

REIMAGINING DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

HOSTED BY: THE CONGOLESE
DIASPORA IMPACT SUMMIT

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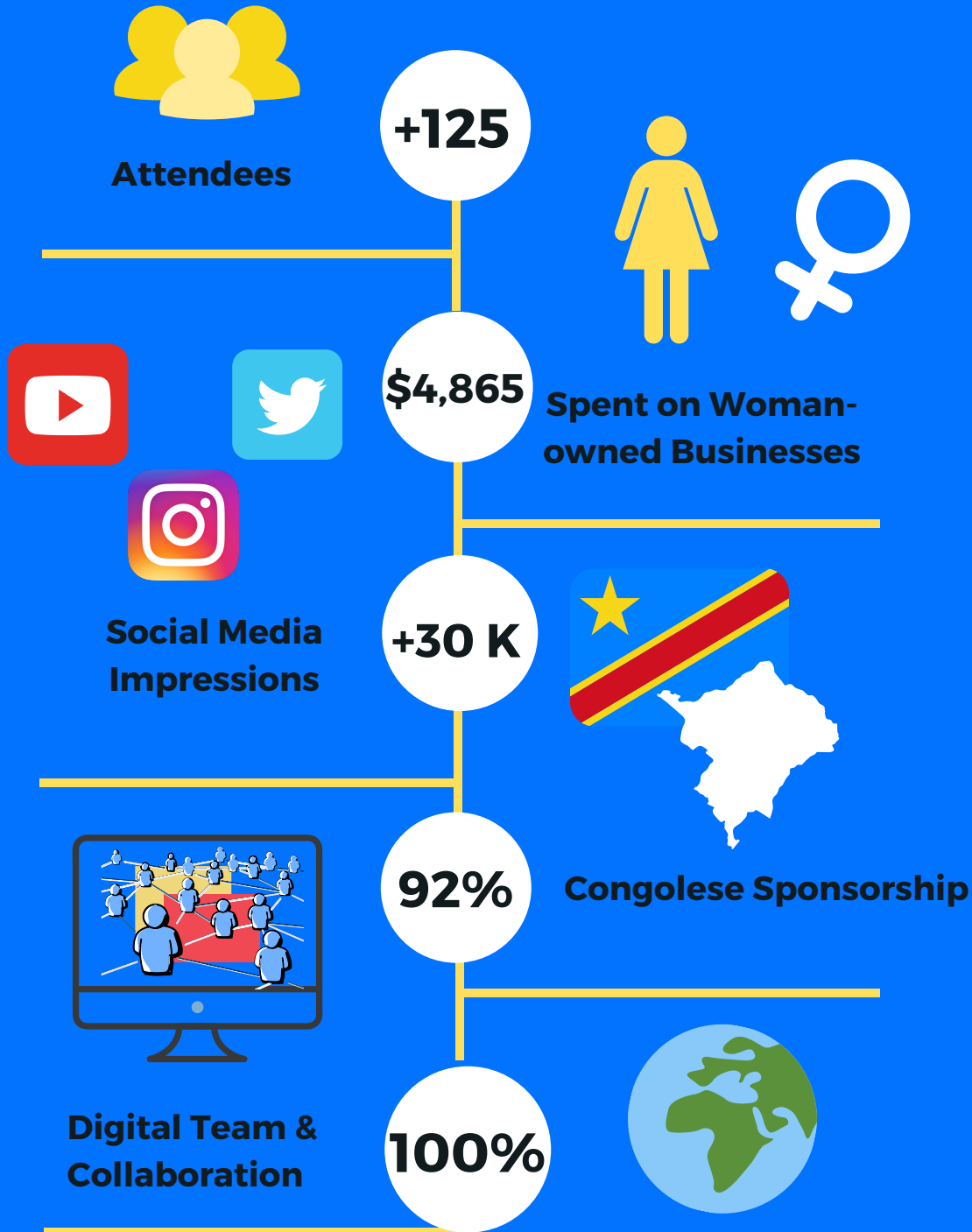


Credit: Kwame Andoh, Congolese Diaspora Impact Summit, September 2021

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CDIS 2021 IN A SNAPSHOT



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A NOTE FROM THE CDIS COFOUNDERS

While 2020 brought its fair share of ups and downs, I'm incredibly proud of all the folks who believed in and supported CDIS over the last two years. Doing this work has made me realize there is so much untapped potential and creativity in the Congolese community. I'm looking forward to seeing more partnerships, businesses, collaborations, and friendships grow because of CDIS.

