



KTA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

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2 DAYS

Event Report

19th —20th OCTOBER 2023
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Project #Skills4DigitalUG

Creating an inclusive climate focused digital economy in uganda

Through Knowledge Creation, Protection,
Deployment, Human Capital Development
and Environment, Social Governance
(ESG)



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT&NG)
 Information Technology (IT)
 Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
 Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG)
 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
 Greenhouse Gases(GHG)
 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
 United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
 United Nations (UN) Women
 Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI);
 Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
 Market- Based Mechanisms (MBMs),
 Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS)
 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)
 Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)



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Convener's Profile

We provide real-time legal solutions at each step of our client's business decisions.



KTA Advocates (Formerly, Karuhanga Tabaro & Associates) is a specialized award-winning IFLR recommended and a WTR1000 top-tier law firm that focuses on technology, media, telecommunications, intellectual property & construction law. We provide real-time legal solutions at each step of our client's business decisions. Alongside its special commercial expertise, the firm's team of specialized attorneys provides full legal service across various sectors like corporate governance, project finance, international trade, dispute resolution & arbitration, tax finance, civil & commercial litigation, employment, and real estate & property.

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The firm is a member of the Amani IP Network of Intellectual Property Practitioners <https://amaniip.com> in the region and has offices in Nairobi, Dar-es-salaam, and Bujumbura. We also work with other trusted law firms in several jurisdictions in Africa including Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritius as well as law firms in Europe, Asia, and North America with similar - media, technology, and IP focus, covering all key worldwide jurisdictions. KTA provides an avenue through which the team of twenty Four (24) highly specialized Advocates render a range of legal services to clients globally. KTA is driven by its defined mission and values, which form the foundation for the business model built around solving clients' problems while incorporating them into the firm strategy. The firm is also conscious of the magnitude of its services and the need to protect its clients; the firm always has an updated professional indemnity policy.



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Khama Digital Content Hub

Khama Digital Content Hub is a thought creation and business of three female digital creators: Claire Muhire, Kemigisha Fiona, and Nyonyozi Primrose. The Hub is our contribution to the vibrant and growing creative industry in Uganda.

The business was born out of a desire to bridge the gap between creatives and brands. Through the Hub, we are working to unite content creators under one voice and secure a space where we can earn fair wages and contribute to our communities.

One of our primary objectives is capacity building and knowledge sharing for the Ugandan creative. Being creators ourselves, we know intimately the information gap and dire need for avenues through which to unite creators and provide the necessary skills and tools to formalize and monetize their work with the aim of creating a thriving business space that pours into other sectors of the economy.

The Unpopular Opinion UG Show (TUO) is a product of Khama Digital Content Hub; a YouTube channel with over 26,000 subscribers, 80,000 views per month and reaching over 6,000 people per week including hundreds of small and medium-sized women-owned and founded enterprises.

The TUO Instagram platform organically reaches over 130,000 accounts per month and engages over 1,500 daily.

TUO is a labor of love we created out of 3 main themes; the need for more open and honest platforms for necessary conversations, a shared commitment to uplifting other women, and our love for the creative space in all its forms. Bringing together our combined audiences from platforms we've each built over the past few years, we created TUO with women like us in mind. The career girl, the businesswoman, the mother, the sister, the wife, the friend, the paper chaser going for her goals; the black woman navigating the many titles in which we seek to live fully, and be of service to others.



Teesa is an enterprise skilling marketplace whose focus is to co-create and make available high-quality, niche business content for African entrepreneurs and African enterprises by African experts.

With Teesa you can access Enterprise Skilling Content in (3) Three Formats:
ONLINE COURSES: On demand, pre-recorded, high quality, multimedia content all-in-one place. Watch/ Listen/Read, and Put into Action.

GROUP BUSINESS COACHING: LIVE Group Sessions by Business Topic, facilitated by African Experts. Ask all your questions, get them answered by experts and share insights with like-minded colleagues in the same field(s).

ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS: LIVE one-on-one business advisory sessions designed to provide direct support to specific, actionable issues faced by the everyday entrepreneur or someone in your field help you think out-of-the-box, achieve results quicker and make fewer mistakes.

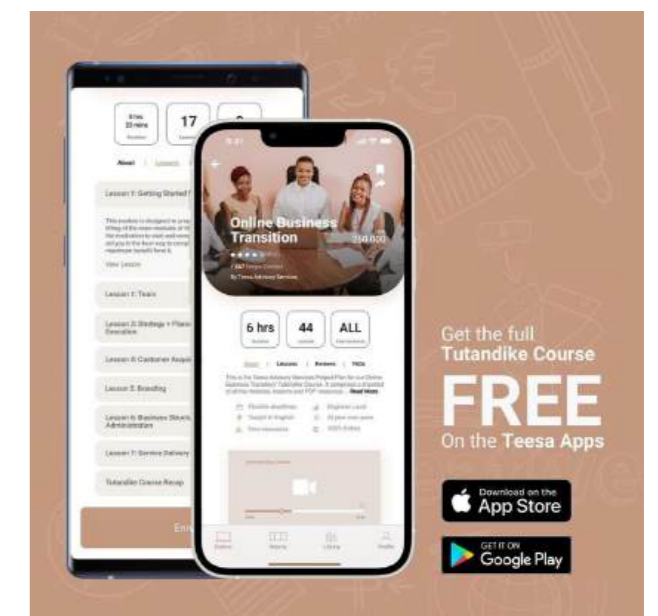


Teesa is an app with a mission to:

HOST
1,000,000
 business knowledge resources

CREATE
1,00,000
 new jobs by the end of 2035.

