AFRILABS ANNUAL GATHERING 2016 REPORT

MAKING TECH ECOSYSTEM COUNT

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INTRODUCTION

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering took place in Africa for the first time since AfriLabs inception in 2011 at the Alliance Francaise Center, Accra, Ghana from the 24th – 27th October 2016. The theme of the conference was '**Making Tech Ecosystem Count**' and its major sponsor was **Making all Voices Count (MAVC). Microsoft 4Afrika** sponsored the boot camp for hub members that took place before the gathering on the 24th October 2016. The host hub was iSpace Foundation, Ghana.

The attendants included;
❖ Hub members
❖ Angel investors/Venture capitalists
❖ Developmental organization representatives
❖ Startups
❖ Entrepreneurs and Academia.

The following countries were represented at the gathering from Africa (Nigeria, Ghana,Cameroun, Tanzania, Morocco,Eygpt,Kenya etc), Europe (Netherlands), Asia (Phillipines) and the United States of America (Washington DC).

EVENT OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering had about 150 persons in attendance and aimed at providing an opportunity for members of AfriLabs and other stakeholders to convene and learn the latest hub insights through which sustainable partnerships between and with hubs will be built. It was focused on the grassroots innovation eco-system, their funders and the local governments. It also provided an opportunity for members of the African tech ecosystem to interact with government representatives and developmental organizations.

Summarized in the tables below is a brief summary of each day's sessions, highlighting the topic of discussion, the speakers and the action points from the sessions.

For the full document with details of the conversation. Please access through here: http://bit.ly/2i4xKKI

25th October, 2016		
S/N	**SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS**	**ACTION POINTS**
1	**Welcome & Introduction** · *Josiah Eyison* Co-Founder of iSPACE, Hub Host of AfriLabs Annual Gathering · *Micheal Oluwagbemi* Board Chair of AfriLabs	✓ Africans must build solution to African problems ✓ As Africans, we ought to brainstorm and think our way through the problems. Technology can make that happen.
2	**Keynote Address** · *Dr. Fletcher Tembo* Programme Director, *Making All Voices Count*	✓ We need to tease out the actors that are disrupting the ecosystems. ✓ All the actors in the ecosystem need to think about partnerships and collaboration in other to make the ecosystem count.

3	**Special Guest Speaker** • *Idris Bello,* Afropreneur & Prominent Angel Investor	✓ To achieve/meet the unending list of needs of the continent, our universities have a role to play. ✓ Innovation requires three major things: The idea, engineering talents and business savvy. ✓ Technology innovation is where many of the new jobs our youth need will come from.
4	**Plenary Session I:** **Building, Investing in and Being a Woman Entrepreneur in Africa** Panelists: · *Florence Toffa* Director Mobile Web Ghana · *Taopheek Babayeju,* iCentral CEO (Moderator) · *Bridget Boakye,* Co-founder YNG Interns . *Amma Baffoe,* Head of Recruitment & MarComm at Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST)	✓ Culturally, women lead when it comes to business. We ought to take the informal model and transfer to help scale up the formal model. AfriLabs could dedicate one of its hubs to set up an all-female hub to build the capacity of women. ✓ Access to funding and support must be created by governments and private sector players (Telco's, etc.). ✓ There is a need to do more work in terms of empowering women through mentorship and capacity building.
5	**Plenary Session II: Academic Innovation – How can academics and innovators deepen collaboration?** Panelists: · *Bankole Oloruntoba* Founder of NINE & Business Incubation Manger, Enspire Business Incubator · *Idris Bello*, Afropreneur & Prominent Angel Investor · *Bernard Chiira,* Incubator Manager Strathmore University · *Rex Lor* Hub of Innovation for Inclusion (HiFi), Philippines . *Moetez Helmy* Co-Founder of the District, Egypt . *Amma Baffoe,* Head of Recruitment & MarComm at Meltwater	✓ Universities must be encouraged to collaborate with Hubs to utilize the enormous research data they have generated to create employment opportunities for its students. ✓ Also, industry expertise must be given opportunity to serve as facilitators of certain courses or serve as instructors to give students the opportunity to learn from firsthand the experiences and lessons from industry. ✓ Universities should consider adopting the business models that have proven to have worked in these innovation hubs.

	Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST)	
6	**Building an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem for African entrepreneurs, how can we make stakeholders in the ecosystem to collaborate with tech hubs e.g. University, VC and AI firms, Public Offices etc.** · *Jumanne Mtambalike* Manager at Buni Hub	✓ We ought to encourage our universities to embrace disruptive entrepreneurship models. ✓ Universities must encourage lecturers to become coaches instead of delivering speeches and content which in any case is outmoded. ✓ Donors should encourage sustainable innovations through funding for such initiatives. ✓ The curriculum of the educational sector including its policies must be relooked at.

26th October, 2016		
S/N	**SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS**	**ACTION POINTS**
1	**Welcome & Introduction** **Special Remark** ·*Bankole Oloruntoba;* Founder of NINE & Business Incubation Manger, Enspire Business Incubator	✓ The only way to succeed is when we keep sharing and communicating. ✓ We need to leverage on technology ✓ We need to create soft landing platforms for hubs to share markets. ✓ We need to demystify these doors of boarders.
2	**Keynote Address** · *Ben White* Co-Founder of AfriLabs & VC4Africa	✓ Mobile has become important and the question remains, how Africans appropriate these resources to form localized solutions to its problems is the greatest concern. ✓ We must learn to manage our systems.
3	**How are Tech Hubs Engaging with Public Policy?** *Nanjira Sambuli* Digital Equality Advocacy Manager at the Web	✓ Innovative hubs are coming up because the spaces in our universities meant for such things are not been utilized

	Foundation	✓ Let's demand from our politicians what clear paths and policy directions they have in place to facilitate the work of hubs. If they don't vote them out.
4	**Fire Side Chat** · Who Pays the Piper? Investing in the African Tech Innovation System - ***Ben White*** Co-Founder of AfriLabs & VC4Africa - ***Melissa Mbugua*** Innovation Engagement Officer (Hubs)-*Making All Voices Count* - ***Michael Oluwagbemi,*** Board Chair of AfriLabs (Moderator) - ***Leticia Brown;*** Investor Relations, Ghana Angel Investor Network (GAIN) - ***Idris Bello,*** Afropreneur & Prominent Angel Investor -***Ndidi Ukaonu,*** Assistant General Manager, Retail Banking -***Femi Longe***; Co-Founder CCHub	✓ We need to start with our own money and then build trust to get bigger investment ✓ We must build good companies, it makes it easier to find money to support them
5	**Plenary Session III: Strengthening Hubs as Institutions for Open Societies** Panelists: · ***Nanjira Sambuli*** Digital Equality Advocacy Manager at the Web Foundation (Moderator) · ***Femi Longe***; Co-Founder CCHub · ***Melissa Mbugua*** Innovation Engagement Officer (Hubs)-*Making All Voices Count* · ***Joram Mwinamo*** Managing Partner at WYLDE · ***Richard Gevers*** Founder of Open Data Durban · ***Antya Widita*** Manager at Open Data Lab Jakarta · ***Rex Lor*** Manager at HiFi in the Philippines	✓ We need additional means to reach people such as printing leaflets where technology doesn't work. ✓ Tech Hubs must serve as an open hub to bring people together to brainstorm on ideas that would work for both tech friendly societies and non-tech friendly societies. ✓ Efforts must be channeled into activism that would lead to an open society and ensure right to information. ✓ Hubs must make efforts to reach out to minority groups such as disability groups and women...etc ✓ We must show government the way and sell them value.

		✓ More work ought to be done to get the women into the room (foundation) of most startups.
6	**Master Class Break Out Sessions I & II** ***Communication Skills, Interpersonal Skills & Leadership*** by Sade Coker ***Business Leadership, Innovation and Strategy*** by Taopheek Babayeju and Bankole Oloruntoba	
7	**Master Class Breakout Sessions III &IV** ***Monitoring, Evaluation and Benchmarking of Business Activities*** by Ndidi Ukaonu ***Business Model Canvas by*** Idris Bello	

