

ADIS 2023

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

Summary and Action Report



March 22-24, 2023 /// Computer History Museum
Silicon Valley – Mountain View, CA, USA

#InvestAfrica #ADIS23 #ADISymposium2023 #ADISymposium

African Diaspora Network (ADN)



African Diaspora Network is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit that promotes entrepreneurship and economic development on the African continent and in the communities in which we live.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

We aim to be a global leader in diaspora philanthropy, investment, and innovation.



The symposium of the African Diaspora Network is very important. Because of where we are having it and the importance of innovation and technologies and driving development, they couldn't have chosen a location better than the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley. The other part of it is the symbolism of bringing Africa together. The African diaspora have different definitions and tribes and countries have their own diaspora networks scattered all over the world. Creating this platform that brings all Africans together in what I call the global Africa is very iconic.

– Professor Kevin Chika Urama, Chief Economist and Vice President for the Economic Governance and Knowledge Management Complex, The African Development Bank

Board of Directors

Josh Ghaim, Ph.D.	Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio; Board Chairman, African Diaspora Network
Raj Aji	General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, BILL
Twum Djin	Head of Engineering, Payments Conversion at Stripe
Dr. Josephine Fubara	Chief Science Officer, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare
Rick Levenson	CTO, Rippleworks
Ndeye Makalou	Head of Health Equity- Genentech Commercial, Medical and Government Affairs at Roche Genentech
Almaz Negash	Founder and Executive Director, African Diaspora Network
Innocent Shumba	US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young
Kedest Tesfagiorgis	Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Agnieszka Winkler	Founder, Winkler Group

Executive Advisory Council

Travis Adkins	President and CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation
Yohannes Assefa	Board of Directors, Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund
Ruma Bhagat	Senior Science Leader, Health Equity & Population Science, Product Development Medical Affairs Genentech, Inc.
Loksan Harley	Executive Director, Homelands Advisory
Latanya Mapp Frett	President and CEO, Global Fund for Women
Dr. Michael Moscherosch	Founder, Periodic Element LLC
Roland Pearson	Vice President and Executive Director, Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS)

ADN Team

Almaz Negash	Executive Director and Founder
Daniel Hartz	Founding board member, ADN; Finance and Operations
Megan Hunsberger	Program and Digital Media Manager
Debra Pacio	Program Manager, Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement
Brett Cave	Entrepreneurship Programs Manager
Muhammed S. Bah	Innovation & Diaspora Engagement Officer
Yinka Djin	Information Technology Associate
Melanie Bielefeld	Philanthropy Advisor

A Message From

The Founder of the African Diaspora Network



Dear friends and colleagues,

I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the gift of being present and in the same room as all of you who attended the 2023 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS23). It was a magical experience to be able to have face-to-face conversations, listen to live musical performances, share a meal of delicious African cuisine, and engage with panelists, keynote speakers, and attendees alike. The last three years remind me not to take these moments for granted.

What makes this year special was the presence and engagement of young African leaders, from YALI, the Mandela Fellows, Mastercard Foundation Scholars, and Ashinaga fellows. They truly captured the essence of the theme, “Future Ready Africa” – they are the future of Africa, and I am so proud of them for challenging us to take action.

January 2020 marked the fifth anniversary of ADIS and our last in-person symposium prior to the pandemic. At the time, we could not have foreseen how challenging the next few years would be for our global community. ADN swiftly pivoted to virtual convenings to prioritize the health and well-being of our community members while continuing to provide a platform to discuss the trends, challenges, and opportunities on the continent.

While virtual and hybrid convenings have enabled us to engage a broader global audience, we sorely missed the experience of an in-person gathering. Our goal for ADIS2023 was to bring back the authenticity, humanity, and interaction that cannot be replicated online. ADIS23 marked a milestone of renewal for our community, as we arrived and brought our whole selves, with our knowledge, expertise, and aspirations, to celebrate and envision the future of Africa.

On behalf of all of us at ADN, thank you for choosing to be with us in Silicon Valley. The sense of engagement and camaraderie was truly unmatched, and we are proud to share that registrants from over 23 countries were present with us. We give special thanks to our participants, sponsors, speakers, board, programs committee, team, and volunteers who made this possible.

In this summary, we invite you to read our highlights, key takeaways, outcomes, and ways to take action. We look forward to engaging you throughout the year and seeing you at African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2024. Please save the date for March 20-22, 2024.

As always, thank you,

Almaz Negash
Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

In Their Own Words

We asked attendees, "What did you like MOST about ADIS23?"

"This symposium was the first time I thought of my power as a global Nigerian who, even after finally 'returning home', still considers herself part of the African Diaspora. As I transition into the next half of my career, I will specifically think more about how to better leverage that power and network."

– Adeolu Adewumi-Zer

"Meeting so many engaged and engaging people working to improve our communities and our Continent."

"High caliber of people who were genuinely engaged with the process of better understanding how the diaspora can help Africans on the continent."

"More than money, it is all about people and relationships."

"Very revealing as to the vast untapped potential of the African Continent and its dynamic people."

"The passion of ADN leadership through and through."

"The symposium was a great opportunity to think outside the box and meet like-minded people with common interests. The conversations provided me with food for thought and helped me to challenge my own views about diaspora engagement."

"(ADIS) is a wonderful collection of inspiring leaders from across the globe that have this wonderful connection of affiliation and inspiration from the continent. Being from Atlanta, Georgia where we do have a vibrant diaspora community, I love being able to engage here in the Bay Area with such a variety of folks who have come in from Africa as well as many people in the States here."

– Dana Weeks, CEO, MedTrans Go

"The variety of panels and guests was fantastic - it is rare that people working in industry, nonprofit sector, and academia talk to each other!"

"This was a high quality enlightening conference. I kept wishing more young people were in the room because the attendees were open with sharing valuable information. This was really well put together. Kudos to the team."

"The energy, quality of speakers, and engagement."

