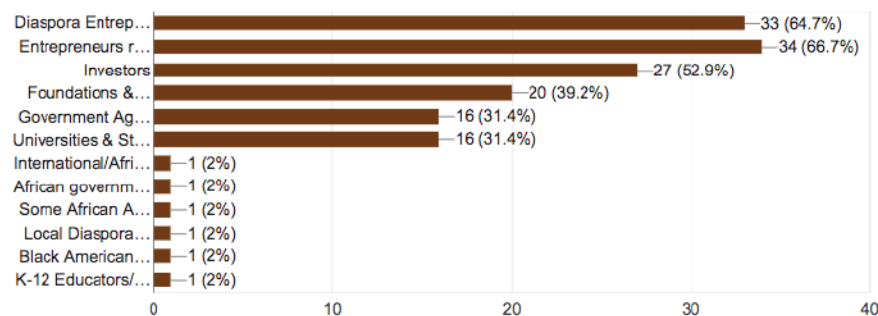
6. At ADIS '19, which Issues/Topics would you like to see more of?

51 responses

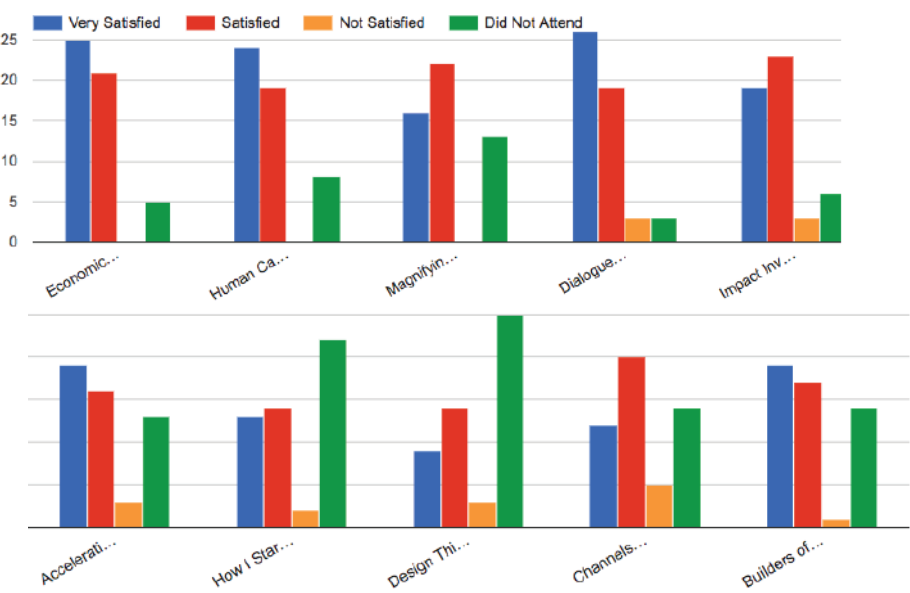


7. Which participants (Organizations/Individuals) would you like to see better represented at ADIS '19?

51 responses

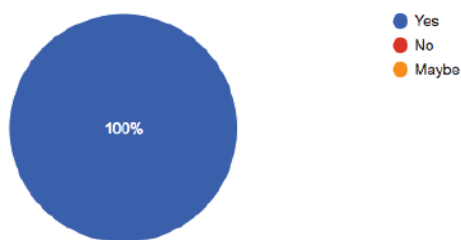


8. How satisfied were you with the various sessions?



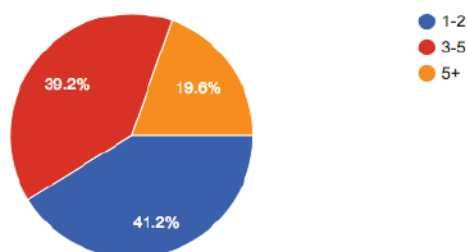
9. Would you recommend this symposium to others?