-Lukogo Kasomo, Co-founder of CDIS

I loved seeing the summit's growth in year two across all measures: attendance, sponsorship, and impact. Spending time around Congolese who are actively engaged in moving the Diaspora and the DRC forward was powerful.

-Jim N. Ngokwey, Co-founder of CDIS



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ABOUT CDIS

The Congolese Diaspora Impact Summit's mission is to identify practical steps the Congolese diaspora can take to maximize its capital, human and financial, and make an impact in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Summit brings together Congolese professionals, and individuals interested in the DRC, to network and learn from leaders who are making an impact in the country.

Defining Impact

- Amplify the voices of experts of Congolese descent
- Increase the social, economic, and political capital of Congolese-Americans
- Increase access to business & investment opportunities in the DRC and in America

Outcomes

- Facilitating extensive networking among the Congolese diaspora and individuals interested in the DRC
- Identifying opportunities for conference attendees and members of the CDIS network to collaborate with Congolese entrepreneurs, change-makers, educators, and professionals on the ground to create social impact in the DRC



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SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Keynote Speaker

Mohombi Moupoundo; Musician, Producer, and Founder of Muska and MaishaPay

Panel 1: Social Welfare Through Tech Disruption

- Jose Zefu Kimpalou - Co-founder and Partner, Kuwa Consulting Group LLC
- Paul Mponzi - Co-founder and CEO, TCE Global Inc.
- Faïka Mukendi - Racial Equity Program Manager, Google
- Vanessa Serao Sakina - Project Lead, Spotify
- Moderator: Dr. Kevin M. Ileka

Breakout Room 1: VC & FinTech: Access to Capital

- George Kibala Bauer - Director, Digital Utilities, GSMA
- Ntambwa Basambombo - Managing Partner, Lumumba Lab
- Thony Ngumbu - Co-founder and CEO, Mwindu Technologies

Breakout Room 2: Digital Engagement & Advocacy

- Fred Bauma - Research Director, Congo Research Group
- Liz Kimbulu - Founder, Bisonabiso



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SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Breakout Room 3: Prosper Africa Presentation "Doing Business in Africa 101"

- Toyin Awesu - Prosper Africa

Fireside Chat: Congolese Influencing Culture, Sports, and Media

- Sarah M. Kazadi - Journalist, ESPN
- Roger Muntu - TV Personality, Voice of America
- John Nyembo Ilunga Kalala - Founder, D.R. Congo Basketball
- Adolophine Lukabu Sheely - Founder, Adolophine
- Moderator: Gloria Nzeka

Panel 2: Business and Entrepreneurship in the Diaspora

- Gisèle Mutoba Kalonzo-Douglas, Esq.
- Tomisi Kikama - Co-Founder, Ujengo Lab
- Thierry Tubajika- Founder and Managing Director, 243 Congo Enterprise
- Moderator: Tshiunza Kalubi

Closing Remarks

Dr. Alain Mukwege - Panzi Hospital



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KEYNOTE REMARKS

MOHOMBI MOUPOUNDO, FOUNDER; MUSKA & MAISHAPAY

Mohombi is a Congolese-Swedish musician and entrepreneur. After spending several years living in Europe, he moved back to Congo to start and run multiple businesses. Mohombi encouraged CDIS attendees to consider moving back to the country. He mentioned that having access to a network like CDIS allows people to avoid common pitfalls when moving back to the country or doing business there.

