



Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

CONNECT

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INSPIRATION LIVES IN AFRICA!

By Sheila Achieng'

Publicity and Communications Chair

2019 was extremely eventful for YALDA. The milestones achieved validate our efforts and reiterate our commitment to empower and inspire the youth of Africa. We believe that the youth have the potential to effect change and positively influence Africa's development trajectory. As we welcome the new decade, we are re-energized by the testimonies of many youth that have leveraged the YALDA mission to effect change in their own lives and communities. Shirley Manu's experience with YALDA gives a snapshot of how YALDA has transformed individuals through privileged experiences with powerful positive ripple effects.

It is also in cognizance of our effort to drive youth engagement, YALDA was called upon to manage the Youth Media Zone at the ITC's World Export Development Forum, a global event that brought together leaders in both public and private sector, think tanks and decision makers, the civil society, business owners and youth entrepreneurs. On this global platform, YALDA voiced the aspirations of the youth. YALDA was also accorded the opportunity to represent the youth at the Africa Economic Conference held in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt to foster jobs, entrepreneurship and capacity development for the African youth.

We are fully vested in ensuring that all the young people in Africa receive the support they need to achieve their dreams. To do this, we have challenged ourselves to go where no man has gone, to do what no man has done so we can achieve what no man has achieved. We are committed the cause.



SHEILA ACHIENG'

YALDA Publicity Chair

“ There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living ”

– Nelson Mandela

MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER



SHIRLEY MANU

Shirley Manu - Ghana. Words cannot adequately convey the incredible impact YALDA has made in my life. Through YALDA, I have been able to scale up my impact on the society and it has given me the skills, exposure and confidence to communicate my needs and address societal issues. I have also been connected to opportunities that were far beyond my reach. I joined YALDA because I wanted to discover myself, learn, network and impact my immediate community. Being a member of YALDA has given me the opportunity to demonstrate commitment to youth related activities in my community and it has also given me the chance to share my skills and learn new skills. I was nominated by YALDA to attend the African Economic Conference in Egypt and I am extremely excited about this great opportunity. It will boost my capacities in areas of Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship. It will also be a medium through which I would share ideas and experiences, learn, interact and socialize with like-minded and motivated youth across Africa and experience cultural diversity. I am very grateful to YALDA for this opportunity granted me."

Nkateko Soshangane - South Africa. Nkateko Soshangane is a professional, qualified young ambitious businessman with expertise in the niche private equity funding sector of the financial industry. Soshangane serves on the North West University (Vaal) Alumni Committee. Mr Khoza currently serves as the founder and CEO of Leza Private Equity which is a private equity investment company based in Sandton, Johannesburg. The company has over the past two years made several investments in various industries most notably in the specialised sectors of Engineering, and Fintech. He is also in the process of obtaining a Private Pilot's License. As part of the progressive youth in Africa, Nkateko is very passionate about youth matters including the youth's economic emancipation, creation of youth solutions by the youth themselves, the abolition of youth unemployment and the empowerment of all youth in the country and the continent to be active economic partners. This passion means that Nkateko plays a vital role in his community of Ekurhuleni and in the university alumni structures of the universities he studied at and in the youth structure of his chosen political party where he has held several leadership positions over the years. Nkateko is a member of Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa where he plays an active role in shaping the discussions around Youth Development in Africa.



NKATEKO SOSHANGANE



WONGEL ABEBE

Wongel Abebe - Ethiopia. Wongel Abebe Abate is a journalist, communications expert and entrepreneur. After graduating from Addis Ababa University in 2016, she co-founded Bete-Semay Creative media, a full-service advertisement and communications agency. Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, it is staffed with young and ambitious professionals. (Bete-semay.com). "Our vision with Bete-Semay is to see a creative industry that is filled with meaningful and excellent content. We work towards this by setting new standards in all the work we do and by intentionally collaborating with others who are striving to do something meaningful as well." Wongel is also the co-author of Vintage Addis Ababa, a photo-book published in November, 2018 after a digital campaign that explored the city's past through photographs of everyday people. (vintageaddis.com)

Passionate about Africa's transformation, Wongel also lead the Young African Think'rs (YAT) — a network of young people who are inspired by Agenda 2063 and highly convicted of the potential within them to bring it to reality. (<https://www.youngafricanthinkrs.com/>).

"I believe that the answer and solution to all the challenges we face are within us and would like to encourage all of us to continue to seek a self-driven development for our continent. This isn't only in reference of aid, but also how we (as youth especially) often put our hope and expectations on our governments. I would say let's take responsibility and do what we can towards our own transformation."