UPSKILL
1,00,000
 entrepreneurs and

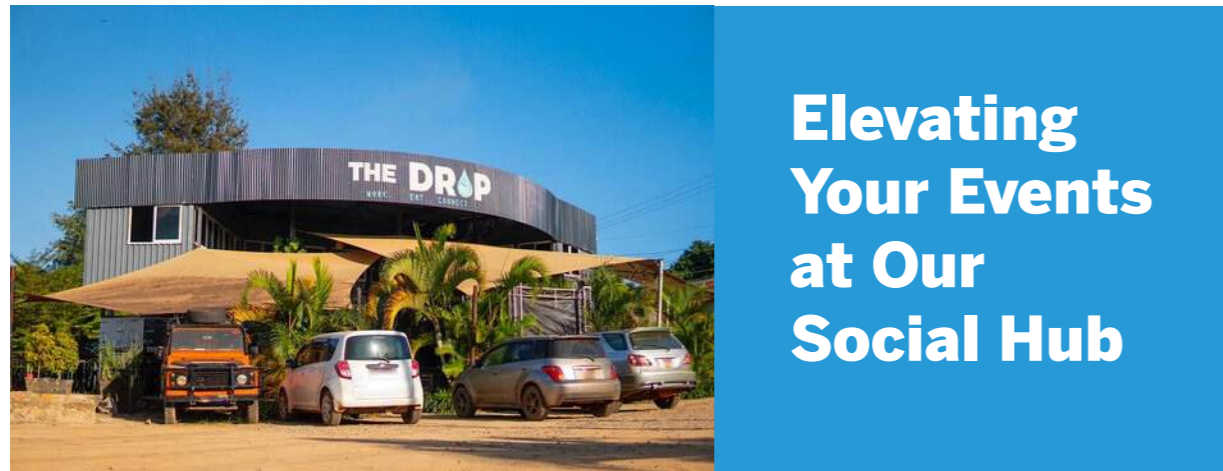


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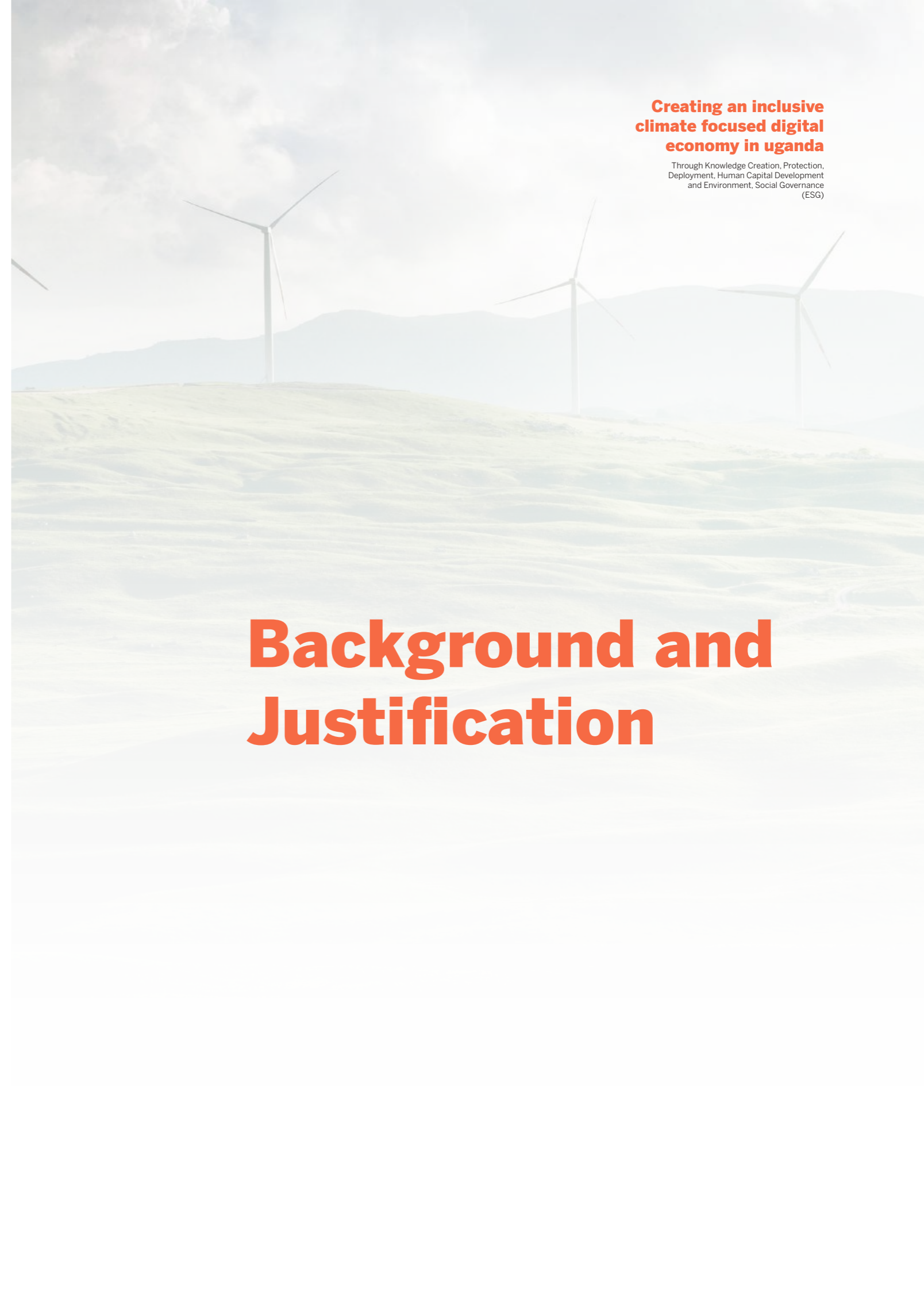
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Creating an inclusive climate focused digital economy in Uganda

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Background and Justification





The digital economy refers to a broad range of economic activities that use digitized information and knowledge as key factors of production.[1] According to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard Report, there are four dimensions to the digital economy- policy & regulation, infrastructure, innovation, and skills. [2] The report revealed that while Uganda has a strong policy and regulatory framework relating to the digital economy, the country has low levels of infrastructure, innovation, and digital and financial literacy. The deficiency in basic and digital skills poses the greatest challenge to building an inclusive digital economy.[3] This is further exacerbated by income and gender inequalities. All these factors have led to a steadily widening digital divide that disproportionality affects those in rural and underserved communities. Women in particular face structural disadvantages stemming from several economic and social factors. An inclusive digital economy is one where people from all populations and demographics can meaningfully participate in the economy through harnessing digital tools and technologies.

The National Development Plan III identifies agriculture, ICT, and education as key sectors capable of improving livelihoods, generating employment, and producing goods. In a bid to increase household income and improve Ugandans' quality of life, the strategies adopted under the Plan include enhancing skills and promoting science, technology, and innovation.

The expected results of the Plan include reduced poverty, reduced income inequality, and a reduction in the rate of unemployment among the youth. The Plan includes human capital development as one of the programs designed to deliver the desired results. The program emphasizes the need to strengthen the foundation for human capital, improve the quality of education at all levels, develop competencies possessed by labor, and increase the application and uptake of modern and appropriate technology. Given the need to prioritize human capital development to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan, this year the KTA Annual Symposium shall focus on upskilling women, youth, and those in underserved communities to equip them with the key skills and knowledge needed to thrive and leverage

the opportunities in the fourth industrial revolution (4IR). The training shall cover an array of sectors including agriculture, media, commerce, finance, and ICT. Additionally, considering the lack of gainful employment opportunities and high levels of unemployment among the youth in Uganda, the Symposium aims to expose people to alternative methods of earning income outside of the formal employment structure. The Symposium also shall aim to build the knowledge and capacity of regulators to effectively create laws and policies that particularly respond to the needs of the aforementioned groups in the context of the fourth industrial revolution. Furthermore, the project will equip the intended audience with knowledge on relevant laws and legal This training shall take place through technology applications, physical engagements, masterclasses, seminars, and social media platforms.

The Symposium shall also serve as a platform through which entities offering technological solutions that address the needs and challenges of the intended audience are linked to these communities. These will include entities that offer affordable financial products, business tools, and education technologies among others. Equipping the intended audience with digital skills and the capabilities to use these technologies shall be a prime aspect of the skilling programs.

Further through the symposium, we intend to provide training on expected ESG practices that can help individuals and entities identify, assess and manage climate related risks and have technical discussions on how Uganda can transition into a low carbon economy. The discussions shall equip individuals and entities with knowledge and skills on how best they can harness the ESG factor, through carbo trade investment.

Uganda having signed the 2015 Paris Convention, in recognition of climate change as a pressing global issue that has led to significant shifts in public opinion, regulatory frameworks, investor expectations and business strategies. Our aim, through the symposium is to have discussions with key sector players, such as financial institutions, entrepreneurial ventures, NGOs, Government agencies, institutional Investors and

energy & telecommunications companies, on how the ESG factors have been incorporated into their business structure to promote sustainable and responsible practices and identifying the gaps created by policy and regulation.

The Symposium shall be held in collaboration with Khama Digital Content Hub (herein referred to as 'Khama') which will use social media platforms such as YouTube to disseminate knowledge on business development and other training content. Khama shall also be the platform through which the public is made aware of the Symposium's skilling program once it is launched. The Symposium shall also be held in collaboration with Teesa Advisory which shall develop curricula and course content for the skilling program and provide the same through physical training and online platforms. procedures.