Key Takeaways:

- We live in a world that depends on the revolution and innovation of technology.
- CDIS is a great organization because it's essential that the diaspora get together, network, and share information and resources.
- As Congolese people, we have our language, way of doing things, news, etc., and CDIS allows us to come together and exchange ideas.
- The diaspora needs to stay connected with the DRC and create strong links outside of the country as well. It's necessary to have opportunities for the community to meet virtually and in person.
- CDIS is expanding ways for young Congolese professionals worldwide to connect.



Photo credit: Mohombi Moupoundo

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PANEL 1 SUMMARY

SOCIAL WELFARE THROUGH TECH DISRUPTION

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly increased the importance of being tech-savvy and having access to a reliable internet connection, regardless of one's location on the globe. Technology is rapidly reshaping the world, and it is imperative for Congolese and those in the diaspora to understand how to gain access to careers in the tech industry, provide mentorship for future generations interested in tech careers, while also being practical about solving healthcare, education and business challenges through technology.

Key Takeaways:

- Experts of Congolese descent in tech must be proactive about opening doors, share their stories with the larger community, in addition to becoming mentors. Representation matters. Networking and sharing professional development resources is critical to facilitate the entry of more tech professionals of Congolese descent in the future, especially as this sector relies on the DRC for its natural resources.
- One does not need to have an explicit background in science or technology to work in tech. There are many career opportunities in the space. One can be a writer, a designer, a recruiter, an accountant as examples.
- Gender equity and equality within the larger community is essential to capitalize on the gains of tech disruption, particularly those focused on social welfare. There are few women of Congolese descent in the tech pipeline, and the way to change that is through mentorship, proactively reaching out to women, and letting them know about career opportunities in the space.



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BREAKOUT ROOM

VC & FINTECH: ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Congo is notoriously known for being a challenging place for startups to thrive and seek sustainable funding. Too often, people do not consider the country's natural resources as potential investments or the Congolese community as a source for investors and Angel funding. This workshop discussed the growing opportunities in renewable energy and strategies to leverage the Diaspora's capital to crowdsource projects.

Key Takeaways:

- The capability to use solar energy to power Congo is underestimated and should be taken more seriously as the world moves towards net zero. The price of solar is decreasing while its generation and storing capacity increases and could speed up Congo's electrification process.
- High net-worth Congolese often invest in real estate in Congo or projects outside the country, limiting the ability to support innovative solutions birthed out of incubators in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and other parts of the country.
- Congolese startups and entrepreneurs should lean into the broader African community. Entrepreneurs can learn several lessons from Nigerian and Kenyan experiences on leveraging the global network, such as YC, to catapult Congolese entrepreneurs onto the worldwide investment stage.



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BREAKOUT ROOM

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Technology allows us to close the gap and provide access to better lives for our community. Through social media and digital communications, the Congolese community and diaspora can receive news in real-time. This workshop explored how content creators and social advocates can leverage their platforms by using social media and online messaging platforms.

Key Takeaways:

- Consider establishing projects or businesses in tech that can bring valuable jobs to Congo.
- We need to expand access to information to move in this world and find ways to share the information to make gains as a community.
- Find ways to demystify tech and bridge the gap by making it more accessible to our community.
- We're doing ourselves a disservice by competing instead of collaborating. We all have skills and networks that can benefit each other. Invest in developing talent by mentoring individuals.
- How to self-advocate or create an advocacy plan:
 - Explore why you want to do it?
 - Back up your argument (5 points minimum).
 - What are the tangible outcomes of you doing what you want to do?
 - Be ready to provide examples of others who have done it and came before you.



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BREAKOUT ROOM

PROSPER AFRICA: "DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA 101"

Prosper Africa is a U.S. Government initiative to substantially increase two-way trade and investment between the United States and countries across the African continent.

Key Takeaways:

- Prosper Africa, with support from U.S. Embassy Kinshasa, GE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of the DRC to develop infrastructure projects across the country. GE plans to invest at least \$1.8 billion in energy projects over the next three years, which will add 1,000 megawatts of power to Congo's grid.
- Prosper Africa offers the following:
 - Provides market insights so businesses and investors across Africa and the U.S. can learn about the economic opportunities available today and those emerging in the future.
 - Offers a wide range of deal support services to help businesses and investors across the United States and the African continent identifies partners, advance opportunities, and close deals.
 - Supports businesses and investors in securing financing through our resources gathered from 17 U.S. Government agencies.
 - Works with governments across the African continent to craft solutions that strengthen business climates.



