



2017

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

SYMPOSIUM SYNOPSIS

January 27-28, 2017 - San Jose, CA

ENGAGE

SPARK

ACTIVATE





African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a registered 501(c)(3) organization that offers Africans and friends of Africa the opportunity to enhance their impact on the continent and grow professionally and personally.

ADN promotes dialogue and action on social and economic development in Africa by fostering collaboration between individuals and groups invested in a better future for Africa. By sharing knowledge and forming partnerships, ADN harnesses the intellectual, financial, philanthropic, and entrepreneurial capacity of Africans and friends of Africa for the greater good of the continent.

Visit our website at www.africandiasporanetwork.org.

ADN Board of Directors

Almaz Negash, Founder of ADN

Hugh Molotsi, Investor and Advisor

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, ADN Founding Board & Co-Chair, President & CEO of Global Fund for Women

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

Chris Folayan, ADN Board Chair, Founder & CEO, Mall for Africa

ADIS2017 Planning Committee

Lead Organizing Committee

Abi Adeoti, Intel

Steph Allie-Heckman, One World Children's Fund

Melanie Bielefeld, One World Children's Fund

Twum Djin, Goodwater Capital

Daniel Hartz, Golden Mean Capital Partners

Deborah Holmes, Global Fund for Women

Cindy Lang, Go-to-Girl Brazil

Almaz Negash, African Diaspora Network

Serge Ouedraogo, African Diaspora Network

Debra Pacio, Freelance Writer & Storyteller

Radhika Shah, Co-President, Stanford Angels and Entrepreneurs

Jan Schalkwijk, African Capital Group

Marsha Wulff, Entrepreneur and Investor

ADIS2017 Team

Almaz Negash, Founder of ADN

Serge Ouedraogo, Director of Special Projects

Daniel Hartz, Director of Finance & Operations

Jo Addy, Director of Business Development

Lead National Advisors

Yohannes Assefa, Esq. D.C.

Nicholas M. Bassey, USAID

Chris Folayan, Mall for Africa

Sara Gallagher, UMD Do Good Institute

Musimbi Kanyoro, Global Fund for Women

Marcella Mujana, International Organization for Migration

Eric-Vincent Guichard, Movement Capital

Grassroots Community Advisors and Interns

Ilhan Ahmed, African Diaspora Network Intern

Lewam Dejen, Stanford University

Eden Hailemichael, Stanford University

Marlette Jackson, Ph.D. Candidate, Stanford University

Chike Nwoffiah, Founder & Director, Silicon Valley Africa Film Festival

Theresa Samuel-Boko, Community Leader

Copyright © 2017 African Diaspora Network.
All rights reserved.

African Diaspora Network
196 N. 3rd St., 3rd Fl. Suite J
San Jose, CA 95112



INTRODUCTION: ENGAGE - SPARK - ACTIVATE

The 2017 African Diaspora Investment Symposium dares to fulfill a growing need for unity, engagement, and community in an increasingly global world. Only in its second year, this annual event has catalyzed a movement of bringing together diverse leaders and entrepreneurs who, in their respective expertise and sectors, seek to solve some of the world's most complex, social, global, and economic challenges affecting the Continent of Africa and the Diaspora.

From January 27-28, 2017, more than 200 entrepreneurs, innovators, educators, development experts, and changemakers from Africa, Europe, the United States, and across the globe arrived in San Jose, CA, for this landmark convening. Amidst panels, workshops, and networking sessions, participants filled the two-day conference with vibrant conversation and critical discussion that engaged, sparked, and activated possibilities into opportunities, partnerships, collaborations, and solutions.

The final call to action challenges all attendees, whether they are African, friends of Africa, or Diasporans, to go beyond the symposium's celebration of difference and innovation, and make a lasting commitment to making change together. We invite you to join us in changing the narrative of Africa, as we weave together our stories, strengths, and strategies to reimagine and co-create solutions that uplift the communities in which we live and the Continent that we all love.



"This was my first time attending ADIS and it was by far one of the best conferences on the African Diaspora and the Continent that I have been to; even better than those that I have attended in country! I was made aware of organizations that I did not know existed, learned insights and lessons, and hope to turn introductions at ADIS into fruitful partnerships."

Jenna M. O'Brien, Project Manager, Social Enterprise & Research, IDP Foundation, Inc.

NEXT STEPS & ACTION



To our growing family, we thank you for honoring us with your presence, wisdom, and time at the second annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium. We invite you to participate in next steps with us and continue to take action.

Summary of Next Steps:

Incorporate the invaluable insight we received from the survey – In the days to come, we will convene our board, sponsors, champions and committee members to assess and develop plans for 2018.

Convening – We will convene small groups beginning February 25th for discussions ranging from idea sharing on how best to plan ADIS 2018 to investment-specific groups, entrepreneurship and education programs.

CyberExcel – This is ADN's new initiative to work with Silicon Valley and African partners to provide cyber security training programs and certification in classroom settings. We hope to have funding for a pilot program this summer and then scale up to include internship opportunities and additional locations across Africa.