Mostafa Adel - North African Regional Associate. Mostafa Adel is a graduate of the Faculty of Petroleum and Mining Engineering, Suez Canal University. He has always had a great passion to work with the youth. He has been involved in Civil society through NGOs and student activities since 2006. Mostafa has been awarded several prestigious fellowships and scholarships. He was awarded Lazord Fellowship, YousefJameel public leadership fellowship and Chevening scholarship. Mostafa holds a master's degree in project management from Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University, with distinction. In addition, he holds a master's degree in Public Administration with high honours from the American University in Cairo. Mostafa possesses an extensive work experience in leading international organizations. In addition, he has worked as a programme officer at Save the Children International leading the implementation of irregular migration projects across different governorates. He also served in the United Nations Volunteers program as the National Youth Development Specialist, where he led the organization during the International Volunteers Day (IVD) in 2014. Moreover, Mostafa worked as a project manager at the American University in Cairo managing a UNICEF funded project. Mostafa was also a Technical Advisor at GIZ specializing in Career Guidance, as part of the Employment Promotion Project (EPP). Meanwhile, Mostafa works at UNICEF as Education Officer.



MOSTAFA ADEL

YALDA PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE OF THE QUARTER

Prof. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi

Prof. Elbeshbishi exemplifies the African success story. As an expert in her field, she has made great contributions towards advancing Africa's economic development. She has lent her expertise towards developing policy infrastructure that create good economic eco-systems for industries to flourish. Born in Mansoura, Dakahlia, she is an astute economist working for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) - Office for North Africa, Rabat- Morocco. She was also a tenured Professor of Economics at Faculty of Commerce-Mansoura University, Egypt prior to joining UNECA in 2005. Prof. Elbeshbishi is the author/co-author of many research papers and books on several socio-economic development issues. She holds a Master's and a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Fordham University-New York, United States of America; and a Master's degree in Economics from Mansoura University, Egypt.



Prof. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi

Prof. Elbeshbishi's professional career straddles both the corporate and education sectors. In her career pursuits, she has lectured at Universities in Bahrain, Egypt and the United States of America. She has also worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC). She was an instructor at Mansoura University between 1986 and 1992, an assistant lecturer between 1992 and 1996, and an assistant professor, since 2000. She was also an adjunct professor economics Fordham University, 1999. Prof. Elbeshbishi has been listed as a noteworthy economics educator, consultant and researcher by Marquis Who's Who. She is a trailblazer, relentlessly pursuing Africa's economic growth through creation of gender equitable societies and incorporation of technology in national development strategies. As a prolific educationist, Prof. Elbeshbishi's research provides insights for fellow researchers, activists, professors and individuals in different parts of the world. Prof. Elbeshbishi is also an art enthusiast and her interests include reading, writing, classical music, poetry and traveling.

Prof. Elbeshbishi's passion for economic development in Africa has led to some of her best research contributions over the years which include: *Evaluating the World Bank's Role in Supporting Structural Adjustment in Developing Countries with Special Reference to Egypt*, in 2000; *A Bird Cannot Fly with Just One Wing: Towards a Gender-Balanced Trading System* in 2009; and *Fair Trade and Ethical Consumerism: A Complementary Perspective* in 2020. Prof. Elbeshbishi is also passionate about women's economic empowerment and has explored research topics that catalyze policy driven approaches towards creating better business environments for women. Her research paper, *Evaluating the Impact of Trade Liberalization on Women With Special Reference to the Kingdom of Bahrain* in 2018, alludes to the importance of policy driven solutions towards women empowerment. Prof. Elbeshbishi has also published comparative research on technology driven development. Her research titled *'Success Has a Thousand Fathers: Failure is an Orphan'*, first published on December 2007, focuses on Asian countries and how they made a remarkable economic progress. From her research, policy analysts can draw instructive parallels on how Asian economies have transformed themselves from technologically backwards and poor, to modern and affluent economies.

Prof. Elbeshbishi has been an avid supporter and mentor of YALDA since 2006, during the inception of the African Youth Charter. She has assisted YALDA and its members in many ways over the years. In 2018, the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) held its seventh biennial international i-Bootcamp in Morocco. Prof. Elbeshbishi, a key-note speaker at the event, gave an insightful speech titled, *'Keeping Up with Rapid Digitization: How Private and Public Sectors are Harnessing Internet Driven Growth and Innovation.'* In her address, she encouraged the youth to 'dare to dream big' while following their passion in pursuit of success. The youth were also challenged take a responsibility to determine their own destiny, and through work hard, maximize their potential. She also highlighted the importance of innovation hubs, technology labs and science and technology forums that drive innovation and support technologically oriented entrepreneurship ventures. Further, Prof Elbeshbishi enumerated the benefits of digital ecosystems such as greater access to education, the reduction of information asymmetry, greater opportunities for entrepreneurship and skills building. She also emphasized the need to adopt public-private initiatives as a way of developing the infrastructure needed to actualize digital economies. In keeping with the YALDA Vision and Mission, Prof. Elbeshbishi spoke extensively about the need to create an enabling environment to not only achieve a youth inclusive society, but also harness youth potential to contribute towards Africa's socio-economic development. Prof. Elbeshbishi's passion for Africa's technological development, equitable societies and youth driven development have made her a youth empowerment champion and an inspiration for young people all over Africa.