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FIRESIDE CHAT

CONGOLESE INFLUENCING CULTURE, SPORTS & MEDIA

In recent years, there has been increased visibility of individuals of Congolese descent across sports, culture, media in Congo and abroad. Such individuals have leveraged social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and personal websites to promote their own brands, sell services and goods, or inform audiences through impactful journalism. These digital channels have provided ample opportunities for this collective to make a sizable impact on their bottom line and their communities through sports, fashion and the arts, and journalism, as examples.

Key Takeaways:

- It is important to focus on the quality of the content, knowing the audience that you want to engage, and identifying the appropriate digital platform to ensure sustained engagement with potential consumers and customers.
- Content creators who want to monetize their products must have a strategy and a vision. It is equally important to be well networked as well, having many followers on social media is not enough.
- Concerning disinformation and misinformation, it is essential to have credible and reputable news sources in order to limit the effects of misinformation and disinformation, particularly during the time of COVID-19. That is why it is essential to support a free and credible press in Congo and Congolese diaspora communities to ensure that untruths are not spread.



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CLOSING REMARKS

DR. ALAIN MUKWEGE, PANZI FOUNDATION USA

The Panzi Hospital and Foundation, based in Bukavu, DRC, was founded by Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Dr. Denis Mukwege. Since 1999, Dr. Mukwege and his staff have helped to care for more than 50,000 survivors of sexual violence. His son, Dr. Alain Mukwege, is an advisory board member of Panzi Foundation USA and leads various initiatives and partnerships in the organization.

Key Takeaways:

- The Panzi Foundation mission is to help survivors of sexual violence get the healing, justice, community, and future they deserve.
- The Congolese government cannot address all of these challenges alone, it's important for Congolese in Congo and in the diaspora to be involved and help rebuild communities in eastern Congo impacted by decades of war.
- There are key tech-related challenges that the diaspora can help address and solve. They include:
 - Setting-up a health insurance system for those who are not able to pay for healthcare.
 - Building an e-commerce platform where the women of Panzi can sell their arts, crafts and other products online in Congo and internationally.
- The diaspora has a breadth of expertise in science, education, and business, and the Panzi Foundation welcomes anyone who would like to use their skills to support Congolese women who have been directly impacted by decades of conflict and violence.



Photo credit: Twitter, @alainmukwege

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HOST & MODERATORS

PROGRAM HOST AND PANEL 1 MODERATOR



Bileko Aziza Wissa Jr. is a stand-up comedian, actor, and producer based in Los Angeles, California. He produces “Da BlakOut Comedy Show”, “The Chains & Chaos Comedy Show”, “The Bantu Boyz Comedy Show”, and “The Bileko Wissa Show”— his very own show. He is a member of the all-Black improv team called “The BlackStreet Boyz” that performs monthly at Westside Comedy Theater. Bileko is also a club booker at The Hollywood Comedy, and he has made appearances on “Laugh with Africa!” on Amazon Prime and sketches on Jimmy Kimmel Live! He is currently working on his first feature film titled “B-Strokes SWAGGG: Da Movie” and is aiming for an early 2022 release. Most notably, he is the owner, producer, and co-creator of the Kitoko TV Network, a streaming service on Roku and Amazon Prime. He earned his Master’s Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Emphasis on HPV/HIV Coinfection) and another Master’s in Public Health (Emphasis on Urban Health Disparities) from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. He is also a graduate of California State University, Northridge. Bileko loves the Los Angeles Lakers and misses Kobe Bryant.



Dr. Kevin M. Ileka currently works as a research chemist in the Biopharmaceutical Industry and also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCHE). He is a STEM advocate and works towards diversifying the STEM workforce, both in academia and in industry. Through his passion for STEM, he wishes to empower the next generation of Congolese scientists to tackle the hard problems that the DRC faces today.