Grassroots Forward Fund – This is a project from One World Children Fund, African Diaspora Network and Action for Community Development (ACODEV). The Grassroots Forward Fund works with leading in-country grassroots leaders to understand their needs and connect them with the technology, financial resources and networks they need to accelerate and increase impact. Going beyond the rhetoric, this innovative impact accelerator will directly address key barriers that are currently preventing grassroots leaders from playing a more key role in making sure we meet the newly launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW



The **African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2017 (ADIS2017)** was a two-day conference hosted by the African Diaspora Network to recognize and foster the entrepreneurial spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and their champions. The symposium served as a catalyst for diaspora-driven initiatives and investment with the potential to shape the Continent's future.

As a forum for the exchange of ideas and strategies from a variety of enriching perspectives and expertise, ADIS2017 offered the second annual Silicon Valley event that brings together members of the Diaspora, and friends of Africa, to co-create, re-imagine, and explore investment opportunities on the Continent. The symposium targeted potential and existing entrants into African business markets, with panels and workshops emphasizing the role of the Diaspora to build new links between African Entrepreneurs and Silicon Valley. Through this forum, ADIS2017 showcased new and burgeoning investment channels to support the next generation of entrepreneurs, and empower entrepreneurial professional to be promoters of Africa's dynamic story of growth.

Building upon the success of the 2016 inaugural session, African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2017 continued to prove the promise of this bold and daring movement that seeks to convene diverse leaders (25% Africa, 60% USA, 15% Europe) and tap into their creativity, ingenuity, and risk-taking to uplift the Continent of Africa.



“By attending ADIS2017 I had the opportunity to connect with well accomplished Africans from around the world who share the same passion for Africa that I do. I believe Africa is rising because now more than ever Africans are leading the discussion on how to grow the economy of the different African countries. Through strategic partnerships Africans in Diaspora have a unique role to play in helping to increase trade and investment in the region. Africa Diaspora Network(ADN) has the potential to become the platform that can help drive sustainable economic growth on the continent.”

Toyin Umesiri, Senior Manager II, Strategy & Governance, Walmart



GETTING UP TO SPEED ON AFRICA

Friday, January 27 | Opening Remarks

Chris Folayan, ADN Board Chair, and Almaz Negash, the fearless leader of the African Diaspora Network, began the day with a welcome and call to action. Both expressed that the 2017 program built on the strong foundation of last year's program and expressed gratitude for the planning committee and you - a dynamic group of passionate leaders. Nicholas M. Bassey of USAID, returning as the Master of Ceremonies for the 2017 symposium after his same role the previous year, gave a warm welcome to the audience. His opening remarks included a brief overview of the USAID Call for Diaspora Partnerships, public-private partnerships that include a focus on diaspora engagement, before introducing the morning session theme of "Getting Up to Speed on Africa."

The opening session concluded with a keynote address by Chinedu Echeruo, who shared his path to innovation and success in Tech. Born in Nigeria and immigrating to the US at the age of 16, Chinedu shared his journey toward becoming a problem-solver through entrepreneurship after beginning his career in investment banking on Wall Street. "You are next to something you don't know you are next to." Through a story of a fish who doesn't know he is swimming in water until he asks, Chinedu challenges the audience to figure out what is next to you, and see the opportunity through insights that provide the building blocks for action. He is currently launching a startup studio that takes possibilities of ideas to create companies. His last words are to "share, connect, and best of luck."



"Congratulations to Almaz and team! ADIS2017 was an incredibly engaging two-day symposium, connecting leaders and doers from Africa and around the world, and stimulating honest discussion about the challenges and opportunities on the continent. Kupona Foundation was honored to be a part of this important dialogue. We look forward to exploring opportunities for further partnership." **Abbey Kocan, Executive Director, Kupona Foundation**

GETTING UP TO SPEED ON AFRICA

Friday, January 27 | Morning Session

- *Africa's Growing Startup Ecosystem*
- *Investment Channels and Vehicles for the Diaspora and Friends of Africa*

The first TED-talk style panel led the audience through conversations with various entrepreneurs and investors active on the African continent to explore the startup ecosystems of Africa. The session showcased Africa's thriving startup landscape through the lens of entrepreneurs, investors, and promoters leading the way in the Silicon Savannah.

Various topics included the critical importance of scaling, the challenge of finding and leveraging human capital, an overview of the diaspora's perceived obstacles to investment in Africa, and the importance of completing diaspora surveys to ensure your point of view is captured as organizations and government agencies create and implement diaspora engagement strategies.



The audience learned about using remittances to finance clean energy projects via a program in Haiti that may be replicable in some African contexts. Discussion also conveyed the importance of the integration of systems across African borders, the critical importance of traceability and visibility of processes, and how RFID provides a space of opportunity for this across sectors.

The panel, "Investment Channels and Vehicles for the Diaspora and Friends of Africa," followed to present current and new initiatives that provide more accessible pathways for investors and mentors to support Africa's hottest ventures. Audience members learned that strategies for smoothing the way for investment should include an emphasis on improving management skills and creating accessible platforms for diasporans. We heard that diaspora engagement, to be effective, must be a primary focus and not undertaken as a hobby. We heard debates for and against governments taking an active role in incentivizing investment. Also shared was the view that one of the reasons why Angel Investing in Tech has been challenging in Africa is that most African High Net Worth Individuals come from other sectors and do not have an understanding of the nuances in tech investing.