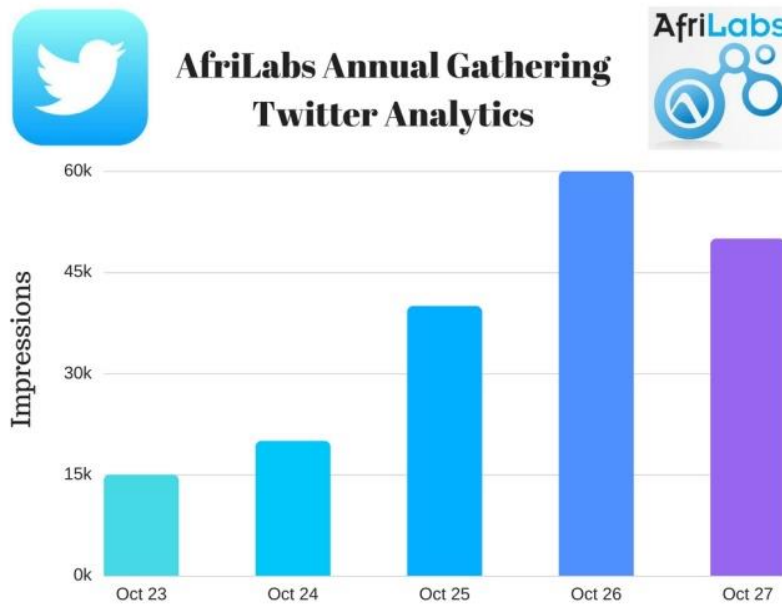| 27th October, 2016		
S/N	**SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS**	**ACTION POINTS**
1	**Welcome and Introduction** **Sponsor's Address** · Ashraf ***Abdelwahab,*** (4AFRIKA) Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft4Afrika	✓ 4Afrika is aimed at providing access to affordable technology, building ecosystems through partnerships, and supporting solutions that are disruptive and challenge the conventional models, leading government transformation through supporting initiatives such as Innovate4gov and broadening and

		enhancing skills.
		✓ There is a lot of innovative idea in the youth of Africa. We need to create the opportunities and enabling the environment to utilize these ideas.
2	*Leslie Nettey,* (Principle Solutions Consultant-Cloud Saas/Oracle)	✓ Innovation can be derived from big data. ✓ We need to impact the lives of people using BIG DATA. ✓ Technology already exists and we ought to utilize it.
3	**AfriLabs in Action: Demo of Virtual Learning Platform** *Matida Ndlovu* Project Lead, MVLP *Wole Odetayo* Wennovation Hub Nigeria	
4	**Plenary Session IV: Sustainability-Managing tech hubs in Africa; challenges and insights** Panelists: • *Wole Odetayo* Wennovation Hub Nigeria • *Valery Colong* Board Member ActivSpaces, Cameroon • *Rich Tanksley* Program Manager GE Garage, Lagos, Nigeria • *Fiifi Baidoo,* Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, iSpace Foundation, Ghana (moderator) • *Florence Toffa* Director Mobile Web Ghana • *Jumanne Mtambalike* Manager at Buni Hub	✓ Hubs must not see themselves as competitors but must collaborate ✓ Government must support in terms of policy. ✓ Private Sector must wake up to the call and engage the hubs in training the people they need with the skills they desire. ✓ Hubs ought to position themselves properly to be able to attract business through its impacts to remain sustainable. ✓ Hubs need to also collaborate with schools etc to build the foundation need to drive innovation and this makes an impact.
5	**Plenary Session V: The Role of Government in the growth of Innovation Hubs and Business with Startups** Panelists: · *Michael Oluwagbemi*, Board Chair, AfriLabs	✓ Policy: What are the policies that would enable the growth of technology? They must encourage investments, etc. Government must be consistent in implementing these policies. ✓ Investment: Internet, Education

	- **Golda Naa Adaku Addo Baidoo,** Ghanaian Political and Social Change Activist · **Nanjira Sambuli** Digital Equality Advocacy Manager at the Web Foundation . **Isidore Kpotufe** Director of Communications - West Cape Strategy Group *(*Moderator)	(very essential, curriculum must include platforms for innovation), Power. Governments must make investments in these three key things. ✓ Procurement: We need to find a way to bridge the gap in making startups engage in procurement process. ✓ We have to be clear about what governments have for us. We need to challenge what they give to us. ✓ The need to be a change in mindsets. As much as possible, we ought to challenge ourselves to trust the products we have. ✓ Hubs must register; make sure you have all that is required to be able to bid for government contracts. ✓ We need to have more conversations about the APPs that exist. ✓ Hubs must be in charge and ready for government funds by having the requisite infrastructure and a clear strategy. ✓ Open spaces are the new parks and gardens. We need to demand that government supports this agenda.
6	**Innovation Demo** • Ghana Start - Up Showcases	
7	**Master Class Breakout Sessions V &VI** *V. How to Thrive while Working with a Distributed Team* by Tolulope Komolafe *VI. Early Stage Investing* by Ben White	
8	**Plenary Session VI: Technology as a Tool for Social and Economic Development** Panelists: · **Afua Osei,** Co-founder She Leads Africa · **Ashraf Abdelwahab,** (4AFRIKA) Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft4Afrika	✓ African's need to take advantage of cheaper and easily accessible technology. ✓ Opposing technology is like standing on a tarmac. If you refuse to shift, you will get killed. ✓ We must learn to adapt to the fast-changing times.