Project #Skills4DigitalUG

PROJECT PLAN

The expected results of the Plan include reduced poverty, reduced income inequality, and a re-igniting global issue that has led to significant shifts in employment among the youth in Uganda. The Symposium aims to expose people to alternative methods of earning income outside of the formal employment structure.

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With great pleasure, I welcome you to this year's annual sixth Symposium hosted by KTA under the theme "Creating an inclusive climate focused digital economy."

This critical discussion on the transformative possibilities of developing an inclusive climate-focused digital economy ushers in a game-changing era in which inclusion and sustainability combine to shape a progressive landscape for enterprises. This represents a progressive beginning, propelling us into a world of limitless possibilities and redefining success for digitally integrated businesses. Understanding the dynamics at work and designing a course towards a vibrant, egalitarian, and ecologically conscientious digital economy is truly what the experience of this year's symposium embodies.

The significance of fostering an inclusive and climate-focused digital economy in the dynamic landscape of Uganda cannot be overstated. In recent times, the intertwining realms of technological innovation, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment have emerged as crucial focal points for national development strategies.

As the world grapples with the challenges posed by climate change and endeavors to integrate digital advancements into everyday life, the quest for inclusive growth and sustainability stands as a cornerstone of modern progress.

Uganda, with its rich tapestry of natural resources and a burgeoning digital landscape, finds itself at a pivotal juncture in its socio-economic trajectory. As the nation seeks to harness the transformative potential of the digital sphere, it must simultaneously confront the imperative of safeguarding its natural environment. This juncture necessitates a meticulous examination of the intersection between digital expansion and environmental sustainability, underscoring the paramount importance of nurturing an inclusive climate-focused digital economy.

The globe is approaching a tipping point, with the repercussions of climate change becoming increasingly clear. With rising temperatures, catastrophic weather events, and a significant reduction in biodiversity, the current situation of the climate is concerning. These changes have far-reaching consequences, not only for the environment, but also for business. As businesses continue to function in a globalized and interconnected economy, their influence of climate change on numerous sectors is apparent, necessitating a shift towards a climate-conscious approach in order to secure a sustainable and healthy future for all. It's because of this that having an inclusive climate focused digital economy is imperative.

DAY ONE

Opening Remarks

Asmahaney Saad, Managing Partner KTA Advocates

The day began with opening remarks delivered by Asmahaney Saad, the Managing Partner of KTA Advocates. Mrs. Saad highlighted the work done through the five previous Symposiums in promoting digital inclusivity and fostering conversations that are at the core of Intellectual property and digital migration.

She explained that the change in the format of this year's Symposium was a result of the need to shift focus to practical sessions, intended to facilitate upskilling of the audience in various topics.

She highlighted that the program this year constituted workshops and masterclasses that will feed into the continuity and sustainability of the long-term project that KTA Advocates plans to execute with Khama Digital Content Hub and Teesa Advisory. She also highlighted the need to bridge the information gap and build cooperation within the ecosystem.

She concluded by reiterating that in addition to receiving masterclass sessions from key industry players, delegates were to expect in-depth panel discussions with experts on climate change, digital inclusivity, the green economy, scaling up of agri-businesses, and financial literacy.



Keynote Address

Navigating the Digital Future: Policy Frameworks and Innovation in the Age of Rapid Technological Advancements.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Aminah Zawedde, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance Represented by Sharley Nakyejjwe.

This address focused on policy considerations that the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT&NG) has in shaping the legal framework of the digital space.

In her representative capacity, Sharley Nakyejjwe set the ball rolling by highlighting the role of the MoICT&NG in the development of local Information Technology (IT) solutions. She gave examples of solutions such as the Online Business Registration System, the Passport Application System, the National Identification System, and the National Backbone Infrastructure Project.

She noted the importance of skilling the youth and other players and specifically highlighted the Government's role in promoting the same through not only word but also action. The Government has built several innovation hubs in the region to facilitate this. These are in Soroti, Muni University, and Kabale.

She highlighted the establishment of specialised hubs such as the Business Process Outsource Innovation Centre where at least 500 students have been skilled in Business Processing Outsourcing. This, she said, could encourage the export and import of global unicorns. In conclusion, she emphasised that Uganda is at an interesting front to enhance Information and Communications Technology (ICT) inclusivity to foster knowledge-sharing and improved global growth and urged the delegates to engage in knowledge-sharing absorption, and skilling.



Dr. Aminah Zawedde,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of ICT and National
Guidance Represented by
Sharley Nakyejjwe.

Speaker Session

How to Unlock the Potential: Empowering Girls and Women in the Digital Age

Speaker: Agnes Kisembo, Program Specialist-Inter-governmental support, UN Women.

'2020 MasterCard Global Index of Women Entrepreneurs estimates that women in Uganda own nearly 40% of all businesses however earn 30% lower profits than male business owners because of gender-specific barriers'



Agnes Kisembo set the stage by discussing the challenges facing women in the digital age and solutions to the same. She highlighted that women can play a vital role in the digital space but are often marginalised and undervalued.

She stated that possible solutions can be formed through the Government which has the responsibility to formulate and implement laws and policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. This includes domesticating international normative frameworks.

She highlighted that it is important to leverage digital tools for women's empowerment. Digital tools can be used to empower women and girls in several ways, including; providing access to information and education and creating opportunities for economic empowerment.

However, it is important to note that there is a gender-based digital divide, with women less likely to have access, use, and work in digital technology spaces in comparison to men. This is due to several factors, including poverty, lack of education, and cultural barriers. To leverage digital tools for women's empowerment, it is important to address the gender-based digital divide by providing women and girls with access to digital technologies and training.

She also pointed out the need to adhere to and learn from international statutes like The Beijing Declaration, adopted in 1995, which is a landmark document that sets out principles for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Recommendations:

- Policies and laws should be based on real-time data and evidence to ensure that they are effective in addressing gender inequality and women's empowerment.
- Women and girls need access to quality education and training to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the economy and society.
- Policies and programs should be implemented to support work-life balance for women, such as flexible work arrangements and affordable childcare.
- Women should be meaningfully engaged in decision-making at all levels of society, including in their communities.
- Temporary measures should be implemented to accelerate progress towards gender equality, such as quotas and targeted funding.
- Revision of the education curriculum: The education curriculum should be revised to promote gender equality and challenge harmful gender stereotypes.

Master Class 1

Knowledge Creation and Up-Skilling for the African Workforce: Turning our Experiences into Practical Skills for Value Addition and Employment in the Marketplace,

Facilitator; Paula Mugisa CEO, Teesa Advisory

Paula introduced Teesa Advisory, a consultancy firm that provides strategic advice and training to entrepreneurs and innovators in Africa.