51 responses

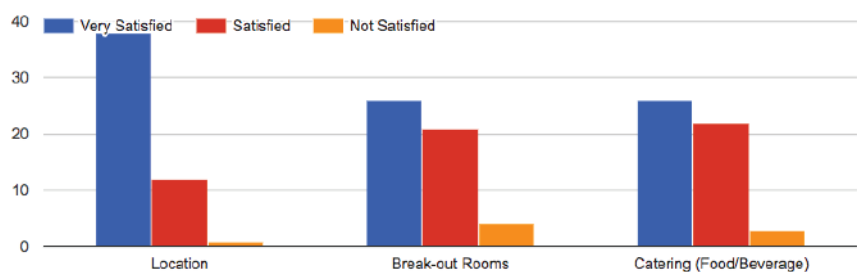


10. How many conferences do you attend in a year?

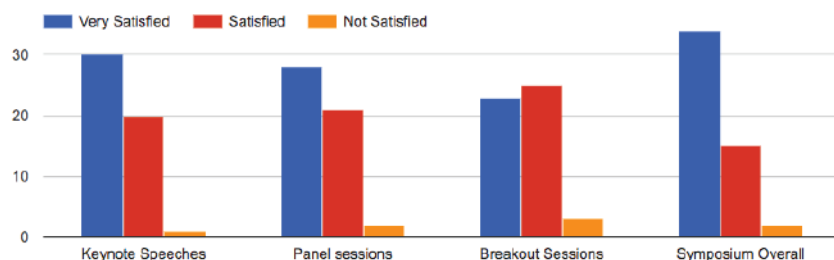
51 responses



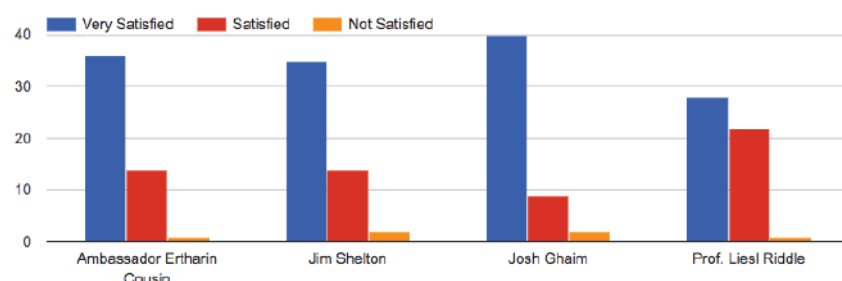
11. How satisfied were you with the venue, Computer History Museum, Mountain View, CA?



12. How satisfied were you with the length of the event?



13. How satisfied were you with the featured Speakers?



What other topics, issues, themes, would you like to see at ADIS 19?

- More focus on fundraising for entrepreneurs
- Healthcare
- Strategies for Africa taking a bigger piece of the economic pie generated by international trade and commerce than what it is currently getting.
- Visit to iconic silicon valley business, exposure programs
- Youth empowerment
- Technology & education
- Entrepreneurship networks on the ground. What types of support are there for entrepreneurs that enter into the market.
- Addressing rural communities and leveraging ecotourism
- The topics were good. The presentation design did not facilitate meaningful connections and therefore walked out of there with no specific action plan. Needs to be a working conference not a lecture because we kind of know some of these things. Allow for opportunities to develop a plan of action with meaningful follow-through. If this was done, i will be eager to show up next year to provide an update of my work in progress.
- Getting started as an investor. Greater inclusion of African-Americans as part of the diaspora.
- Youth entrepreneurs
- Topics related to the challenges of making a sale/winning customers in the technology market for African entrepreneurs
- Energy
- How to successfully scale start up business in Africa
- How can we steer impact investment to truly poor countries with unstable economic environments?
- Global investment synergy
- Sector specific
- Country/region specific issues and investment opportunities
- Private business and public entities working together to build Africa
- Health and women in the diaspora
- Impact investing in African social entrepreneurs, organizations that support the building of the social entrepreneur ecosystems eg. Harambe, atf, aban, etc.
- Would like to see African govt. Reps responsible for diaspora affairs