"The exciting stories of entrepreneurs and the ways they address their challenges to consummate their visions"

"Meeting other Africans from around the US, the Caribbeans, Europe, and Africa, all with the same goal in mind: creating bankable solutions for African problems, by Africans, and friends of Africa."

"Participants were accessible and engaging."



About ADIS2023

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2023 (ADIS23) is the eighth annual global convening that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, African Diasporans, and friends of Africa.

Hosted by the African Diaspora Network, the symposium inspires and equips participants to be agents of change and active contributors to development of Africa and the communities in which the diaspora lives. The conference activates the potential of collaboration, drawing participants from 80 different countries over the last seven years.

2023 Theme: “Future Ready: Africa”

In the next 25 years, Africa’s population is expected to double across the continent. Projections show that a quarter of the world’s people will be African by 2050 (The Guardian). Africa has an opportunity to drive major transformations that adapt to this drastic demographic shift and build resilience in an era of disruption.

The unforeseeable economic shocks created by the ongoing pandemic, international conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, and challenges in the global economy have sparked innovations in industry, investment, entrepreneurship across the continent. Now, ten years into Agenda 2063, Africa must plan for a sustainable recovery and reimagine its path forward. What does a future ready Africa look like?

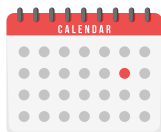
ADIS23 explores trending innovations, blueprints for the future, and the interconnectedness of sectors including climate change, healthcare, finance, education, and agriculture. How do we strengthen infrastructure, reinvigorate markets, and create a healthy atmosphere for communities? What seeds must be planted to enable a thriving future for the continent? Be inspired to envision, celebrate, and make an impact upon the future of Africa.

Watch a highlights video and see pictures from the symposium [here](#).



ADIS23 Outcomes & Highlights

8



years of African Diaspora Investment Symposium. ADIS23 marked the return of the in-person event in Silicon Valley, after two years of virtual and hybrid events.

300+



attendees were present at the Computer History Museum from March 22 to March 24 and engaged in three days of meaningful networking, knowledge sharing, and enriching keynote speeches and panel discussions on the future of Africa.

40



esteemed speakers joined us to share their expertise in the areas of entrepreneurship and investment, diaspora engagement beyond remittances, food security, agriculture, climate change, healthcare, education, workforce development, fintech, and ESG.

95+



tags and mentions on social media post-ADIS23. The engagement and energy was high, as attendees from across the globe shared photos and highlights of the program.

25



countries were represented among the attendees, including the U.S., UK, Japan, Ireland, Scotland, Barbados, and African countries such as Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia

20+



African youth, the future of Africa, engaged for the first time at ADIS23, including YALI, the Mandela Washington Fellows, Mastercard Foundation Scholars, and Ashinaga USA.

48



ADIS23 commitments were made for an ADN engagement opportunity, including mentoring African and Black-led startups, nominating entrepreneurs, reviewing applications, becoming an ecosystem partner, or being an organizational sponsor/individual donor to support ADN.

26



sponsors made this wonderful and immersive experience possible and at an accessible price to our attendees. We give thanks and recognition to each one of you, with a special thank you to our lead sponsor, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.






Summary of Action and Next Steps

At African Diaspora Network, we inform, engage, and activate our global community for the betterment of the African continent and communities in which the diaspora lives.

ADN Engagement Opportunities

At ADIS23, we gave attendees an opportunity to share how they would like to engage with ADN. **48 participants** signed up for a specific engagement opportunity as a result of ADIS23. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Our engagement opportunities include:

-  Mentor an African or Black-led startup
-  Nominate an entrepreneur for an accelerator
-  Review applications for the next program cohort
-  Become an ADN ecosystem partner
-  Give a gift or join us as an organizational sponsor

It's not too late to engage! Submit your preference via our [online form here](#) today.

ADN Upcoming Events: Impact and Innovation Forums

African Diaspora Network intentionally engages diasporans and friends of Africa to move beyond remittances toward sustainable investment for the betterment of the African continent. Join us as we increase awareness, engagement, and action among Africans, African diasporans, and friends of Africa at our upcoming 2023 Impact and Innovation Forums around the globe.



Beyond Remittances
April 13, 2023
Skoll World Forum Marmalade Festival
2023
Oxford, UK



Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development
June 14-16, 2023
Promoted by the United Nations
Nairobi, Kenya



Africa Futures Symposium
April 27-28, 2023
Hosted by the Lauder Institute
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA



United Nations 78th General Assembly (UNGA78) Side Event
September 2023
New York City

Save the Date: ADIS2024

Please save the date for March 20-22, 2024! We look forward to welcoming you back to Silicon Valley for the ninth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium.

My ADIS23 Testimonial

By Ambrose Kanya, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow



My background

I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May 2022 with a Master of Science in Technology and Entrepreneurship ([ESTEEM](#)). I am a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, the founder of Kinga Safety, and an innovation fellow at enFocus, where I created and now manage the High Skill Immigration Fund at the City of South Bend Mayor's Office. I am originally from Uganda and currently residing in South Bend, IN.

About Kinga Safety

[Kinga](#) is a widget-based safety mobile application that educates and empowers young females to live a life free of violence. We started in July 2022, raised \$76,000, and will launch pilots with Ivy Tech Community College, the University of Notre Dame-ESTEEM program, and Hanover College this Spring. We are raising \$400,000 for the Founder to go full-time and hire a full-time developer for an 18-month runway.

My goal for ADIS23

IREX competitively selected me amongst the top 6 MWF alums to represent the Mandela Washington Fellows at ADIS23. Given my entrepreneurial endeavors, my main goal for the symposium was to connect with people that can mentor and support my efforts with Kinga Safety.

Achievements from ADIS23

I am happy to report that I achieved my goal beyond expectations. ADIS23 helped me network with world-class entrepreneurs and investors. Even in my weirdest dreams, I would never have imagined sharing my story with people I admire, like; Almaz Negash, Josh Ghaim, Iyinoluwa Abojeji, Romi Bhatia, and many others. I have already secured a follow-up meeting with Romi!