The master class aimed to equip participants with practical skills and insights on how to create, protect, and deploy knowledge in the digital economy.



i. Deploying Knowledge in the Digital Economy

- Ugandan businesses must grasp the distinctive characteristics of the local market to succeed. This includes understanding consumer preferences, cultural norms, and the competitive landscape. Tailoring products and services to local needs is crucial for gaining a competitive edge.
- Entrepreneurial success often stems from a deep passion for the business idea. Passion fuels dedication, resilience, and the drive to overcome challenges.
- Knowledge creation is a critical driver of innovation and economic growth. By fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and continuous learning, businesses can stimulate creativity and generate new ideas. This, in turn, leads to the development of innovative products, services, and processes that drive economic growth.

ii. Challenges

- Uganda has an abundance of untapped potential, talent, and demand. For example, Uganda has a young and growing population, which represents a large and growing market for businesses.
- Uganda also faces a lack of deliberate skilling. This means that there are not enough skilled workers to meet the needs of the economy. This skills gap can make it difficult for businesses to find the workers they need.

iii. Opportunities

- The skills gap creates a market for those who want to provide skilling services and an opportunity for those who are interested in continuous skilling.

iv. Best Practices and Resources for Upskilling

- The first step to effective learning is to identify learning goals. This means knowing what to learn and why. When one has clear learning goals, it is easier to focus on tracking progress.
- Feedback is essential for learning. When feedback is received, it is easier to identify mistakes and areas where improvement is needed.
- Access online courses, platforms, and tools that offer relevant and quality content, instruction, assessment, and certification. Several online programs offer these services. These resources can be a valuable way to learn new skills and gain knowledge.

v. Recommendations

- Deliberate Government investment in digital infrastructure, education systems, and policies
- Digital skilling initiatives are essential to ensure that the workforce has the skills they need to participate in the digital economy. These initiatives can include training programs, apprenticeships, and boot camps.

Master Class 2

Tapping into the E-commerce Frequency-Making Money Online

Facilitator; Vinod Goel, CEO Jumia Uganda

Vinod introduced Jumia, an online marketplace that connects buyers and sellers across the globe. The master class aimed to teach participants how to start and grow an e-commerce business that can generate online income.



i. Key Takeaways

- The basic concept of e-commerce involves creating and sharing information about products or services online; and delivering and receiving payment.
- The benefits of e-commerce are; access to a wider market, reduced operational costs, increased customer satisfaction, and competitive advantage.

ii. Challenges faced by people starting out in E-commerce

- Competitive pricing.
- Inventory management.
- Customer Feedback.
- Optimization of product listings.

iii. Best practices for succeeding in E-commerce

- Building a brand; It is important to create a unique and memorable identity for a business to attract and retain clients.
- Understanding marketplaces; There is a need for research to choose the best marketplace for one's products and services.
- Building an 'I have to win online' mindset; Adopt a positive and proactive attitude towards e-commerce.
- Dedicating time; Invest time and effort into the business to make it grow and thrive.

Master Class 3

Facilitator: Khama Digital Content Hub (Fiona Kemi-gisha, Claire Muhire, Primrose Murungi)

The master class aimed to teach participants how to use social media marketing to build their personal and professional brands and reach their target audience.

The class was facilitated by Khama Digital Content Hub- a platform that skills digital content creators to enable them to professionalize and monetize their craft and connect them to decent work.

The facilitators, as experienced digital content creators and marketers who have worked with various brands, shared their insights and tips on how to master social media marketing.



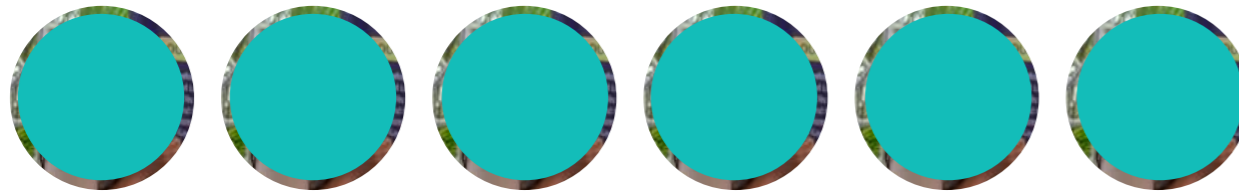
Key Takeaways

- Branding is the process of creating a unique and memorable identity for a business or personal brand that can elicit an emotional connection.
- It is important to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to create engaging and relevant content for social media platforms.
- Use a comprehensive social media strategy tailored to the brand's goals and target audience.
- It is important to collaborate with other digital content creators and marketers across disciplines, sectors, and regions.
- Stay updated on the latest social media trends and adapt them to the business's strategies accordingly.



Panel Discussion 1:

Opportunities for Women in Business: Let's Break Things Down



The panel discussion was moderated by Judy Wambaire. It was constituted by panelists; Priscilla Mutebi - Legal Counsel, Southern Africa Legal Affairs Department at Huawei Technologies (Uganda), Catherine Tulina Kafumbe- Country Director SafeBoda, Paul Okello, Program specialist- Women Economic Empowerment UN Women, Claire Muhire - Be Your Own Boss Babe and Brian Namanya - CEO Tubayo. This Panel explored opportunities for women in business, the challenges they face, and how to overcome those challenges.

i. Challenges Facing Women in Business.

- Women face a multitude of problems while in the workspace and entrepreneurship. These diverse issues range from the adoption of women in novel works spaces to inclusivity in policymaking.
- It was highlighted that there are several male-dominated sectors, especially agriculture and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). It was stated that less than 30% are involved in STEM. Further, it was highlighted that the care industry, in which women are mainly involved, is not often recognized and remunerated.

ii. How to Address these Challenges.

- The panelists highlighted the need to upskill women to empower them to be able to take up more opportunities and take advantage of novel areas. They stated that this can be achieved through partnerships with various associations that have the shared goal of bringing more women into the workspace.
- Programs such as the United Nations (UN) Women initiative- African Girls Can Code, were especially encouraged as they play a key role in upskilling women to disrupt spaces and take up more opportunities, especially in the digital industry.

iii. Key Takeaways

- It is important to push for policies and laws that are gender-specific in order to address the unique challenges that women face in workspaces.
- More mentorship and upskilling for women in business are needed to guide and equip women to take up modern-day challenges and have modern-day solutions.

Climate-Focused Business

Master Class 4

Developing Climate-Resilient and Climate-Friendly Businesses in Uganda: A Guide for Entrepreneurs

Facilitator: Lydiah Gatere, Climate Change Expert, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)

The masterclass addressed how businesses can adopt climate-friendly practices and make their businesses climate resilient.



withstand or recover quickly from difficulties.

- Developing a climate-resilient and climate-friendly business is crucial for sustainable growth, reducing environmental impact, and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change.
- Uganda, in particular, is vulnerable to floods, droughts/ famine, and pest invasion. It has also witnessed changes in temperature and rainfall patterns. This has an impact on agriculture, water resources, and the ecosystem.
- It is advisable to carry out a climate risk assessment. This assesses potential climate risks and vulnerabilities that climate change poses to business operations, supply chains, and customers (market demand). Thereafter, one can develop appropriate strategies to adapt and mitigate risks.
- A climate risk assessment may entail:
 - a) Establishing context;
 - b) Identifying existing climate risks;
 - c) Analyzing and evaluating the risks; and
 - d) Identifying future climate change risks and opportunities.
- To develop a climate adaptation plan:
 - a) Create a comprehensive plan to adapt to the impact of climate change e.g., improving water management, diversifying supply chains, and investing in renewable energy sources.
 - b) Integrate climate change considerations into the business plan, strategy, and decision-making processes.
 - c) Setting clear climate-related goals and targets aligned with the business's objectives e.g., aim to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
 - d) Consider collaborating with experts e.g., Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).