"ADIS 2017 was incredibly insightful: most helpful on investment opportunities, and in bringing people together. As a 'friend of Africa', honored by membership with ADN, I have experienced the power of a Pan-African network, open to all who are keen to support the Mother Continent. As light came from the numerous discussions, the importance of education became clear as a key to Africa's future. Great things still to come from ADIS!"

Dr. Olaf Hahn, Director/CEO, Education Sub Saharan Africa

NETWORKING LUNCH

Friday, January 27 | Noon Session



Before transitioning to lunch, the U.S. Department of State's Secretary's Office on Global Partnerships announced the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Geeks on a Plane Africa Tour. Attendees then had the opportunity to participate in a networking lunch with informal table topics ranging from entrepreneurship to investing to education and immigration.

Following the networking lunch session, Taffi Ayodele gave a keynote address on her experiences in starting a women-owned and women-focused venture, Thando's, a Lagos and NY-based footwear design and distribution company that leverages the creativity of African artists to co-design comfortable and affordable shoes for women.



"My experience at ADIS was phenomenal for many reason but I'll focus on one in particular. I attended ADIS with an idea in mind that I hoped to validate while there. I believed that there is pent up demand within the diaspora for efficient ways to identify and invest in early and growth stage companies led by Africans and the African diaspora.

ADN was gracious enough to support myself, and my partner Lydia, in organizing a dinner with a segment of participants interested in exploring this theory with us.

The quality feedback we received at the dinner and through conversations that happened over the two days encouraged us to pursue this idea further. We are now working on launching an investment platform in partnership with ADN. Our goal is to provide a highly curated investment service that will provide access to rigorously vetted early and growth stage companies led by Africans and Africans in the diaspora."

Akin Sawyerr, Managing Director, Feleman Limited

KEY TRENDS: THE CHANGING INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE OF AFRICA

Friday, January 27 | Afternoon Session

- *Women Entrepreneurs in Africa*
- *Fintech and the Democratization of Financial Services*
- *Powering Africa: Current and Prospective Solutions*
- *Beyond VCs: Early Stage Funding for Startups*
- *Insight into African Businesses: How to Prioritize and Grow an African Business*

Women Entrepreneurs in Africa

Panelists discussed the unique role that women entrepreneurs have in empowering, mentoring, and coaching other women entrepreneurs. Topics ranged from how the development of entrepreneurial skills should happen earlier for women, to the challenges that women entrepreneurs face, including the difficulty of even getting a seat at the table without a male representative. We also heard expressed that we would be well served to focus on tech training for women rather than the traditionally small-scale projects of training for sewing, screen printing, and other similar projects. Most significantly, being empowered by women was said to offer opportunities to empower other women, proving how imperative mentorship is in advancing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.



Fintech and the Democratization of Financial Services

Following the panel was a series of breakout sessions, the first of which gave us the opportunity to participate in discussions on "FinTech and the Democratization of Financial Services" and "Powering Africa: Current and Prospective Solutions." The FinTech session included a discussion on how new markets are being opened with innovative products focused on "unbanked" Africans. Panelists discussed how Fintech enables large market space with diverse cultures within growing economies, Africa having the fastest mobile user penetration at 4%, as an example, with the largest unbanked population being 75%. While creating products in the Fintech space, panelists recommend a good network, a convenient way for people to make payments, such as M-Pesa, and collaboration in the market that ensures growth.





Powering Africa: Current and Prospective Solutions

The Powering Africa session offered a lively discussion with esteemed panelists on technologies, business models, and available resources that can be and are being harnessed to transform the energy landscape in Africa. Moderator Stephen Ozoigbo initiated the panel by emphasizing how the African power infrastructure situation is unique in that it affects every country. While speaking to localized solutions and opportunities that are Pan-African, Stephen introduced the panelists as representing various sectors surrounding energy, from the policy side that helps to ensure sustainability, to those working on innovative approaches in the energy ecosystem in Africa.

Among the topics were restraints that panelists have witnessed across the energy value chain. Speaking to the importance of offering a solution and framing a problem well, panelists spoke to the political, investment, and foreign exchange risks that often inhibit large-scale investments and entrepreneurs. Audience members also asked about the high cost of electricity throughout various areas of Africa, and what changes can be made to help families and individuals.

Beyond VCs: Early Stage Funding for Startups

Moderator Hafeeza Rashed began the panel with a short narrative on two mice that walked into a bucket of butter. One drowned, but the other struggled and turned the butter into cream, and walked out. With this tone of innovation and possibility, Hafeeza introduced panelists Dr. Olaf Hahn, CD Glin, and Heather Grady, each of whom brought diverse expertise at the intersection of the philanthropic, VC, and startup landscapes.

Speaking to their own experiences and lessons learned, the panelists answered a round of questions including ways to position a startup to be more visible to potential funders as well as the importance of defining and measuring the impact that startups have. Beyond ideation, emphasis was placed upon having a proven concept and to be a registered entity. Audience members offered questions that helped to nuance the conversation around various ways of obtaining funding for effective ideas. One question about funding the pilot stage, for example, received the recommendation of pursuing blended funding, a mix of grants and investments. A common theme was that good ideas take a long time to prototype and scale, and cannot all be expected to generate revenue in the beginning. Innovative approaches, as Hafeeza stressed in her initial narrative, would be essential to piloting concepts and moving from the idea stage to measurable implementation.



