

Date and hours: Thursday 29th August from 14:00 to 16:20
Location: Exhibition Hall B02 at Pacifico Yokohama



Co-organizers : World Bank / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

From Idea to Action: Harnessing the Potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa Development

Background

Digital Technologies can play an important role in advancing Africa's development dramatically. Besides the specific applications, disruptive technologies create an opportunity for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in African countries to "leapfrog," and it can also be a shortcut to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives

This interactive panel discussion explores the opportunities and challenges of STI in Africa's development and its application to social entrepreneurship.

Key Questions

- ▶ Given the potential of technology to transform the society, however, why is the take-up and scale-up of technology in Africa still limited?
- ▶ How could Africa and its partners harness disruptive technologies?
- ▶ What are the conditions for social entrepreneurs to get on their feet and prosper?

Speakers

Part I: High Level Dialogue

Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda (TBC)
Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Executive Senior Vice President, JICA
Hafez Ghanem, Vice President for Africa Region, World Bank
Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator
Regional Director for Africa, UNDP (TBC)
Fernando Paulo, Executive Officer Rakuten, Inc.

Part II: Discussion among practitioners about the factors for success for the start-ups

Rebecca Enonchong, Board Chair, AfriLabs
Masayuki Kurihara, General Manager, Marubeni Corporation
Kohei Muto, CEO/Founder, Double Feather Partners
Alex Ntale, CEO, Rwanda ICT Chamber
Yoshikazu Takasaki, CEO, Dreming
Clement Uwajenezza, Country Director Rwanda, Andela