- Promote Sustainable Energy. Transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biogas, and hydroelectric power.
- Integrate climate resilience into business operations e.g., by adopting energy-efficient technologies or implementing water-saving practices.
- Optimize water management.
- Adopt sustainable supply chain management practices by collaborating with other suppliers to adhere to sustainable practices, considering factors such as carbon footprint, and encouraging sustainable agriculture or supporting farmers who follow eco-friendly techniques
- Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure
- Educate and engage employees on climate change and the importance of adopting sustainable practices. Encourage their active participation in reducing the environmental footprint of the business. Provide training programs and incentives to promote sustainability and implementation of climate-resilient practices.
- Communicate and market your climate-friendly practices and services. E.g., offering drought-resistant crop varieties.
- Stay updated on climate change policies and regulations. This will help you align your business practices with evolving standards and access potential funding opportunities for climate-resilient initiatives.

Master Class 5

What is ESG? Can I Make Money from Carbon Credits?

Facilitator: Anete Garoza, Co-Founder and Chief Climate Officer, 1MTN



The master class aimed to teach the participants what Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) is and how they can make money from Carbon credits.

i. Key Takeaways

- ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance which are 3 factors that measure the sustainability impact of a business.
- ESG covers climate change, waste management, human capital, employee retention, shareholder rights, and risk management.
- To calculate a carbon footprint,
- Define the scope and objectives
- Analyze inventory
- Carry out an impact assessment
- Carbon credits, also known as carbon offsets, are units of carbon dioxide that represent greenhouse gas reductions or removals. Carbon credits can be traded and sold in carbon markets. Businesses can use carbon credits to offset their own greenhouse gas emissions.
- Carbon credits are traded and sold in carbon markets. Carbon markets are regulated systems that allow businesses to buy and sell carbon credits. There are two main types of carbon markets; compliance carbon markets and voluntary carbon markets.
- The aim of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This is the level of warming that scientists believe is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This in turn creates a large market for the carbon credits industry.
- Carbon credits should be used as a complement to a business's efforts to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions, not as a substitute.

ii. Challenges

- Carbon markets can be complex and fragmented with different standards and quality of credits.
- There is a general lack of regulation in the carbon markets industry that needs to be addressed.

iii. Recommendation

The facilitator emphasized the need for businesses to adopt a climate-focused approach that integrates ESG and carbon markets into their core strategy.



Roundtable Discussion Uganda's Green Economy:

How Should We Build a Sustainable Climate-Focused Eco-system?

Opening remarks: Margaret Athieno Mwebesa, Commissioner of Climate Change, Ministry of Water and Environment:

"Uganda has been ranked one of the carbon market frontrunners in Africa, with a total of over 30.6 million tonnes (Mt CO₂e) of carbon credits issued under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) standards".

Green Economy

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the green economy is the transition to economies that are low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive.

The framing of the Green Economy dates back to 2012 during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) which recognized the green economy as a tool to achieve sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

The notion of a green economy does not replace sustainable development but creates a new focus on the economy which harnesses natural capital whilst reducing carbon emissions and pollution, enhancing energy and resource efficiency, and preventing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Policy support for the development of the green economy in Uganda

After the Rio+20 Conference, Uganda aspired to achieve a green economy and included aspects of the green economy promoting a low-carbon economic development path in the first National Development Plan (NDPI) 2010/2011– 2014/2015.

During the period 2013 – 2017, the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), laid the foundation for a green economy in Uganda.

The LECB program supported the formulation of the Initial Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2015, the integration of climate change in development planning through the involvement of the National Planning Authority (NPA), and the preparation of the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS) in 2017.

The program also supported the formulation of two Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) Green Schools NAMA, envisaged to provide sustainable energy solutions to boarding schools, and Integrated Waste Management and Biogas Production NAMA, envisaged to reduce methane emissions and air pollution and promote biogas technology for electricity production. This policy support opened doors for the promotion of a green economy in Uganda.

Market-based approaches for financing the green economy

The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Green Growth Development Strategy identify several financing sources and instruments. These include payment for ecosystem services schemes; Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) payments; carbon pricing instruments; carbon credit markets (voluntary and compliance), among others.

Over the last two decades, Uganda has gained considerable experience with Market- Based Mechanisms (MBMs), beginning with the participation in the voluntary carbon markets under the cooperative offsetting scheme led by a local NGO—The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) under the Plan Vivo standard.

Carbon trade, also known as emissions trading, is a market-based approach that allows countries or organizations to buy and sell carbon credits.

A carbon credit is a unit that represents one tonne of greenhouse gas emissions avoided, reduced, or removed from the environment that can be traded to generate revenue.

Carbon credits are traded in markets that are governed by institutions, rules, and procedures. There are broadly two types of carbon markets: compliance and voluntary.

Compliance markets are largely driven by the government or guided by international policy. Examples of compliance markets include the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Article 6 cooperative approaches of the Paris Agreement.

Voluntary markets on the other hand are largely driven by private sector demand to reduce emissions. This presents the governments, private sector, and individuals with the opportunity to buy and sell carbon credits on a voluntary basis.

In voluntary markets, projects are validated by an independent verifier or verification body to meet a set of requirements provided by a standard framework.

Experience in carbon markets

Uganda has been ranked one of the carbon market frontrunners in Africa, with a total of over 30.6 million tonnes (Mt CO₂e) of carbon credits issued under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) standards.

Over 8.9 Million tonnes of Carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂e) have been reduced through the CDM projects under the Kyoto Protocol. Overall, Uganda has a CDM portfolio comprised of 189 registered activities.

Currently, estimates of our anthropogenic emissions by source and removals by sinks of GHGs as compiled in the national inventory report are about **94.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq) equivalent** to 0.16% of the global emissions.

In 2021, the government enacted her National Climate Change Act which provided for participation in climate change mechanisms:

- a) compliance emissions trading mechanisms;
- b) voluntary emissions trading mechanisms;
- c) non-market approaches referred to in Article 6 of the Agreement;
- d) cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6 of the Agreement; and
- e) other climate change mechanisms as may be prescribed by regulations.

The Act entrusted the Minister responsible for climate action with the powers to approve participation in a climate change mechanism subject to the prescription of regulations.

The development of regulations to guide participation in carbon markets is in the final stages. The regulations will provide for:

- a) A clear strategy, greenhouse gas emission baseline, monitoring, environmental and social safeguards.
- b) Institutional arrangements for carbon markets implementation.
- c) A fully functional national Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management System which is an essential tool for understanding the current and past trends of greenhouse gas emissions.
- d) A fully functional National Monitoring Reporting Verification (MRV) System to track the implementation of climate actions.
- e) A fully functional carbon registry to track carbon credit transactions.
- f) A national carbon trading system as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions cost-effectively.

“Government intends to reduce over 28 MtCO₂e by 2030 subject to availability of resources from international sources and use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The emissions reduction will be from key sectors; agriculture, forestry, waste, industry, energy, construction, and transport policies.”

Opportunities for the private sector

There are opportunities for attracting capital to support the development of carbon markets.

The government intends to reduce over 28 MtCO₂e by 2030 subject to the availability of resources from international sources and use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The emissions reduction will be from key sectors; agriculture, forestry, waste, industry, energy, construction, and transport policies.

Conclusion

Carbon markets are some of the sources of financing to leverage the implementation of Uganda’s green economy initiatives that result in low-carbon development. Therefore, the private sector is encouraged to tap into the opportunities availed by carbon markets.

Panel Discussion 2

The panel discussion was moderated by Kristian Raude, Co-founder and CEO of IMTN Group.



