



BRIEF FOR WEBSITE UPDATE

1st AACOSE

This was the first Social Entrepreneurship conference in Africa. It was convened by Tangaza University college on the 22nd and 23rd September 2017 to showcase the significant impact of Social Entrepreneurship training in the institution. The training produced successful social entrepreneurs who have become agents of Social Transformation. From the experiences of these social entrepreneurs there is still a need to create an environment of collaboration and enabling ecosystem. The conference set out to was to create a bridge between social entrepreneurs, academic institutions, funders, and other institutions in order to shape Africa's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The partners included EU, NIC BANK, BRITISH COUNCIL, AWAN, STANDARD, UMATI CAPITAL, VILGRO, THE WORLD BANK, NETFUND, SESOK, EYIMPACT FOUNDATION, COCA COLA Beverages Africa, and ASHOKA.

Theme: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES: ENGINE OF AFRICA'S SOCIAL-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Key findings and action points from the conference

1. Sustainable Development Goals and Millennium Development Goals could not be achieved by working alone. In fact, collaboration among different actors is fundamental in the success of development of social innovation. And all learning institutions must do their research which will inform the way practitioners integrate and industrialize ideas.
2. Understanding what people in developing countries need is the starting point for bringing disruptive innovation. Our youth should consider creating products that make a difference in their communities.
3. Role of State and non-state actors in the legal framework and policies for social entrepreneurship, is critical to unlocking the potential of social enterprises anchored by a strong policy framework. The government should create regulatory environment in which social enterprises will operate. This includes labour laws, tax policies, and regulation of capital markets among others
4. For policy influence social entrepreneurs need to come together and form an organisation like SESOK - Social Enterprise Society of Kenya which umbrella body for social enterprises in all sectors of the economy and strives to be the main catalyst for development of the Social Enterprise
5. The non-state actors like Kenya Chamber of Commerce need to provide a platform for scaling up social enterprises, share markets trends, offer avenues for talent retention, create awareness, and offer in-kind financial support. The non-state actors should be able to undertake topical and in-depth research, market intelligence, review investment options, capacity building and policy and advocacy platforms for social enterprises to thrive. They should act as a link between the social enterprises and the power of enactment.
6. The people living with disabilities should be included in these conversations because their insight is also very important. People with disabilities are often overlooked at such gatherings, despite the fact that they have valuable insights

to offer. It is critical because there are 6 million disabled people in Kenya, and their representation in active society and conferences is very low.

7. Coaching and mentorship plays a crucial role for students especially in choosing a career path that is in line with their interests. Students should be guided to undertake training that builds their entrepreneurship skills and leadership skills among others. This ensures they are well endowed to create, develop and demand social enterprises.

2nd AACOSE

Tangaza University College hosted the Second Annual Conference on Social Entrepreneurship 2018 on September 20 and 21. The conference brought together scholars and researchers from a variety of academic institutions and businesses to discuss emerging concepts and topics in social enterprise, innovation, and sustainability, as well as how they apply to Africa. Academic papers, case study presentations, and discussions were held in both the plenary and breakaway sessions, allowing experts and thinkers to present their perspectives, research findings, and recommendations on how to advance social entrepreneurship in Africa and beyond.

The partners include: The British Council, The Standard Media Group, Ashoka East Africa, Social Enterprise Society of Kenya (SESOK), Villgro Kenya, and Mybizmarketer (MBM) were among the key partners and sponsors

Theme: Contextualizing and Shaping Social Entrepreneurship in Africa.

Key findings and action points from the conference

Conference Objectives

1. To provide a platform to promote and support social entrepreneurship by connecting, sharing and learning from one another
2. To challenge our entrepreneurs, researchers, and academicians to translate education into technology, business, and services to society.
3. To foster collaboration between social enterprises, organisations supporting social enterprises, governments and academia to build stronger ecosystems in Africa
4. To provide an interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends and concerns as

well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the field of Social Entrepreneurships and Innovation.

Key findings and action points from the conference

1. Universities are the perfect petri dish for developing social enterprises. They bring together bright, inquisitive people, they combine multiple disciplines so scientists meet artists meet business people meet politicians and so on. Universities also provide the infrastructure to help fledgling enterprises learn how to translate their dream into reality through their incubation centres.
2. Blended finance is crucial for the scaling of social enterprises. A strategy that combines capital with different levels of risk in order to catalyze risk-adjusted, market-rate seeking capital into impact investments. The public funding helps to do-risk: it takes the hit to open up a market that doesn't seem to be a profit maker. Once it has made that first move, the more risk-adverse private sector will see potential where before it saw none. This then helps attract funding for large-scale high-impact investing, and the wider benefits that brings – such as a mix of skills and expertise from across different organizations.
3. Training should target people's problems from the perspective of getting sustainable solutions to them. It should unlock the inherent potential that everyone of us has to become entrepreneurial and set according to the needs of the learners. This can be promoted by inclusivity and participation by different industry actors in developing curriculum
4. Often the challenges posed by the external environment are severe and not of easy to deal with. But the quality of the internal management style, if it builds solidarity, motivation, commitment for professional work, can make all the difference for survival a social enterprise in a harsh environment. A strategy for step-by-step growth is proposed in that regard.
5. A strategy can only work if it is supported by conducive government regulations, building trust and cooperation with many partners and stakeholders along the chain, and that entails an inclusive business innovation system.