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The Review of Young African Leaders - March 2024

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Quarterly publication

diasporafrique

Meet-Up

**DR. JEAN
PHILIPPE
AKPOUÈ**

"Contribute to Africa's development
with my rich international experience"

FROM NOFI TO GRIOKIDS



Christian Dzellat-Nkoussou
launches Griokids

Exclusive Interview

M. JACQUES MBAZOMO

Former Head of France & Europe, Country Manager of
Camair-Co The visionary of aviation and management in Africa

**THE AFRICAN BUSINESS CLUB
HOSTS THE PRESIDENT OF GHANA**

H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo engages
with African youth in Paris



**CHARITY GALA ORGANIZED BY
THE ELIT CLUB**

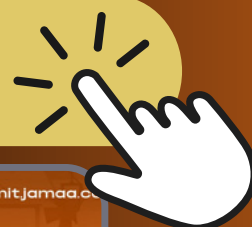
Tidjane Thiam, guest of honor,
addresses the youth

Exclusive • CAN 2023

THE INVESTORS & ENTREPRENEURS EXPO ON MAY 25-26, 2024. LOCATION: LES PYRAMIDES, PARIS



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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Ex Head France & Europe, Country Manager Camair-Co

Discover the inspiring story of Mr. Mbazomo, former Head of France & Europe and Country Manager of Camair-Co, the Cameroonian airline, in our latest issue.

Delve into his remarkable professional journey, challenges, achievements, and insights into the future of the aviation industry. A captivating narrative not to be missed for enthusiasts of leadership and aviation.



25 | LEADERS AND YOUTH TO FOLLOW

Following in the footsteps of
Isabelle Zongo

Discover our new section highlighting 12 inspiring leaders and 12 individuals to follow in the African diaspora.

Influential figures shaping the future of their communities and deserving of your attention. Stay tuned for captivating profiles and inspiring stories!



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diasporafrique



Marc Affre
Editor-in-Chief

Rahena Dosso
Editor

Diasporafrique is an initiative of 1000Dreamers, a community of Africans on the continent and in its diaspora whose mission is to transform Africa through small steps, through impactful projects.

Bridging the gap between the african continent and its diaspora

Diaspora et Afrique positions itself as the essential cultural and social link between the African continent and its diaspora. Through enriching articles, we will explore historical connections, contemporary achievements, and shared challenges, thereby creating a space for dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration.

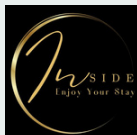
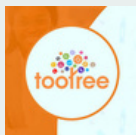
Shining a spotlight on entrepreneurial african youth

Au cœur de notre mission réside la volonté de propulser la jeunesse africaine sur la scène internationale. Diaspora et Afrique mettra en lumière les talents émergents, les initiatives inspirantes et les perspectives novatrices de la jeunesse africaine, offrant ainsi une plateforme dynamique pour les voix prometteuses de demain.

Spotlighting small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

In the pages of Diaspora et Afrique, we will showcase small businesses that form the vibrant economic fabric of the continent. Through detailed reports, we will explore inspiring stories, overcome challenges, and well-deserved successes of local entrepreneurs, thus offering a valuable platform to these essential actors in the African economy.

Partnerships



Editorial



Encountering inspiring leadership in Africa and its diaspora

In the bustling streets of African cities, a wind of change is blowing, carried by a new generation of dynamic and visionary leaders. In a constantly evolving world, where challenges abound and opportunities are endless, these young pioneers embody the hope and promise of a better future for Africa and its diaspora.

In the pages of *Diaspora et Afrique*, we are proud to spotlight these new faces of African leadership. They are the architects of tomorrow, the artisans of the social and economic transformation of our continent. Their dedication, creativity, and commitment inspire African youth to dream big and pursue their aspirations with boldness and determination.

In this issue, we invite you to discover these exceptional young leaders, whose diverse backgrounds and impressive achievements are a source of inspiration for us all. From entrepreneurship to social activism, and from the arts to technology, they push the boundaries of innovation and open new paths towards a bright future for Africa.

Through exclusive interviews and in-depth reports, we shed light on the inspiring stories of these young leaders, who defy norms, break barriers, and change the world in their own way. Their passion, courage, and resilience serve as a powerful reminder of the unlimited potential of African youth.

Through *Diasporafrrique*, we are committed to shining a spotlight on these exceptional young leaders who have distinguished themselves through their dedication to our communities. Whether through philanthropic projects, local development initiatives, or advocacy efforts, these young leaders embody the values of solidarity and responsibility towards others. Their work has a tangible impact on our communities, improving the lives of those around them and paving the way for a more promising future for all.

In this era of transformation and renewal, it is time for the African youth to rise up and take their place in the world. Through education, innovation, and community action, we can build a future where every young African can realize their full potential and contribute to the progress of our continent.

Together, let us embrace this new wave of leadership and inspire the African youth to tackle the challenges of the 21st century with confidence and determination. For it is through unity and solidarity that we will forge a better future for us all.

Marc Affre
Editor-in-Chief





PARCOURS INSPIRANTS



SAVE THE DATE

25 **AVRIL**
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SOFITEL ABIDJAN
HOTEL IVOIRE

“ —

The Country Risk Conferences aim to establish the investment risk mapping of a given country based on a country risk report prepared by Bloomfield.

Exclusive Interview

M. JACQUES MBAZOMO

Former Head of France & Europe, Country Manager of Camair-Co

The visionary of aviation and management in Africa



The visionary of aviation and management

It is with great pleasure that we have the opportunity to interview a distinguished leader in the business world, Mr. Jacques Mbazomo. With his experience as the former Head of France & Europe and Country Manager at Camair-Co, Mr. Mbazomo embodies excellence in the aviation and management sectors. His impressive career and unmatched expertise make him an essential figure, whose insights are invaluable for understanding the challenges and opportunities in the aviation industry today.

By Rahena Dosso

*Vol inaugural de la première
compagnie aérienne
Camerounaise...*

*Inaugural flight of the first airline
company of Cameroon...*



Let's dive into the dynamic world of aviation with CAMAIR CO, the proud flag carrier of Cameroon. Founded by presidential decree in September 2006, this airline embodies the innovative and resilient spirit of the country. Its history is deeply rooted in the transformation of the industry since the days of Cameroon Airlines, established in July 1971 after the dissolution of the founding treaty of Air Afrique in 1961.

At the heart of this aviation saga lies Mr. Jacques Mbazomo, a true protagonist whose journey within Cameroon Airlines since 1981 is a tale of challenges overcome and opportunities seized. His ascent to the highest echelons of the company, against all odds, intrigues and inspires. How did he orchestrate this transformation? What valuable lessons can be gleaned from his leadership for African youth? These are the captivating questions that this interview aims to answer.

Can you tell us about your beginnings in the company?

My entry into Cameroon Airlines since March 1, 1983, through a competitive exam, was motivated by a personal challenge: to represent my country, Cameroon, with dignity on the international stage. I still remember with emotion the numerous challenges we had to overcome. As the showcase of the Cameroonian state, Cameroon Airlines operated almost like an embassy, and our professional paths were often influenced by political considerations, which sometimes gave the impression that promotions were not always deserved.

However, I chose to remain patient and professional, which eventually caught the attention of my superiors. I started humbly in the ticketing department, a task that required meticulous attention, especially at a time when transactions were done manually and with the help of computers. My diligence and rigor were rewarded with successive promotions, until I found myself in charge of logistics. I was tasked with managing sensitive issues such as the handling and loading of presidential flights as well as other missions entrusted to me by senior authorities.

Imagine the titanic challenges of managing the logistics of an airline, relying primarily on notebooks and booklets. We had to demonstrate extreme rigor to ensure the smooth operation of each operation.

How do you manage to stand out in this highly political environment?

As I mentioned earlier, my commitment to excellence in all my tasks was motivated by a deep sense of patriotism. I always made sure to do my job well, constantly seeking to learn and train in all areas of the airline industry. During my weekends, I didn't hesitate to lend a hand to other teams, whether it was those in charge of stopovers or others, which allowed me to acquire a thorough knowledge of

every aspect of our business. In a way, I became a true "firefighter", called upon to intervene as soon as a problem arose, ready to extinguish any fire threatening our operation.

**Interview realized
by Rahena Dosso**





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This proactive and dedicated attitude did not go unnoticed in the upper echelons of my country. I couldn't say exactly who recommended me, but I was gradually entrusted with managing sensitive files. Of course, this sparked rumors that I had been favored by relationships or recommendations, but the reality is that it was my commitment, competence, and availability that opened these doors for me.

What are the main leadership lessons you draw from your journey?

My journey in the airline industry has provided me with a unique perspective on the fundamental principles of leadership, unfolding at several crucial levels: those of employees, customers, and other industry stakeholders.

Firstly, concerning customers, it is essential to offer them a seamless travel experience, focusing on trust and continuous improvement. At Cameroon Airlines, I initiated a revolution by rethinking our booking process. Instead of confining ourselves to traditional agencies, I took the initiative to directly engage with Cameroonian associations abroad, thus facilitating bookings and tailoring our services to their specific needs. This innovative approach strengthened the trust relationship with our customers and helped forge a common identity, that of an airline that belongs to them and is dedicated to serving them.

This experience has taught me the importance of humility, transparency, and professionalism in every interaction with customers. At the same time, leadership within the staff also requires special attention. In times of crisis, it is crucial to reassure employees, lead by example, and have a thorough understanding of the system at all times. I remember the nights spent managing delicate situations, whether it was delayed flights, aircraft grounded for financial reasons, or disgruntled passengers.

Finally, in the industrial landscape, continuous innovation is the key to maintaining sustainable leadership. Offering new solutions and rethinking logistics are imperatives to stay ahead. If you're looking for a dynamic leadership school, I encourage you to turn to the transportation industry, and more specifically to the aviation sector. That's where invaluable leadership expertise is forged.