- How to get it education to the remote and rural regions in Africa.
- How helpful governments are in promoting entrepreneurship – specifically.
- Modern technology application to agriculture for rural population in Africa
- Policy breakdowns (ones working and ones that are not)
- Data driven facts on Africa economy
- We need to get more USA companies / execs at this event to start investing in Africa
- Combining financial inclusion and impact investment
- Venture capital for small people
- Hear from donors and investors about their criteria of funding/investment in African grassroots
- Role of rule of law in attracting and keeping investment
- Invite “bright continent” author Dayo Olapade; top African schools (education);
- More speakers/panelists like Josh Ghaim
- Innovation and ethics: the values which should drive investment in the continent
- Combating racism
- More diversity of topics that are relevant to entrepreneurs seeking partnerships
- More agro and vocational training schools in Africa
- A more specific look at education across the continent and how we can make an impact in that sector.
- More representation on women agendas and also more on boychild education.
- Investor-led session
- Hi-tech start-ups
- How to start a business in Africa on a shoe string budget
- Venture capital

What did you like MOST about the symposium?

- Networking
- Opportunity to meet people
- The spirit of togetherness as a community, uplifting and inspiring symposium.
- Two days with people who love Africa and are doing selfless things that arise out of it.
- Panel and symposium
- I enjoyed meeting others doing similar work
- The strength of the individuals that presented and attended and the amount of information that was presented during the Ernst and young talk
- The central topic of African is very interesting to m
- Food
- The focus on the diaspora
- Entrepreneur awards and pitches
- Opportunity to connect with folks
- The energy
- Community building
- The can-do spirit
- Participants
- Networking, information, and highlighting opportunities to be found on the continent
- Diversity of speakers
- The amazing group of people coming with a variety of perspectives and ready and willing to share their focus and achievements and discuss collaborations
- Great networking opportunity – and getting current on diaspora activities
- Meeting new people.
- Keynote speakers and panel discussion
- The people - lots of love, openness and lovely people (may be good to discuss the values of the adn and how that is important part of the conference - unlike other conferences)
- Almaz
- The connections I made and being with diaspora!
- It is a good start - beginning
- The connections and the wildness from delegates to help one another
- Energy from everyone, networking, excellent keynotes, Nicholas Bassey’s mc’ing, and Almaz’s magic

- Getting to know the diaspora network and the work they are doing
- As a teacher, I became exposed to different concepts that just weren't on my radar due to the nature of my job.
- Topic choices and subject matter
- The drive among the diaspora towards the future of Africa
- The keynote speakers touched on key issues that are hardly dealt with deeply.
- Diaspora women entrepreneurs

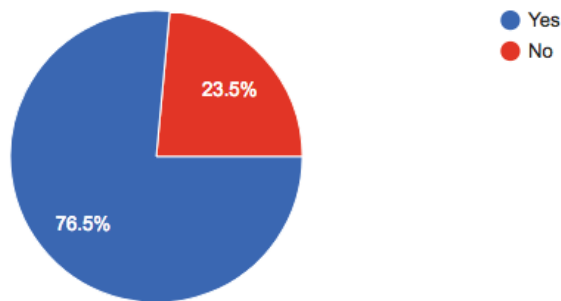
What did you like LEAST about the symposium?