What's Next

I am following up on all the connections I made, launching the Kinga pilots and raising pre-seed to go full-time and hire a developer.

Reflection Statement

In only three and half days, ADIS23 connected me to people I have struggled to access for the past five years of my entrepreneurial journey. I have been looking for advice from African entrepreneurs who have founded, scaled, and successfully exited their businesses for advice but all in vain. Thank you to Almaz, Josh, Mandela Washington Fellowship, and everyone who made my dream come true in just under three and a half days. I wish every young African entrepreneur would have access to ADIS. ADIS will go a long way to unlock the trapped entrepreneurial potential of our young people by connecting them to the right people and opportunities in the shortest time possible!

I look forward to being a success story in ADIS24!



ADIS 2023 Sessions

Opening Day and Evening Welcome Reception
Wednesday, March 22, 2023





Investor and Entrepreneur Forum & Immersive Workshop

On the opening day of the eighth African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS23), we featured a panel discussion and immersive workshop where we invited alums from our two enterprise accelerator programs, Builders of Africa's Future and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship. The discussion, facilitated by Hugh Molotsi, Founder of Ujama, Inc., gave a platform for the entrepreneurs to share their entrepreneurial journey and how they successfully navigated the challenges surrounding access to capital with the goal of improving the overall success rate of entrepreneurs in our community.

Dana Weeks, ABLE '21, remarked, "[...] utilizing ADN, and a lot of other community organizations within the diaspora, within the investment communities, connecting with HBCUs, networks of the schools I went to, and others," when asked about noteworthy networks. "In general, utilizing the community and culture of networking (inherent in African culture), and extending that out to the entrepreneurship community."

Key Takeaways

- Engagement in different investment vehicles helps with the success of fundraising.
- Being a founder of color is lonely. Tapping into networks is very helpful for strategic partnerships. It is not just about finding money but also seeing if people can leverage their networks.



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“Success is creating an impact. We are bringing solutions to problems that exist in this continent. We are making it in Africa, to Africa, and we are not importing it from California.”

– Dr. Hanane Chaibanou, CEO and Co-Founder, Biotessia

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Opening Day Keynote Feature

Afternoon Session Keynote



Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, CEO and General Partner of Fund for Africa's Future (Future Africa) emphasized that in the next 20 years, the majority of internet users in the world will be from Africa due to the demographics.

Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, CEO and General Partner of Fund for Africa's Future (Future Africa) – Opening Keynote Speaker

Evening Reception Keynote



Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women, shared that investment is crucial for success. There needs to be a shift from charity to investment-it is not charity work Global Fund for Women is doing, it is investment in the world, for all of us.

Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women – Evening Keynote Speaker



Fireside Chat: Changemakers: Catholic Sisters On The Continent

The Investor and Entrepreneur Forum & Immersive Workshop was followed by a Fireside Chat to highlight the impactful work of Catholic Sisters in Africa. ADN board member and moderator Agnieszka Winkler inquired into Sr. Juunza Mwangani's unique background in hospital administration and business and how she grew her entrepreneurial skills as a graduate of Start Your Social Enterprise and Builders of Africa's Future.

Sr. Juunza spoke to the importance of transitioning from philanthropy to sustainability and scaling impact on the continent. Reflecting on her ADIS23 experience at the end of the symposium, Sr. Juunza shared, "What I take away from the conference is that the future of Africa is in the hands of Africans. It is for us to devise our own future, and I am going back home as an African to chart African solutions for Africa."

Key Takeaway

- When presented with the opportunity, Catholic Sisters in Africa can transform their charity models into sustainable social enterprises, which is what ADN's Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE) seeks to accomplish.



ADIS23 featured three Sisters, Sr. Rose Thumitho, Sr. Jane Frances Kabagaaju, and Sr. Juunza Mwangani, who were graduates of Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE) and participants of the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future. The three Sisters were celebrated at the evening welcome reception with session co-host, Faduma Mohamed, of the African Management Institute of Kenya.



ADIS 2023 Sessions

Day One: Thursday, March 23, 2023





Plenary Session: Welcome from African Diaspora Network

After a riveting opening performance and introductory remarks, ADIS23 set the stage with a warm welcome from the African Diaspora Network by board chairman Josh Ghaim, PhD, and Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director. The fireside chat focuses on the purpose of ADN (inform, engage, and activate) and gave context to the journey of the organization, from its grassroots beginnings that have led to intentional programs and impactful outcomes. The session concluded with a call to action for engagement opportunities with ADN.

Opening Remarks



During the introduction of ADIS23, the Honorable Senator Mark Warner, U.S. Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia shared, “In 2023, going forward, whether its tech and communications, whether its healthcare, whether its basic infrastructure, we need to make sure we collaborate better and more often. It’s so important for the diaspora in the United States to be involved in educating policymakers like me and others about the challenges and opportunities of collaboration with Africa.”

Context Setter



Dr. Stephen Gelb, PhD, Senior Research Associate (ODI, London) shared ways diasporas can invest on the continent, such as employing different investment mechanisms. He also noted that African leaders should create more climate-friendly policies.

Stephen Gelb, Ph.D, Senior Research Associate, ODI – Opening Context Setter

Morning Session Keynote



Travis Adkins, President and Chief Executive Officer of USADF emphasized that as diasporas we shouldn't ask ourselves why we came here but where we came from. He encouraged diasporas to think about the narrative beyond remittances.

Travis Adkins, President and Chief Executive Officer, USADF

Afternoon Session Keynote



During his keynote address, Dr. Amadou A Sall, CEO, Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fever, encouraged diasporas to invest in healthcare innovations in Africa.

Dr. Amadou A Sall, CEO, Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fever



Session 1: Blueprints for Africa: Diaspora Engagement and Beyond Remittances

The first panel on Day One of ADIS23 emphasized the African diaspora's role in strengthening infrastructure, revitalizing markets, and creating a healthy atmosphere for communities in the continent. The speakers shared the significance of engaging the African diaspora beyond remittances. They underscored the importance of the remittances the diasporans send to their families, especially in boosting Africa's economic growth. But given the limitations of personal remittances—for example, being non-scaleable and very expensive—Ms. Almaz Negash, ADN's Founder and Executive, shared other ways the diaspora can support the African continent. She stated that “[The diaspora] can invest, mentor someone, find reliable sources where we can invest, and we can open doors for others.”

