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Transforming networks into resources in a well-connected African Innovation Ecosystem

Speakers
WALTER FUST
ROBINSON ESIALAMBA
WALID EL ALAOUI MRANI
DAVID OSEI
OLIVEIRA PAULO
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#IPA2017
WALTER FUST

Ambassador Walter Fust is Chairman of the Board for the African Innovation Foundation, providing strategic guidance to the Foundation’s mandate. After studying Public Administration at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, he commenced his diplomatic career, serving Swiss embassies in Baghdad and Tokyo. He subsequently assumed various functions in the Federal Administration and in the private sector, including the role of Personal Assistant to Federal Councilor Dr. Kurt Furgler, Minister of Economy and President of the Swiss Confederation. W. Fust then became Managing Director of the Swiss Trade Promotion Office (OSEC) and Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior. He headed the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for 15 years. Since his retirement, Amb. Fust holds mandates in the Broadband Commission for Digital Development (ITU/UNESCO) and the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). He chairs the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Bonn) and serves on the boards of the Coalition for Dialog on Africa/CoDA, the Library of Alexandria, CATIE, the American University for tropical agriculture and forestry in Costa Rica, and different national Foundations. Amb. Fust is a well-known and a widely-connected personality in international development, with particular knowledge and expertise in trade, development and humanitarian affairs.
ROBINSON ESIALAMBA

Robinson Esialimba joined the African Innovation Foundation in September 2013 as Process Manager, responsible for operational running of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) and related activities. Prior to joining AIF, Robinson founded and was managing an online platform that provided African technology startups with business strategy consulting and connections to viable sources of financing. Robinson comes with a wealth of management experience of over 10 years, having worked in senior management positions in international organizations and UN agencies in Africa and Europe. He was a Senior Technical Officer with the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, advising on patent licensing for vaccine and pharmaceutical companies in Africa.
Walid is the Country Manager and Digital Communication Director of Djembe Communications, Morocco. Prior to joining the Djembe network in 2010, I founded a digital communications start up in Morocco, Azur Systems, which became one of the leading digital communication agencies in the Kingdom. Prior to Azur Systems, I worked for an investment bank as a fixed income trader. His expertise lie in digital communication, entrepreneurship, market finance and corporate finance.
DAVID OSEI

David Osei is an award winning and globally-recognised entrepreneur who has founded multiple businesses and has been featured by CNN, Forbes and other leading media outlets. David is the CEO/Cofounder of Silicon Accra an innovation district with a mission to create an ecosystem that will empower visionary entrepreneurs to work with governments, academia and industry in developing technologies that will improve, and transform the way we live and work in Africa. David was the CEO and Co-founder of Dropifi Limited, Africa’s first technology startup to be accepted into Silicon Valley’s 500 Startups Accelerator Program. In 2012, Kauffman Foundation’s Startup Open competition named Dropifi the world’s best startup for the year, beating startups from over 120 countries. David was named one of 2014’s 40 under 40 by the New York based publication, The Network Journal, and was one of the businessmen invited to the 1st US – Africa Business Forum by Bloomberg in Washington D.C.. David has been a guest speaker at Harvard University and Stanford University, where he speaks on venture financing for Africa and accelerating African startups. David has a degree in Mathematics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and has consulted for the Government of Ghana, KNUST, and for numerous multinational corporations.
OLIVEIRA PAULO

Oliveira Paulo has 20 years of experience working in both humanitarian and development programs with Concern World Wide, Advance Africa, Joint Aid Management and other organizations. In the last decade, as Economic Development Officer with World Vision, he managed microfinance and business development projects. Oliveira has a BSc in Businesses Management and is at the final stages of his MSc in Quality and Innovation. His areas of expertise include business and project management, mentoring, quality, innovation and entrepreneurship. What makes him tick? Finding creative ways to boost young people’s entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness.
Ali Khéloui is a Senior Advisor at Turtle Management AG. He is in charge of VC Investments for Africa. He has worked for 16 years in deal-making for large companies, family offices and start-ups. Algerian and French nationals, he used to live in Senegal and has worked for 10+ years with 20 African countries. Ali holds an MBA from IMD and a master degree in Financial Engineering from Paris Sorbonne University.