INNOVATION PRIZE FOR AFRICA 2017

True Women - Awakening the Innovator Within
Women Innovator & Entrepreneur Workshop
Championed by H.E Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo
First Lady, Republic of Ghana
17 & 18 July 2017 | Mövenpick, Accra (Meeting Room 4)

Speakers
H.E MRS. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO
HON. PATRICIA APPIAGYEI
NOZIPHO MBANJWA (MODERATOR)
EDITH UYOVBUKERHI
PAULINE MUJAWAMARIYA KOELBL
KARIM SY
SOPHIE BUSSMAN-KEMDJO
REGINA AGYARE
PERIS BOSIRE
NOKWETHU KHOJANE
OMOLABAKE ADENLE
PHILLIPA NGAJU MAKOBORE

#IPA2017
H.E MRS. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO

As the First Lady of Ghana, Rebecca Naa Okaikor Akufo-Addo has established The Rebecca Foundation with a focus on the well-being of Ghanaian women and children, through the implementation of sustainable, collaborative and high impact strategies. The education of children, the health of women and children; and the economic empowerment of women are the three main intervention areas under the Rebecca Foundation.

Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo is the premier ambassador for HIV/AIDS Advocacy, the elimination of mother to child transmission and the Empowerment of Young Women and Adolescent Girls in Ghana. She works tirelessly to ensure that Ghana meets all of its HIV/AIDS targets. As the West African Chair of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (O AFLA), she is committed to ensuring that Africa is free from HIV / AIDS, in addition to campaigning to end maternal and child mortality. She is a Patron of the School for the Blind at Akropong in the Eastern Region of Ghana and also a Patron of Cancer Voices, a Ghanaian coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations, against all cancers.
Hon. Patricia Appiagyei is a Ghanaian female politician, one-time Deputy Ashanti Regional Minister and the first female Mayor of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly. Prior to her political career, she held directorship positions at Citi Investments, now Premium Bank, and the National Investment Bank. She is married with 3 children.
NOZIPHO MBANJWA (MODERATOR)

Nozipho is the CEO of The Talent Firm – a specialized talent management firm advising on millennial talent in South Africa. She is also an internationally acclaimed conference moderator, in demand for her unique and insightful ability to facilitate intelligent conversations with depth and breadth. She has moderated conversations at the World Economic Forum, United Nations agencies including UN Women, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund amongst other global bodies.

Nozipho’s unique talent to moderate dialogue with depth, insight, and with targeted outcomes has seen her rendering services for a number of multinational organizations and blue chip companies operating across Africa. She extends her prowess in dialogue to CNBC Africa where as an award-winning journalist, she broadcasts financial markets shows into 48 African countries and reaching millions of Africans daily. Her broadcast niche lies in the political economy, development finance, gender mainstreaming, and youth development and has hosted a number of shows in these areas.
Edith Uyovbukerhi is Executive Director of the African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO). She has had wide experience spanning 20 years in accounting, finance and business management, strategic planning, project management and business systems implementation. She has had an impressive career working with Pricewaterhouse as a senior consultant where she has been involved in major international projects in Africa. She has held senior leadership roles in high profile blue chip companies in the United Kingdom, including Cadbury Schweppes, Nestle Purina plc and Diageo plc. She took an international assignment in 2007 to a Diageo plc subsidiary in Ghana, Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited, where as Head of Business Performance and Strategy she helped the company achieve a record breaking financial performance for 2008/2009.
Pauline Mujawamariya Koelbl is the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) Director at the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) and also leads the AIF’s innovation ecosystems related work. Pauline focuses on cultivating market-oriented solutions for African-led development. Her work involves working with innovation enablers across the continent to catalyze innovation and help build innovation ecosystems that will fuel African economic growth.