“ADIS increased the visibility of Shared Action Africa, and I made great connections that we will leverage as we build our organization to use financial tools including financial technologies to expand economic opportunities for women and youth in rural sub Saharan Africa.”

Evelyn Nassuna, Co-Founder and CEO, Shared Action Africa



Insights into African Businesses: How to Prioritize, Develop, Build and Grow an African Business

Presented as a free and open forum by moderator Chris Folayan, the session was filled with insightful anecdotes and lessons between the audience and panel. On deciding whether an investment would be good, panelists emphasized that investments must begin as something one likes, that a person is personally invested in. Market potential and the ability to have high returns were also significant considerations, as well as purpose in what one was doing. Recommendations include being open to new things on the ground and solving a real problem rather than creating just another idea, such as businesses that improve convenience or the quality of how services are provided.

Discussion also surfaced gaps that need to be filled. Increasingly, companies should take on a problem-solving nature and then focus on how that story will be told. In particular, the fields of health care, tourism, women, and education would highly benefit from purposeful African businesses.

Another key discussion topic focused on elevating African businesses by creating an impactful and memorable brand. Pride was said to be a key ingredient to any brand, along with having a good price point in comparison to competitors. Major takeaways of the conversation are that one must have key experience that shape what you want to do, and to build big companies that contribute to the pride of not just the organization, but the culture of Africa.

EVENING RECEPTION AND AWARDS

Friday, January 27 | Evening Session

The day ended with an inspiring closing keynote address by Ugwem Eneyo of Solstice Energy Solutions. Ugwem spoke about her journey to become the Co-founder and CEO of Solstice Energy solutions. The evening session concluded with a live musical performance and the first-ever African Diaspora Network Barka Award ceremony in a celebration of the dedication, strategic vision, and support of Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro. The networking reception lasted well into the evening.

ADIS Tracks

Saturday, January 29 | Morning Session

- *Investor Panel: Exploring Investment Opportunities in Lesser-Known Africa*
- *Entrepreneur Panel: Finding Reliable and Actionable Market Data*

Day two of ADIS2017 started with a live performance, summary and highlights of day one presented by Nicholas Bassey of USAID, and a morning keynote address by Emeka Afigbo. Emeka spoke to his experience as a leader in Facebook's product partnerships in the Middle East and Africa and offered his analogy of the ecosystem of Africa as one in which there is a wide gap between the entrepreneur and the user. "Africa wants real world outcomes," said Emeka. He emphasizes the importance of completing bridges in Africa so that businesses reach the end user and the returns show that success.



Investor Panel: Exploring Investment Opportunities in Lesser-Known African Markets

As one of two ADIS tracks panels, the investor panel focused on identifying opportunities while addressing challenges and the process of prioritizing needs and generating growth. One key lesson from the panel uplifted the importance of local community partner engagement, and looking to local businesses as experts, mentors, and reporters of data in their respective communities. Humility was a key theme. "I don't pretend to understand local businesses," said Chad Jordan, instead focusing his work on providing avenues for people to be at the same table, and facilitating relationships between those who didn't know they could collaborate and work well together. Speaking to limiting factors, people and capacity were among the most significant in decision-making, as well as turning to innovative means and looking at Africa-specific solutions.



"To me, ADIS showed me what was truly possible, when all the players come to the table and decide what we want for our continent. I see ADN as a true Network of Networks where we can plug in all the different diaspora groups in different cities, across the U.S. and across the world. That is powerful because Africans at home and abroad have to work together across national lines.

Following the ADIS event, I have had several follow-up calls and in person meetings with so many people that it has been a truly continuous experience. I truly believe that what happens at ADIS changes our continent. Personally, I see ADIS as the place you come to, to connect with people are doing things back home, and to plug in and be a part of the Africans changing Africa."

Ayomide Shittu, Attorney, Thompson & Knight LLP



Entrepreneur Track: Finding Reliable and Actionable Market Data

The entrepreneur track explore the quest for market data that could be used in moving projects forward. The conversation offered numerous lessons for budding entrepreneurs in the audience, as panelists shared lessons that addressed questions. One major question explored how entrepreneurs may find data that is credible and compelling to investors. Toyin Umesiri responded by addressing not only the how, but the why, and the importance of looking to the future. “Whatever you’re doing today,” she said, “what does it look like ten years from now?” She emphasized the importance of mapping out what you’re trying to solve, building a roadmap, and then backing it with resources. Deciding on a problem to solve became an essential ingredient to success, and also recognizing that there is already free data out there. Yannick Lefang also emphasized his experience in speaking with entrepreneurs in the Diaspora. “You’ve got to be real,” he said, pointing out the importance of research and development, and not making assumptions about what can work and how money can be saved with a multi-stage approach to development.

A Call to Action: Building Momentum on ADN Projects and Partnerships

The mid-day session galvanized the symposium with a call to action, featuring a round of presentations on ADN projects led by Chris Folayan, Jo Addy, and Almaz Negash, selected participants had the opportunity to engage in fire presentations before a networking break and the ADIS tracks panels.