Pourriez-vous nous partager un fait marquant, une anecdote au cours de votre riche carrière ?

Allow me to share a significant episode from my journey within this airline, an adventure that embodies the bold vision of Cameroonian authorities who chose to entrust the reins of our company to local talents. It was a courageous decision, especially for a nascent enterprise like ours, facing typical challenges of the aviation sector, with creditors and tight deadlines to meet.

Between administrative procedures from Yaoundé, the seat of institutions, and Douala, the headquarters of the company, to financial settlements in Paris, we had to juggle with sometimes delicate procedures, especially those initiated in France by our creditors. It is important to understand that major international airports, such as Roissy where I worked, operate as separate entities, with their own administration. At Roissy, for example, a Prefect and a Deputy Prefect were specifically assigned to handle airport affairs.

One day, during one of these administrative procedures, the prefect of Roissy made derogatory remarks about our Cameroonian company, questioning our ability to manage an airline and even suggesting its transfer to other actors. We were already facing considerable pressures in a sometimes hostile environment. Faced with this new attack, I reacted firmly, demanding apologies and reminding them of the determination of our two heads of state to make our company thrive.

By taking a stand and threatening to escalate the incident to higher levels, I obtained sincere apologies from the prefect, who then handled the situation more professionally by collaborating with my station manager and myself. We eventually resolved the disputes and resumed our activities, strengthened by this experience that illustrated our determination and ability to defend our company in the face of adversity.

What are the current opportunities and challenges in the aviation sector in Africa?

I'll start with the challenges. The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on the aviation sector in Africa, with a decrease in passenger traffic of over 90%. This situation has put considerable financial pressure on airlines and slowed down growth.

Airport and ground transportation infrastructure in Africa is often inadequate, hindering the development of the aviation sector. Massive investments are needed to improve these infrastructures and meet the growing demand.

To compete with the best globally, African airlines need to overcome fierce competition from foreign carriers. This requires improving operational efficiency and cost optimization.

As for the opportunities, Africa's rapidly growing population and expanding middle class present a significant market for air travel. There is immense potential for airlines to tap into this market by expanding routes and services.

Moreover, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents opportunities for increased trade and economic growth, which could lead to greater demand for air travel and cargo services.

Additionally, advancements in technology offer opportunities for airlines to improve efficiency, enhance customer experience, and reduce costs through innovations such as digitalization, data analytics, and sustainable aviation technologies.

In summary, while the aviation sector in Africa faces significant challenges, there are also opportunities for growth and development, particularly with the continent's economic potential and technological advancements.

To address these challenges, we can capitalize on several opportunities. With Africa emerging as the new center of the world, there is an unprecedented opportunity to reinvent modes of transportation, especially in remote areas where accessibility is limited. Despite the current challenges, the future of aviation in Africa remains promising. Demographic and economic growth offer tremendous potential for the expansion of the aviation sector in the region. While the COVID-19 crisis has certainly led to a sharp decline in air traffic, it has also created latent demand. As the health situation improves, we can expect a robust recovery in aviation activity.

What advice can you give to young Africans to succeed in their international careers ?

It is crucial to invest in continuous education to acquire and develop skills that will be useful throughout one's career. These skills become valuable assets that accompany us in all aspects of our work.

In an ever-evolving sector, mastering new technologies is crucial. This allows one to stay competitive and meet the changing needs of the industry.

In the aviation sector, anticipation is the golden rule. Predicting future needs and anticipating challenges ensures the safety and security of passengers and personnel. All equipment, from slides to airplanes, has a lifespan or limit. Preventive maintenance is essential to ensure the proper functioning and safety of equipment.

Providing exceptional service quality is crucial for customer loyalty. Customer satisfaction is a key element of success in the aviation sector. International standards must be respected to maintain the credibility and reputation of the company. This includes compliance with safety and security regulations.



Working in aviation requires a love of travel and openness to different cultures. Managers must generate interest in the profession and be willing to meet new people in diverse environments.

How can young Africans contribute to the development of the aerospace industry and Africa more broadly?

African youth holds immense potential to contribute to the development of Africa and the aerospace industry. They will be the catalysts for the modernization and economic emergence of the continent. Currently, the aerospace industry faces a major challenge: an imminent shortage of qualified personnel as the current workforce ages. It is therefore imperative for young Africans to prepare themselves now to fill these crucial positions in the future.

My advice is simple: educate yourselves and be ready to take over from the aging workforce. African airlines are grappling with challenges of knowledge and skills transfer, and it is crucial for the new generation to prepare to take up these key roles. Professional training and seeking specialized skills in the aviation field are essential to ensure a qualified and competent workforce.

Furthermore, communication plays a vital role in the development of the aerospace industry in Africa. Young Africans should be encouraged to share their ideas, innovations, and perspectives to contribute to the evolution and continuous improvement of the sector. Initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration between industry players, academic institutions, and young professionals are also crucial to fostering an environment conducive to innovation and growth.

Young Africans have a fundamental role to play in the development of the aerospace industry and Africa as a whole. By educating themselves, actively preparing to tackle future challenges, and contributing to communication and innovation within the sector, they can truly become agents of change and drivers of progress for the continent.

What are your future plans, and how do you intend to share your expertise and inspire younger generations?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for this enriching interview and for your pertinent question. The issue of knowledge transmission is of paramount importance to me, which is why I have embarked on a book project aimed at democratizing access to the aviation sector, so that it is no longer reserved for a privileged elite. This book will be a collection of fascinating anecdotes, a true dive into the history of aviation, from its beginnings to its most recent developments, including key moments such as the advent of radar and the unfolding of a flight, aspects often unknown to the general public. In short, it will be a book aimed at familiarizing everyone, even from primary school, with access to the sector.

I wish Diaspora and Africa all the success it deserves, as it fills an essential gap and brings new energy to serve our community. Its unique positioning and dynamism are valuable assets for advancing initiatives and serving our fellow citizens to the best of our ability.

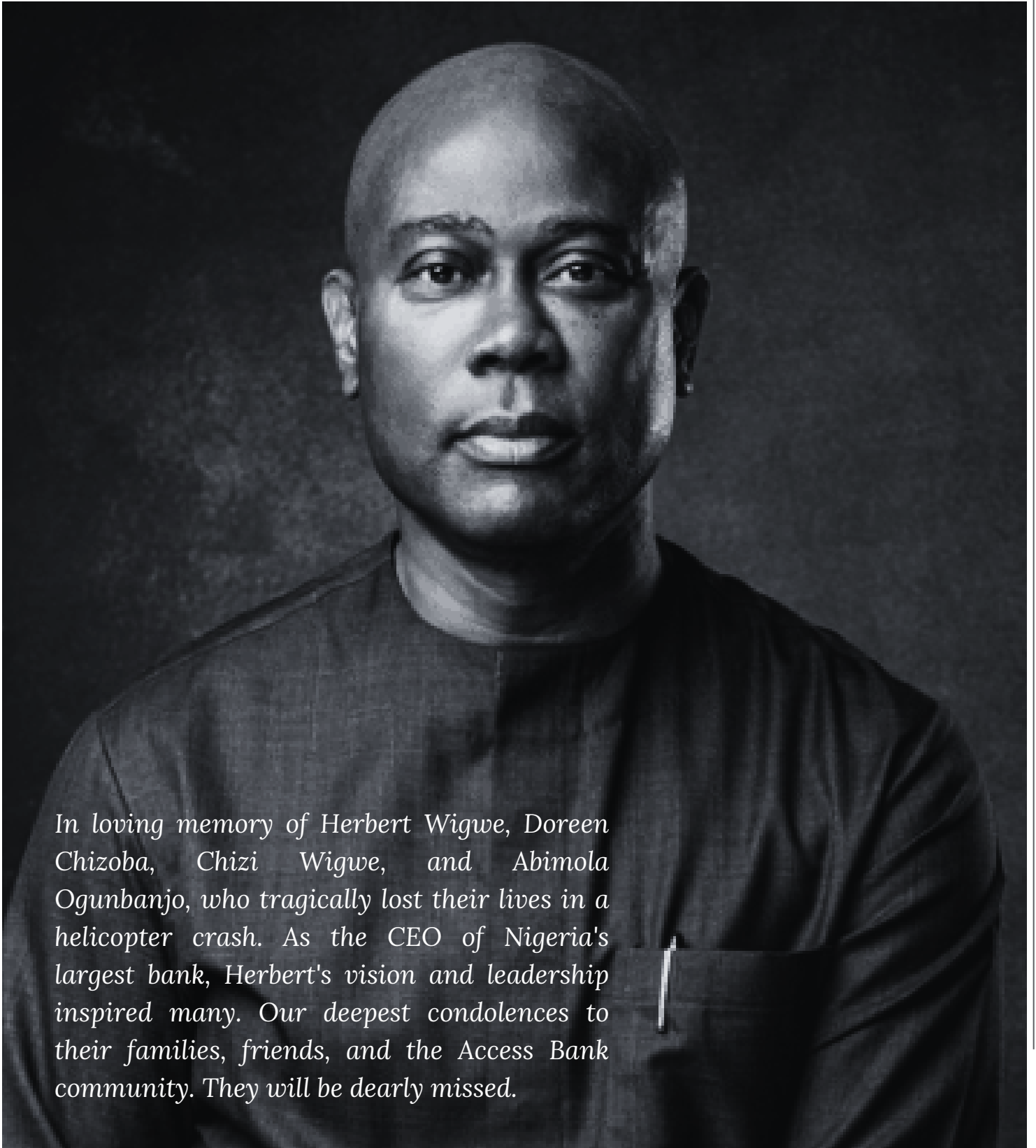


TRANSFORMATION OF CASSAVA IN RURAL AREAS



1000 Dreamers: transforming Africa one step at a time

HERBERT WIGWE



In loving memory of Herbert Wigwe, Doreen Chizoba, Chizi Wigwe, and Abimola Ogunbanjo, who tragically lost their lives in a helicopter crash. As the CEO of Nigeria's largest bank, Herbert's vision and leadership inspired many. Our deepest condolences to their families, friends, and the Access Bank community. They will be dearly missed.