Key Takeaways

- Changing the narrative around Africa opens opportunities.
- Philanthropy is a starting point for building the infrastructure for the diaspora engagement.
- It is crucial to leverage diaspora networks and knowledge in developing countries without any restrictions.



“It is crucial to incentivize diaspora entrepreneurs and create a conducive sustainable environment for long-term impact.”

– Stella Opoku-Owusu, Co-Executive Director, AFFORD



“Diaspora engagement is not a business of transaction, its the business of engagement”

– Dr. Martin Russell, Founder, Global Diaspora Insights





Session 2: Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure & Systems in Africa

The healthcare panel examines creative and pragmatic strategies for shaping the direction of health and healthcare in Africa. Each panelist shared personal stories that influenced their decision to work in the healthcare sector. These were very helpful for setting the tone of the conversation, as the speakers emphasized their genuine passion for improving healthcare access to all people, irrespective of their socioeconomic status. Speaking about strengthening healthcare systems in Africa, Dr. Kwasi Boahene, Director of Health Systems at PharmAccess Group, emphasized the need for “community engagement as well as creating a system where everyone, regardless of their geographic location, can access quality care without worrying about being able to pay for it.”

Key Takeaways

- Health literacy is key to strengthening the healthcare system in Africa.
- It is very important to speak to patients in a manner that is comprehensible to them.
- Community engagement and working with community leaders is crucial for improving health care in Africa.



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“We need to advance health literacy and community engagement to strengthen African healthcare systems.”

*– Dr. Emma Andrews, Vice President,
Global Patient Advocacy, Pfizer*

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Session 3: Planting Seeds for the Future: Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security

Following the healthcare panel was a session on climate change, agriculture, and food security. The panelists shed light on the ongoing efforts to build climate change resilience across Africa and what seeds can be sown to guarantee sustainable agriculture and food security. When asked why put so much money into research when we know so much of what is needed, Abiola Afolayan, Co-Director of Bread for the World's Policy and Research Institute, stressed that "There is not enough money spent on research at all." She said that the current amount of money invested in agricultural research is just "a drop in the ocean." She called for more "investment in research for agricultural development to find resilient crop resources."

Key Takeaways

- We need to highlight the opportunities that may arise from working in the agricultural sector to incentivize young Africans to partake in agriculture.
- Investment in research for agricultural development is key to ensuring food security.



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“We need to continue empowering women to look after livestock, help them gain knowledge on how to look after poultry, introduce vaccines, supplement poultry, etc.”

– Ermias Kereab, Associate Dean and Professor at the University of California, Davis

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“What is attractive to young Africans is not being farmers, but the opportunities that may arise (exporting, getting grants and funds to establish business).”

– Caleb Edwards, Founder and CEO of Wami Agro

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The 2023 Barka Awards



The Barka Award honors a notable individual for their significant contributions to the African and African diaspora community.

“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 Moore’, 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. At ADIS23, African Diaspora Network presented its (sixth) annual Barka Award to:

Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall

CEO, Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal; Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

About Dr. Sall

Dr. Amadou A Sall is the CEO of Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal and director of the WHO collaborating center for Arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fever. He has been chairman of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and a member of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Sall is a virologist with a Ph.D. in Public health. He is an expert in epidemics response and control, more specifically for arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Zika, Yellow fever...). He is a member of several expert committees for WHO (GOARN, TDR, SAGE, STAG-IH...) and OIE. Dr. Sall is the co-chair of the COVID-19 laboratory technical working group of the Africa Center for Disease Control and a member of the task force for COVID-19 in Senegal.



ADIS23 Networking Lunch Side Events

March 23: Creating an Innovative Payment Ecosystem in Africa for the Diaspora

Chris Folayan, Head of International Growth, Interswitch, leads a networking lunch side event on creating an innovative payment system in Africa for the diaspora. The session discussed the challenges Africans from the Diaspora face when sending remittances, opportunities to improve payment systems through technology and innovation, and how to create a payment ecosystem that helps commerce evolve, businesses grow, and individuals thrive.



March 24: Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement Film Screening

Chike Nwoffiah, Creative Ambassador, City of San José & Founding Director, Silicon Valley African Film Festival (SVAFF), facilitated an engaging networking lunch side event presenting a documentary of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, "The Rise: A Journey to Africa's Financial Independence," by David Akwara Films. The film screening was shown by courtesy of the Silicon Valley African Film Festival.



ADIS 2023 Sessions

Day Two: Friday, March 24, 2023



Context Setter



Mary-Ivy Mbayah, Global Innovation at EY Sustainability, presented the EY Attractiveness Report, “Africa poised for a reset. Are investors forward thinking?”

Mary-Ivy Mbayah, Global Innovation, EY Sustainability

Morning Keynote Feature



“What role should I be playing on the African continent for the sake of future generations?” asked Patrick Awuah in sharing his story as the Founder and President of Ashesi University. Setting the stage for the education panel with his keynote, Awuah reminded the audience of how the African diaspora can be a tremendous source of strength for the African continent.

Patrick Awuah, Founder and President, Ashesi University



Session 4: Designing Education and Workforce Development for Africa's Future

The first panel on Day Two of the 2023 African Diaspora Investment Symposium was an education session that centered around innovative teaching, learning, and infrastructural techniques that help youth to build a prosperous future for Africa and themselves. The discourse was critical as projections show that the working-age population in Sub-Saharan Africa will more than double by 2050, accounting for 68% of global growth.

Key Takeaways

- Building an educational system that promotes equity and successful outcomes requires infrastructure investment.
- It is important that we work closely with countries to understand their needs rather than prescribing what we think they need.
- We should not consider education reform an end product where they are beautifully, newly constructed schools with high technology. Although this is the goal, it should not be our starting point.