Pauline has more than fifteen years of international development experience with international organizations including UNICEF and GTZ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ENDA Tiers Monde in Senegal, Jewish Family and Children’s Service and TANGO International in the U.S, and WHO in Geneva, Switzerland.
Karim was born in France to a Lebanese Christian mother and a Muslim father from Mali. He spent most of his youth traveling the world as his father’s job as a civil servant in the United Nations took him across West Africa. Remembering the conversations with his dad about the inefficiencies the UN system faced, Karim was surprised to see the same thing was true to a certain degree in his endeavors in the private sector in Montreal, where he went to university and began his private, entrepreneurial career. With these thoughts in mind, Karim decided to focus on creating a new economic engine composed of collaboration and community, in contrast to the silos and secrecy of the 19th and 20th century economy. After several years of thinking, Karim officially launched Jokkolabs in 2010 in Dakar. The word Jokko is a Wolof term, a native language of Senegal, born from the association with the word Joxho meaning “give them” and Jotko meaning “join them”. It is used to describe concepts of communication, exchange, sharing and the integration of a community.
Sophie is the Director of the African Law Library, a core program of the African Innovation Foundation that advocates for open and free access to African legal resources. Sophie joined the Foundation in June 2014, and speaks French, English and Spanish. She holds a Masters in Political Science as well as an MBA degree, and is a member of the advisory board for Africa Business and Legal Expertise (ABLE) an international network of lawyers who specialise in African business law. Prior to joining the Foundation, Sophie was Senior Manager for the Africa region at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Geneva. In this role, she was responsible for key relationships and strategic initiatives with African governments and business leaders. Sophie also worked in the Geneva's audit department of Ernst & Young (EY) one of the "Big Four" global audit firms, as well as the tax division of Lenz & Staehelin, Switzerland’s largest business law firm. She started her career as Public Relations Manager for Summit Motors in Cameroon. Sophie is passionate about contributing to - and realising - Africa’s growth story.
Regina Agyare is a Ghanaian Social Entrepreneur and the Founder of Soronko Solutions, a software development company in Ghana. She was chosen to be the 2016 Vlisco Brand Ambassador and in an interview with CNN’s African Start-Up she is described as a “Ghanaian tech guru” who wants to develop the next generation of women in technology. Regina’s story was also published in Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean In book. She is an Aspen and Mandela Washington Fellow, a member of the World Economic Forum community of Global Shapers and also an Ashoka and Yali Fellow.
Peris' work is at the intersection of finance, technology and agriculture. She is the co-founder of FarmDrive, which is an emerging markets fintech company using the power of mobile phones, alternative data and sophisticated data analytics to build modern credit risk assessment models that work for underserved and unbanked smallholder farmers in Africa.
Nokwethu is the CEO & Co-Founder of Lakheni, with extensive experience in the FMCG industry working in trade marketing with informal and independent retailers. She worked as a Trade Marketer for Motivation Africa and The Rewards Co, building relationships between suppliers and retailers with a focus on the independent and informal trade. She has also served as a board member and head of the fund raising committee for a women’s shelter Sisters Inc, which provides various services and support for abused women and their children. Nokwethu has consulted to the Centre for the Book and rolled out a program that produced and distributed children’s books written in vernacular languages to rural parts of South Africa. She holds a Post Graduate Business Administration Diploma and a MBA both from UCT Graduate School of Business.
OMOLABAKE ADENLE

Omolabake Adenle is the founder of AJA.LA Studios, a startup company aimed at building a platform for African language voice recognition and speech synthesis software. She holds a PhD in Bayesian Signal Processing from Cambridge University where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate, Research Fellow and Tau Beta Pi Honors Fellow.
Ms. Philippa Ngaju Makobore is an Electrical Engineer and is currently the Department Head of the Instrumentation Division at the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI). She graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada with a BSc in Electrical Engineering in 2008. She briefly worked at the South African telecommunications company, MTN, from 2009 to 2010 as an intern telecommunications engineer and then sales engineer before venturing into electronics applications design and development at UIRI in early 2011. Her team comprises of electrical and computer engineers that design and develop electronic applications for healthcare, agriculture and energy.