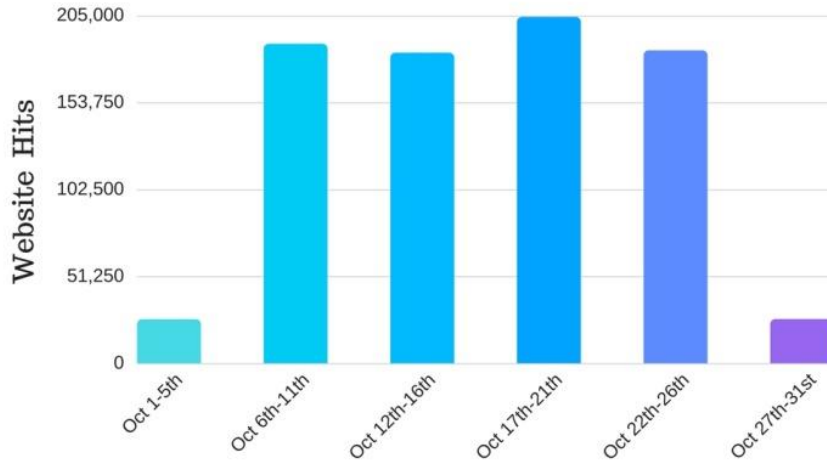|	
· **Davide Piga,** Innovation and Knowledge Management Specialist at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) · **Ato Ulzen-Appiah,** Social Entrepreneur · **Celestine Omin,** Senior Technical Consultant at Andela · **Eyram Tawia,** CEO / Co-founder of Leti Arts, Ghana · **Alfred Rowe,** Founder Enodev Labs, Ghana - **Kelechi Victor Ofoegbu,** Community Manger, Impact Hub, Accra Ghana . **Rita Kusi**, Founder of KUSI Consulting (moderator)	✓ We must encourage ourselves to use technology for our own good. ✓ We need to learn how to digitize our talents and make some money from it. ✓ Using technology wisely would make us world class.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE ANALYTICS

❖ Twitter – The AfriLabs Twitter page got about 249 thousand impressions over the month of October, the peak period on the 26th of October with 60 thousand impressions. The Twitter page averaged about 8.7thousand impressions per day.

❖ Annual Gathering Website – Throughout the month of October the website got a total of 15,162 visits with an average of 489 visits per day and 782,306 hits.
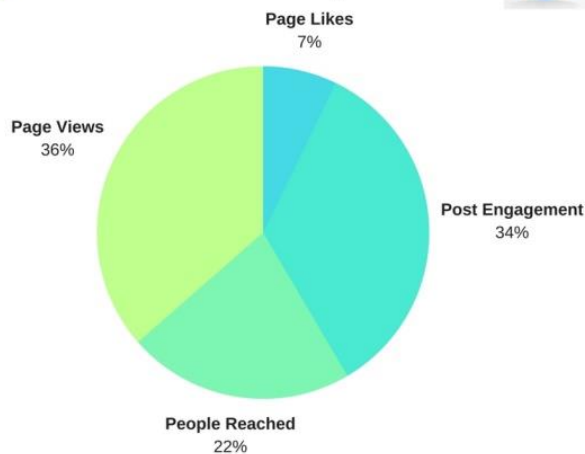
AfriLabs Annual Gathering
Website Analytics

❖ Facebook – Through the month of October, from organic Facebook posts linked to the Annual Gathering website, the AfriLabs page got 52% reach (14,251 people) and 81% engagement (1,847 people).

AfriLabs Annual Gathering
Facebook Analytics

CONCLUSION

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering provided a platform for stakeholders in the Tech Ecosystem to collaborate, innovate and ideate as coherent action points on how to make the Tech Ecosystem Count were developed.

We are looking forward to the next Annual Gathering which is set to hold sometime in October,2017. The theme, venue and the date of this event will be decided by member hubs and communicated to the stakeholders of the African Tech Ecosystem.