



AiB Weekly Newsletter – Public | Monday 04.16.2012

## **AiB NEWS UPDATE**

### **AIB REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND MIT AFRICA INNOVATE CONFERENCE 2012**



Three representatives of Africans in Boston were invited to attend the MIT Sloan Africa Innovative Conference on Saturday April 15, 2012. Among the many speakers who spoke, were the ex-president of Zambia, Rubpiah Bwenzani Banda, CEO of Silverbird Group, Ben Murray Bruce, Minister of Post and Telecom of Togo, Cina Lawson, South African Consul General, George Monyemangene, and many more.

The former president of Zambia spoke about his lifetime achievements, the elections and accomplishments when in power for the 3-year term that he served in Zambia between 2008 and 2011. Ben Murray on a different note spoke about critical actions needed to be accomplished for Africa to move forward. He emphasized tackling basic necessities such as population control, clean water, sanitation, creating job opportunities, fighting disease, as well as creating outlets for the youth.

Four panel groups on Mobile & Technology, Food & Agriculture, China & India, and Media & Empowerment were set up. A major topic of discussion regarding the agriculture and food aspect in Africa is the current crisis it is in. "Agriculture 1.0", is the current stage Agriculture is in, as Dave Ramaswamy of Karaturi Global mentioned, and Agriculture is a priority that needs to be taken into consideration and developed.

Entrepreneurs and innovators captivated the audience with compelling visionary talks. For instance, Magatte Wade, a serial entrepreneur and founder of 2 companies, Adina World Beverages and Tiossan spoke about the reasoning behind the emphasis of branding in Africa by explaining that it could be done by promoting African companies and making them leading brands in the competitive industries in Africa.

Conferences such as the MIT African Innovate 2012 are highly needed to bring innovative minds together and create a support system that allows ideas and visions to flourish into actions to develop Africa into a leading continent in every aspect.





## **ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FOR STUDY INVOLVING EAST AFRICAN SURVIVORS OF WAR**

Assistance Requested for Study Involving East African Survivors of War and Displacement and Hope | A fourth-year Clinical Psychology doctoral student at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology is currently conducting a research study on the role of hope in the experiences of resettled, East African survivors of war and displacement. She is interested in connecting with East African survivors of war and displacement in the Greater Boston area who serve in leadership or other helping roles in their U.S. communities (e.g., community leaders, mental health workers, clergy, interpreters). This includes people who came to the U.S. through the refugee resettlement program, as well as those who immigrated on their own. This study will involve two focus group interviews in a place that is convenient and private for all participants. Focus group interviews will be audio-taped and then typed up, but all identifying information of participants will be disguised and kept completely anonymous. Participants will be paid \$20 for each focus group session in which they participate. This study has been approved by the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and my own doctoral research committee, which includes an East African psychologist. | If interested, please contact Nyssa Green [Nyssa\_Green@mspp.edu] for details.

## **AIB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE**

You now have to be a registered AiB member to continue receiving the full version of the weekly newsletters. Membership benefits include full version of the weekly newsletter, jobs/internships opportunities, functions, networking events, free tickets to movie shows and art shows , discounts to cruise events and more ...

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