



Conference Concept Note

First Annual Africa's Conference on Social Entrepreneurship (AACOSE)

Theme: Social Enterprises; Engine of Africa's Socio-Economic Transformation

Date: 22nd to 23rd September 2017

Venue:

Tangaza University College, Langata South Road, Karen

1.1 Introduction to the Conference

Africa is experiencing a rapid growth of social enterprises. The rate of innovative ventures that provide sustainable solutions to Africa's problems is astounding. The social entrepreneurs behind social businesses that are transforming lives of the people in communities are the leaders of a new socio-economic order. However, there is still much to learn from the social enterprises and transformative impact that their ventures are having on the people and the society just to mention a few.

There are many actors that interplay in fostering the growth of social enterprises in Africa. The academic institutions, the financial institutions (banks, insurance companies, funding agencies etc), incubations, venture capitalists, and angel investors.

We believe that the future of Africa's sustainable socio-economic development will be greatly influenced by social enterprises that are providing solutions which positively impacts the lives of the people. We believe also that, social entrepreneurship, commonly referred to as the third sector, others being the public and private, will play a significant role in meeting the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the AU, sustenance of the UN Agenda 2030 and achievement of socioeconomic pillars of Kenya's Vision 2030.

It is timely, therefore, to generate discussions about the evolving social enterprises ecosystem. Various studies have delimited themselves to factors hindering the growth of social enterprises. We need to focus on the paradigm shift toward sustainable solutions of the problems social entrepreneurs face and with it a strategy to implement those solutions.

The conference on social entrepreneurship is therefore organized to foster the interaction between all the key actors that can contribute to creating more favorable conditions for the

growth of sustainable social enterprises in Africa. This conference is organized by Tangaza University College in collaboration with organizations that play a major role in shaping the social entrepreneurship eco-system in Kenya.

Tangaza University College is an academic institution that provides competence based training to social entrepreneurs through our MBA Global Business and Sustainability Social Entrepreneurship Track. Over the last six years, Tangaza University College has trained over 500 social entrepreneurs who are impacting and transforming the lives of people.

1.2 Goal of the conference

This conference will create an interface between social entrepreneurs, academicians, funding/financial institutions and other organizations that contribute to shaping the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa. The goal is to channel the energy of all the actors so that they can positively influence the growth of social enterprises in Africa.

1.3 Conference Objectives

1. Provide an opportunity for the social entrepreneurs to share their transformative initiatives;
2. Demonstrate how social enterprises are contributing to the positive transformation of the lives of people;
3. Discuss the role of the actors that contribute to shaping the social enterprise ecosystem;
4. Determine the factor that will contribute to creating favorable environment for the growth of social enterprise in Africa.

1.4 Thematic areas

The conference will focus on the followings thematic areas

1. Disruptive Innovations and Social Enterprises Ecosystem
2. Role of Academic institutions and accelerators in Social Enterprises in Africa
3. Innovative models of financing and funding social enterprises in Africa
4. Role of State and non-state actors in the legal framework and policies for Social Enterprises
5. Gender, Youth and Social Entrepreneurship in Africa
6. Role of Social Enterprises in SDG Implementation and realization

To wrap up the conference, the second day afternoon will be a discussion on- **Is Social Entrepreneurship the Key for Unlocking Africa's Development?**

1.5 The Conference Methodology

The conference will have four important aspects

1. The experience of social entrepreneurs who are transforming life and shaping the ecosystem in Africa
2. Experts in social enterprise inputs in Africa
3. Presentation of key researches on social enterprises
4. Panel discussion with key actors who interface in the ecosystem

1.6 The Conference Target Groups

1. Public Sector
2. Youth & Women
3. Private Sector, Corporate, Big and Medium Organizations (BMO) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

4. Academic institutions-Universities & higher learning institutions
5. The financial institutions and funding agencies
6. Social Entrepreneurs & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society organizations (CSOs)
7. Foundations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Grassroots Actors

1.7 Why Attend and Participate at the Conference?

The conference will attract social entrepreneurs, investors, financial institutions, funding agencies, and academicians in the field of social entrepreneurship in Africa. A total of 400 participants are expected at the conference. This will give the participants an opportunity for networking.

1.8 Conference Sponsorship and Exhibition

The conference organizers have invited sponsors and organizations to exhibit their products. Exhibiting at the *First Annual Africa's Conference on Social Entrepreneurship* gives your organization the opportunity to:

- i. Show case your products and services to over 400 key participants, policy makers, funders and decision-makers.
- ii. Share/deliver exciting product and service demonstrations with other industry players
- iii. Plug into the sustainable development space and the changing networks on growth and sustainability of enterprises.
- iv. Your brand will be eminently feature in the final book of the conference.

The benefits of sponsoring the conference will:

- i. Offer an opportunity for presentation by one of your organization member
- ii. Form part of the panelists

This in return will give high visibility and exposure on the emerging ideas on business opportunities in Africa, enhanced brand recognition, excellent networking opportunities, great interactions with entrepreneurs of leading business, development and governance leaders focused on shaping the next generation of social enterprises. You will become part of the team working on making global goals into local business opportunities.

1.9 Conference Outcomes

The conference will contribute to creating a positive environment for the rapid growth of social enterprises in Africa. The interaction between different players, state and non-state actors in the field of entrepreneurship will help create more synergy and better support for the social enterprises. The conference could also propose policies that will influence the state for full inclusion of social enterprises. The various entrepreneurs' experiences shared during the conference and presentations will be included in a book that will be published on social entrepreneurship in Africa.

The conference will seek to answer the question: **IS SOCIAL ENTEPRENEURSHIP THE KEY TO UNLOCKING AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT?**