The panelists were; Margaret Athieno Mwebesa, Commissioner of Climate Change, Ministry of Water and Environment, Daniel Yin CEO of Spouts International, Dr. Lydiah Gatere Climate Change Expert, at the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Judith Nabimanya, Department of Investment for Sustainable Development, SEATINI Uganda, and Ronald Nampurira, Legal Associate Green Deal.

i. Initiatives and achievements addressing climate change

- The Panelists discussed the implementation of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) - voluntary commitments made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NAMAs are tailored to the specific circumstances and take into account national development priorities.
- Panelists discussed the importance of adopting carbon pricing instruments which are market-based mechanisms that put a price on carbon emissions. This can help to reduce emissions by encouraging businesses and individuals to adopt cleaner technologies.
- The panelists also discussed fast-tracking the National Climate Change Act to effectively manage climate change markets and policies.

ii. Challenges and opportunities for climate-smart agriculture in Africa

- Panelists identified the challenge of investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Renewable energy and energy efficiency can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate change.
- Panelists recognized the importance of supporting sustainable agricultural practices which can help to improve soil health and increase crop productivity in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is important to note that forests play an important role in carbon sequestration and climate resilience. Climate finance can be used to support forest conservation and restoration.

Recommendations

- Leverage the unique strengths, perspectives, and contexts of African knowledge creators to create relevant, useful, and impactful solutions
- Private and public sectors should invest in digital infrastructure, systems, and policies to enable access to quality digital skilling opportunities
- Support digital skilling initiatives that foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation
- Promote green industrialization and policy coherence with national climate commitments
- Strengthen environmental governance and rule of law



FIRESIDE CHAT

TOPIC

You're a CEO, Now What?
A conversation with Patrick Ayota, Managing director of the National Social Security Fund
Host: Kenneth Muhangi

The day ended with a fireside chat with Mr. Patrick Ayota, hosted by Kenneth Muhangi, Partner at KTA Advocates. A recording of the discussion can be found here

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/bcop/episodes/143-Podcast-recording-at-the-6th-annual-KTASymposium-e2b010u>

Key Takeaways:

- **Self-awareness and personal responsibility:**
Mr. Ayota began by emphasizing the importance of self-awareness and personal responsibility. He stated that it is impossible to truly know oneself, but that it is important to strive to understand one's strengths, weaknesses, and motivations.
- **Effort and perseverance:**
Mr. Ayota highlighted the importance of effort and perseverance. He stated that whatever one chooses to do eventually becomes reinforced, and that failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. He also pointed out the importance of humility in leadership.
- **Data and intuition in decision-making:**
Mr. Ayota discussed the importance of both data and intuition in decision-making. He opined that data can help to inform decisions, but that intuition is also important.



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- Adaptability and lifelong learning:

Mr. Ayota emphasized the importance of adaptability and lifelong learning in leadership. He stated that leaders need to be able to adapt to change and while doing so, endeavor to learn and grow.

- Discipline and focus:

Mr. Ayota discussed the importance of discipline and focus. He stated that leaders need to be able to discipline themselves and focus on their goals.

- Potential:

Mr. Ayota concluded by discussing the importance of potential. He stated that everyone has great potential, but that it is up to each individual to develop their potential.

**Creating an inclusive
climate focused digital
economy in Uganda**

Through Knowledge Creation, Protection,
Deployment, Human Capital Development
and Environment, Social Governance
(ESG)

DAY TWO

Keynote address

The Triad of Progress; Science, Technology and Innovation as Catalysts for National Development

Keynote Speaker: Honorable Dr. Monica Musenero, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation; Represented by Cathy Muwumuza, Superintendent Support Services, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI);

The MoSTI secretariat plays a vital role in addressing development challenges and opportunities in Uganda. For example, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) can be used to develop solutions to emerging and endemic health threats, such as pandemics and other infectious diseases. This includes developing new vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments. STI can also be used to explore space and utilize it for development purposes. Additionally, STI can be used to improve Uganda's infrastructure systems and services, reduce its dependence on imported goods, and enhance its domestic production capacity. One of the challenges that hinder STI development in Uganda is delegated thinking.

This is the tendency to over-rely on external sources or authorities for knowledge and solutions. The MoSTI secretariat is working to address this challenge by promoting a culture of innovation.

The MoSTI secretariat has also developed a four-phase STI Economic Highway to support the development and commercialization of STI products and services. The four phases are:

- Ideation to market;
- Prototype to a viable product;
- Viable product to competitiveness;
- Competitiveness to maturity.

The MoSTI secretariat is committed to working with all stakeholders to harness STI for inclusive and sustainable development in Uganda.



Speaker Session

Speaker Session: Building a Resilient, Climate-Friendly Digital Economy: Key Factors and Strategies

Speaker: Richard Ndahiro, Digital Country Lead, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

“Harness the power of development finance to propel the transition towards climate-friendly energy sources.”

Richard Ndahiro, the Digital Country Lead at the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), began his

He emphasized that these challenges stem not only from the direct impact of daily activities but are exacerbated by the vulnerabilities of small businesses. In essence, climate change poses a significant threat to agriculture. In response to this issue, Mr. Ndahiro stressed the need for innovative approaches to combat and mitigate climate change. He underlined the potential of digital platforms as instrumental tools in addressing climate change and its repercussions. Specifically, he drew attention to agri-tech platforms that integrate climate-conscious practices into their core functions.

Furthermore, Mr. Ndahiro shed light on agri-tech platforms that facilitate the adoption of climate-friendly solutions in various domains, notably finance. He presented an example of a digital plan for solar products, which empowers users to manage and pay for solar systems at their fingertips, promoting renewable energy adoption.

Beyond technological solutions, Mr. Ndahiro advocated for the incorporation of clean practices into our daily lives. This includes embracing bio-energy sources and reducing paper usage, which contributes to forest preservation and aids in climate crisis prevention.

One of the critical obstacles he identified is the challenge of securing developer resources and financing for the carbon credits industry, aimed at reducing carbon footprints. To this, he proposed a potential solution: harnessing the power of development finance to propel the transition towards climate-friendly energy sources. By expediting the support of companies that drive clean energy and climate-focused solutions, a platform can be established to address this challenge effectively.



Climate-Focused Business

Master Class 1

Facilitator; Ronald. K Ssekajja, Project Manager, Innovations, Agribusiness Development Center

Agribusiness Development Center is a non-profit organization that provides training and mentorship to agribusiness entrepreneurs in Uganda.

Ronald. K Ssekajja, Project Manager of Innovations at ADC, facilitated a master class on financial literacy for agriculturalists. The master class aimed to teach participants how to make informed financial decisions, especially those in the agricultural sector.

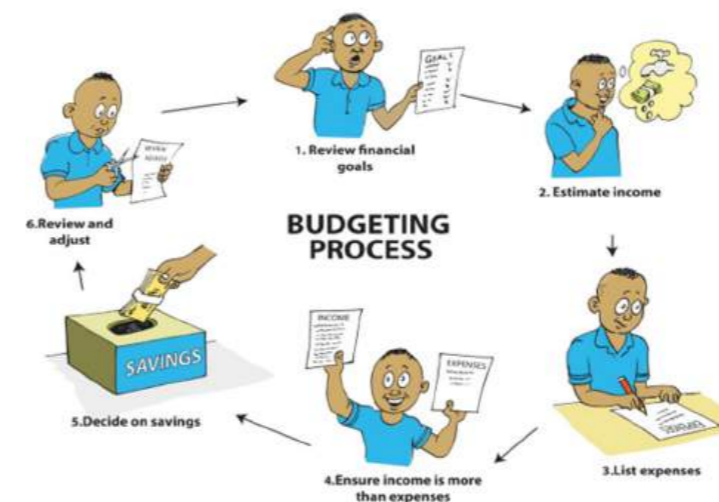


Basics of Financial Literacy.