In 2017, I attended ADIS for the first time. As an Afro-European based in Paris, I was delighted to discover so much enthusiasm and desire for doing business in Africa. ADIS offers the best return on investment for an African Conference attendee and ADIS 2018 is already on my agenda!

Ammin Youssouf, CEO & Impact Technologist, Afrobytes

Taking Action

Saturday, January 29 | Afternoon Session

- *Closing Your First African Deal*
- *Rapid-Fire Reimagining of Educational Solutions for Africa*

Closing Your First African Deal

“Something caught your eye, and you need to start your due diligence as an investor. What’s it going to take for you to get comfortable enough to sign the check?” asks moderator Marsha Wulff. Panelists offered a number of important considerations. Mentorship rose as a key strategy to successful investment, based on the trinity of approaching investment as product, market, and people. Eric Osiakwan stated that investment is essentially a people’s game, and that mentorship was as essential to capital in the African business landscape that differs from Silicon Valley’s setting of easily accessible entrepreneurs. Layi Ali-Ajibode also surfaced the topic of deal construction and the end goal of a guaranteed return on investment. “You have to be specific about an African-based or Western-based investor,” he stated. Negotiations and concerns may be different along a different turf, which ultimately affects the final deal.

Entrepreneur Track: Rapid-Fire Imagining of Educational Solutions for Africa

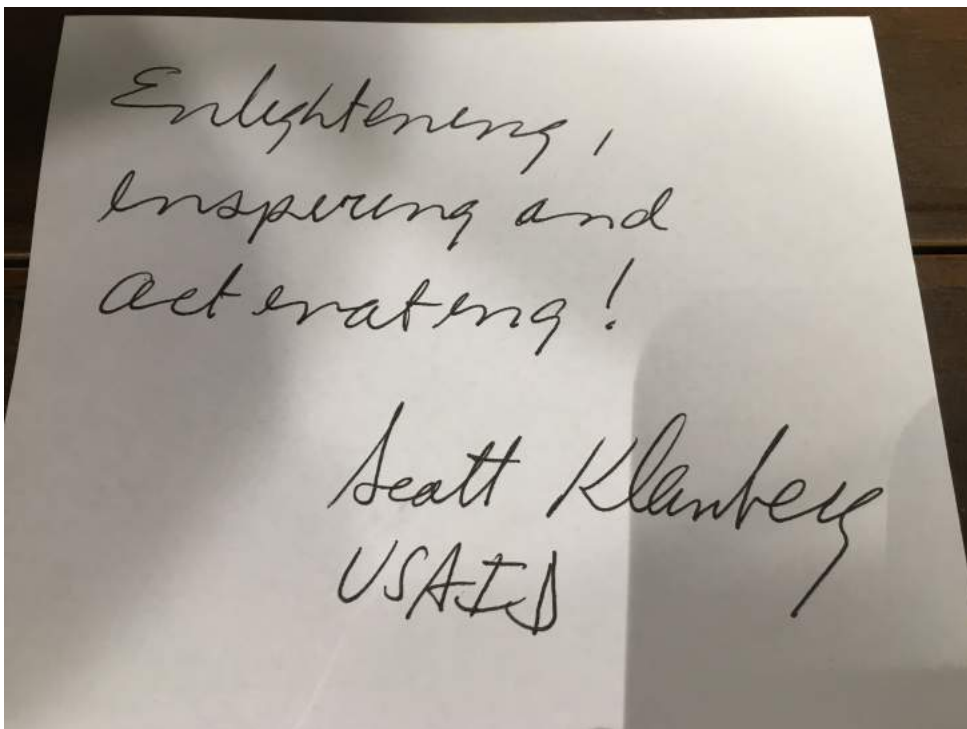
This workshop, led by Jo Addy, introduced the design-thinking strategies and tools to produce rapid-fire solutions to issues of education in Africa. The audience of 30 participants broke out into smaller groups to ideate big ideas together. Using basic tool such as post-it notes and markers, participants offered their own expertise in a diverse group of teammates to generate solutions with the guidance of a timekeeper and facilitator. Key rules to the session were to listen respectfully, be curious, iterate rapidly, work in collaboration, and use empathy for the end-users. Jumping from a brainstorming session to a synthesis of initial ideas, teams worked to refine their concepts and themes to present and share with the rest of the session. Following each share-out would be two minutes of audience reactions, providing an immediate feedback loop to build upon the existing team idea. The modification stage offered participants the opportunity to expand their concepts into a more developed business model. Audience members lauded the design-thinking process as a way to produce actionable, testable, and adaptive business models.





POST ADIS 2017

ADIS2017 was an opportunity to engage, spark, and activate. The final session brought together the 200+ participants for a final opportunity to move forward together. Almaz Negash, founder of the African Diaspora Network, shared in her final remarks that the network would only be possible through the collective effort and involvement of Africans, the Diaspora, and friends of Africa. In a final thank you, audience members were invited to join the African Diaspora Network and to reconvene once more in 2018 for the third annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium, and were strongly encouraged to maintain and develop the relationships that participants had started to make at ADIS2017.