- Panel sessions were very long. Conference would benefit from smaller group format / more breakouts to make it more dynamic.
- Hard to find anything that's least liked
- As a believer in the fundamental role the private sector will play in the short window of opportunity left to achieve the economic development goals of the next twenty years in all sub-saharan African countries, the seats at the table on stage have to be switched from those occupied by charities/foundations to the private sector both from without africa wanting in and from within Africa defining the conditions by which it will play by to those wanting in.
- Lack of exhibition space, opportunity.
- Speakers
- Break out session
- I think two 10 hour days was a little tough. Maybe have some of the panel sessions run concurrently in order to end the second day at noon or 1p?
- I was only able to attend one day so i missed a lot of the break-out sessions. That is the thing i was sad about.
- Not quite sure I had a least liked segment
- Panels... Too many. After a while, i lost track of the topical areas of the panelists because they all seemed to say the same thing
- Time of year
- Number of it entrepreneurs involved/featured
- I did not have enough time to go to several workshops i was interested in
- The bulk of impact investment seems disinterested or inoperable in the truly poorest African societies. I hope we can fill that void.
- Thought there should be more young people.
- More veg options needed
- Wish there was a full day of networking
- Network contact
- More women on the panels
- Hard to say
- Transportation to/from hotel was erratic
- I'd like the accommodations and conference venue in the same building.
- Each concurrent session was not set to allow attendees to switch session in the case where both sessions were of interest
- The timing...Things took long to get started again especially after breaks
- The breakout sessions didn't give us time to breakout in groups. We never had much time to make tables and talk. This is the most important reason to attend. There was too much panel talk and lecturing. I was so bored by the end of the day. Not that the information isn't interesting, i just don't care to hear everyone speak. I'm not a student and i don't want to sit there all-day and listen. Some of these speakers would be better at a table of 10 people discussing the topics. So half the day should be sessions where people get around 10-15 tables with leaders and discuss topics, problems, solutions. That is most effective for such a conference. These are called breakout sessions but your breakout session on the 2nd day was just a bunch of people talking on a panel.
- That there were very few opportunities for structured networking or small table conversation.
- Limited opportunity to network
- Not enough time to ask questions
- Breaks were a little too short

- I propose a more central bay area location like San Francisco
- For a newcomer it wasn't as easy to 'break into' the established network,
- The conversations were very broad at times, and i would have loved to do some deep dives into very specific issues.
- It's worth the money but a little expensive to attend
- The session rooms were very cold, very uncomfortable

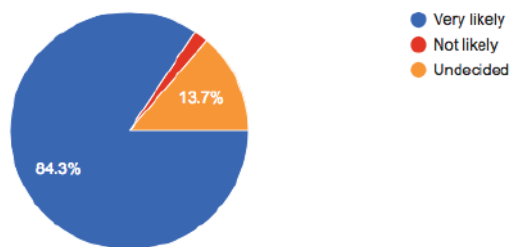
17. Was this the first time you attended ADIS?

51 responses



18. Based on your experience, how likely are you to attend ADIS 2019?

51 responses



Do you have any other suggestions or comments to help us improve our future events?

- More structured networking for first-time attendees would be helpful. It seemed to be a crowd where many people knew each other, which makes it more difficult for newer attendees.
- More entertainment during daytime
- The only reason i will not be attending adis 2019 is because i have found another African diaspora led economic summit that is primarily business focused and driven.
- It will add a lot of value to open up exhibition space alongside the conference to showcase technologies, products, services. I met a number of people who were unable to showcase their products and services
- Group sessions with like minded entrepreneurs and investors
- I suggest using an app like the grenadine event planning app to collect feedback about each panel from attendees. <https://events.Grenadine.Co/>
- If the format remains the same, I will probably not be returning next year. I suggest you identify specific sectors of interest - energy, water, retail, infrastructure, etc. And equip them with subject matter experts(funders most likely to fund the project, feasibility study folks, underwriters, etc. Who can engage the self identified group in developing a fundable project/concept and move the product/thought/idea/concept forward into a viable opportunity. I understand this is hard to do but if successful, you will have tapped into a need that many of us who want to so something are looking for. Granted, you may not have many attendees, but those who come can pay more and walk away with an action plan and viable connections to move the project forward. For example, it's wonderful to have opic representative be on a panel, it's another to engage him in an activity that will equip the participants with the knowledge and skills on what opic is looking for, the underwriting process and all the other issues one would need to jump through to obtain opic funding. If this is successful, the following year, a participant can present on the success/

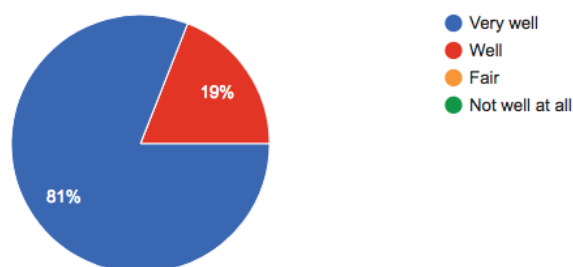
challenges and solutions of obtaining funding/building the project. I know this is “wishful thinking”. This would make me want to attend another aidis conference again. I came to hear some of this information but i received what i could find on panelists websites, etc. By the end of the two days, i could not identify any of the panels by name and the focus of their discussion. There were limited opportunities to interact and i walked away with no actionable plan.