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PANEL 2 SUMMARY

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE DIASPORA

More professionals in the diaspora have embraced careers in entrepreneurship, both in the U.S. and the DRC. Pursuing this path requires risk-taking, having a strategy and vision, and grit. Developing a more favorable business ecosystem in the DRC specifically has been more challenging compared to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa—especially when considering the country's economic and human potential. Despite this reality, the diaspora support can help foster a business and entrepreneurial climate that minimizes the risk of doing business in the Congo by relying on its wealth of talent, ideas, and technological tools.

Key Takeaways:

- Pursuing entrepreneurship as a career path requires preparation and research, in addition to identifying mentors and peers that can provide support and counsel. Networking and continuing to hone one's skills through executive coaching services or other professional development programs can also be beneficial tools during the course of one's career.
- Failure and mistakes in business will be inevitable, and that is why it is important to learn lessons quickly and focus on moving on.
- Diaspora businesses that partner with established Congolese businesses can bring jobs of the future to Congo, which include tech jobs.
- As the scale of one's operation increases, identifying capable managers in DRC-based businesses is critical. Creating internship programs or other pipeline programs in Congo could be a viable solution to this issue. There also needs to be a balance between providing employees already in the pipeline with an opportunity to be successful, while also managing the very real risks and challenges of operating a business in the DRC.



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HOST & MODERATORS

FIRESIDE CHAT AND PANEL 2 MODERATOR



Gloria Nzeka is a communications professional with a background in Information Technology. Her substantive experience spans multimedia content production, science communication, and international development. She is an alumna of the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at Michigan State University.



Tshiunza Kalubi is the Deputy Executive Director for Leja Bulela Inc., a U.S.-based non-profit that owns and operates a health center in Kasai-Oriental. Tshiunza is a graduate of Miami University where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and Public Administration and received his Master of Arts in Real Estate Development and Planning from Saint Louis University.

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SPEAKERS: PANEL 1

SOCIAL WELFARE THROUGH TECH DISRUPTION



Faïka Mukendi is a Finance and Accounting professional in the tech industry, an advocate of the recruitment, retention, and advancement of Blacks, Africans, and minorities—with a passion for moving Africa forward. Faïka embarked on her career at The Boeing Company in a Business Rotation Program, delivering in FP&A Sales Finance, contract management of Government aerospace programs, and FinOps in Boeing's Test and Evaluation, where she coached engineers in understanding the financials behind airplane programs. She then moved on to The Microsoft Corporation as Finance Manager for the Devices organization, where she delivered business process improvement initiatives to launch new devices; she completed her time at Microsoft as an Audit Manager. In 2019, Faïka joined Google as a Senior Accountant and is now the Racial Equity Go-to-Market Program Manager under Google's HR Strategy & Innovation organization which implements its Racial Equity commitments. Faïka is Co-Lead of the Global Africans at Google employee resource group, supporting efforts to increase Google's engagement with Africa; she is also a member of the corporate fundraising team for CDIS.



Vanessa Serao Sakina is an entrepreneur, software engineer, and project lead at Spotify. She has experience working in higher education, holds a BS degree in computer science from Middle Tennessee State University, and is passionate about science and technology. At Spotify, she works on the HomeUX squad, which focuses on enhancing the user experience of the mobile home page, ensuring users can seamlessly interact with changes and consume content from Home. Her team was recognized as the "Team of the Month" in June 2021, for being the mastermind behind the personalization of the Spotify homepage. Vanessa strives to use her knowledge and skills to draw more Africans and girls in STEM through her nonprofit, Safari Mu Tech (Journey into tech). Through Safari Mu Tech, she envisions a Congo and Africa where the youth from any horizon can harness the power of tech to solve problems. This is best exemplified through her recent summer boot-camp, teaching programming to orphaned children in Kinshasa for 6 weeks.