AFIS 2023: Catalyzing the transformation of the african financial industry in Lomé, Togo

The third edition of the Africa Financial Industry Summit (AFIS) illuminated the city of Lomé in Togo from November 15th to 16th. Attracting nearly 1,000 leaders from the African financial world, this event proved to be a crucial platform for exchanges in a context marked by major sectoral disruptions and the emergence of new opportunities. Under the ambitious theme 'Building a World-Class African Financial Industry, a \$1.5 Trillion Opportunity,' AFIS 2023 was inaugurated by the President of Togo, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé. He expressed the opening of a new chapter, focusing on opportunities rather than crises, unlike the previous edition.



During these two days, participants addressed four major challenges: attracting African institutional investments to local capital markets, ensuring the free movement of capital and regulatory harmonization, promoting talent essential for digital transformation, and fostering innovation, particularly in areas such as climate finance and tokenization.

Ramatoulaye Goudiaby, director of AFIS, emphasized the need for innovation despite persistent challenges. 'Despite the multiple crises, despite solvency issues, despite declining profitability, African finance is innovating: we tokenize, we digitize. We cannot wait for the storm to pass. We are here to collectively reflect on solutions that will lead us to the disruption we all aspire to.'

Sergio Pimenta, Vice President for Africa at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), emphasized the importance of laying the groundwork for increased financing in a challenging international context.

He called on the financial sector to support the emergence of a more inclusive and connected Africa by addressing issues such as food security, access to housing, and energy transition.



The President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbé, also spoke in favor of reconsidering the financial ratings assigned to African countries by the international community. He emphasized the need for an increased role of the private sector in the development of African countries, while also highlighting the responsibility of states to reassure this sector.

AFIS 2023 witnessed major announcements, including a historic \$200 million risk-sharing agreement between Ecobank Group and the African Guarantee Fund. Another agreement, between Vista Bank Group and Proparco, resulted in a senior loan of €10 million and two portfolio guarantees, aimed at supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Guinea-Conakry.

This edition thus concluded on a positive note, offering a promising future for the African financial industry despite persistent challenges. AFIS continues to play a central role in catalyzing change and fostering the necessary collaboration to shape Africa's financial future.



"1000Dreamers" is propelling the attieke sector through high-impact projects.

Transforming cassava

For decades, Africa has been home to a dynamic and entrepreneurial diaspora, ready to invest in the development of its home continent. Today, a group of African investors, hailing from both the diaspora and the continent itself, has taken the initiative to catalyze economic change in Africa through high-impact projects. This group, stemming from the 1000Dreamers community, has created a fund that recently made headlines by financing attieke producers in Bingerville, a city located in Côte d'Ivoire.

Attieke, a traditional Ivorian dish made from fermented cassava, is a staple of West African cuisine. However, despite its regional popularity, the attieke sector has often faced challenges, particularly in terms of production and distribution. This is where the fund created by the Dreamers comes in, with an innovative approach to support and develop this crucial sector.

Led by passionate investors, this fund has a clear mission: to invest in initiatives that stimulate economic development while bringing about positive change in local communities. For Jean-Philippe Akpouè, this project holds deep personal significance.

Having grown up in a family where his mother was herself an attieke producer, he understands the challenges faced by local farmers and producers. His commitment to this activity goes beyond mere economic considerations; it is a family legacy that he wants to preserve and strengthen.

The Dreamers' initial investment in attieke producers in Bingerville has had an immediate and significant impact. Thanks to the technical assistance provided by trainers within the community, women producers have been able to improve their production process, thereby increasing their efficiency and yield.



Furthermore, by benefiting from the distribution network established by the community, they have been able to access new markets and expand their customer base, thereby increasing their income and financial autonomy.

But the impact of the Dreamers goes far beyond economic figures. By supporting initiatives like this one, the investment club helps strengthen local communities, create sustainable jobs, and promote women's empowerment. By investing in key sectors like attieke production, the CIA (Club d'Investissement Africain) helps to valorize local resources and stimulate grassroots economic development.

This project in Bingerville is just the beginning for the Club d'Investissement Africain. Building on its initial success, 1000Dreamers plans to expand its activities to other sectors and regions of the continent, with the ultimate goal of catalyzing inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Africa.

1000Dreamers embodies the vision and determination of a new generation of African entrepreneurs, determined to positively transform their continent. By supporting high-impact projects like the attieke producers in Bingerville, the Dreamers are paving the way for a more prosperous and equitable future for Africa and its people.

This initial success has paved the way for other similar initiatives, with members of the club actively involved in the development of the African transport company.

This ambitious venture aims not only to facilitate trade across the continent but also to bring together members of the diaspora and those on the continent around collaborative and innovative projects. The ongoing efforts to develop this company demonstrate 1000Dreamers' continued commitment to supporting economic development in Africa and creating sustainable opportunities for future generations.





D & A

diasporaafrique

Communauté



Excellence



Transformation



Dr. Jean-Philippe Akpouè is a young African leader, a member of the African diaspora, passionate about education, technological innovation, sustainable finance, and sustainable development in the broader sense.



MEET UP

Dr Jean Philippe AKPOUE

The inspiring journey of a young leader from the african diaspora dedicated to inclusive and accessible development for all.

In the dynamic landscape of young African talents emerges a prominent figure: Dr. Jean-Philippe Akpouè

Hailing from Yamoussoukro, the political capital of Côte d'Ivoire, Jean-Philippe embodies excellence and determination through a unique journey shaped by his education, perseverance, and passion for Africa's development.

Childhood: A Source of Determination and Inspiration

Born in the picturesque village of Dougoukouadiokro, Jean-Philippe Akpouè was imbued from a young age with the values passed down by his parents. Witness to the challenges overcome by his mother, who turned constraints into opportunities by becoming a renowned entrepreneur in the

preparation of attiéké, Jean-Philippe drew from these teachings an endless source of inspiration.

Academic journey: a saga of success and achievement

His academic journey shines with brilliance and diversity. From the scientific high school in Yamoussoukro, where he graduated at the top of his class, to his higher education studies in Algeria and France, Jean-Philippe has always sought to push the boundaries of his knowledge. Holding a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Sorbonne University, his commitment to learning and innovation knows no bounds.

"I was inspired by my father, a teacher and then a school principal, and my mother, an entrepreneur."

"Leadership and commitment: a vision for a better future"

Beyond his academic achievements, Jean-Philippe is fully invested in crucial sectors such as strategy and sustainability. Whether as a consultant for international organizations or as a founding partner of an education-focused company, he demonstrates visionary leadership essential for driving Africa's transformation. His goal is to play a key role in realizing pivotal projects in digital infrastructure.

Contribution to Africa's development: a legacy in the making

Jean-Philippe Akpouè not only achieves individual success; he also works for the collective well-being of the African diaspora. Through his involvement in associations and his work within various organizations, he demonstrates his unwavering commitment to contributing to a better future for Africa and its people.

Jean-Philippe has traveled an impressive professional journey since his early days, immediately after his master's degree, when he embarked on a thesis in France. But that was just the beginning of a trajectory rich in achievements and significant contributions.

During his thesis, Jean-Philippe brought his vision and dynamism to the startup Tootree, where he played a crucial role as Marketing Manager. His mission? To transform the classroom learning experience by creating an environment conducive to learning, free from judgment and encouraging interaction. By using innovative marketing strategies, he contributed to the expansion of

Tootree, opening up opportunities for more students to engage in interactive learning experiences.

His commitment has not been limited to the field of education. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he worked within the UNDP in Côte d'Ivoire to find digital solutions aimed at informing and protecting populations, while also combating gender-based violence.

True to his entrepreneurial spirit, Jean-Philippe founded his own company to meet Tootree's specific R&D needs, demonstrating his agility and ability to adapt to challenges.

Today, as a consultant in Technology Strategy, Innovation, and Sustainable Development, Jean-Philippe continues to inspire and make an impact. His expertise in building eco-data centers and his vision for the future of responsible digital technology are valuable assets in the fight against climate change.

But his influence extends beyond the business world. As an association leader, he promotes academic and professional excellence within the African diaspora, expanding his impact across borders.

Jean-Philippe embodies the successful fusion of professional ambition and social commitment. His journey perfectly illustrates how an individual can turn challenges into opportunities, leaving a lasting mark in every field he touches.

Catalyst of the african diaspora

With 8 years of experience in community involvement within

the African diaspora in Europe, his journey perfectly illustrates the crucial role that diaspora members play in Africa's economic and technological development.

In Algeria, he served as the president of the foreign student association, showcasing his leadership and ability to mobilize resources to promote academic excellence among his peers.

In France, his involvement in the ELIT association as Secretary General led to initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between diaspora members and their home countries. Among his notable achievements was representing Côte d'Ivoire at the UNESCO African Week in 2023, where Jean-Philippe was hailed for his role as a digital entrepreneur.

Jean-Philippe returned to Yamoussoukro as the Secretary General of the Alumni Association of the Scientific High School of Yamoussoukro, demonstrating his commitment to promoting academic excellence from the early stages of his career.

A model of success and inspiration

Jean-Philippe Akpouè represents much more than just a young African leader to follow; he embodies the hope and potential of a continent in full evolution. His exceptional journey and unwavering commitment to progress make him a role model for present and future generations. Through his determination and vision, Jean-Philippe Akpouè is actively shaping a promising future for Africa and its diaspora.