- Hold another on the east coast during another part of the year. Perhaps in partnership with the Africa-America institute since they focus on education.
- The people from j&j made a huge impact on both personal and professional levels. I’d love to see representatives from corporations involved with African energy, natural resources and more aspects of innovative agriculture
- A publicity campaign may be needed to highlight this event, as the “buzz” around Africa is building substantially this year.
- Extend the event by an extra day. More time to digest all the great information.
- Engage policy makers and politicians
- Perhaps get African speakers via a dvc link? Case studies of: 1) a successful diaspora investment project; and 2) a failed project.
- Reach out to African diaspora scholars as well
- Overall well organized. Well done! Food should include variety of African cuisine
- Kindly spread out diaspora awards and do not put the entrepreneurs to present in one sitting. Hard to focus and remember.
- Better use of visuals/ video
- More diversity in panel speakers ensuring that women representation is not only at moderator level
- Break into 10-15 people tables with topics half the day and let us discuss issues and network. Even let people merry-go-round and change tables. I love the event and the people. I wish you well, god bless!
- I really like the activity workshops. Can we do more of those?
- Look into the “art of hosting” at <http://www.Artofhosting.Org>. I did a retreat with them and they have so many neat resources and ideas for how to facilitate meaningful conversations. The adn panels were amazing, and adding in structured conversations between them would help with integrating ideas, coming up with good questions, making connections, and restore attention span capacity for the next panel!
- There was limited networking with others. We should have more interaction with each other. I was unable to meet all the people. The food was great. Do not change that.
- Maybe email ppt presentations after conference?
- Try to get speakers/panelists who will stay throughout the symposium (Ertharin cousin left right after her keynote, which was disappointing as i would have liked to follow up with her)
- Have an event every two years on the continent of Africa
- More opportunity for networking, and participatory approach as many people were walking out during panel sessions
- One session with local early stage investors in the valley, late stage investors in Africa and the donor community who are looking for sustainability of their healthcare projects across Africa. (Mostly for small to medium size ticket investments)..... Another session around market opportunity and market sizing (more detail than the ey session)
- The event was great, especially because I had very little background knowledge coming in. I’d just love to do more work around creating impactful change in education the continent.
- The organizers and volunteers did a fantastic job putting together the symposium with limited resources. Job well done.
- Better crowd control in and out of breaks between sessions
- Encourage more funding organizations to attend

Speakers Evaluation Feedback

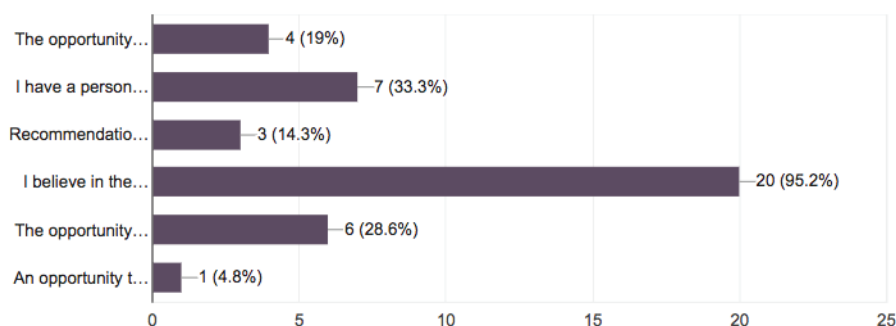
1. How well did ADIS-2018 further your goal as a speaker at the event?