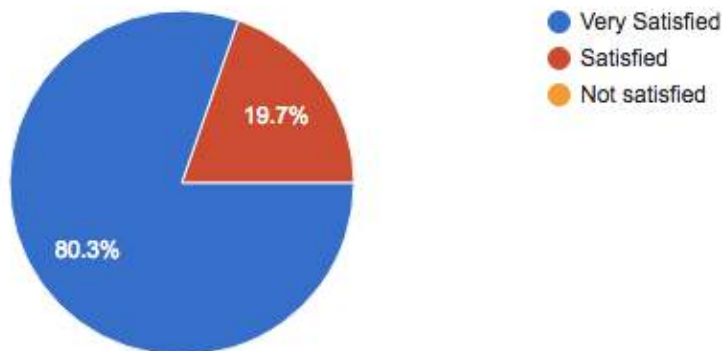


"Enlightening,
inspiring,
activating!"
Scott Kleinberg,
USAID

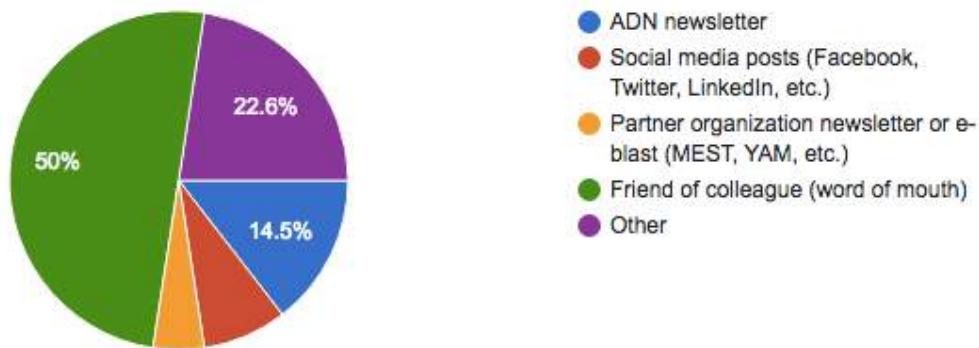
ADIS2017 Survey Responses

We look to this year's attendees to help guide the future and direction of ADIS2018. The ADIS2017 team thanks you for your time and thoughtfulness in responding to our post-symposium survey. Your feedback is invaluable to the next steps of our planning process. Please share any additional inquiries or suggestions at almaz@africandiasporanetwork.org. We look forward to your continued commitment and participation with the African Diaspora Network and invite you to join us once more in 2018.

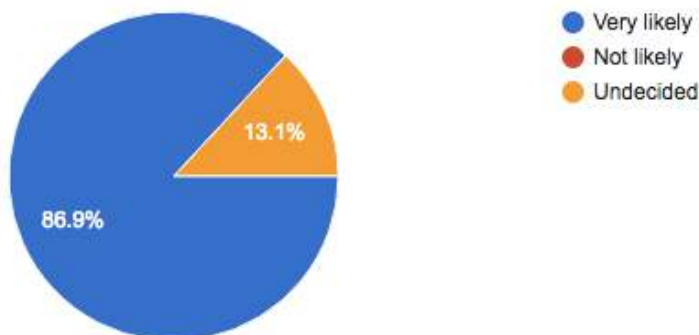
How satisfied were you with the symposium in general? (61 responses)



How did you learn about ADIS 2017? (62 responses)

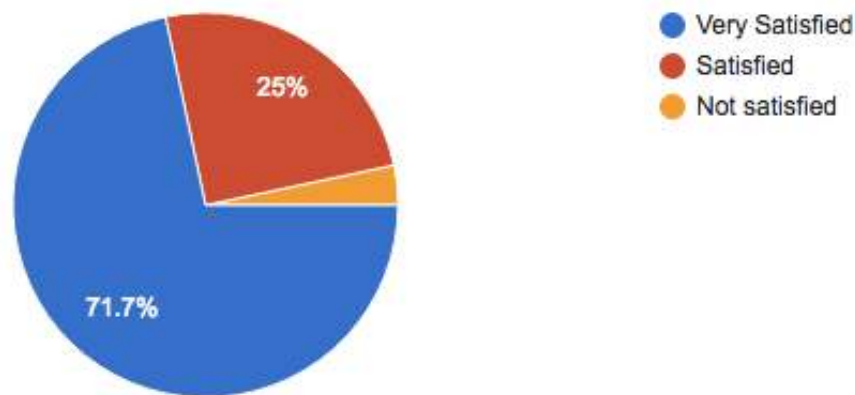


How likely are you to attend ADIS 2018? (61 responses)



