

YED

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS DAY

Africa 2018

Connecting Tomorrow's Champions



CONNECTING TOMORROW'S CHAMPIONS



ABOUT YED

With a majority of African nations diversifying from traditional sources of income, entrepreneurship is increasingly seen as a key to economic growth. So far, entrepreneurship has yielded huge returns for entrepreneurs, and according to many, there lies the great untapped potential to drive the African continent into its next phase of development.

At the hearth of next development phase are the young leaders and innovators, that not only finds a way to make it work, but also create solutions that shape the future of the entire continent.

While Africa's economic growth is strong, there is an urgent need to promote inclusive economic transformation and jobs-induced growth to improve the quality of life for all Africans. Africa's youth population is rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050. If properly harnessed, this increase in the working age population could support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth across the continent.

The opportunities and challenges alike are considerable. Were Sub-Saharan Africa to invest wisely in its human capital, GDP would grow by US \$500 billion per year for 30 years, according to the United Nations Population Fund.

Today more than ever, we need to realize the economic potential of the continent's young entrepreneurs and innovators to create millions of high-quality jobs and promote inclusive economic growth continent-wide.

The Young Entrepreneurs Day will serve as a platform to further advance the potential of the continent's youth, innovators and entrepreneurs.

The role of youth in driving Africa's transformation across all sectors will be reflected in the programme that will feature opportunities for young entrepreneurs to participate in business masterclasses and connecting them with investors and VC funds. They will also have a unique opportunity to learn and link with seasoned investors drawn from across the continent and beyond.

THE DRIVERS OF THE YED FORUM

The Skills of the future: With more than 60% of its population under the age of 25, sub-Saharan Africa is already the world's youngest region today – and, by 2030, will be home to more than one-quarter of the world's under-25 population. As this young population, the best-educated and globally connected the continent has ever had, enters the world of work, the region has a demographic opportunity. The YED will bring business leaders, movers and shakers to provide first-hand insights on business, leadership, technology and disruptive business models to support young entrepreneurs developing their business skills.

Strengthening regional ecosystems: According to GSMA's figures there are currently more than 300 tech hubs and incubators in Africa. Such numbers prove the African entrepreneurial ecosystem is growing at a steady pace. However, more is needed to fully take advantage of such revolution. Greater regional collaboration is necessary in order for start-ups and entrepreneurs to reach scale. Moreover, stronger regional ecosystems and sustained collaboration will help young entrepreneurs to access new markets, clients and partners to develop their businesses. The YED will explore the new trends and ecosystem dynamics and identify pathways to strengthen regional collaboration for greater market access and scalability.

Scaling-up investments: The African entrepreneurship scene is sizzling, and a lot of foreign and local players are helping to spice it up. Hundreds of private equity firms are equitably distributing resources among potential African start-ups and venture capitalists are becoming more venturesome. However, more is needed. More than 75% of all capital disbursements, in the tech space, went to only 3 countries in 2017, namely, South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria.

The YED will look at the current investment landscape and invite leading investors, venture capital firms and private equity players taking the charge. The objective is clear; catalyse more investments into the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The YED will take a sector agnostic approach, and will look at various sectors of the economy, matching capital to ventures and SMEs working to transform the region.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The programme is organised in a way that will facilitate networking opportunities and enrich the dialogue between emerging startups, the rising entrepreneurial stars of the continent, leading private investment firms, policy-makers and thought leaders.

- **The Startup Elevator Pitch**
Find the next big opportunity to invest in by hearing some of the most promising young emerging entrepreneurs pitch their project.
- **Tailor-made Workstreams**
Get the chance to share your point of view and steer the dialogue forward during workstreams addressing common challenges faced by startups including: finance, scaling-up, leadership, impact investing and pitching ideas to investors
- **Entrepreneurship Masterclasses**
Home-grown solutions are attracting investment from leading venture capital firms; \$366m was raised by African startups in 2016 alone. Come and hear from entrepreneurs and thought leaders currently changing the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa and the world.
- **Networking Events**
Forge new transformational relationships during YED's networking lunch, breaks and cocktail.

For entrepreneurs

Finding the right partners, mentors and investors is paramount for successfully scaling up your business. Africa 2017 YED will offer you the opportunity to meet other entrepreneurs, leading angel investors, venture capital firms, accelerators, incubators and policy-makers, and provide you with the right platform to pitch your business idea. Get the capital and support you need and help transform the continent.

For investors, ecosystem partners and private sector

Get inspired by the young disruptors of tomorrow and get exclusive access to some of the fastest growing startups in the continent. Meet fellow investors and co-invest in some of Africa's young disruptors of tomorrow. Support innovation and entrepreneurship and partner with leading private sector leaders and ecosystems actors.

The Africa 2018 Young Entrepreneurs Day – Africa 2018 YED – is a special Africa 2018 event organised by the Government of Egypt and COMESA Regional Investment Agency, under the High Patronage of H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, on the 8th of December 2018, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Get in touch...

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