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“Investing in infrastructure (facilities, educational, and financial management systems) is required to have an educational system that includes equity and promotes positive outcomes for educators and students.”

– Nicholas M. Bassey, Deputy Vice President, Congressional and Public Affairs, Millennium Challenge Corporation University of California, Davis

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“If there is anything that is going to make a major difference for any country on Earth, it will be the extent to which they leverage the human capital they have.”

– Dr. Phillip L. Clay, Professor and Former Chancellor

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Session 5: The Digital Transformation: Securing Africa's Future in the Global Economy

How can we center Africa in a global future? The panelists thoughtfully discussed how Africa can adapt to an increasingly digitized world and become a dominant force in the global economy. They explored the kinds of risks and opportunities, along with Africa's place in the digital universe.

Part of the discussion underscored the importance of collaborating with rural communities to address their actual needs instead of simply dumping transformational ideas on them, which could be ineffective or expensive without the cooperation of important community stakeholders.

According to Omolara Awoyemi, co-founder and operating partner of Fast Forward, "Most of the time, when we think about tech, we think about it as something that will transform like magic. Transformation is continuous and means different things to different communities. It is not a one-time thing. If we do not continue to improve, it will be seen as nothing."

Key Takeaways

- Digital transformation unlocks prosperity and transforms life for Africa.
- Technology transformation is a continuous process that requires ongoing improvement in order to be considered successful.
- There is no 'one size fits all' when it comes to digital transformation. Collaborating with rural communities to address their needs is essential to ensure successful implementation of transformational ideas.



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"The vast majority of people using the internet 20 years from now will be African, not because of how we pitch Google or anything. It is because of the data and the demographics."

– Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, CEO and General Partner of Fund for Africa's Future (Future Africa)

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Afternoon Keynote Feature



Monica Shupikai Simmons, Head of Africa – ICON Tech Investment Bank, emphasized that digital transformation is not the same for all Africans; it depends on whatever works for your community.

Monica Shupikai Simmons, Head of Africa – ICON Tech Investment Bank

Context Setter



Kaye-Anne Greenidge, Chief Executive Office of Invest Barbados, described Barbados as the Silicon Valley of the Caribbean—a good place to come, play, work, and invest.

Kaye-Anne Greenidge, Chief Executive Office, Invest Barbados



Session 6: ESG and Sustainable Investment in Africa

The final panel for ADIS23 focused on sustainable investment in Africa. The panelists shared some of the incredible opportunities for growth in sustainable investment and development in the continent and the importance of leveraging relationships to promote investment in Africa. ADN's Board Chairman and Founder and Managing Partner at Ignite Venture Studio, Dr. Josh Ghaim, reiterated the value of networking and tapping into platforms like ADN to promote sustainable investments. He stressed that the African Diaspora Network is a platform for networking with the right people that can help, stating that, "If you are a new entrepreneur, it is very difficult to tap into the system. Use the network to find investors. When somebody is trying to give you your money, they are looking for trust. We are trying to create this network."

Key Takeaways

- Building relationships and utilizing diaspora networks is essential for attracting investment, creating jobs, and creating resilient ecosystems.
- Money isn't always the problem. It is about developing problem-solving and impact-scaling skills.



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“Fostering relationships and tapping into diaspora networks are very crucial in job creation, investment, and building sustainable ecosystems. Sometimes money is not the issue. It is about learning how to solve problems and scale impact.”

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– Eric V. Guichard, Founder and CEO, Homestrings

The 2023 African Diaspora Luminaire Awards



The African Diaspora Luminaire Awards recognize distinguished Africans and Diasporans making high-level impact on a global scale. African Diaspora Network (ADN) annually celebrates luminaires who have made exceptional contributions and demonstrated commitment to advance the African continent and the communities in which we live.

We are honored and delighted to award the 2023 Top 10 luminaires at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2023. Each individual has made a significant difference through their commitment and support for the African Diaspora Network. We salute them for their belief in our vision and mission and their dedication to helping the organization grow and thrive.

At the 2023 African Diaspora Investment Symposium, ADN recognized the 2023 awardees:

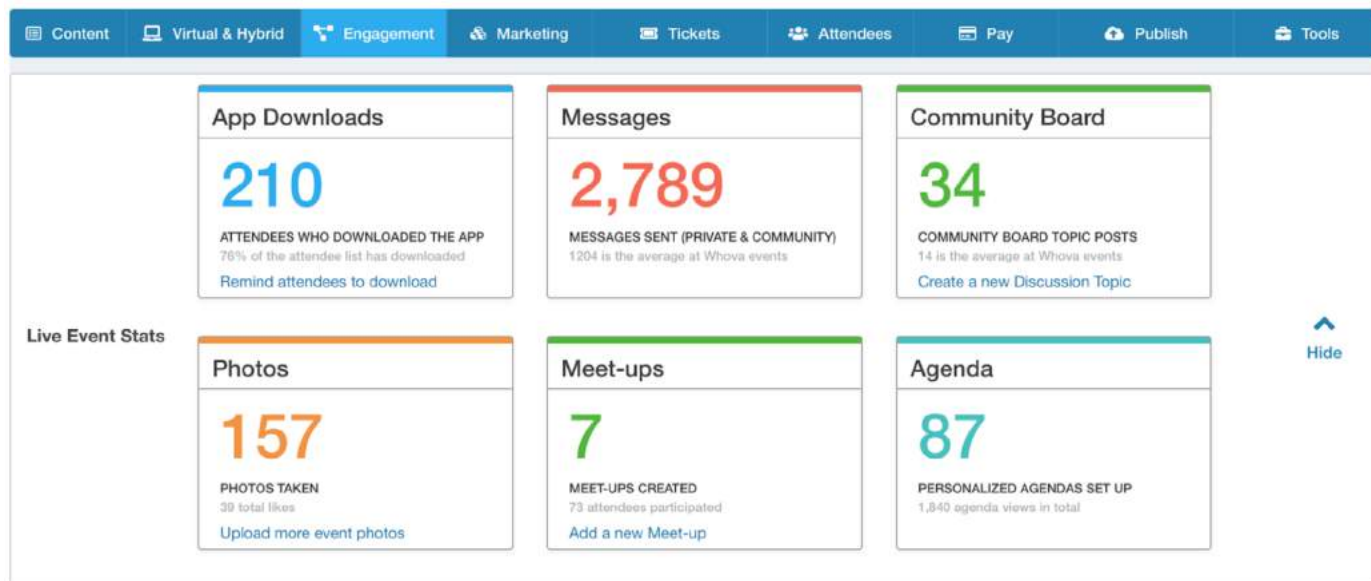
Yohannes Assefa
Twum Djin
Dr. Josephine Fubara
Dr. Josh Ghaim
Ndeye Makalou