TIPS ON PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION

By Bethlehem Kassa Jambo

Do you ever wonder how some people get in front of a crowd and speak so fluently without being nervous or shy, how they move, capture and engage the audience in a way they want to with a beautiful harmonized flow? It is known fact that Public speaking and Presentation are an art one must learn to master in life because the more we can engage with others the more clearly and better we can express our ideas.

According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking and presenting in front of a big audience. Few of us are naturally comfortable in front of a live audience, TV or video camera. But with a little practice and diligent preparation, we can become good or even excellent, confident public speakers and presenters. This article will provide you with preparatory tips and techniques to enhance your public speaking and presentation skills.

Crowds are more intimidating than individuals, so think of your speech as a conversation that you're having with one person. Although your audience may be 100 people, focus on one friendly face at a time, and talk to that person as if he or she is the only one in the room.

Once we have the nervous in control let's move on to the tips on the art of public speaking and presenting.

01

Know your Audience

Whether you are presenting to a group of 20 or 200, you can do certain things in advance to ensure that your presentation achieves the desired response. Most important: Know your audience. Don't assume the audience is like you. To connect with them, you need to understand why your topic is important to them. What do they expect to learn from the presentation? Each attendee will be asking, "What's in it for me?"

If presenting in a foreign country, learn how the culture of the audience differs from yours. How do they dress? What style of humor do they favor? How do they typically communicate? What gestures are appropriate or inappropriate? Are there religious influences to consider?



02 Organize Your Material in the Most Effective Manner to Attain Your Purpose and Rehearse

The best way to achieve the foregoing is to rehearse. Your audience will be able to tell if you took the slide deck directly from a CD and loaded it into a computer and are giving the talk for the first time. You'll need to know how long the program is to last and how long you are to speak. We suggest you practice with a timer to be certain you do not exceed the allotted time. Rehearse your talk aloud several times with all the props and audiovisual equipment you plan to use. This practice will help to curb filler words such as "ah" and "um." It is also helpful to practice slide transitions, pauses, and even your breathing.

03 Watch for Feedback and Adapt to It

Keep the focus on the audience. Gauge their reactions, adjust your message, and stay flexible. Delivering a canned speech will guarantee that you lose the attention of or confuse even the most devoted listeners.

04 Let Your Personality Come Through.

Be yourself, don't become a talking head—in any type of communication. You will establish better credibility if your personality shines through, and your audience will trust what you have to say if they can see you as a real person.

05 Use Humor, Tell Stories, and Use Effective Language.

Inject a funny anecdote in your presentation, and you will certainly grab your audience's attention. Audiences generally like a personal touch in a speech. A story can provide that.

06 Use Your Voice and Hands Effectively. Omit Nervous Gestures.

Nonverbal communication carries most of the message. Good delivery does not call attention to itself, but instead conveys the speaker's ideas clearly and without distraction.

07 Finally, Always Grab the Attention at the Beginning, and Close with a Dynamic End.

Do you enjoy hearing a speech start with "Today I'm going to talk to you about X"? Most people don't. Instead, use a startling statistic, an interesting fact, or concise quotation. Conclude your speech with a summary and a strong statement that your audience is sure to remember.

INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY-DEVELOPING AND RUNNING IMPACTFUL PROJECTS

By Bethlehem Kassa Jambo

“ The only problem with anything of tomorrow is that at the pace we’re going right now, tomorrow would catch up with us before we got it built.

– Walt Disney

”

Technology is said to be evolving at an astronomical rate that the future cannot even be imagined. What was imagined to be impossible 50 years ago, has become commonplace today that it doesn't even make the headlines. With the strides in technology, many fear that robots are taking over human jobs. In the context of technological enablement and automation, there is an ongoing need for human and enduring skillset robots do not currently possess. This is however not true with any organization, business, person or persons who continuously innovate and are able to sustain that line of work.

In the best-selling book *Built to Last*, authors Jim Collins and Jerry Porras take a look at some companies which have lasted more than 25 years and are the leaders in their respective domains and why comparison companies in the same field failed or became irrelevant. One of the underlying factors which they point out is constant and endless innovation on the part of the lasting companies. They preserve their core such as maintaining their primary business while trying out new ideas and territories. As well as innovating and keeping what works.

In order for any visionary project to be successful, it must be able to continue running after the founder/ visionaries hand over leadership to some other person. Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social (also known informally as profits, planet and people).