21 responses



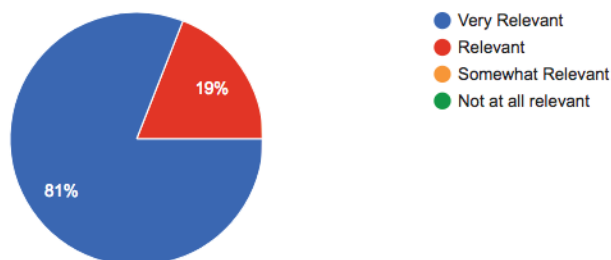
2. What personal and/or professional goal motivated you to speak at ADIS 2018?

21 responses



3. How relevant was your speaking session to your current work and/or expertise?

21 responses



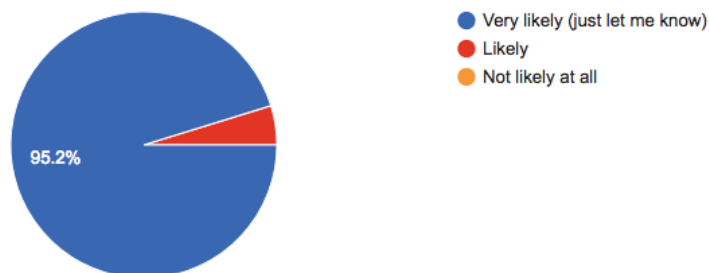
Tell us two (2) things we could have done to improve your experience as a speaker?

- Have audience settled before inviting speaker to podium / meta-level moderator having more clarity on how much time i am supposed to speak and about what themes.
- (1) More help getting people back into their seats so that events start up on time. (2) Help encouraging more interaction with speakers and panelists after session. E.G. Mc suggests what each panelist/presenter can be helpful with so that attendees with those interests can connect. This will require speakers to declare, at organization time, topics on which they would be interested in engaging.
- Possibility of having a video presentation supporting our panel discussion and additional time for q&a time
- Opportunity to be a sponsor with a promoted company profile
- Possibly give speakers a few choices on which session to speak on.
- Better brief of the session's requirements and flow before the session.
- Focus on fewer specific themes; engage more with audience - the session felt rushed

- I like that it was intimate and more personal. The smaller setting made it more like a conversation rather than speakers talking at people. It was perfect for my session
- 1) Develop a session for people who are looking for expertise or help in different areas
- 2) If we can identify a targeted need in any subject and see if people can assist
- Provide powerpoint templates, create an online schedule (using events app)
- Allowing more time for questions from the public; more gender balance on the panel
- Better briefing for the panelists and previous introductions of speakers who will be on the same panel via email

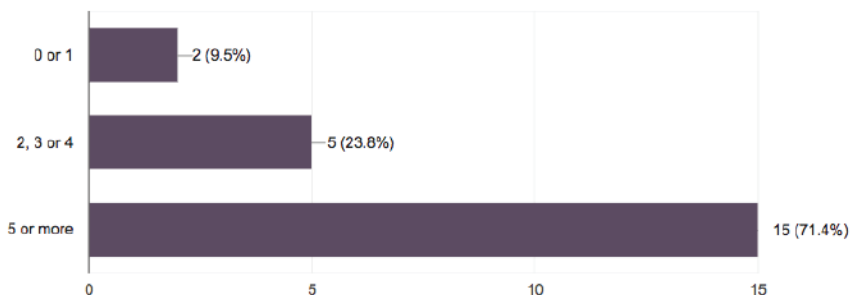
5. What is the likelihood you will recommend ADIS to other speakers?

21 responses



6. Excluding your panel and/or Keynote, how many other sessions did you attend?

21 responses



Looking at 2018, what two (2) topics do you think will shape diaspora conversations as a whole, and Africa's diaspora in particular?

