



ADIS24 Reflections and Upcoming Engagements

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the exhilarating culmination of the 2024 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24), a momentous occasion that once again brought together visionaries from across 27 nations right here in the heart of Silicon Valley. ADIS isn't only an ADN program, it serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for diaspora, which you can see and read from the **ADIS24 summary and action report, beautiful photos, and video highlights** ([here](#)).

The ADIS stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication of our community, which has served as the bedrock of our growth journey. It is through ADIS that we were able to launch programs like **Builders of Africa's Future, Start Your Social Enterprise, Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship**, and the **Young African Leaders Legacy Localization Initiative (YALI LL)**. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the hard work of our team, guidance of board members, advisors, champions, and the generous support of our partners and funders. We give special to the US State Department, Conrad Hilton Foundation, US Africa Development Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Myriad, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, KLA, Foundation, and a host of others who have played pivotal roles in our organization and the communities we serve.

As we forge ahead, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering collaboration and engagement within our communities. Together, we will continue our tireless efforts to bring our communities together.

In the coming weeks and months, ADN is primed to spearhead a series of impactful convenings under the **Impact and Innovation Forum (IIF)**, further solidifying our collective resolve to drive positive change.

With appreciation



Almaz Negash

ADIS24 Summary & Action Report

Post ADIS24 Engagement

May 21, 2024: The Role of The Diaspora/Consular

We are pleased to announce that Almaz Negash, our CEO of the African Diaspora Network, has been invited to participate in the panel discussion titled "The Role of the African Diaspora: Promoting Connections & Collaboration." This important event is part of the African Diplomatic Orientation & Engagement Program and will take place on May 21, 2024, from 4:45 PM to 5:45 PM at the Center for American Progress headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The panel will feature notable speakers including Aly B. Kaba and Deniece Laurent-Mantey, with Anne Griffin serving as moderator. This session is essential as it convenes African Ambassadors and diaspora leaders to discuss ways to enhance collaborative strategies and strengthen diplomatic relations. Almaz's participation is a testament to her significant contributions and leadership within the African diaspora community.

May 22, 2024: IOM Event

Dr. Josh Ghaim to Moderate at International Dialogue on Migration: Hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the "Diaspora Private Sector Conversation" will be moderated by Dr. Josh Ghaim, Chairman of the Board, African Diaspora Network (ADN). This pivotal panel, part of the 2024 International Dialogue on Migration, is scheduled for May 22 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Discussions will focus on the impactful roles diaspora leaders play in shaping migration policies, fostering investments, and ensuring regular migration pathways.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

May 24, 2024: Africa Day

Innovations Unleashed: Bridging the Diaspora and African Technological Advancements, May 24, 2024: In observance of Africa Day (officially on May 25), ADN will host a virtual workshop. This event aims to showcase significant advancements in technology and innovation across Africa and explore how the African Diaspora can actively participate and support continued growth and development on the continent. This workshop will highlight successful case studies, discuss challenges faced by innovators, and foster partnerships between the diaspora and African tech communities.

June 16, 2024, Diaspora Engagement and Development Forum

Celebrating the International Day of the African Child, ADN will conduct the Diaspora Engagement and Development Forum. This event focuses on enhancing diaspora involvement in Africa's development through robust dialogue and strategic partnerships.

Through these platforms, we not only address pressing global issues but also celebrate the rich diversity and potential of the African diaspora.

Learn more on our [website](#) and [subscribe](#) to our newsletter for updates and registration for all African Diaspora Network events!

Recent Events attended by Almaz

Liberian Diaspora Investment Forum, April 16, 2024, hosted by the World Bank:

Focused on transforming remittances into sustainable growth for Liberia, this forum, supported by the World Bank and EU, highlighted the need for robust infrastructure and a welcoming investment climate. As the founder of the African Diaspora Network, I emphasized the importance of not just inviting the diaspora to contribute but also ensuring they have a conducive environment to invest in their countries of origin. The discussions culminated in a commitment to enhancing policy frameworks to better harness diaspora investments for meaningful development



Now in its 21st year, the Skoll World Forum continues to stand as a testament to diversity and inclusion, achieving an unprecedented level of vibrancy and engagement this year. It's a privilege to be part of such a dynamic community that consistently makes substantial impacts on global issues. This year, I was thrilled to share insights into our Beyond Remittances and Diaspora Mobilizations initiatives, fostering new collaborations and deepening our commitment to inclusive dialogue that spans continents.