In seeking out to develop and implement a sustainable project, the first step is being very clear about what you want. If you do not know what you want, every shiny idea will seem like the best one to pursue. Writing down your project vision statement is very important and should not be slipped up on. After this is done, a project roadmap which is a high-level view of the requirements needed to achieve the project should be drawn. It is an ordered priority of the full list of what needs to be done to complete the project. Next, there must be a release plan. A release plan is a timetable for the project to at least be up and running. The project will then be tested reviewed and improved upon till the set task is fully accomplished. This is the method employed by large corporations such as IBM, Cisco and Microsoft.

In pursuing any project, criticism and feedback are key in the successful running and sustenance of the project. No visionary leader ever has it all figured out from the start. One's personality and willingness to work with others is very important to achieve the goal. Remember, **if you want to go fast go alone when you want to go far go together** – African Proverb.



PREPARING YOURSELF TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE IN 2020

By Emeka Nwankwo Johnson

In just a few weeks, we will enter a new decade. The question is: Will the 2020s be a decade when you soar or when you fall? What better time to embrace your dreams than the start of a new decade? As we approach the year 2020, you can take control of your future. It simply involves some preparation.



Reflect on 2019

Take some time to reflect on this year. What did you like about this year? What didn't you like? What did you do well this year? What can you do better next year? Are you happy with your career, or are you hoping to learn something new? Be honest with yourself.



Have a Clear Plan

Next, you need to have a clear plan. Begin by thinking about where you see yourself at the end of next year. Then, move further. Where do you see yourself in the next three years? At the end of this decade? After identifying your future hopes, it's time to make a plan to get yourself there.



Write Down Your Goals

Don't just dream about the future. Make a point to write down your goals to hold yourself to them. According to Mark Murphy for Forbes, "Vividly describing your goals in written form is strongly associated with goal success, and people who very vividly describe or picture their goals are anywhere from 1.2 to 1.4 times more likely to successfully accomplish their goals than people who don't."



Continue Learning and Growing

Next, think about what type of education you need to make your future goals come true. For instance, if you don't like a traditional 4-year college, enroll in a vocational school that puts you on the path to your dream career rather than wasting any more time. Take an active role in your education by ensuring you are learning what you need to keep your future on track.



Be Smart Financially

With the holidays coming, do your best to avoid overspending so you can start the new year (and next decade) on the right foot rather than behind financially. Likewise, don't overspend on your education. Traditional 4-year colleges are expensive. US News reports, "The average cost of tuition and fees for the 2019–2020 school year was \$41,426 at private colleges, \$11,260 for state residents at public colleges and \$27,120 for out-of-state students at state schools." It is significantly less expensive to attend a career college, and you can begin earning money working sooner.

YALDA PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

YALDA BOTSWANA



YALDA believes communities should be given the power to come up with solutions to the challenges they face as well as holding their leaders accountable for all that they had promised. YALDA BOTSWANA hosted a capacity building workshop for 3 different cities; **Gaborone West, Selibe Phikwe and Dukwi** geared towards Community Action Group, Resource Mapping and Stakeholders' Engagement. Also part of the agenda was to get the feedback on The Citizens' Report, an activity that was earlier carried out in their cities- the Agenda 2030 and their roles in the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals in Botswana.



The 4th Industrial revolution (elaborate on what the fourth industrial revolution is) is upon us; YALDA BOTSWANA in partnership with First National Bank hosted a week long development programme targeted at equipping the youths with entrepreneurship and employability skills. The Financial Literacy Trust was invited to the networking session to equip and share financial literacy opportunities with the attendees. The purpose of the programme was to enable young people to be aware of the forces impacting their environment and opportunity to connect, remain relevant and future-proof themselves.

United States International University - Kenya

By Umusalama Omar Mutasa

Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), United States International University Africa (USIU-A) branch organized and held a YALDA Week in the university on 29th to 31st of October. The event went on for 3 days, filled with activities e.g. trivia questions on Africa, games e.g. cards, connect 4, networking, linking up with members, outdoor games, board games e.g. chess, country guessing etc. The activities were all lined up towards the YALDA (USIU-A) theme which is Redefining Africa through decolonization of education to get African based solutions for our continents problems. On 31st of October, the last day of YALDA week, we shot a video in celebration of Africa Youth day which was released on the United States International University Youtube channel. The video features USIU students and was shot and designed by our own YALDA members. In line with Africa youth month the video is meant to bring awareness to the Africa Youth month theme which is One million by 2021, an initiative by African Union aimed at creating One million opportunities for the Youth by 2021 in the following sectors known as 4E's which are Employment, Engagement, Education and Entrepreneurship. Count us in!



www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oL9-gybOOQ

YALDA WEBINARS

By Sheila Achieng'



October Webinar

This webinar sought to address the adverse effects of climate change and the ripple effect on African development. The speakers also sought to provide solution to this global challenge by exposing the youth to emerging technologies that provide solutions to this challenge. The youth were also encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities for entrepreneurship available in addressing the climate change crisis.