My dear father



With Mr. Didier Acouetey



With Mr. Salif Traoré aka Asalfo from the Magic System Group



My dear mother



With Ambassador Mr. Maurice Bandaman at the Paris Agricultural Fair in 2023, lending a helping hand to the journalist from RTI



With Tidjane Thiam during his meeting with the diaspora to discuss career and entrepreneurship in March 2023.

Young . African . Leadership



To join: The Observatory of Young African Leaders

- Being part of a network of young African leaders
- Sharing one's journey and learning from others'
- Being coached by predecessors
- Meeting leaders from both the public and private sectors

Email : contact@1000dreamers.org

Y.A.LEAD 

They created and developed communities. They are recognized by their peers and cited as examples for their impact. They are true leaders. There was a before and an after.



DANIEL KOUAKOU

Co-Founder LIFE OF IMPACT,
John Maxwell Leader

TCHONTE SILUE

Founder EULIS CENTER

MALICK DIABATE

Founder Choose Your Mentor

OLIVIA AKOUBA ANGOLA

Co-Founder DABALI XPRESS

SEPHORA KODJO

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Co-Founder SMARTFIN

FRANCK EDJA

Content Creator, Tourism

FULGENCE AMANI

Co-Founder LOME BUSINESS SCHOOL

The inspiring journey of

Tchonté SILUÉ

A committed voice for education in Côte d'Ivoire

From university professor to Youth Engagement Officer for UNICEF in Côte d'Ivoire, her journey bears witness to an unwavering devotion to the cause of education and youth empowerment.

After obtaining her Doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, Tchonté began her career as a pharmacist. However, her fervent desire to contribute to Africa's economic progress led her to embrace social entrepreneurship. In 2016, she launched her blog "Les Chroniques de Tchonté", where she shared her reflections on literature and other passions.

In 2017, Tchonté realized her vision by founding the Eulis Center in Yopougon, a space for study and reading aimed at the youth of this Abidjan community. Her mission was clear: to make education accessible to all, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. Through educational workshops, outings, and reading clubs, the Eulis Center quickly emerged as a symbol of hope and opportunity for hundreds of Ivorian youth.

As a Youth Engagement Officer for UNICEF, Tchonté coordinates programs aimed at empowering young people and encouraging them to become agents of change in their communities. Her goal is clear: to give young people the tools they need to make their voices heard and take concrete action.



Tchonté doesn't just dream of change; she implements it every day. Her dedication and passion for education have been rewarded with numerous awards and accolades, but her greatest satisfaction comes from knowing that she is making a tangible difference in the lives of young Ivorians.

Her dream for the future is ambitious yet achievable: to bring books closer to every child and young person in Côte d'Ivoire. She envisions opening Eulis centers across the country and traveling to inland cities to conduct workshops and provide books, inspiring a new generation of readers and leaders.

Despite the challenges and demands of her full-time job and social entrepreneurship, Tchonté remains determined to pursue her mission. Her advice to young people is simple yet powerful: start now, with what you have available. Every action counts, every effort makes a difference. With passion, determination, and dedication, everyone can be a change agent in their community.

Tchonté Mireille Silué embodies the spirit of innovation, resilience, and commitment to a better future for Africa's youth. Her story is an inspiring reminder that change begins with a single individual but can spread to transform entire lives and communities.



The inspiring journey of **Dr. Daniel KOUAKOU**

From pharmacy to business consulting multi-skilled and committed

Daniel Kouakou is a man who embodies versatility and commitment to the economic progress of Africa. His journey, starting as a pharmacist, has led him to a successful career as a business consultant, where he now shares his expertise to drive the continent's economic development.

Daniel Kouakou earned his Doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin. His commitment to public health led him to work as a Pharmacist Assistant in a pharmacy, and later to get involved in the pharmaceutical industry. His innovative contributions in this field have had a significant impact on cancer management in Côte d'Ivoire, demonstrating his ability to turn challenges into opportunities.

By joining the faculty of Maxwell Leadership University as one of the lead instructors, Daniel played a major role in certifying hundreds of coaches, speakers, and professional trainers across the French-speaking world, illustrating his commitment to leadership capacity development.

Reflections on career transition

Daniel describes his transition from pharmacy to business consulting as tedious, challenging, yet exciting. He compares this transition to climbing two mountains, with a valley of doubts and uncertainties between the two peaks. His driving force for this transition was his desire to see his loved ones reach their full potential, motivating him to overcome obstacles with determination.

Skills to succeed in business

As a business consultant, Daniel emphasizes the importance of humility, teachability, and people management as essential skills for success. He stresses the need to be humble to constantly learn and adapt, while recognizing the crucial importance of collaboration and inspiration to mobilize and maintain team engagement.

The commitment of the african diaspora to development

Daniel encourages the African diaspora in Europe to actively engage in the economic development of Africa by sharing their experience and expertise. He emphasizes the importance of organization, systems, and discipline, qualities often acquired in developed countries, to accelerate the development process in Africa.

Future perspectives and contribution to Africa's development

As an entrepreneur and consultant, Daniel plans to continue transforming nations through education. He intends to further his efforts in raising awareness and enhancing skills to foster competent African stakeholders capable of realizing their full potential. His vision also involves a strong commitment to local businesses, entrepreneurs, and African youth, seen as the drivers of the continent's economic development.





The inspiring journey of **Malick DIABATE**

Malick Diabate: from the military school of St Cyr to the creation of a mentors' community.

Malick Diabate is a living example of the diversity of career paths and the inspirations that guide our career choices. A graduate of the St Cyr Military School, Malick then navigated through the professional world, working for renowned international firms such as PWC, CGI, and Ernst & Young. However, what sets Malick apart is his bold vision to create an interactive space to address common questions about educational and career choices.

Faced with pervasive questions about educational and career choices, Malick Diabate and his team decided to take the lead by launching an interactive media platform focused on these crucial topics. The realization that many young students and professionals encounter similar questions drove this innovative initiative. The goal is clear: to interview young professionals and entrepreneurs about their educational journeys, business projects, and career pivots, whether they occur in their home country or abroad.

A suivre sur spotify



Heritage

Malick Diabate's journey illustrates the richness of professional experiences and the ability to turn challenges into opportunities for positive impact. His time at the St Cyr Military School instilled in him values of discipline, determination, and leadership, which he then put into practice in his collaborations with leading consulting firms. However, it is his willingness to address the unmet needs of the young professional community that defines his legacy.

By creating a space for sharing experiences and inspiration, Malick Diabate paves the way for a new generation of leaders and entrepreneurs, providing vital support to those seeking to realize their full potential.

As Malick Diabate continues his journey, we witness the power of commitment to mentoring, collaboration, and personal development. His story inspires and reminds each of us that our journeys are unique, but we can all benefit from the wisdom and support of our peers. Malick Diabate embodies this belief and invites us to join a community where we can all learn, grow, and succeed together.





The committed entrepreneur

Isabelle ZONGO

Redesigns the economic and cultural landscape of Africa

In the world of African entrepreneurship, some faces stand out for their passion, determination, and commitment to creating significant impact.

Isabelle Zongo, a visionary entrepreneur, embodies these qualities perfectly. Her rich and diverse professional journey, combined with her passion for cultural and creative industries, makes her an inspiring figure who pushes the boundaries of entrepreneurship in Africa.

A diverse professional journey

Isabelle Zongo began her career in international relations in France, where she worked in financial and budgetary affairs for the Secretariat General of the French Presidency of the G8 and G20 Summits. This experience introduced her to public relations and laid the groundwork for her commitment to economic development. Subsequently, she held various positions in the film industry, business management, and hospitality before becoming the CEO's Executive Assistant at the Investment Promotion Center of Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI).

In the world of African entrepreneurship, some faces stand out for their passion, determination, and commitment to creating a significant impact.

A diversified professional journey

Combining her business experience with her interest in cultural and creative industries, Isabelle Zongo founded the Original-Arts & Culture platform, highlighting African artistic talents.

She then established the Original Foundation, the first digital foundation promoting arts and culture in Africa. Her goal is clear: to leave a legacy of African cultural wealth for future generations.

A guide for entrepreneurship

As the author of "Succeed: Entrepreneur's Guide in Côte d'Ivoire," Isabelle Zongo shares her expertise to support entrepreneurs in the region. This practical guide provides essential advice on business creation and management, as well as concrete tips on communication, visibility, and business development. By focusing on the mental health of entrepreneurs, she acknowledges the importance of well-being for success in entrepreneurship.

The crucial role of entrepreneurs

Isabelle Zongo firmly believes in the essential role of entrepreneurs in the economic and social development of Africa. Their ability to innovate, create jobs, and invest in socially responsible projects helps to drive economic growth and improve the living conditions of communities. By encouraging entrepreneurship, she contributes to shaping a prosperous future for Africa.

Isabelle Zongo epitomizes the new generation of African entrepreneurs, dynamic and committed, who

positively transform the economic and cultural landscape of the continent. Her inspiring journey and dedication to promoting arts and culture make her a prominent figure in the African entrepreneurship scene.



DOERS^H



Be bold
You are unique



20 years of the African Business Club

Juvenal ABOUA

Catalyst for african entrepreneurship through the African Business Club

In the dynamic landscape of African entrepreneurship, the African Business Club holds a central position as a catalyst for connections, knowledge, and opportunities. On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, we had the privilege of speaking with Juvenal Aboua, president of the ABC, who shared with us his inspiring vision for the club and his commitment to the economic development of Africa.

A 20-year legacy of commitment

The African Business Club celebrates two decades of history, growth, and impact. For Juvenal Aboua, these 20 years represent much more than just numbers. It's a story of love and commitment to Africa, embodied by the many generations of young African leaders who have made the club their home, initiated by the founder and first President Mr. Ibrahim Magassa.