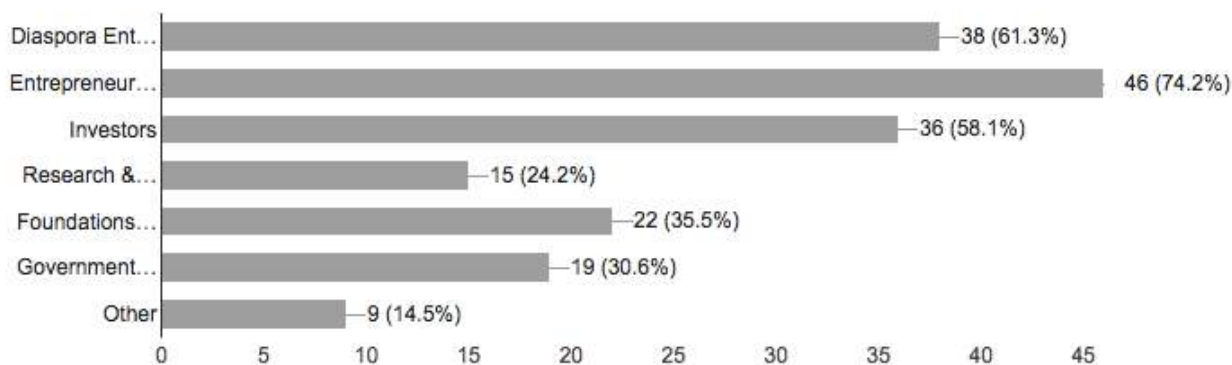
How satisfied were you with the caliber of speakers and panelists?

(60 responses)



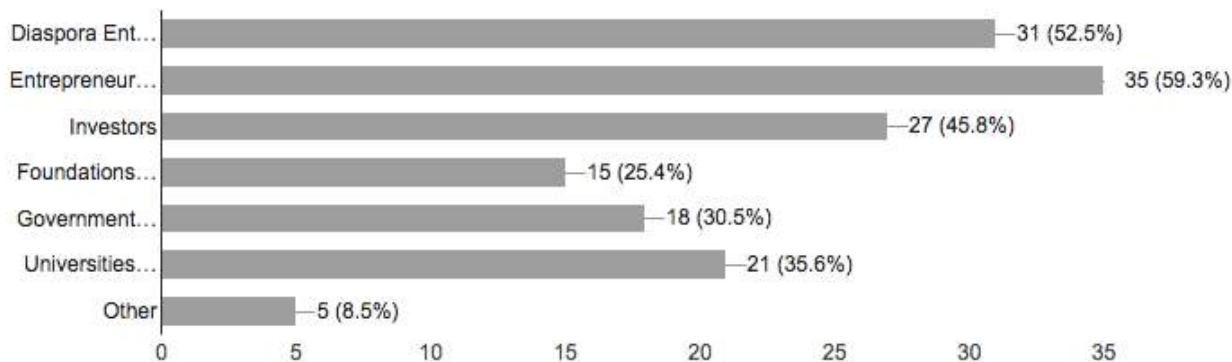
At ADIS '18, which Speakers/Panelists would you like to see more of?

(62 responses)



Which participants (Organizations/Individuals) would you like to see better represented at ADIS '18?

(59 responses)



Additional Feedback (34 responses)

- I think it was just right. More time needed for networking.
 - I did provide my feedback to Almaz and serge. Let's make this event - the CES like event that set the tone for what will drive prosperity in Africa (driven by Africans within and outside the continent)
 - Well executed and curated event for the diaspora. Good size in terms of number of people which kept things intimate and allowed for quality relationships to start forming.
 - Would love to see more content highlighting early stage companies, the progress they are making, and investment avenues open to the diaspora to engage
 - I recommend to have the symposium starts on Friday at 12:00 PM-8:00 PM. Saturday 10:00 AM-8:00 PM
 - Allow for participants and attendees to know who's coming ahead of time (1-2 weeks ideally before the event starts) and share contact information (optional to the attendee of course). This is a huge value-add as it allows more meaningful connections and conversations at the event. Also last year's symposium had a strong call to action at the end. I missed Saturday's this year, but hope the same was done! Keep that up! Lastly, I think there's an opportunity to be intentionally strategic in investment in Africa (by country or region) across this network. A good starting point (if not already in place?) is an investment strategy aligned to the key areas/opportunities the diaspora and stakeholders (in-country) see. By mapping this out, it will enable those involved to see progress (and address gap areas with targeted investment) which is a huge motivator - especially for entrepreneurs and investors working in challenging, seemingly isolated contexts.
 - More inclusion of African entrepreneurs
-
- One thing that I believe is happening, but is not being called out directly, is the positive approach to doing business in and with Africa. It seems that this is not just a focus on "how much money can I make" at all costs. There is a mindful approach to solving real problem, ethical sourcing, and environmental sustainability. I call this, "Brand of Business". This symposium is really supporting a positive brand of business and calling that out more directly may help in keeping the spirit of building businesses in and with Africa on the right track as this symposium build momentum. Just thought.
 - More breakout sessions, at various times of the conference. But any other than that, this was a well-organized symposium and I am grateful we were part of it. Great job team Almaz!
 - Super networking opportunity
 - I would recommend ADN to my African my brothers and sisters in my community. It has inspired me, it had empowered me and gave me hope about the possibilities which are limitless. Just being in a room with my fellow Africans working towards the betterment of our mother continent has been rewarding. It's by this kind of networking that we all can solve our mother continents pressing matters
 - Having the opportunity to learn about the African startup ecosystem was fantastic. The only two things I would suggest changing are the length of time for the panels (some of them seemed very long) and the quality of the presentations on screen. They had some type of 3D effect that I'm sure was not intended by the presenters. Other than that, I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about who's who and what's what in African entrepreneurship.
 - More breaks between panels/speakers for networking/meetings.
 - My only issue was the prolonged pitch session to join ADN. That was not a great use of time for the investors looking to learn and make connections. Could have been carved out and pitched in a different way.
 - More participatory facilitation. Make us do something So that by the end, we have all done something together.
 - this is a great place, great time and great opportunity to me meet and networking with other entrepreneurs ,investors and also learn how you can make better what you are doing
 - I was disappointed that so much emphasis was on making a quick buck by investing in tech (i.e.: software) ventures. Most sub-Saharan countries need infrastructure rather than apps to shop for shoes. Where are the diaspora members who want to buy a water treatment plant, a railroad, or an internet exchange? these will take years to pay off, but if we're actually serious about helping the continent develop, that's what it'll take - not another Jumia (which frankly, is just recreating the worse of the North's consumerism)
 - Offer specific ways like myself can help...make it easy for us. Great Job!!!
 - Tools to match up entrepreneurs with investors.