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SPEAKERS: PANEL 1

SOCIAL WELFARE THROUGH TECH DISRUPTION



Jose Zefu Kimpalou is an experienced global life sciences management consultant with a specific focus on MedTech and BioTech where he gained expertise in different areas, working in the EMEA and US regions. As a former industry product specialist, consultant and big four executive, he has experience working with early-stage startups and global corporations (up to Fortune 100) in deploying their cutting-edge innovation by delivering the desired technical expertise, project/program management, business process improvement, and cross-functional leadership to leverage and advance the organization's objectives. Jose is co-founder and partner at KCG LLC, member of the board of directors at Congo Leadership Institute, and also engaged in various ventures in the U.S. and Africa.



Paul Mponzi, originally from the DRC, migrated to the USA over 20 years ago. He is a graduate of West Virginia University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in computer engineering with a minor in computer science. He started his career working initially as a system engineer and then later on as a database administrator for a Fortune 500 company. Paul is a Microsoft Certified IT Professional focused on Big Data and Business Intelligence, with a demonstrated history working in the Software Development and Managed Services industry. In 2007, he started his own technology company, TCE Global Inc., which provides IT consulting services to small & medium businesses as well as large enterprises across the U.S., Canada, and internationally. Paul is a mentor and advisor to young entrepreneurs in the US and DRC, and he's an active board member for several startups.

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SPEAKERS: BREAKOUT ROOM 1

VENTURE CAPITAL & FINTECH: ACCESS TO CAPITAL



George Kibala Bauer is Senior Advocacy and Insights Manager in the GSMA's Digital Utilities Program. The GSMA represents mobile operators worldwide, and its Mobile for Development department drives innovation in digital technology to reduce global inequalities. Within Mobile for Development, the Digital Utilities Program supports urban resilience in low- and middle-income countries by enabling access to essential utility services through digital solutions. George's responsibilities include developing and managing strategic partnerships, conducting research on the role of digital innovations in improving service provision in low- and middle-income countries, supporting African and Asian start-ups in the utilities space in their journey to scale, and representing the Digital Utilities Program at a range of external events. Prior to joining the GSMA, he gained experience in economic research, development finance, consulting, and government affairs. George holds an MSc in International Economic Policy from Sciences Po Paris, a BA in Economics from McGill University, as well as certificates on infrastructure finance, impact evaluation, and urban planning. He's also an On-Deck Climate Tech Fellow, and contributes to IntelCongo, a platform for opinion and analysis on the DRC.



Thony Ngumbu is the co-founder and CEO of Mwinda Technologies, a U.S. company that offers clean energy and financial technology solutions to address the lack of reliable electricity and financial inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa, starting with the DRC. Thony is also a Managing Partner at Genesis Ventures LLC, an investment strategy and business development firm, working to connect international private capital to investment opportunities in Africa while contributing to the socio-economic development of the continent. The firm targets sectors such as energy, agribusiness, mining, and import-export. Thony is a U.S. Army veteran who served honorably while earning his airborne paratrooper wings and several recognition awards. Thony also gained professional experience as an analyst in the U.S. telecom sector and as a Senior Director for an international NGO that operated in 13 countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean. A native of the DRC, Thony speaks French, English, Swahili, Kikongo, Lingala, some Spanish, and is currently learning Mandarin. Thony holds a B.S. in Economics and Political Science from the University of Houston, and an MBA from Rice University.

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SPEAKERS: BREAKOUT ROOM 1

VENTURE CAPITAL & FINTECH: ACCESS TO CAPITAL



Ntambwa Basambombo has been a software engineer at Airbnb for the last five years, during which worked on Search, Payment, Luxe, and other teams. Prior to Airbnb, he worked at Luxury Retreats, a startup that got acquired by Airbnb. Outside of Airbnb, Ntambwa is also the Managing Partner at LumumbaLab, a non-profit that fights for tech literacy in Congo. He's also an investor in various agricultural projects in the DRC.

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SPEAKERS: BREAKOUT ROOM 2

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY



Fred Bauma is a democracy activist and member of the group La Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA), a non-violent civil society movement working for social justice and democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Fred is renowned for his work encouraging young people to create a better future through political participation and social entrepreneurship. He currently works as Research Director of the Congo Research Group, a research project based at the Center of International Cooperation at New York University. Following Fred's participation in a peaceful political event, he was arrested and jailed in Kinshasa in March 2015. After an international campaign of media pressure led by Amnesty International, Fred was freed 18 months later. Considered to be one of the leading exponents of non-violent politics in Africa today, Fred is still working with LUCHA and other movements in Africa and is engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at making known the political situation in the DRC. Fred received Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award in 2016.