The youth were encouraged to be proactive in advancing their knowledge on the challenges presented by climate change and develop adaptable, scalable, sustainable solutions that would be instrumental in promoting developments while securing the livelihoods of communities on the continent



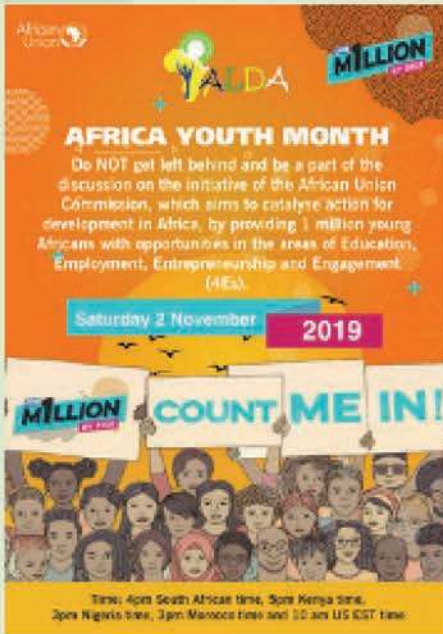
Moderator
CARTER BELL



Moderator
DELANYA STOREY



Speaker
LESTER MALGAS



November Webinar

This webinar was aimed at not only celebrating the Africa Youth Month, but also putting into perspective the African Union's 'I Million by 2021' initiative. The webinar drew insights from thought leaders working within the fields of education and entrepreneurship who gave perspective to the current situation in Africa and the challenges inherent in the systems and policies in place.

The speakers, drawing from their wealth of experiences in different settings, were instrumental in providing the youth with adaptable solutions that they could leverage in surmounting the challenges and deficiencies presented by policies and systems. The youth were also encouraged to play their part in actualizing development goals by leveraging innovations, creative thinking and a solutions orientations to the challenges they are faced with.



Moderator
CARTER BELL



Moderator
DELANYA STOREY



Speaker
DOMINIC TOLBERT



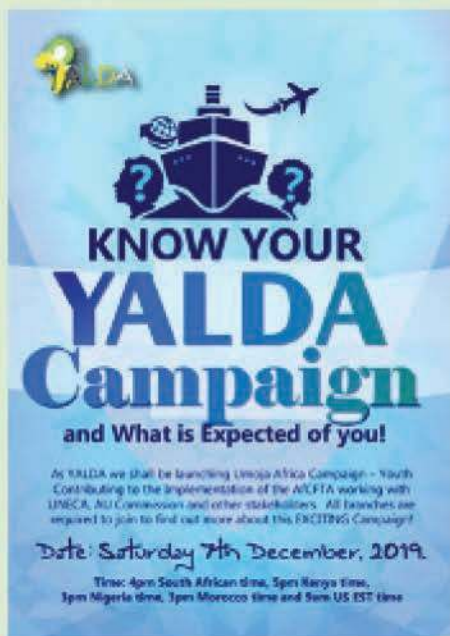
Speaker
ONYANGO WILLICE OKOTH



Speaker
TASHMIA-ISMAIL SAVILLE



Speaker
LEVINA ANSONG OWUSU



December Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUZpfbyQ8dA>

This training webinar was targeted at a wide audience interested in partnering with YALDA in its mission to empower and build the capacity of African youth. The training introduced the YALDA youth inclusiveness campaign, the objectives, expectations and impact of the campaign.

The campaign invites the youth to play their role in ensuring the youth perspectives are captured and filtered in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In addition, the campaign is aimed at positioning the youth as key drivers of the process rather than beneficiaries of the framework and as such, is aimed at increasing their knowledge and awareness of the AfCFTA framework.



Speaker

CHUKS OKORIEKWE

YALDA Nigeria President



SHEILA ACHIENG' OCHIENG'

YALDA Publicity Chair

YALDA-ITC PARTNERSHIP TO AMPLIFY THE YOUTH VOICE IN AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

By Sheila Achieng'

“ It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world. ”
– Kwame Nkrumah



It is these words from one of Africa's founding fathers that stoked the embers and ignited the flames of Africa's regional integration. In pursuit of this vision, African leaders came together to deliver the aspirations of Africans on the continent through the establishment of a continental framework that would not only unite us but create an economic powerhouse that would benefit every country through the stimulation of intra-African trade facilitated by enhanced trade policy and the elimination of barriers. The framework is projected to create a continental market worth \$ 2.5 trillion with a combined consumer spending of \$ 6.5 trillion by 2030. May 30th, 2019 marked a historical milestone in Africa's transformation as the African Continental Free Trade Area came into force solidly re-enforcing Africa's position as the largest free trade area.