Additional Feedback (34 responses) - Cont.

- More time for networking sessions.
- At the last minute, I was not able to attend and wonder if there are opportunities to obtain handouts or power points that are available from the speakers and sessions
- Having it over a weekend day was difficult for me but won't be a reason not to come next year.
- More structured network sessions please.
- Overall, really well planned and executed conference. One broader suggestion will be to partner with other organizations that typically plan conferences (e.g. YAM) to leverage other relevant experiences. Some additional feedback below.
 - - Panel diversity: I know it's difficult just putting a high-caliber panel together but diversity adds richness and should be pushed where possible along the lines of gender, country of origin/interest, perspective on the topic, etc
 - - Pitch competition: this would be a good platform to hold a pitch competition and it would expose investors (already in attendance) to potential investment opportunities
 - - Fundraising case discussion: there are several ways you can consider this point but the thinking is to showcase a process that an entrepreneur went through to serve as lessons for both start-ups and investors
 - - Intellectual content: e.g. VC funding analysis on the African landscape would be a fascinating topic. Not sure who would have such data to do a presentation but it would yield significant insight for attendees
 - - Topical lunch discussions: I think there should be more engagement with the broader audience. Our table discussed but didn't document anything. I have a feeling if we expected to read out 1-2 points from our table, we would have documented our thoughts. We just didn't know we were supposed to document the discussion so maybe we weren't paying attention to the instructions:-)
 - - Pre-conference activities: there are some networking apps that business schools leverage to foster additional interactions between attendees (even before the conferences)
- The ADIS programs fills an existing void with relevant information on the promise of Africa. I wish success to future ADIS Conferences.
- Better and earlier communication about speakers and full agenda
- Overall, I thought the symposium was a great success. It provided the perfect setting for knowledge exchange and networking. I would love to see topics of education integrated more into next year's event! Many thanks!
- All the sessions were good that it was hard to choose a track. However, I understand wanting to keep the length to 2 days but without the tracking it could be the same sessions over 3 days.
- looking forward to next year
- Great conference. Made great connections.
- Have more African countries represented other than the big ones. Kindly remember, Africa has 54 countries
- It was impossible to get one on one time with most presenters. Is it possible to list their contacts on the brochure to reach out to those whom we didn't get an opportunity to get their business cards?
- Also, is there a way to include small budget investors, mentors/consultants as well as small projects successes presenters?
- Finally what are the contact info for the lady who worked on the ADIS brochures?
- Should you need any volunteers I'll be happy to assist in anyway.
- Thank you so much for your inspiring efforts.



Thank You!

Thank you for bringing a spirit of lively intellectual and action-oriented engagement. Continue to be part of the movement as we engage, spark, and activate in 2017.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2017: African Women Leadership and Innovation: Join us to celebrate the achievements and aspirations of African Women in business, philanthropy, government, and public sector.



“At ADN, we truly believe that change happens when ideas stem from collaboration between people of diverse backgrounds. The symposium is a catalyst for impact by spurring shared effort among Africans and friends of Africa who, despite our differences, share a vision of changing the narrative of Africa and uplifting the Continent.”

Almaz Negash, Founder, African Diaspora Network

Lead Sponsors



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

aGlobal Difference
A Marketplace for Good
www.AGlobalDifference.com

GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN
Champions for Equality.

ONE WORLD
CHILDREN'S FUND



Individual Sponsors

Iyinoluwa "E" Aboyeji	Sydney Mofya
Charles Adams	Hugh Molotsi
Twum Djin	Kola Olofinboba
Mrs. Cleo Donovan	Theresa Samuel-Boko
James Emerson	Regga Tekeste
Jed Emerson	Sangeeta Tiwari
Ade Freeman	Marsha Wulff
Michael Kuntz	Mr. and Mrs. York
Samuel Hamner	

Media Partners Include

Jeannie Entin,
seasoned Silicon Valley PR pro

Alain CoomlanTCHEGNON

Sponsors



ROCKEFELLER
Philanthropy
Advisors

SHERPA
FOUNDRY



Co-Sponsors



Silicon Valley
Forum

devex
Do Good. Do It Well.™



mest
meltwater entrepreneurial
school of technology

The Global Startup Movement