Hugh Molotsi
Chike Nwoffiah
Abbey Omokhodion
Innocent Shumba
Kedest Tesfagiorgis

Spotlight: ADIS23 Networking on Whova

Networking is a staple feature of ADIS, with attendees meeting one another from across the globe over the span of three days. New to 2023 was the introduction of a networking app, Whova, that enabled participants to connect before, during, and after the symposium.

Networking on Whova



There was significant engagement on the Whova networking app.



210 attendees downloaded the app.



2,789 messages were exchanged on the virtual platform, 1585 more than the average at Whova events.



181 business cards scanned and exchanged on the networking app by attendees.



34 community board posts, notably higher than the average at Whova events (14).



Attendees organized in-person side meetings during coffee breaks via the 'meet-up' feature on Whova. A total of **7 meet-ups** were created, in which **73 attendees** participated.



9 active virtual exhibitor booths, which gained great traffic—close to 300 visits.

Examples of the topics discussed at these meet-ups included Global Child Health, Girls Empowerment in Male-Dominated STEM Hands-on Skills, and People Interested in Entrepreneurship.

Spotlight: ADIS23 Networking on Whova

In Their Own Words

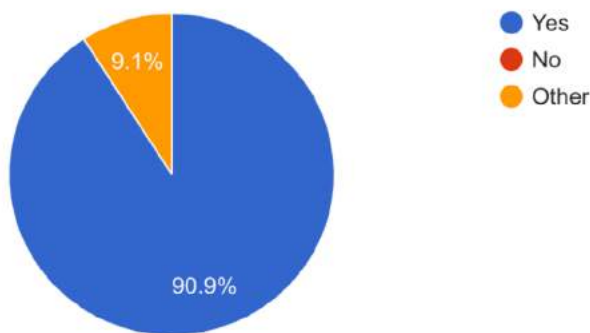
“[The Whova app] was user friendly and I got to connect with conference attendees in a new manner. I even got to set up a lunch networking meeting.”

“I was able to meet top African entrepreneurs that I have been longing to meet. Where would I ever meet mentors like Iyinoluwa Aboyeji if it wasn't for ADIS23?”

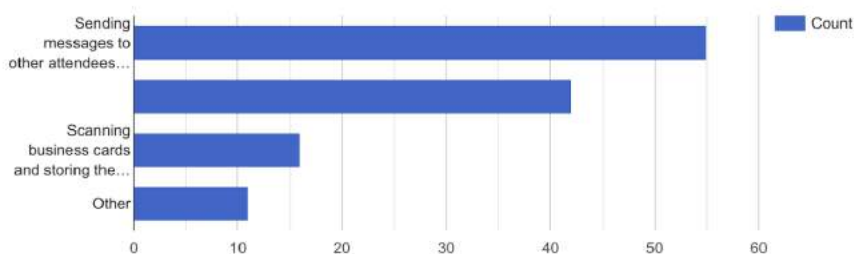
“There was enough time to network and meet people. Even though I had never used the Whova app, it was user friendly and I got to connect with conference attendees in a new manner. I even got to set up a lunch networking meeting.”

“The event was very well organised and well-attended, The opportunities for networking were good for building new relationships in the US. I met so many people and organisations that I wouldn't otherwise have met on the UK side.”

Do you like the Whova app?



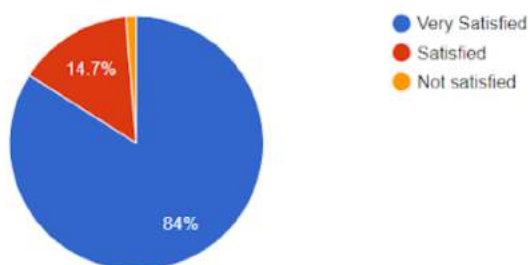
Which of the features on the Whova App did you like most?



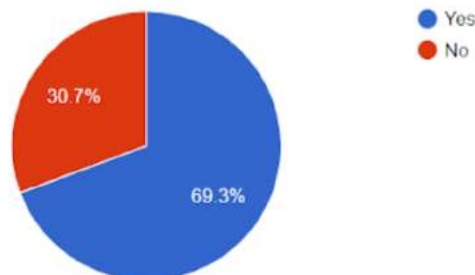
ADIS23 Survey Highlights

ADN is committed to curating a quality annual conference. Each year, we look to build upon and improve the symposium experience. Through Whova, we received **77 responses** total. Thank you to all attendees who shared their feedback for this year!

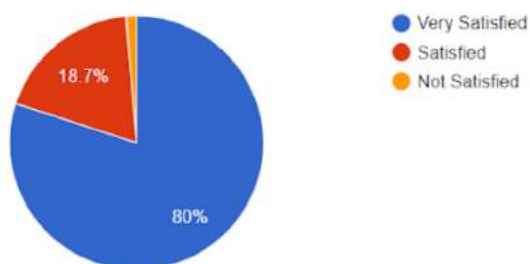
How satisfied were you with the symposium in general?