The adoption of this framework re-energized efforts to galvanize support from governments, policy makers, the private sector, non-profit organizations and civil society in the implementation of the AfCFTA. However, the majority were excluded from these conversations that were widely perceived as technocratic.

The World Export Development Forum 2019 – themed Trade and Invest in One Africa – was organized by ITC in partnership with Ethiopia's Ministry of Trade and Industry and the African Union will be held in Addis Ababa on the 18 – 22 November. A key component of WEDF will be exploring and improving the role of youth in Africa by supporting trade-led growth and entrepreneurship; how to open up investment in the new free trade area; the role of e-commerce and digital trade; and how to ensure Africa's economic growth sustainable.

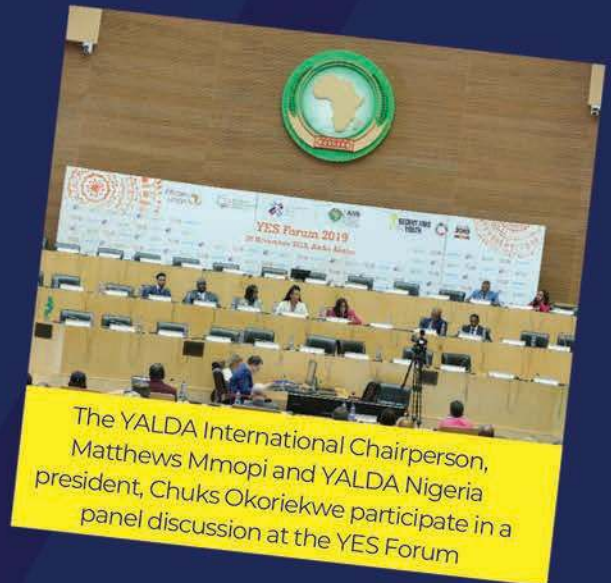
The Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development was selected to play a key role in driving youth conversations on the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area in cognizance of the contribution made towards making the youth demographic a key population towards the success of the implementation of the framework.

At this global event, YALDA played a key role in facilitating conversations on youth entrepreneurship and the pivotal role the youth play in Africa's economy. As the Master of ceremonies, YALDA's International Branches Coordinator, Bitania Lulu Berhanu and Nkateko Soshangane placed the youth at the center of the conversation, invoking the collective consciousness of policy makers to the importance of developing youth driven policies that advance youth development. The event was graced by global leaders from both the public and private sectors, policy makers, scholars, business owners and youth entrepreneurs, all brought together by the common vision to advance Africa's development through trade. Ethiopian President, H.E. Sahle Work Zewde, the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Albert Muchanga, First Lady of Botswana, Neo Jane Masisi, AU Youth Envoy Ms. Aya Chebbi and former ITC Executive Director, Ms. Aracha Gonzalez are some of the prominent leaders that gave momentum to the drive towards expansion of trade activities on the continent and youth inclusion in the implementation of AfCFTA. "The YALDA leadership reiterates the commitment towards creating a better investment climate for the youth by leveraging the use of technology and digital media to create opportunities for the youth and scale up youth enterprise in Africa", said the YALDA International Chairperson, Matthews Mmopi when the YALDA leadership took the stage.

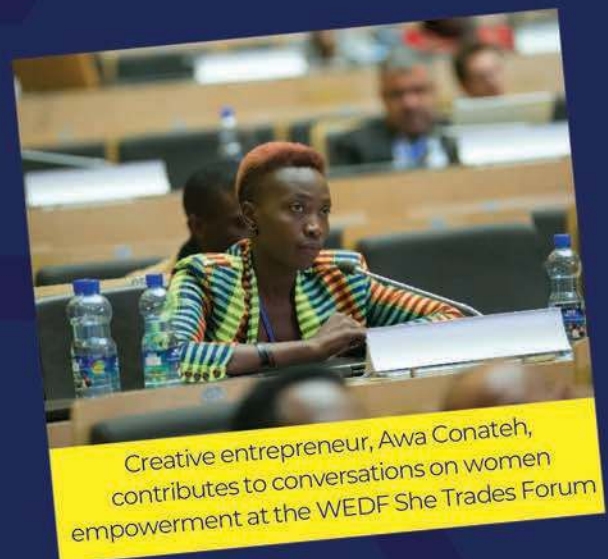
"Young people were really the driving force behind the youth media zone and they have shared their sentiments with the world. Thank you YALDA for animating this space for us", said ITC Executive Ms. Aracha Gonzalez in a closing ceremony that culminated in the recognition of YALDA in driving an inclusive engagement that captured the aspirations of the youth. The highlight of the ceremony was the award of \$5,000 to Siyabuddy, the South African Youth entrepreneur who beat off competition from entrepreneurs from all over Africa with his innovative approach to waste management.