Through landmark events such as the Gala Dinner and the meeting with Ghanaian President Nana Akuffo-Addo, the ABC has strengthened its role as a crucial platform for professionals and students interested in business opportunities in Africa.

A bridge between continents

As president of the ABC, Juvenal Aboua understands the importance of building bridges between professionals, businesses, and students from top French schools and opportunities in Africa. Through networking events, workshops, and strategic partnerships, the ABC facilitates these crucial connections. The African Business Jobs platform, initiated by the club, serves as a valuable resource for employment opportunities on the continent.

An commitment to education and research:

The ABC continuously enriches its members by organizing seminars, workshops, and publications on economic and business topics relevant to Africa. Club members, often experts in their fields, contribute to in-depth research and analysis, thereby strengthening the knowledge base of the ABC.



An ambassador for Africa

For Juvenal Aboua, the role of the ABC goes beyond promoting business opportunities. It's an ambassador for Africa, determined to change perceptions and inspire youth. By highlighting the continent's economic successes, encouraging the return of diaspora talents, and supporting African entrepreneurs, the ABC actively contributes to shaping a prosperous future for Africa.

Challenges to overcome

Despite its successes, the ABC faces persistent economic and political challenges in Africa. Juvenal Aboua and his team plan to strengthen partnerships with African businesses and institutions to overcome these obstacles and contribute to structuring the informal sector, which is crucial for job creation and economic development.

Under the visionary leadership of Juvenal Aboua, the African Business Club continues to play a crucial role in promoting entrepreneurship and economic development in Africa. With its unwavering commitment and determination to overcome challenges, the ABC is poised to shape a brighter future for the African continent.



Club Elit

Mohamed CISSOUMA

Architect of excellence for Africa's future

In the dynamic landscape of African social entrepreneurship, Mohamed Cissouma emerges as a visionary and committed leader. As the founder of the ELIT association, he embodies the spirit of academic and professional excellence in service of Africa's development. Established in 2021, ELIT is more than just an association: it is a home of excellence that brings together bright minds and exceptional skills around a common vision.

A vision for Africa

ELIT is guided by a bold vision: to promote academic and professional excellence to catalyze Africa's development. Aware that the prosperity of any continent relies on the quality of its workforce and the audacity of its entrepreneurs, Mohamed Cissouma and his team are committed to an excellent Africa. Their objectives are clear: to support academic and professional success, advise and motivate youth towards excellence, provide guidance and mentorship in career orientation, raise awareness about various career paths, and promote industrial culture.



Founded in 2021, the ELIT association is a house of excellence that brings together and mobilizes energies and skills around a vision and an ideal: the promotion of academic and professional excellence in service of Africa's development.



CHARITY GALA EVENING ELIT (PARIS MAY 2023)

Tidjane Thiam (left)

Mossadeck Bally (right)

Mohamed Cissouma (middle)



For Mohamed Cissouma, Africa is a continent rich in challenges but also in opportunities. To accelerate its sustainable human development, he proposes a series of concrete solutions. Firstly, he emphasizes the crucial importance of investing in education and vocational training to develop a skilled workforce and foster economic growth. Additionally, he highlights the need to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen the private sector to stimulate job creation and encourage innovation.

At the same time, he stresses the importance of basic infrastructure such as road, rail, and telecommunications networks to improve connectivity and foster regional integration. He also underscores the urgency of improving access to energy and water to increase productivity and support economic development.

Furthermore, he emphasizes the need to invest in scientific and technological research tailored to local needs, as well as the importance of good governance, political stability, and security to stimulate economic and social development. Finally, he calls for sustainable industrialization, taking into account environmental solutions and promoting climate resilience.

Mohamed Cissouma embodies the spirit of innovation and excellence that are essential to shaping a prosperous future for Africa. Through the ELIT association, he strives to create an ecosystem conducive to the development of African talent and sustainable economic growth. By uniting energies and skills, Mohamed Cissouma and ELIT pave the way for an Africa of excellence and opportunities.

Tidjane Thiam's Communication on his Instagram Account

“

J'ai été l'invité d'honneur récemment à la soirée de gala organisée par Elit et son président fondateur Mohamed Cissouma.

J'ai énormément apprécié l'opportunité d'échanger avec des jeunes femmes et hommes intelligents et prêts à remettre en cause les idées reçues.

Une soirée agréable, des discussions productives et enrichissantes, dans une ambiance chaleureuse et sans protocole

I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the dinner organised recently by Elit and its president and founder, Mohamed Cissouma.

I very much enjoyed the opportunity it gave me to have a frank dialogue with thoughtful young women and men, who are not afraid to go against conventional wisdom.

Overall, a pleasant evening with exciting and productive conversations in a warm and informal atmosphere.



The inspiring journey of **Adeline PELAGE**

*The Entrepreneur reinventing the biscuit industry
in Cameroon*

Adeline Pelage is a passionate entrepreneur, co-founder of the biscuit brand Bobo in Cameroon. Her love for biscuits and cakes dates back to her childhood, and she decided to pursue it by launching her own business in 2018. Bobo is now a premium brand of snacks made from local flour, distributing over 5,000 packs per month.

As a corporate banker, Adeline applied her financial skills to managing her biscuit business. Her ability to multitask and handle stress well has been particularly useful in this venture.

Despite the challenges faced as an entrepreneur in the food industry in Cameroon, such as the difficulty in convincing supermarkets and some consumers of the quality of local products, Adeline has overcome these obstacles through her determination and passion for her business. By balancing her role as a banker with that of co-founder of the biscuit company, Adeline has learned the importance of creating a strong corporate culture and motivating employees to invest in the project.

The core values of Bobo company are quality, commitment to positive impact, creativity, and innovation. These values are reflected in the quality of products and in the customer-centric approach to business. Bobo aims to become a leader in the Cameroonian market for industrial biscuits and cakes, with innovative projects such as sweet potato flour shortbread and product range diversification.

As a female entrepreneur, Adeline has navigated an industry often dominated by men with the support of her surroundings and her determination. She strongly encourages young women to embark on entrepreneurship and share their talents with the world. Bobo contributes to local economic development by creating direct employment and supporting local communities through partnerships.

Adeline's advice to young entrepreneurs is to start now with the resources they have and to implement their projects effectively. As a local company, Bobo plays an important role in promoting Cameroonian culinary culture and contributes to the local economic scene by offering quality products and creating jobs in the region.



AFRICAN TRANSPORT COMPANY

- CONNECTING AFRICANS IN THE DIASPORA AND ON THE CONTINENT
- INVESTING IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
- MAKING AN IMPACT AND BOOSTING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



1000 Dreamers: transforming Africa one step at a time

They have distinguished themselves through an exceptional journey.
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diasporafrique

Young people To follow

ADELINÉ PELAGE
Startup

RÉGIS BAMBA
Startup

PENDA SOW
Startup

ISABELLE ZONGO
Author, Culture

DJ CHEETAH
Music

KADER KANEYE
Education



STARTUPS TO FOLLOW
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DIASPORA & AFRICA INITIATIVES



Communaute



Excellence



Transformation



Christian Dzellat-Nkousso
Co-founder & Ceo
Griokids and Nofi

Griokids

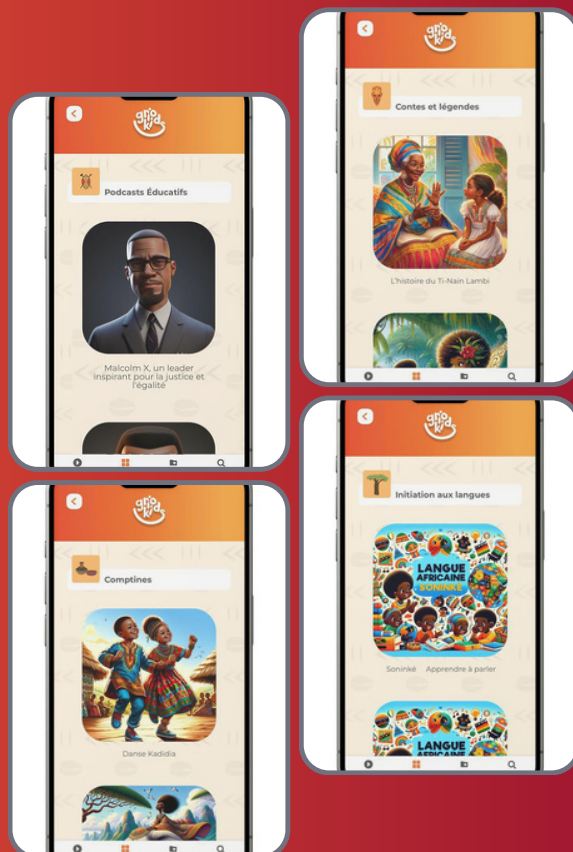
Youth platform celebrating Afro-Caribbean cultures.

You dreamed of it for your children? They did it! After 2 years of research and development, Christian and his team are launching the Griokids app.

It's the first audio platform dedicated to African and Caribbean youth cultures. Welcome to a world where ancestral African and Caribbean stories come to life, a world where each tale leads to a universe of wonders.

In summary, the Griokids app offers:

- ✨ Tales & Nursery Rhymes: Give your little ones captivating stories and catchy melodies that awaken their imagination.
- ✨ Educational Podcasts: Let them discover stories about inspiring heroes and receive enriching cultural lessons.
- ✨ Language Initiation: Guide your children in their first steps towards Lingala, Creole, Wolof... A fun and educational introduction to the languages of the world."