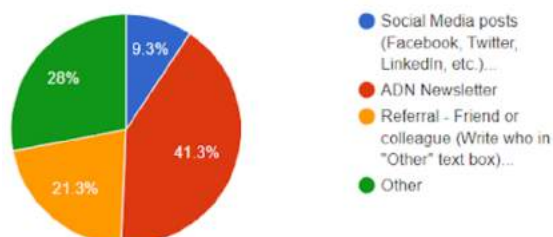
First Time Attending?



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



How did you hear about the symposium?



Top Sessions

- Blueprints for Africa: Diaspora Engagement and Beyond Remittances
- Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure & Systems in Africa
- The Digital Transformation: Securing Africa's Future in the Global Economy
- Investor and Entrepreneur Forum & Immersive Workshop
- Designing Education and Workforce Development for Africa's Future

Which topics would you like covered at the next African Diaspora Investment Symposium?

- Healthcare
- Technology/Machine Learning/AI
- Entrepreneurship and Agribusiness
- Education
- Trade and Investment



ADIS23 Media Coverage

Press Releases and Articles

New York Time Article on “Forging Connections Among Members of the African Diaspora”
Read [here](#).

African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS23) Converge In Silicon Valley Press Release
on the [Voice of Africa](#).

“Africa: Diaspora Remittances - How to Move Conversations from the U.S. Africa Leaders
Summit into Action” Article on ALS and ADIS23 Teaser on AllAfrica [here](#).

“Innovators, Investors, and World Leaders Will Converge in Silicon Valley to Discuss the
Future of Africa at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium ADIS23” -
Press Release [here](#).

“Amadou Sall Honored with Prestigious Barka Award and Ten Diaspora Leaders Receive
Luminaire Awards at African Diaspora Investment Symposium” - Press Release [here](#).

ADIS23 Media Fellow Publications

Articles by Tope Templer, News Editor at The Guardian Newspaper, Nigeria



“Sall receives prestigious Barka Award, 10 Diaspora leaders get Luminaire
Awards at ADIS23”- Read [here](#)

“The power of one: Negash creating partnerships, transforming Africa with
ADN”-Read [here](#)

“Nuns, through ADN, create social enterprise startups to help African
communities”-Read [here](#)

“African Diaspora Conference: Why Africa needs knowledge transfer more
than grants, by Aboyeji, Ghaim”-Read [here](#)

“Diaspora Africans tasked on continent’s growth beyond aid, remittances”-[Read here](#)

“Change the narrative about women in leadership, USADF’s Adkins charges Africans”
Read [here](#)

“Diaspora remittances, impact of SVB’s failure on African startups in focus as ADIS begins
today” Read [here](#)



Interview with Mandela Washington Fellows- [Watch Here](#)

Interview with Dr. Joesphine Fubara - [Watch Here](#)

Interview with Prof. Kevin Urama - [Watch Here](#)

Interview with Dana Weeks - [Watch Here](#)

Interview with Travis Adkins - [Watch Here](#)

“ADIS23: African Diaspora Investment Symposium converge in Silicon
Valley” - [Read Here](#)



ADIS23 Media Engagement Highlights



Elaine MacDonald • 2nd
CEO at Knowledge Impact Network
2w • 🌐

The **African Diaspora Network** Investment Symposium #ADIS23 last week was an inspiring event seeing so many individuals and organizations come together to discuss Future Ready Africa. Many thanks to the mastermind, **Almaz Negash**, for creating this forum to bring together entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, researchers, and enablers from around the world to connect and collaborate. Great discussions, great people. I have my list of follow-ups where **Knowledge Impact Network** could contribute! #shareknowledge #scaleimpact #shapetheworld



Interswitch Group
300,686 followers
1w • 🌐

It was an exciting 3 day stretch last week, from March 22nd-24th, at the 2023 **African Diaspora Network** Symposium in Mountain View, California, with **Interswitch Group** as a sponsor. We facilitated an engaging 1-hour immersion session delivered by **Chris**, our Head of International Growth, focused around our offerings and capabilities.

The sessions featured African Diaspora CEOs, entrepreneurs, executives and investors, and we're thrilled about the amazing connections and opportunities for #partnership and collaboration to enhance seamless commerce and value exchange along the Africa-USA corridor. Watch This Space!

<https://lnkd.in/g/eN2r786h>

#Interswitch #InvestAfrica #ADIS23 #NeverS2OP 🇳🇮



Kamal Fizazi (They/He) • 2nd
inclusive • collaborative • creative • connector • strategic • global
2w • 🌐

It is clear we are on the threshold of a #panafrican, united #African #Diaspora.

Kudos to the **African Diaspora Network** for bringing us together and advancing this work.

#business #socialimpact #justice #equity #diversity #inclusion #investment
#finance #health #education #connectivity #trade #partnership #culture #growth
#ADIS2023



ADIS23 Media Engagement Highlights



Travis Adkins • 2nd
President and CEO - U.S. African Development Foundation
2w • 6

It was a joy to join [U.S. African Development Foundation \(USADF\)](#) partners [Almaz Negash](#) and the [African Diaspora Network](#) to celebrate African & African Diaspora Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the 2023 African Diaspora Investment Symposium. [#ADIS23](#)

We are so proud to invest in and collaborate with African and Diaspora communities towards increased two-way trade and investment between the U.S. and African nations.

It was an honor to meet so many of the dynamic entrepreneurs that [#USADF](#) has invested in through the Builders of Africa's Future Initiative!

[#US](#) [#Africa](#) [#Diaspora](#) [#Partnership](#) [#Engagement](#) [#Entrepreneurship](#) [#Innovation](#)



USA for IOM
6,788 followers
2w • Edited • 6

USA for IOM is a proud sponsor of [#ADIS23](#) and is showcasing the stories of entrepreneurs in the East and Horn of Africa. ADIS is a platform to engage with Africans abroad on the impact of investing in African entrepreneurship. [➡](#)
[adobe.ly/3lzFkTk](#)

ADIS is a space to gather the global community to network, build bridges, and discuss pressing topics and issues related to Africa and the Diaspora.