Liz Kimbulu was born in the DRC and immigrated to the U.S. at a young age. She is currently attending the NYU School of Professional Studies to obtain a Masters in Integrated Marketing and is an alumna of Baruch College. She consults on social media and digital strategy, and has worked with platforms such as Global Beauty Care, HEAR Congo, ElewaTv, and much more. In 2019, she founded BISONABISO, a media and events platform highlighting and celebrating the many intersections between the African Diaspora and Congolese culture, heritage, and people. BISONABISO hosts the inaugural Congolese Women's Forum and other events to bring people together for collaboration, cultural exchange, and connection. Recently, they premiered a Docuseries called Kinshasa by Locals, which explores the complexities of living and thriving in Kinshasa.

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SPEAKERS: FIRESIDE CHAT

CONGOLESE INFLUENCING CULTURE, SPORTS & MEDIA



Sarah M. Kazadi is an Emmy-award winning journalist and producer born in the DRC and raised in New York City. Prior to being a Feature Producer at ESPN's "The Undefeated," Sarah produced short documentaries and features for ESPN's storytelling show "E60." Sarah's work has been featured in the New York Times, The Guardian, and Newsweek, among other news outlets. Her work covers an array of topics, such as mental health, culture, politics and sports. Sarah is passionate about covering demographics that are historically excluded and misrepresented, and telling sports stories that go beyond the game. She has traveled all over the world chasing stories worth telling. In 2020, she was part of The Undefeated team that produced an Emmy-nominated special on the relationship between law enforcement and the Black American community, through an athlete's lens. Her latest feature highlights Cameroonian NBA star Joel Embiid's journey into fatherhood. Sarah is currently working on a film and longform article on Bryce Gowdy, a Deerfield Beach High School football player who died by suicide in December 2019. The story delves into his mother's incredible strength, and his entire community's push towards mental wellness.



Adolophine Lukabu Sheely is from the DRC and grew up in Kinshasa. As the daughter of a diplomat, Adolophine has traveled to many countries and developed a zealous interest in philanthropy, languages and cultures. Adolophine's diverse background and ability to speak six languages fluently gives her the flexibility and understanding to bridge gaps between different cultures. Adolophine has always had a love for commerce, design and fashion. Her mother, Georgette, bought goods in Europe and then sold them in the markets of Kinshasa. "The colors, sound and energy of the markets in Kinshasa are a part of my soul," she says. Growing up, Adolophine was surrounded by strong women who ran their own business. It has always been a dream of hers to follow in their footsteps. She founded Adolophine, an African luxury brand founded in 2018, and, the company sources and designs authentic luxury African goods by partnering up with artisans in countries across Africa.

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SPEAKERS: FIRESIDE CHAT

CONGOLESE INFLUENCING CULTURE, SPORTS & MEDIA



John Nyembo is a basketball coach and teacher in Dallas, TX. He is the founder and visionary of D.R. Congo Basketball (DRCB), an organization dedicated to the development of Congolese basketball. Coach Nyembo is passionate about Congo and the game of basketball. Through his basketball and educational initiatives, he hopes to play an important part in developing the next generation of basketball players in the DRC. For the last 10 years, he has been training Congolese high school and college athletes living in Canada, and the U.S. DRCB also provides resources to Congolese coaches such as training, financial support, and equipment for the basketball community. DRCB has provided educational opportunities to over 20 Congolese high schools students through exposure to establish prep schools in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. It hopes to build DRC Elite Academy, a boarding school that will offer student-athletes an integrated academic and athletic experience in Kinshasa, DRC. John believes he can use basketball to assist the country on a social-economic level.