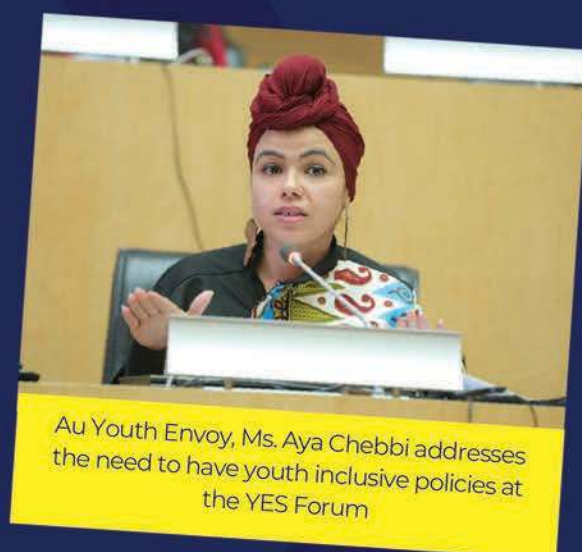
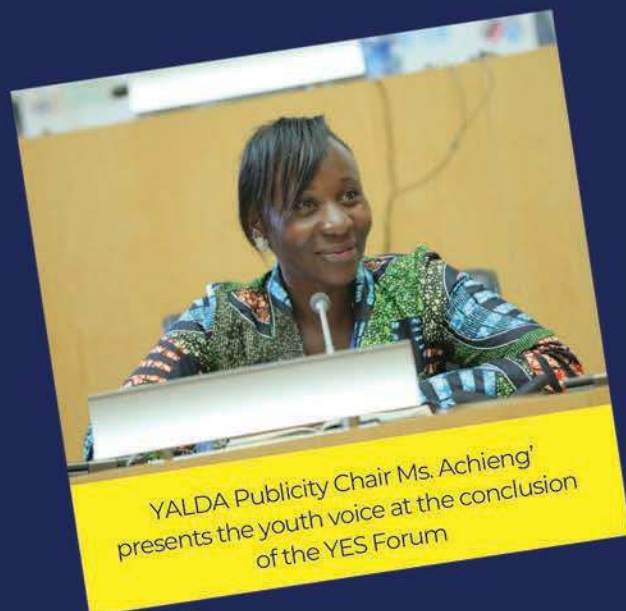
YALDA's Nkateko and Bitania were the main MC's at the WEDF YES Forum



The YALDA International Chairperson, Matthews Mmopi and YALDA Nigeria president, Chuks Okoriekwe participate in a panel discussion at the YES Forum



Creative entrepreneur, Awa Conateh, contributes to conversations on women empowerment at the WEDF She Trades Forum





International Branches Coordinator, Bitania Lulu Berhanu talks about YALDA's vision and mission



Salma Yusuf facilitates a session on digital storytelling at WEDF the Youth Media zone



YALDA International Secretary Rehbeh Poubum contributes to the conversation on youth entrepreneurship in challenging environments



Ms. Aba-Esther Eshun from the AU-EU Youth hub empowered youth on networking skills at the youth media zone



YALDA Operations Director Ms. Pretty Thogo facilitated conversations on 'the Future we want', a conversation driven by youth entrepreneurs



YALDA's Publicity Chair facilitates discourse on youth agriculture at the WEDF youth media zone



The Youth Media Zone (L-R): Afedzi from Ghana, Bitania from Ethiopia, Diana from Singapore, Salma from Kenya, Nthanda from Malawi, Raymond from Tanzania and Kennedy from Botswana.



South Africa's Siyabuddy clinched the ITC World Export Development Forum 2019 Young Social Entrepreneurs pitching competition.

THE 2019 AFRICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

By Abinaidah Chaseba

Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) was privileged to attend the 2019 African Economic Conference as youth participants. The event took place from the 2nd to the 4th of December 2019 in Sharm El-Sheik Egypt, with the theme "Jobs, Entrepreneurship and Capacity Development for African Youth".

The goal of the conference was to bring together youth representatives, researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners from Africa and from around the world to discuss recent developments on the issues of jobs for youth, skills and entrepreneurship in Africa. The conference provided a unique opportunity to assess the effectiveness of ongoing reforms on addressing youth skills gap in Africa and developing their entrepreneurial capacities.

The event was graced by many distinguished and high profile officials such as H.E Mr Tarek Amer, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt and other notable individuals from various disciplines. The 3 days included panel discussions and breakout sessions, where key issues, promising reforms and evidence-based solutions on specific subjects were discussed with the delegates who attended the conference.

In his opening remarks, H.E Mr Tarek Amer, spoke about how Microeconomics and SMEs could drive youth development.

“...by providing an enabling platform and non-financial services because they cannot manage without them, – he explained.”