Empowering African Women Through Strategic Investments:

A Recap of ADN's Women's Day Event



In a transformative session on Women's Day, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) hosted an enlightening discussion centered on "Empowering African Women Through Strategic Investments", expertly moderated by Lisa-Marie Misztak, an award-winning BBC journalist and advocate for diversity and women's empowerment. Keynote speakers Pauline Kerbel and Tochi Gini-Gemi emphasized the importance of targeted investments in African women to bridge the staggering \$42 billion gender funding gap and empower economic growth. Pauline introduced her platform, Shih FBT, encouraging the diaspora to channel funds, time, and connections to support women entrepreneurs, while Tochi discussed the role of investments in sectors like financial access and skills development. The panel discussion featuring Ama Gayampo, Rohde Malivert, and Kelly Bentley, delved into promoting impact investing and addressing educational inequalities, emphasizing the need for mentorship and robust networks in overcoming entrepreneurial challenges.

Action items from the event include urging diaspora members to support women entrepreneurs through platforms like Shih FBT, encouraging women entrepreneurs to explore various financing options, and prompting investors to look beyond traditional criteria to invest in businesses addressing unmet needs in Africa. The event concluded with a call for ongoing engagement in networking and mentorship to support and learn from each other in empowering women across sectors. This gathering highlighted the essential role of strategic investments, mentorship, and collective diaspora action in advancing gender equality and economic development in Africa, setting a robust precedent for future initiatives.

[Summary and Action Report](#)

Celebrating ABLE Entrepreneur:

Southside Blooms' National Expansion This Mother's Day!

Celebrating Quilen Blackwell



Quilen Blackwell

President,
Southside Blooms
ABLE Alumnus

**Floral arrangements shipping nationwide for the
first time this Mother's Day**

We are thrilled to share that Southside Blooms, led by our Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship (ABLE) cohort member, Quilen Blackwell, is set to ship their exquisite floral arrangements nationwide for the first time this Mother's Day. Quilen's commitment, rooted in family values and faith, drives Southside Blooms' efforts in urban farming and community transformation. The team is already preparing for a productive season with thousands of seeds planted, aiming to bring a splash of beauty into more homes this year.

As Southside Blooms grows, they are looking to expand their team and invite those who are passionate about purpose-driven work to join them. Your support can help sustain their work in transforming communities and creating meaningful jobs. For more information on how you can contribute or join their efforts, please visit [Southside Blooms Website](#). We thank you for your support and are excited to see how our community can continue to foster growth and transformation together.

ADIS24 in the News

The story of ADIS24 was told through a rich collection of press releases, blogs, and articles from authors such as Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor at The Guardian Newspaper, Evelyn Dan Epelle, Public Affairs Manager at Baobab Consulting and Business Development Associate at KAFTAN TV, Julian Pecquet, US correspondent for Jeune Afrique/The Africa Report, and Sahndra Fon Dufe, Writer, Publisher, Business Communication & Consumer Marketing Specialist. You can read a selection below and find a full list in the summary and action report [here](#).

- The Guardian: “Innovators, investors tackle climate change at African diasporan summit” by Tope Templer Olaiya [here](#)
- PR Web: “African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA” [here](#)
- AllAfrica: “African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA” [here](#)
- Techcabal: “African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA” [here](#)
- KAFTAN Post: “Sustainable Agriculture as a Pillar of Climate Adaptation in Africa – ADIS24” by Evelyn Dan Epelle [here](#)
- The Africa Report: “Nigeria launches \$200m global philanthropy push in Silicon Valley” by Julian Pecquet [here](#)
- AllAfrica: “Harnessing Diaspora Engagement for Africa's Future: Insights from the 2024 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24)” by Evelyn Dan Epelle & Remmy Bahati [here](#)
- BellaNaija. "Sahndra Fon Dufe: Elevating African Voices and Enriching Futures – My ADIS24 Experience (I)" [here](#)

Support African Diaspora Network



Looking to have a more active role as a member of African Diaspora Network?

Learn more about ways to engage:

- Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at brett@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more.
- Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#)
- Fill out the ADN Engagement form [here](#).

Engagement Opportunities

A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).



Media Coverage

See full list [here](#).



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