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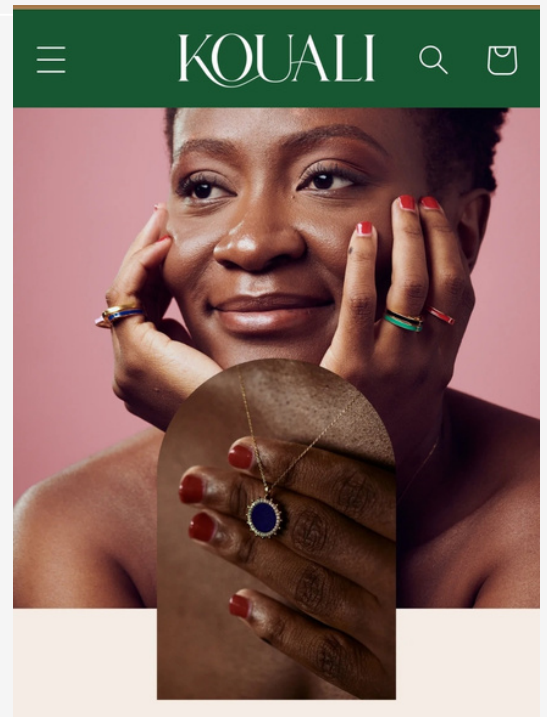
N'da Grace Ahou Juliana, a passionate entrepreneur, merges business and fashion in Côte d'Ivoire.

Entrepreneurship in Africa, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, is a fertile ground where creative and determined minds emerge. Among these visionaries, N'da Grace Ahou Juliana, holder of a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, stands out for her unwavering passion for the fashion industry. Through her inspiring journey, she faces unique challenges and contributes to transforming the fashion landscape in Côte d'Ivoire.

Despite challenges such as managing artisans and competition based on brand reputation, Juliana has created her own brand, "July". Inspired by her own financial struggles after graduation, she offers quality products, blending local craftsmanship with modern aesthetics.

Her journey reflects the ingenuity of young African entrepreneurs, redefining the standards of the fashion industry in Côte d'Ivoire and promising a flourishing future.





True invitations to travel, its elegantly designed pieces bring back to life the vibrant colors of Africa and tell the story of a fascinating culture with universal values through strong symbols (such as the Sankofa bird, the setting sun...). These are meaningful and stylish pieces of jewelry.

Contemporary yet timeless, discover the magical union of Akan elegance and contemporary Parisian art in each piece of our collections. Immerse yourself in a world where age-old traditions meet modern creativity to give birth to unique works of art.

Kouali

The art and heritage of the akan intertwine harmoniously

Welcome to Kouali, where art and heritage intertwine harmoniously. Our mission is to awaken the cultural footprint of the Akan people, known as the people of gold. Kouali merges ancestral traditions and contemporary creativity to create jewelry that embodies the vitality and history of this culture. We bring a modern touch to the Akan heritage, inviting you to discover unique pieces that celebrate the richness of a vibrant past in the present.

"Each piece of jewelry is a bridge between history and modernity," says Kouali, who creates unique and refined pieces, blending Akan art (a renowned traditional art from West Africa) with elegance and contemporary Parisian chic. 18-carat gold pendants with diamonds and precious stones (onyx, lapis lazuli, carnelian...) or vermeil rings enhanced with different colored resins... With her two brands, "Kouali", fine jewelry, and "LIKO By Kouali", fashion jewelry, the designer caters to all budgets.

Contact
KOUALI

info@kouali.fr

Site <https://www.kouali.fr/>

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koukougnonz@gmail.com



Liam Couture



Ziki Koukougnon, founder of Liam Couture, embodies innovation in the African fashion industry by blending tradition and modernity. With a Master's degree in Political Sociology, his early passion for sewing guided him from childhood, refining his skills through internships and courses at Carine N Couture. His commitment deepened with a certificate in Fashion History from the Paris Crafts Center.

Liam Couture distinguishes itself with a style that skillfully combines tradition and modernity, favoring materials such as cotton and linen. Despite challenges, including a lack of skilled labor and competition from thrift stores, Ziki advocates for a sewing sector in technical education and a ban on thrift stores to promote original creations. His journey exemplifies African creativity and entrepreneurial resilience, promoting a flourishing future for fashion entrepreneurship in Africa.



Follow & support

Technical assistance and advice provided by ByB Consulting Partners, A partnering consulting firm specialized in the development of the agro-industrial value chain.



AXXIOM

AXXIOM,

Established in 2015, Axxiom is an LLC with a capital of 5 million FCFA, specializing in the production and marketing of beverages made from mushrooms and other mushroom-derived products (spices, tea, etc.). The company has an off-ground production site (organic mushroom farm), ensuring traceability of its products throughout the value chain.

BIOPHYT,

Founded in 2021, Biophyt is a company whose main activity is the production and commercialization of organic phytosanitary products based on neem oil. In addition to this main activity, Biophyt has developed a secondary activity of producing and marketing detergents.

In nearly 3 years of operation, the company has achieved an average annual turnover of 35 million FCFA and has managed to establish a semi-industrial production unit, with an estimated production capacity of 20 tons per month. It has also succeeded in establishing significant commercial partnerships at the local and regional levels.

Biophyt was created by Mr. Fetigué Ouattara, a chemist-biologist specialized in industrial production. He was also a finalist in the 2022 Total Energy Startupper Challenge.



O'MANEH,

Established in 2022, O'MANEH is a company specialized in the production and commercialization of ready-to-use pancake batter, called Easy Crêpe, made from ingredients used in the traditional recipe. The customer promise conveyed by O'MANEH is significant time savings for users: making their pancake in just one minute.

Dr. Bea Deby, a pharmacist and specialist in pediatric nutrition, is the founder of this company. The projected turnover for 2023 is estimated at 26 million FCFA.

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05

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AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

What you need to know

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA CREATING ONE AFRICAN MARKET

#AfCFTA2018 | 17-21 March 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents an ambitious initiative aimed at boosting intra-African trade by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers among participating countries. It is an agreement that offers tremendous opportunities for the economic development of Africa. Here are 5 key points to remember about the AfCFTA:

2018

Creation date

OBJECTIVES

- Promote intra-African trade
- Diversify local economies
- Create jobs

ADVANTAGES

- Increased economic growth
- Enhanced competitiveness
- Attraction of investments

ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Developing cross-border trading activities
- Exchanging skills and innovation in new markets
- Strengthened Pan-African ambition for continent-based businesses



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**AFRICA CUP
OF NATIONS**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE 23

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE ACCLAIMED
WORLDWIDE**



4.6 billion USD has been invested in an ambitious and extensive program of road, hotel, and sports infrastructure development to host what is considered the best AFCON in history.



A prize of over 7 million USD, testifying to the significance of the tournament.

During the recent Africa Cup of Nations, Côte d'Ivoire emerged like a phoenix from the ashes, elevating its prestige on the global football stage. This country, once marked by socio-political challenges, transformed its landscape into a theater of glory and sporting excellence.

The competition was a true showcase of success for Côte d'Ivoire, breaking all imaginable records. With over two million estimated visitors by COCAN and an impressive television audience of two billion viewers, the country captured the world's attention. This massive turnout not only exceeded expectations but also placed Côte d'Ivoire above major European tournaments in terms of popularity and media exposure.

The AFCON served as a stage for football talents from all corners of the globe, all united in their quest to proudly defend their national colors. Icons of the game such as Victor Osimhen, Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané, Achraf Hakimi, Franck Kessie, and many others illuminated the fields with their expertise, delivering dazzling performances that

HISTORIC

By orchestrating what will be remembered in the annals of the Africa Cup of Nations competition, Côte d'Ivoire has asserted itself as a nation of stature capable of staging events of global magnitude, according to the president of the CAF. Under the enlightened leadership of President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, Côte d'Ivoire has unveiled its face as a nation oriented towards the future, characterized by significant projects, unparalleled hospitality, and a secure environment.

Across the five cities that had the honor of hosting this prestigious event, Côte d'Ivoire revealed a remarkable historic transformation, especially considering the political and military tumult it experienced barely a decade ago.

In the cities and villages of Côte d'Ivoire, there is a palpable sense of national pride, where Ivorian identity is celebrated with fervor. This nation positions itself as a flagship destination, offering fertile ground for tourism and business opportunities during this historic AFCON.

garnered admiration and enthusiasm from spectators worldwide. This competition was much more than just a football tournament. It was a celebration of passion, talent, and human determination. Through this historic event, Côte d'Ivoire has etched its name in golden letters in the annals of global sports, demonstrating once again its ability to overcome obstacles and shine in the firmament of success.



THE CAN 2023: A HISTORIC EDITION THAT ECLIPSES MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 34th edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) will be remembered as one of the most memorable in the history of African football. Spectacle, goals, and incredible turnarounds captivated millions of spectators worldwide, even overshadowing major international championships for two months.

Observers unanimously hailed this edition as the "most beautiful CAN in history," a statement supported by the President of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Patrice Motsepe. In a press conference after the epic final, Motsepe expressed his gratitude to the Ivorian people for their incredible passion and support throughout the tournament.

"The Ivorian people are exceptional. A passionate people. I traveled the country and I saw thousands of ordinary people dancing for their nation's performance," said Motsepe. "This CAN is the best in CAF's history. 80 countries followed the CAN. We must be proud to have organized a competition of this quality. We must give a future to the youth. Look at what the CAN does: so many emotions, it's so beautiful. Nearly 2 billion people watched the CAN 2023 worldwide. We must be proud as Africans, and the next edition will be even better."

The CAN 2023 was a true feast for football fans, with thrilling matches, exceptional performances, and moments of pure magic on the field. From the group stage to the final, teams provided high-quality entertainment, showcasing the talent and passion that characterize African football.

In addition to being a sporting success, the CAN 2023 was also a global event, attracting the attention of nearly 2 billion viewers worldwide. This enthusiasm reflects the growing importance and influence of African football on the international stage.