The successful event organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in conjunction with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) definitely contributed to youth engagement and enhancement. Panel discussions included a number of exceptional young leaders and entrepreneurs. Among the young panellists was Ms Dewunmi Alugbin, Partnerships Manager, Tony Elumelu Foundation Nigeria, who emphasised the need to inspire a mind-set shift. She advised that if people want jobs, they have to learn to create their own jobs.



YALDA participants from six different African countries converged at the venue of the 2019 African Economic Conference in Sharm El-Sheik Egypt, for an introductory meeting, ahead of the first day of the conference.



Dr. Charles Lufumpa, Agriculture Chief Economist & Vice President, Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, AfDB - reiterates the need for entrepreneurship and capacity development for African youth and the banks aim to create 25 million jobs by 2020.

Besides cultivating a lot of insight and information from the conference, YALDA participants had their youth voices heard through interviews with the media, private interactions with influential delegates and contributions during breakout sessions in which some of them were discussants of research papers presented. The team also benefited from exchange of ideas, sharing of expertise and socializing with international counterparts – activities which proved relevant for future YALDA works.

“Entrepreneurship is a skill set that you can learn. You do not have to limit yourself to one business, you can pave it to even one million businesses, however, you have to make sure that when you do, it is productive,” Dewunmi encouraged, “youths need to be tech savvy. You need to take advantage of the digital tools to empower yourself.”

And during a plenary session on the future of work for youth-challenges, opportunities and policies, Dr Hanan Morsy, Director of Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research, AfDB-Group, emphasised that it is not just about jobs but decent jobs. She added that there is need to move from low productive sectors to highly productive sectors.

In the same vein, Strategy Director, Christian Aid, Ms Priya Lukka, advised that when we look at job creation, the jobs have to be transformational and they should tackle the most marginalised.



Dr. Hanan Morsy, Director of Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research AfDB, emphasized that it is not just about creating jobs but creating decent jobs and moving from low productive sectors to highly productive ones.

Young leaders and entrepreneurs called on governments to implement policies to support youth-led enterprises, during the panel session on 'Youth Dialog on Employment Challenges and Policies'.



YALDA participants with Ms. Dewunmi Alugbin, Partnerships Manager, Tony Elumelu Foundation Nigeria. She spoke on the need for African youth to be tech savvy so they can leverage digital tools to empower themselves.



Prince Sani Forchu, YALDA University of Buea Executive Director emeritus, discussed a paper on the transition between training and active working life in Africa. Highlighting the need to readjust educational curricular to suit the skills demanded in the labour market.



Ms. Rehmah Kasule, Founder Century Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA), advised that different actors should come together to support small businesses and young entrepreneurs, during the panel session on "Leveraging the private sector to increase youth employment and employability".



YALDA participants attended the official opening ceremony and the first Plenary Session: High-level panel on youth employment, skills and entrepreneurship for Africa's development (AfDB, ECA, and UNDP)



H.E Mr. Tarek Amer, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, discussed the need to provide non-financial services and an enabling platform for SMEs.



YALDA participants with H.E Dr. Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Egypt, who delivered the keynote speech at the official opening of AEC 2019. She spoke on getting rid of red tape and bureaucracy to make the environment conducive for the business environment, especially SMEs.



YALDA participants - all from different regions of Africa - concluded the three day event after having had attended a Plenary Session on the future of work for youth Challenges, Opportunities and Policies (AfDB, ECA and UNDP)

OPPORTUNITIES CORNER

By YALDA Research Team

Training Programs

University of British Columbia Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program 2020/2021 for study in Canada (Fully Funded)

Deadline December 13, 2019

AWLI Sub-Regional Feminist and Transformational Leadership Development Program 2020 for African Women

Deadline December 4, 2019

Conferences & Workshops

Thought for Food Challenge 2019 (\$USD 25,000 in cash prizes & all-expenses paid trip to the TFF Global Summit & Academy)

Deadline January 24, 2020

Funding

Scholarships:

O'Brien Graduate Fellowships for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism 2020 to study at McGill University

Deadline December 15, 2019

Grants & Fellowships

Chevening Africa Media Freedom Fellowship (CAMFF) 2020 for mid-senior level African Professionals (Fully Funded to the United Kingdom)

Deadline March 31, 2019

African Women's Public Service Fellowship 2020 for Masters study at NYU Wagner

Deadline December 2, 2019

Employment - Internships - Volunteer - Professional Development

Volunteer

Join the YALDA i-Boot, South Africa 2020 Speakers Team TODAY!

Deadline November 30, 2019

Join the YALDA International Executive Committee for 2019-2020! (Only 2 open positions for regional associates. Must speak English and French or Portuguese)

Deadline November 30, 2019

Internships

International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) Programs Internship 2020 (Paid position)

Deadline December 6, 2019