Martin Russell • 1st
Diaspora, Philanthropy, and Networking | Founder, GDI | Advisor, TNI
2w • 6

This should be the picture that we show anyone to convey the real power of [#diasporaengagement](#) and no surprise it is coming from [#ADIS23](#) and the [African Diaspora Network](#).

Quite simply, the list of partners and institutions listed here shows not just how special [Almaz](#) and the team are but how [#diaspora](#) has now gone mainstream.

Just look at some of the institutions listed here, [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [U.S. African Development Foundation \(USADF\)](#), [Invest Barbados](#), [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#), [Sanofi](#), [EY](#), [AllAfrica Global Media](#), [Mastercard Foundation](#), [eBay](#), [Ashoka](#) and so many more. Unbelievable to see in a diaspora context.

A personal buzz to see two logos for two little Irish diaspora folks from [Kingsley](#) and myself in [The Networking Institute](#) and [Global Diaspora Insights](#). Can't wait to share some Irish diaspora stories later but this is about [Almaz](#) and her story over the next few days.

She is creating something special here and shout it loudly, it is just the beginning.

Onwards.



Thank You & Acknowledgements

ADIS truly takes a village. On behalf of the African Diaspora Network, we give thanks to our attendees, speakers, sponsors, program funders, institutional supporters, board, executive advisory council, committee, team, volunteers, caterers, exhibitors, venue, and ecosystem and media partners for your tireless efforts to make this conference a success.

ADIS23 Sponsors

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GATES *foundation*

sanofi



UNITED STATES
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working world

GLOBAL FUND FOR
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Champions for Equality.



ebay

William H Cilker
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Kedest Tesfagiorgis
Josh Ghaim
Twum Djin
Regga Tekeste and Almaz Negash

Dr. Josephine Fubara
Abbey Omokhodion
Ndeye Makalou
Hugh Molotsi
Carolyn and Terry Gannon

Institutional Supporters



ADIS23 Speakers

Master of Ceremonies

Yohannes Assefa, Board of Directors, Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund

Keynote Speakers

Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, CEO and General Partner, Fund for Africa's Future (Future Africa)

Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

The Honourable Ms. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados (Special Guest Appearance)

The Honorable Senator Warner, U.S. Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia

Travis Adkins, President and Chief Executive Officer, USADF

Dr. Amadou A Sall, CEO, Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal; Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

Kaye-Anne Greenidge, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Barbados

Patrick Awuah, Founder and President of Ashesi University

Monica Shupikai Simmons, Head of Africa – ICON Tech Investment Bank

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Rick Levenson, CTO, Rippleworks

Innocent Shumba, US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young

Pat Showalter, Vice Mayor, City of Mountain View

Ndeye Makalou, Head of Health Equity- Genentech Commercial, Medical and Government Affairs at Roche Genentech

Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director, ADN

Motaz Attalla, Senior Program Officer, Engagement, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Mohyeldin (Mohy) Omer, Senior Advisor, Africa Bureau, USAID

Kerrie Symmonds, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Barbados

Context Setters

Stephen Gelb, PhD, Senior Research Associate, ODI

Mary-Ivy Mbayah, Associate Director, Global Innovation, EY Sustainability

Moderators and Panelists

Hugh Molotsi, Founder, Ujama Inc.

Dr. Hanane Chaibainou, CEO and Co-Founder, Biotessia

Dana Weeks, Co-Founder and CEO, MedTrans Go

Shasha Jumbe, Co-Founder and CEO, Level 42AI

Agnieszka Winkler, Founder, Winkler Group; Board Member, African Diaspora Network

Sr. Juunza Christabel Mwangani, Emerging Farmers Initiative

Sid Mofya, Executive Director, Draper Venture Network

Dr. Martin Russell, Founder, Global Diaspora Insights

Stella Opoku-Owusu, Co-Executive Director, AFFORD

Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director, ADN

Prof. Kevin Chika Urama, FAAS, Chief Economists/Vice President for Economic Governance & Knowledge Management Complex, African Development Bank Group

Chris Folayan, Head of International Growth, Interswitch

Dr. Josephine Fubara, Chief Science Officer, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare

Dr. Amadou A Sall, CEO, Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

Emma Andrews, Pharm.D., Vice President, Global Patient Advocacy, Pfizer

Dr. Kwasi Boahene, Director Health Systems, PharmAccess Group

Darius F. Teter, Executive Director, Stanford Seed

Ermias Kebreab, Associate Dean and Professor of Animal Science, University of California, Davis

Abiola Afolayan, Co-Director of Bread for the World's Policy and Research Institute

Caleb Edwards, CEO and Co-Founder, Wami Agro Limited

Phillip L. Clay, Professor and Former Chancellor

Nicholas M. Bassey, Deputy Vice President, Congressional and Public Affairs, Millennium Challenge Corporation

Clarence George III, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pan African Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Martha Saavedra, Associate Director, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley; Program Manager, UC Berkeley Mastercard Foundation Scholars

Stephen Ozoigbo, Senior Director for Emerging Economies at Arm

Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, CEO and General Partner of Fund for Africa's Future (Future Africa)

Monica Shupikai Simmons, Head of Africa – ICON Tech Investment Bank

Omolara Awoyemi, Co-Founder and Operating Partner, Fast Forward

Josh Ghaim, Ph.D., Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio
Board Chairman, African Diaspora Network

Stacy Amity Feld, Regional Head, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, West North America, Australia & New Zealand

Romi Bhatia, Senior Finance and Investment Advisor, USAID

Eric V. Guichard, Founder and CEO, Homestrings

Mary-Ivy Mbayah, Associate Director, Global Innovation, EY Sustainability

Ecosystem Partners



Media Partners



ADN PR Lead



Marketing & Events Firms



Media Fellows

Evelyn Dan
Epelle Tope Templer

Entertainment & Photography



ADIS23 Exhibitors





Save the Date

March 20 to 22, 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2024 (ADIS24)!

Corporate Headquarters

4701 Patrick Henry Dr., Bldg 25
Santa Clara, CA 95054

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🌐 www.africandiasporanetwork.org

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#ADIS2023