The CAN 2023 will go down in history as a historic edition that not only celebrated the talent and passion of African football but also inspired millions of people worldwide. Through the resounding success of this competition, Africa once again asserts its place as a land of great sporting achievements and unforgettable moments.

THE AFRICAN GOLDEN GLOBE



©Getty Images

Victor OSIMHEN

The inspiring playmaker who dominates Africa

During the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast, one figure stood out for his brilliance and undeniable leadership: Victor Osimhen from Nigeria. His decisive impact on the field, combined with his positive influence off the field, solidified his reputation as an exceptional player, fully deserving the title of Africa's best player.

Osimhen is not just a formidable striker; he also embodies the values of a playmaker and a leader. His presence on the field goes beyond scoring goals; he orchestrates his team's movements, inspires his teammates, and boosts their confidence.

His powerful attacking game is balanced by impressive defensive solidity, making him a versatile and complete player. Whether it's pressing the opponent or protecting his own goal line, Osimhen always proves reliable and committed to his task.

Overall, Victor Osimhen's remarkable performance during the 2023 CAN confirms his status as an elite player and an inspiring personality. His dominance on the field, exemplary leadership, and dedication to his teammates make him more than just a football player. Victor Osimhen embodies excellence and generosity, fully deserving his place at the top of African football.

YOUTH REVELATION OF CAN 2023



@Maxppp

Simon ADINGRA

At just 21 years old, Simon Adingra has already made history in Ivorian football by winning the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) with his national team. But behind this triumph lies a story of resilience and determination.

Adingra burst onto the scene during his first call-up to the national team, becoming a decisive contributor to Ivory Coast's victory. However, his path to success was fraught with obstacles. At the age of 12, he fell victim to a cruel scam: a purported football academy in Benin turned out to be a fraud. But instead of being defeated by this experience, Adingra drew additional motivation from it to succeed.

His journey to sporting glory is a true example of resilience. Despite the obstacles, he stayed the course and persevered. By winning the title of the tournament's best player, Adingra symbolizes not only individual success but also the collective strength of the Ivorian team throughout the tournament.

For Adingra, this success is also a tribute to his late father. He dedicates his feat on the field to the memory of the man who always believed in him and supported him on his journey.

Through his inspiring story, Adingra reminds us of the importance of seizing the opportunities that come our way. As he aptly puts it: "If you have a chance, seize it." It is this bold mindset that guided Adingra to victory and continues to inspire him in his career.

COUP DU MARTEAU AT CAN 2023



TAM SIR

© tamsironthebeat/instagram

At just 25 years old, Tam Sir has already etched his name in the annals of African music by creating the indispensable anthem for the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN). His hit, "Coupe du Marteau," has become the unofficial anthem of the competition, transcending the borders of Ivory Coast to captivate fans across the continent.

The phenomenal success of "Coupe du Marteau" has even overshadowed the official CAN anthem, demonstrating the power of creativity and innovation in the music industry. Tam Sir, whose real name is Tamsir Junior Njock, is the sonic architect behind this catchy hit that has ignited stadiums and won the hearts of African supporters.

Originally from Ivory Coast, Tam Sir already has a solid experience in the music industry. Having collaborated with big names such as Kiff no beat, DJ Arafat, and Josey, he has established himself as a hitmaker. Yet, it is with "Coupe du Marteau" that he has reached the heights of popularity, propelling his career to new horizons.

The song, with its catchy melodies and frenetic rhythm, embodies the festive spirit and contagious energy of the Africa Cup of Nations. Tam Sir has managed to capture the very essence of the competition through his music, uniting fans across the continent in a shared celebration of football passion.

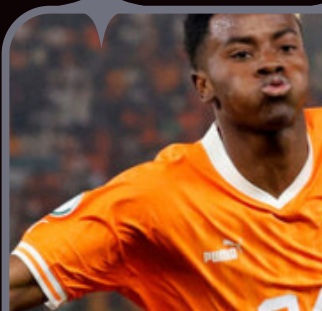
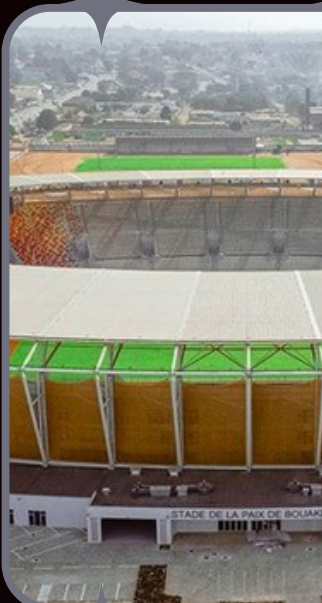
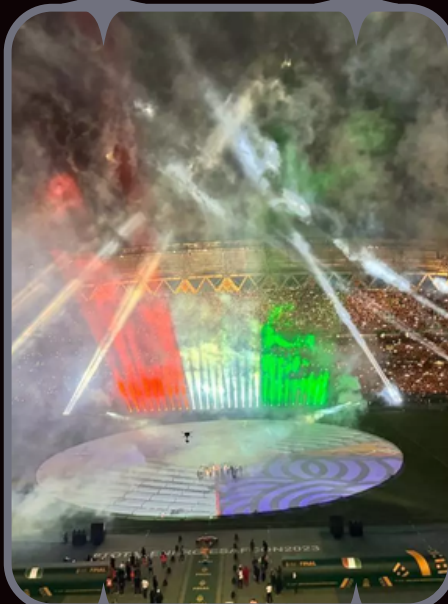
But "Coupe du Marteau" is not just a musical success; it is also a cultural phenomenon. The distinctive choreography associated with the song has gone viral on social media, with challenge videos proliferating on TikTok. Even international personalities such as footballer Marie-Antoinette Katoto and American rapper Chris Brown have joined the action, demonstrating the global impact of the song.

In an interview with Jeune Afrique, Tam Sir reveals the genesis of "Coupe du Marteau" and his desire to represent Africa's diversity through his music. By blending influences from Ivorian rap, coupé-décalé, and even Arabic music, he has created a unique and universal sound that has won over crowds.

With "Coupe du Marteau," Tam Sir has not only left his mark in the history of African music but has also proven the power of creativity and passion to transcend borders and unify people. His success is a testament to his exceptional talent and his ability to capture the spirit of the times with his music.



CAF
AFRICA CUP
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CÔTE D'IVOIRE 23



CAN 2023



CONGRATULATIONS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE • CHAMPIONS

The Savings, investment, and wealth exhibition in Ivory Coast: a catalyst for african entrepreneurship



Abidjan, October 2023 – Ivory Coast hosted the Savings, Investment, and Wealth Exhibition, a major event that brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and financial experts. Held from November 9th to 10th, 2023, this event provided a unique platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to savings, investment, and wealth management in Africa.

A platform for savings and investment

The exhibition brilliantly highlighted the crucial importance of savings and investment in the economic development of Africa. This event served as a platform for enriching exchanges, bringing together key players from the financial world, ambitious entrepreneurs, and committed policymakers.

Insightful conferences were led by renowned experts, addressing topics such as best practices in savings, investment opportunities on the continent, and effective wealth management in an ever-evolving economic environment.

African startups in the spotlight

Particular attention was given to entrepreneurship, with an exhibition dedicated to innovative African startups. These young companies had the opportunity to showcase their innovative ideas and connect with potential investors. This initiative reinforced the exhibition's vision as a catalyst for the development of the entrepreneurial fabric in Africa.

The Savings, Investment, and Wealth Exhibition in Ivory Coast concluded on a positive note, leaving behind a strengthened and inspired entrepreneurial community. The organizers expressed their satisfaction with the quality of exchanges and the positive impact on the African entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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Global CEO of the consulting giant (Big 4) PwC

Mohamed KANDE

The man who breaks barriers and reaches the heights

Mohamed Kande, originally from Côte d'Ivoire, wrote a new chapter of history in 2023 by becoming the first black global chairman of PwC, one of the world's largest consulting firms. His extraordinary professional journey serves as an inspiring example of determination, resilience, and success against all odds.

Raised in a multicultural family, with a Lebanese mother, and an upbringing that embraced both Catholicism and Islam, Kande moved to France at a young age to pursue his education. His thirst for knowledge then led him to Montreal for his higher studies, and later to the United States for a prolific career. Joining PwC's global leadership team in 2011, he climbed the ranks to become global consulting leader in 2019, while also serving as co-leader of consulting solutions in the United States.

One of the keys to his success lies in his unwavering commitment to self-education.

In his fifties, Kande, once an electrical engineer, dedicated hundreds of hours to studying to pass the demanding accounting exams in the United States. His determination to acquire new skills and excel has been the cornerstone of his remarkable professional ascent.

But what truly sets Mohamed Kande apart is his ability to break barriers and defy limited perceptions. As the first black global chairman of PwC, he shattered preconceived notions of what a leader in the corporate world looks like. His inspiring story resonates far beyond the walls of PwC, offering a powerful message of resilience, open-mindedness, and determination.





CEO & Co-founder of TgMaster University

Achille Koukou

Visionary of Education in West Africa

Achille Koukou, a prominent figure in education in Côte d'Ivoire, embodies the dynamism and innovation necessary to shape the future of higher education in West Africa. As the co-founder of TgMaster University, he has played a crucial role in creating an institution that pushes the boundaries of traditional education and opens up new pathways for the empowerment of young Africans.

The founding idea of TgMaster University stems from Achille Koukou's deep conviction that quality education is an essential driver of individual and collective development in Africa. After gaining academic experience in Europe, Achille Koukou and his partner, Léonce Ano, felt the urgent need to return to the African continent and actively contribute by sharing their expertise and experience.

TgMaster's initial objective was clear: to bridge the gap between education in Africa and that of developed countries by providing young Africans

with access to high-level education in line with international standards.