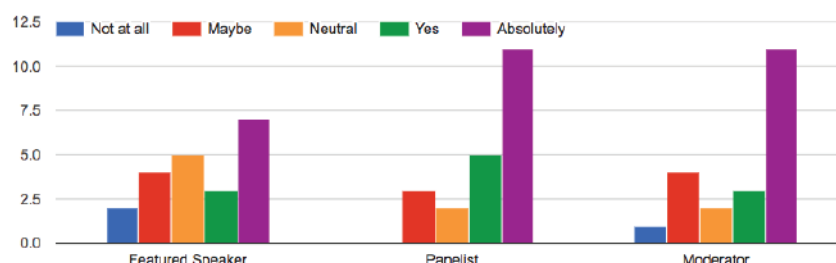
- 1) Leapfrogging on development, achieving sdgs 2). Transformative power of youth changemakers in Africa
- Agriculture and investments
- Access to finance and geopolitical dynamics
- (1) Business development and traditional investments to those efforts.
- (2) Help attracting foreign investors and partnerships.
- Topics fine. We need to attract more investors.
- Collaboration with African based startups, diaspora investment in technology
- Cryptocurrencies, youth employment/skills training/education
- Entrepreneurship, global dollar investment
- Financing & entrepreneurship
- US immigration policies; how easy or difficult it is to transfer funds internationally
- Investment and partnerships
- Opportunities for Africa's youth who make up 77% of the population.
- Food security- who and how are we feeding Africa's future.
- (1) Investment opportunities in Africa; (2) engagement/network opportunities between diaspora and us investors

- Investing in public goods (the opportunity for Africans in diaspora to invest in business and start ups with social purpose) adis could play a brokering role
- 1) I think expending he ey presentation as a session to explain the state of Africa and business would help a lot of people who are not sold in the idea of investment in Africa
- 2) As a technologist - we should add technology track and see how it is help Africa development, what works or not working?
- Investment strategies, pan African trade
- Partnerships and how do we engage African governments to further build ties with the diaspora.
- Diasporas' investments, promoting sustainable access to basic services for all in Africa
- Water and energy resources
- Building investment traction into Africa and improving market transparency for the diaspora

Looking at 2018, what are two Opportunities /Challenges that entrepreneurs in the developing world in general, Africa in particular, would face?

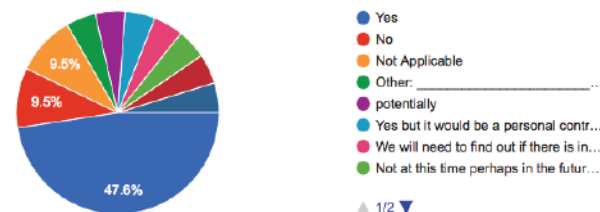
- Financing options can be a challenge, leapfrogging via tech could be an opportunity as could using sdgs as a framework
- Technology and an enabling environment for investment.
- (1) Finding funding to support business expansion. (2) Finding larger markets to remain attractive to foreign investors.
- There is no end of opportunities. There is massive challenge of finding enough investors.
- Accurate/relevant data for decision making and finding the right local partners in doing business
- Access to financial and human capital
- Access to requisite talent, access to capital
- Lack of access to electricity and lack of access to sme financing
- Matching up with relevant investors/grantmakers; changes in us tax law
- Opportunity; expanding youthful population. Challenge: ease of doing business
- Developing business solutions that create impact and engage governments for scale.
- 1) Tapping into the growing investment opportunities in emerging/Africa markets; (2) getting the right technical assistance, financing, and networks to run businesses from afar
- Political uncertainties and perhaps a slowing economy
- 1) Access to financing, 2) Access to subject matter experts, 3) Policy development across the content
- Funding, expertise
- Challenges: access to finance and managerial talent
- Non-conducive political, economic and infrastructure environment, instability
- Capital, mentorship

9. Would you like to speak/moderate at ADIS 2019? (Moderators have significantly more input in curating their panel and the event as a whole)



10. Would you or your organization consider financial sponsorship of ADIS 2019?

21 responses



Acknowledgements

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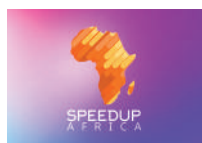


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Abdulai Jalloh, Founder & President, Bordernation



We are looking forward to seeing you at The Fourth African
Diaspora Investment Symposium on January 25-26 at the
Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California, USA

Inform



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African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2019
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Entrepreneurship – Innovation – Investment – Human Capital Development

Act



Thank You

The African Diaspora Board and Team

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