- Financial literacy is the possession of skills, knowledge, and behaviors that allow an individual to make informed decisions regarding money.

- Financial literacy involves understanding concepts such as budgeting, saving, and investing. This can be achieved through:
 - Proper management of finances
 - Understanding the importance of savings.
 - Being aware of the implications of taking out a loan.
 - Learning how to keep proper records.
 - Understanding how financial service providers operate, understanding their products, and how to access them. (Insert slide on “a deep stick into Financial Planning)

- The budgeting process involves:
 - a review of financial goals,
 - estimation of income,
 - listing down expenses,
 - ensuring income is more than expenses,
 - deciding on savings and
 - reviewing the final budget.



- Good cash flow management enables a farmer to understand:

- Seasonality v accrued steady cash flows.
- Unforeseen farm/ agribusiness spending.
- Access to finance and credit indicators.
- Family responsibility.

ii. Avenues to Access Finance

- Savings
- Credit- bank loans
- Credit – Micro including digital providers MNO, Emata
- Social lending
- Venture capital
- Invoice/contract financing

iii. Challenges with accessing finance

- No Collateral
- No Records

iv. Possible solutions

- Maintain records of cashflow to prove creditworthiness
- Have financial statements to prove liquidity



Where Innovation Meets Agriculture: Product Profile – EMATA

Master Class 1

Masterclass 2: The Emata Blueprint: How Tech Makes (Agri) Business Loans Make Sense
Facilitator: Lillian Nassanga Musoke, Co-Founder & Product Manager, Emata

Emata offers digital, affordable loans to farmers so they can turn their farms into businesses.

Lillian Nassanga Musoke, Co-Founder & Product Manager of Emata, facilitated a masterclass on how to tailor-make financing products that meet the needs of agribusinesses. Lillian began by discussing the challenges of accessing finance in the agricultural sector. She then went on to discuss how Emata has used technology to create a financing product that meets the unique needs of farmers.



“ This 240-billion-dollar industry only gets 3% of funding in the national budget yet contributes 80% to the economy”.

i. The challenge of accessing financing in the agricultural sector

- There is a financing gap that exists in the agricultural sphere. This 240-billion-dollar industry only gets 3% of funding in the national budget yet contributes 80% to the economy.

- However, this problem is multi-faceted. Banks can take months to approve loans. Additionally, bank branches are often located far away from rural farmers, making it difficult and expensive for them to access financial services. Furthermore, farmers typically need small loans.

(Insert slide on key takeaways)

ii. What does Emata do?

- There is a need to use technology-based solutions in combating the gap that exists in financing agriculture in the country and region. Farmers’ needs are unique and therefore call for unique solutions.

- Emata has developed a 4-step model to digitize agriculture data and financing. (Insert Slide)

- Digitize the cooperatives.
- Use an AI-powered toolset to calculate credit limits.
- Digitize loans to farmers and
- Use innovative ways to receive payment from the farmers.

iv. Emata’s solution – Solving the issue of Financial and Digital Literacy

Emata has created an app that:

- Digitizes relevant financial data
 - Uses channels people are familiar with. (WhatsApp for loan application)
 - Rely on Human-Centered Design to ensure you are a solution to a problem, and not a solution looking for a problem.
 - Do not ignore the need for basic financial and digital literacy training as a core activity for your business.
- v. Key Takeaways: Solving the Issue of Financial and Digital Literacy
- Don’t rely on assumptions – research, test & then implement if successful.
 - Change is difficult. Reduce friction by tapping into existing systems and processes.

Master Class 3

Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation- How to Transform Your Agri-Business Through Financing

Facilitator: Deus Tirwakunda, START Facility Manager, United Nations Capital Development Fund (United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF))

This master class aimed to equip agricultural businesses on how they can position themselves to access financing for their businesses.



i. What Does UNCDF Have to Offer:

- UNCDF is supporting last-mile businesses in vulnerable and underserved communities in innovative ways that can help them thrive.

ii. Traditional Types of Financing – For Agribusinesses

Financing	Financing Characteristics	Business Characteristics
Debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No upside Fixed payment & term Collateral Limited control Recourse priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Predictable cash flow
Private Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return upside No fixed payment No collateral Ownership rights Limited recourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start-up Early Stage Growth/Expansion Strategy Financial reengineering
Grants/Gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No upside No repayment No control, recourse, rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social mission Relationships

iii. The Entrepreneurial Life Cycle:

Riskier			Less risky?		
Entrepreneur	Idea	Firm	Grows	Growth	Firms
Quietly pursues business idea.	Pursued rigorously, small team built to pursue idea. First customers & beta test	Generates customer base & refines sales strategy. Professional mgmt. perhaps brought in.	Client base, develops new products or applications. Firm may be acquired or go public.	Growth slows & depends on mgmt. & innovation to survive. Could this way remain for decades.	Declines from changing tastes, inability to adapt, bad mgmt., etc.

v. Innovative Finance :

• The World Bank defines innovative financing as any financial approach that:

i. Helps generate additional development funds by tapping new funding sources;

ii. Enhances the efficiency of financial flows by reducing delivery time and/or costs, especially for emergency needs and in crisis situations; and or

iii. Makes financial flows more results-oriented by explicitly linking funding flows to measurable performance on the ground.

• Thus, innovative financing looks beyond conventional mechanisms, such as internal domestic revenue generation, traditional overseas development aid, budget outlays from established donors, and bonds from traditional international financial institutions, and explores new ways of how to engage new partners, such as emerging donors and actors in the private sector.

VI. Innovative finance for agribusinesses

• Asset Leasing - possess and use an asset without legally owning it

• Agricultural insurance (crop & livestock) – Reduce risks associated with losses and attract commercial financing Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme (UAIS) in FY2016/17.

• Asset financing - financing the acquisition of assets such as equipment & machinery for production e.g., industrial equipment, agricultural assets, etc.

• Seasonal financing- financing that is repaid in keeping with a company's seasonal cash flow/ business cycle.

• Contract financing – financing provided against a signed contract with an enterprise, and the money must be used to complete the contract work

• Digital financing

• Blended financing

vi. Key Takeaways

- There is a need for innovative financial approaches that feed into the Unique needs of the challenges faced by vulnerable and underserved communities.
- There is a need for digitisation to unlock solutions for Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for them to manage their businesses better and provide lenders with more digital data points to effectively serve these communities.
- UNCDF has an Intervention for MSMEs that entails 3 pillars. These are digitisation, innovation, and business development solutions.

Panel Discussion 1

The panel discussion was moderated by Kristian Raude, Co-founder and CEO of 1MTN Group.



The panel discussion was moderated by Maren Hald Bjorgum, Chief Communications Officer of Emata, a fintech company that provides digital loans to farmers in Uganda. The panelists were; Richard Ndahiro, Digital Country Lead, United Nations Capital Development Fund (United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Ronald .K. Ssekajja, Project Manager, Innovations, Agribusiness Development Centre, and Ann Marie Mwaka Sabano, Head of Business Development, aBi Finance Ltd

i. Considerations for Funding of Innovations.