Achille Koukou was determined to create an educational environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and personal growth, aimed at enhancing students' employability while contributing to the overall development of society.

To achieve these ambitious goals, Achille Koukou established strategic partnerships with renowned educational institutions such as Audencia and Mediaschool, thereby ensuring quality programs and innovative pedagogical approaches. He also set up a pan-African network of international campuses, promoting youth empowerment and social inclusion across the continent.

TgMaster University's mission is anchored in a commitment to Africa's development through education.



@TgmasterUniversity

The institution's primary objective is to provide quality, accessible education in line with international standards, to contribute to the empowerment of young Africans and foster increased social inclusion. Achille Koukou's vision is to make TgMaster the premier talent provider in Africa by establishing a wide network of quality international campuses, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and critical thinking among students.

However, the path to realizing this vision has not been without obstacles. Achille Koukou has had to face challenges such as initial funding, establishing strategic partnerships, obtaining accreditations, and promoting TgMaster to potential students. Nevertheless, each obstacle has been a learning opportunity and a chance for growth, and Achille Koukou has overcome these challenges through his determination, commitment, and innovative spirit.

As a co-founder, Achille Koukou has shaped TgMaster's culture and values by embodying the institution's mission, encouraging pedagogical innovation, promoting a culture of excellence, and fostering community engagement. He has also launched initiatives to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students, such as specialized courses, entrepreneurial competitions, and mentoring programs.

Achille Koukou and TgMaster University are committed to staying at the forefront of technological advancements and meeting the changing needs of the job market by constantly adjusting academic programs, fostering industry partnerships, and offering continuing education programs. Their goal is to train competent and adaptable professionals, ready to tackle the challenges of African and global society.

By collaborating with local and international partners, TgMaster enriches students' educational experience by providing diverse opportunities, extensive resources, and practical experiences. Achille Koukou is convinced that the future of higher education in West Africa will be characterized by increased accessibility, technology integration, professional skill development, strengthening international partnerships, creating innovative campuses, community engagement, adapting to economic needs, and enhancing academic research.

Achille Koukou embodies the visionary leadership needed to transform education in West Africa and contribute to the region's sustainable development. His passion, commitment, and innovation are driving forces of change that inspire young Africans to pursue their dreams and realize their full potential.



CEO of Vista acquires shares of BNP Paribas in Senegal.

Simon Tiemtoré

The rise of a visionary in the african banking landscape

In a constantly evolving African banking sector, one figure emerges as a beacon of innovation and growth: Simon Tiemtoré. This ambitious banker now takes control of the Oragroup banking holding, thus marking a major milestone in his goal of creating a true pan-African financial empire.

Simon Tiemtoré is the Founder, President, and CEO of Lilium Capital, an international investment company focused on Africa. With a strong background in legal, tax, banking, and financial fields, he has successfully led several banking and capital market transactions across the continent. His recent achievements within the Vista group, the bank owned by Lilium Capital, have seen him play an integral role in the bank's journey to become a pan-African banking giant.

As President of the Vista Group, Tiemtoré oversaw the long-term acquisition of the Oragroup bank. With this operation, Lilium Capital now has a presence in 16 countries, up from three previously. This also boosts the company's banking assets from \$2 billion to over \$10 billion. The deal gives the group a foothold in the West African Monetary Zone, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and the Central African market. "We saw a huge opportunity to acquire a bank with a presence in 12 countries covering three economic markets, and which, from an organizational standpoint, is similar to Vista, and thus easy to integrate," he says.

The Vista Group, with its merger and acquisition-focused strategy, will become the majority shareholder of Oragroup, holding 61.4% of the capital. This acquisition is not just a financial matter; it's also a story of strong partnerships and trust.



CEO et Co-founder of Paystack

Shola Akinlade

The entrepreneur revolutionizing the payment landscape in Africa

Shola Akinlade, co-founder and CEO of Paystack, a leading payment platform, began his career at Heineken before delving into software engineering, working with banks, and gaining experience in the financial sector.

Before founding Paystack, Akinlade co-founded Precurio, a company that developed open-source collaboration software designed for businesses in emerging markets.

In 2016, alongside Ezra Olubi, Akinlade founded Paystack, a company that quickly gained recognition and acceptance within the Y Combinator accelerator, the first Nigerian company to do so. Y Combinator is a startup accelerator for American tech startups used to launch companies. Only 3% of applicants are accepted.

The company then successfully raised over \$10 million from a variety of international and local investors, including Visa, Tencent, Y Combinator, and Stripe, which would eventually acquire Paystack for \$200 million.

Paystack has become a major player in the fintech sector in Africa, processing over 50% of all online payments in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy.

Akinlade has recently shifted his focus to sports. In 2022, he founded Sporting Lagos F.C., a football club he describes as a platform for community development and social change.

“We deeply believe that with the right tools, African creators, developers, and entrepreneurs can accomplish incredible things.”



Music artist, South African, nominated for and wins a Grammy Award.

Tyla Laura Seethal

A historic victory at the Grammy Awards.

South African vocalist, Tyla Laura Seethal, celebrated a historic victory at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards, winning the award for Best African Music Performance. The 22-year-old music sensation beat notable Nigerian artists such as Davido, Burna Boy, Ayra Starr, and Asake, marking a significant milestone in her flourishing career.

Pioneering in African music Adding to the memorable significance of her win, Tyla became the first recipient of the newly introduced category, underscoring her role as a trailblazer in the African music industry. She credited divine intervention, her team, and her family for her success, expressing surprise and gratitude for the recognition.

Tyla's hit single, 'Water,' garnered international acclaim, featuring on Spotify's global top 40 playlist with over 40 million streams and reaching number 82 on the Apple Music US chart. This achievement sets a record for a

south african artist since 'Jerusalema' by Master KG. Such recognition led to the signing of a recording contract with Epic Records in the United States.

Advocate for African music As an advocate for African music, Tyla has rejoiced in the growing recognition of this genre on a global scale. South African Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture, Zizi Kodwa, praised Tyla for her historic win and her role as an ambassador for South African arts and culture. He also acknowledged other South African nominees at the Grammy Awards, highlighting the country's diverse artistic talent.

Representative of the Amapiano genre Tyla's achievements have sparked considerable interest in her music and journey, notably as a representative of the Amapiano genre. This genre is gradually gaining global traction, and Tyla's Grammy win is a strong testament to that.



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Exclusive Interview

M. JACQUES MBAZOMO

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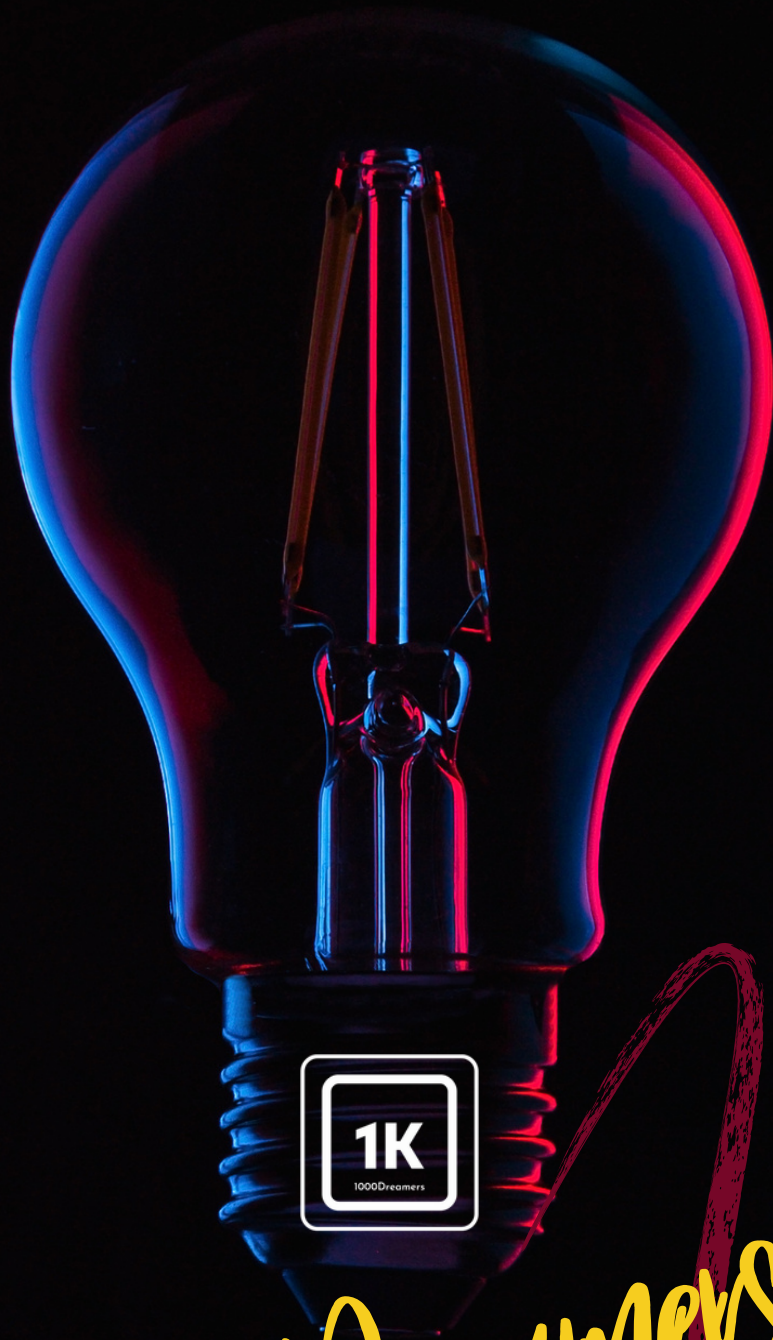
Tidjane Thiam, guest of honor,
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