Roger Muntu is a radio and television personality of the popular "RM Show" radio program and "Vous et Nous" TV program. Roger's daily hour-long show features music and interesting chat with some of the region's most notable musicians, actors, politicians, and other celebrities. He mixes light and serious subjects to excite listeners, who participate extensively through calls, emails, Facebook posts, and SMS messages every day. Prior to joining VOA in 2012, he worked as an international freelance correspondent for several international media outlets and a Media Technologies teacher in Fairfax County Schools. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems Technology, with a minor in Communications, and an MBA specialized in leadership. Roger is often interviewed by international media on various issues. When people in francophone Africa are asked to name their favorite VOA show, usually the first answer is: "RM Show!" His first break into radio came with Voice of America. He is a radio personality that has a unique style and sensibility, he produces, and he is the presenter of his own show the RM SHOW "The Roger Muntu Show." The Roger Muntu show is a daily show which showcases the music of different genres: Caribbean music, African, R&B, and a comedy segment, as well as a weekly conversation with listeners on social issues.

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SPEAKERS: PANEL 2

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE DIASPORA



Tomisi Kikama is the co-founder of UjengoLab, a recently launched Technology and Development Company Based in DRC with partnerships in Kenya and the U.S. In addition to UjengoLab, Tomisi is also a partner for Okapi Mobile, a technology started by Professor Jean Bele from Boston, MA, with a footprint in Kinshasa and future plans to develop manufacturing capabilities in DRC. Tomisi is also a financial services executive with over 10 years of experience in Strategy, Operations, and Management in the Insurance Industry.



Gisèle Mutoba Kalonzo-Douglas, Esq. is an attorney with 16 years of cumulative experience as a trusted advisor to executive management teams on risk mitigation, ethics and compliance, litigation, and corporate governance. Currently, Gisèle is the General Counsel and Director of Business Affairs to Bethel Gospel Assembly Inc., an international religious corporation based in New York City. In this role, Gisèle guides the leadership team in the identification and mitigation of risk, ensuring adherence with applicable laws and regulations governing tax-exempt and religious corporations and providing oversight over its growing real estate portfolio valued at over \$100 million. Gisèle also serves as Senior Editorial Advisor to “Church, Law and Tax” which engages over 4.5 million Christian leaders worldwide and provides critical content and practical solutions on important issues pertinent to religious and tax- exempt organizations. Gisèle was previously a criminal defense attorney for a prominent firm in New York City where she represented clients in a variety of cases, from white-collar crimes to homicides, and litigated in state and federal courts.

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SPEAKERS: PANEL 2

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE DIASPORA



Thierry Tubajika is the Founder and Managing Director of Swift Tax & Accounting Services and Fly243.com, based in Atlanta, GA. Thierry holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Georgia State University, followed by 15 years of starting and managing various businesses. This work has helped him understand the challenges and opportunities that small businesses can tap into in building self-sustaining enterprises. The breadth of global experience has taught Thierry how to better understand the local perspectives in transacting business. As an Entrepreneur, Advisor, and Business Builder, Thierry has been able to promote growth in the food industry, Travel Sector, and in Tourism. He has been able to travel globally to places such as China, Brazil, Singapore, Kenya, South Africa, and many other European countries which have honed his skills as a Strategist, Innovator, Marketer, and Manager.

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STEERING COMMITTEE

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Patrick Dielubanza



Joëlle Kabisoso



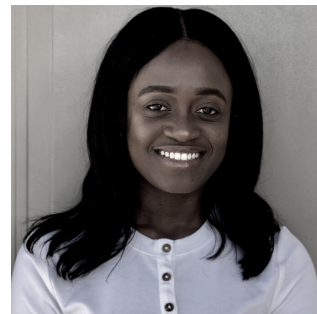
Masisa Dombolo



Muyumba Kalubi



Salima Etoka



Lydie Kiama Matu

Additional Members Featured in the Program:

Tomisi Kikama

Kevin Ileka

Tshiunza Kalubi

Faika Mukendi

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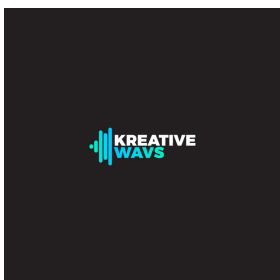
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