- The panelists shared their perspectives on funding for innovation in the agricultural sector. Innovative solutions that can address challenges and opportunities such as access to finance, markets, information, and technology are most preferred as they enable us to solve the modern-day challenges.
- It was noted that funders evaluate the potential of innovation based on criteria such as target market, scalability, sustainability, impact, and differentiation.
- Partnerships should be considered by innovators as they enable innovators to leverage on strengths, resources, and networks of different stakeholders as well as foster learning and co-creation among innovators
- ii. Challenges and Best Practices of Creating Agricultural Financing Products for Agribusiness.
 - These financing products need to take into account the specific characteristics and needs of the agricultural sector such as seasonality, value chain, risk profile, and cash flow cycle.
 - Financing products need to be tailored to the different segments and stages of agribusiness such as input suppliers, producers, processors, traders, etc.

ii. Recommendations

- Change of attitude towards the agricultural sector as a perceived risk and instead recognizing its potential and opportunities for growth and development
- Investing in digital infrastructure and skills that can enable access to quality information and services for farmers and agribusinesses.
- Supporting research and development that can generate new knowledge and solutions for the Agricultural sector

Climate-Focused Business

Master Class 3

What is Private Equity and Venture Capital? How do I prepare my business for funding?

Facilitator: Raymond Asimwe, Managing Partner, Bytelex Advocates

This masterclass aimed to equip the delegates with a basic understanding of Private Equity and Venture Capital as tools for financing innovators.



ii. Importance of Venture Capital and Private Equity.

- The two industries largely exist to provide funding and support to business that has high-value growth potential but cannot easily access traditional financing. They enable businesses at different stages of growth and financing to access finance that can enable them to realise the entrepreneur's goals and objectives.

ii. How to prepare for investment.

- It is important to carry out due diligence in the form of the technical, legal, and financial needs of the company.
- It is important to know the different financing models and what they seek to achieve to realise which suits the business best. It is important to understand that Private venture and Private Equity exist to serve different purposes along the financial value chain and therefore look at different indicators to decide which company they should invest in.

Panel Discussion 3

The Truth about VC and PE: Beyond the Hype and the Headlines



The panel discussion was moderated by Raymond Asimwe, the Managing Partner of Bytelex Advocates, a law firm that specializes in technology and innovation law. The panelists were, Mark Mutaahi, Managing Partner, BiD Capital Partners, and Dianah Nannonno, Head of the Private Sector Development Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development

i. Insights and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of Venture Capital (VC) and Private Equity (PE) in Uganda.

- Low attraction of VC and PE investors in the Ugandan market due to the small size and maturity of the market.
- The need for a clear regulatory framework for VC and PE activities such as an amendment of the Capital Markets Authority Act to provide more clarity and flexibility in alternative financing instruments
- The need for more participation and collaboration in the start-up ecosystem as well as incentives from the Government for local investment
- The distinctions between VC and PE investors such as their investment focus, stage, size, duration, return, expectations, involvement, etc.
- The need for due diligence and transparency in VC and PE transactions such as conducting proper valuation, negotiation, documentation, governance, and reporting to ensure mutual benefit and alignment of interests between entrepreneurs and investors.

ii. Government's initiatives and policies to support VC and PE in Uganda.

- The government recognises the importance of VCs and PEs for stimulating innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in Uganda
- The Government's provision of incentives and support for VC and PE activities in Uganda can include offering tax incentives, co-investments
- The government is willing to collaborate with development partners and international organizations to facilitate VC and PE in Uganda. Such partnerships involve entities like The World Bank and UNCDF.
- The Government is willing to listen to and engage with the private sector on investment issues such as creating an enabling environment for business registration, licensing, and taxation.
- A clear framework on the tax policy-making process in the pipeline which is inclusive and encourages participation from the public

ii. Challenges

- There is a gap in the skilling and capacity among entrepreneurs and investors to understand and apply VC and PE concepts and practices.
- There is inadequate data and information on the performance and impact of VC and PE activities in Uganda.

iv. Recommendations

- Enhance the skills and capacity of entrepreneurs and investors through training as well as equipping them with quality tools and resources.
- Enhancing coordination and harmonization among different regulators and stakeholders
- Creation of a centralized platform to enable the dissemination of information on VC and PE activities to various stakeholders

The panel discussion was concluded by emphasizing the need for more awareness, education, and dialogue on VC and PE in Uganda as well as more action and innovation to unlock their potential and impact.



TOPIC

Leveraging Networks: The Power of Collaboration
Guest:

Irene Birungi Mugisha Ateenyi, Chief Executive, Presidential CEO Forum Host: Fiona Kemigisha

“ PCF aims to foster collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors, and to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Ugandan economy.”

Irene Birungi Mugisha is a former journalist, broadcaster, columnist, author, and CEO. She is currently the Chief executive of the Presidential CEO Forum. She shared nuggets on personal development, leadership, and entrepreneurship. She shared her personal journey, beliefs, family, and achievements with the audience, and urged them to become changemakers in their own lives and communities.

She began by talking about how she met her husband, Maurice Mugisha, who is also a journalist and broadcaster, and how they support and complement each other in their relationship. The couple has been married for over 20 years and have three children, whom Irene considers her greatest achievement.

She then talked about her background growing up in a Christian family, and how she was raised to be exemplary as a firstborn of the family. She credited her parents for instilling in her the values of hard work, integrity, and faith, which have guided her throughout her life. She also said that she learned to be confident and believe in herself, which are essential qualities for a leader.

She continued by talking about her career as a journalist, broadcaster, columnist, and author, and how she rose from being a business reporter for WBS TV to becoming a private secretary for President Yoweri Museveni, and later a station manager for Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC), and a head of editorial and television producer for CNBC Africa. She said that she faced many challenges and opportunities along the way, and learned to adapt and innovate in different situations.

She also talked about her book “The CEO in You. The Changemaker”, which was launched by President Museveni in March 2023. Irene wrote the book to inspire and empower people to become CEOs in their own lives and communities, regardless of their background, education, or circumstances. She said that everyone has the potential to be a CEO and that being a CEO means being a visionary, a strategist, a problem solver, a communicator, a motivator, and a mentor.

Irene spoke of her role as the founder and CEO of All Round Consult Uganda, a Public Relations and media agency, and the director of communications, marketing, and membership development at the Federation of Uganda Employers. She said that she is passionate about promoting the interests and welfare of employers and employees in Uganda and that she is involved in various initiatives and projects to achieve this goal.

She also talked about her role as the initiator of the Presidential CEO Forum (PCF), a platform for dialogue between the president and the business leaders in the country. She said that the PCF aims to foster collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors and to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Ugandan economy. She said that the PCF has brought together indigenous, corporate CEOs and leaders in MDAs, and that it has contributed to the development and implementation of policies and programs that benefit the business community and the nation.

She also talked about her role as a committee member of the Employer of the Year award committee, which recognizes and rewards the best employers in Uganda. She said that the award is based on criteria such as leadership, innovation, productivity, corporate social responsibility, and employee engagement. She said that the award is a way of celebrating and encouraging excellence and best practices among employers in Uganda.

Irene went on to highlight her role as a mentor and coach for aspiring and seasoned CEOs in Uganda. She said that she is committed to sharing her knowledge, experience, and insights with others, and to helping them achieve their goals and dreams. She said that she has mentored and coached many CEOs in Uganda and that she is proud of their achievements and impact.

She concluded by talking about her vision for Africa, and how she believes that Africa needs to wake up and make its analysis and solutions for its challenges. She said that Africa has immense potential and resources and that it needs to harness them for its benefit and development. She said that Africa needs to embrace change and innovation and create a culture of excellence and accountability. She said that Africa needs to be proud of its identity and heritage and to showcase its achievements and contributions to the world.



