

INNOVATION  
for africa

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# The Agenda

Innovation for Africa is an inter-disciplinary hub with an agenda to unlock the innovative potential of Africa by vitalising and connecting entrepreneurial ecosystems across the continent. This agenda is built on the premise that Africa has what it takes to identify and solve its developmental challenges, and to meet all its developmental needs.

## Our Vision

An Africa that is on the cutting edge of innovation and development

## Our Mission

To unlock Africa's innate potential through leveraging synergies

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We are committed to

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**Innovation**

We catalyse the birthing and implementation of new ideas, creation of dynamic products, and improvement of existing services

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**Taking Responsibility**

We are accountable for development issues within our sphere of influence

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**Partnership and Collaboration**

We are committed to building cooperative arrangements with relevant stakeholders to work jointly towards a common goal

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**Sustainability**

We develop individual, community and institutional capacity to continue activities over an extended period of time while minimising financial risk



Our children may learn about heroes of the past.  
Our job is to make ourselves architects of the future.

Jomo Kenyatta

## Strategic Objectives

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- To create an environment that fosters Innovation
- To initiate and facilitate dialogue and collaboration among ecosystem stakeholders
- To bridge the gaps between academia and industry
- To facilitate research and respond to contemporary development issues by developing new initiatives
- To develop Ideas into Enterprise
- To build local, regional and international relations network able to effectively raise resources towards the Innovation for Africa Agenda

## The I4A Methodology



### 1. Identification

In order to come up with solutions, we need an honest reckoning of the issues that face us. We need to specifically articulate, quantify and summarise problems in order that we might confront them and create solutions.



### 2. Conversation

Innovation for Africa sets up relevant platforms via various media, meetings and events in order for the right conversations to take place.



### 3. Ideation

Africa is not short of ideas. These need to be dilligently harvested, stewarded and given life. If creative thinking is stifled, development is stunted. When it is encouraged, taught and nurtured, innovation is unlocked and Africa's potential can be realised.



### 4. Collaboration

Africa's problems are best solved the African way - together! The right partnerships and the strategic drive for the mentorship of young entrepreneurs will produce results and will unlock the best of African innovation.



### 5. Creation

Quality innovation results in meaningful enterprise. Necessary to Africa's development is the creation of solutions, the creation of brand new products, of startups jobs, and the creation of investment opportunities.



Africa is not "communitic" in his thinking. He is, if I may coin the expression "communitary"

Julius Nyerere

## Activities & Programmes

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- **Conversations**

Creating contexts for stimulating engagements that will ignite innovation and collaboration

- **Consultations**

Engaging hubs and various stakeholders in order to vitalise ecosystems

- **Capacity Building**

Mapping and empowering the ecosystem through training and equipping

- **Community**

Building ecosystems into identifiable groups that form the basis for innovation and entrepreneurship

## Activities & Programmes

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- **Collaboration & Catalysation**

Encouraging a coming together and working together towards the co-creation of innovative solutions

- **Connecting & Channelling**

Building linkages to get the necessary resources to entrepreneurs and creators

- **Celebrating & Cheerleading**

Affirming and profiling progress and success stories of ecosystem stakeholders

- **Collisions**

Pan-African conferences and summits to bring ecosystem stakeholders together. A context for progressive collisions



Originality is the essence of true scholarship.  
Creativity is the soul of the scholar

Nnamdi Azikiwe

## Board of Trustees



### **Rumbidzai Chineka, MBCHB**

Passionate about maximising potential and playing a part in improving healthcare in Zimbabwe. Rumbi works as a Hospital Medical Officer for the Ministry of Health.



### **Chishuvo Chivasa, MPhil Entrepreneurship**

A Project Management specialist focused on novel and transformative projects that contribute towards social and business entrepreneurship. She has worked across sectors in SADC and for diverse organisations including UNDP and Pricewaterhouse.



### **Ian Conolly, CA(Z)**

A results driven, strong team builder with in depth skills and accomplished in building leaders around individual strengths. Ian advances comprehensive experience in business leadership. Ian is a certified Gallup Strengths Coach.



### **Lance Edwards**

Has worked for 20 years in research and development to bring appropriate technologies to the rural poor and small-scale farmers in Africa.





### **Ndabezinhle Masuku, AIPA (Australia)**

A multi-faceted accounting professional transitioning into strategy and futures studies. Blue-chip, public sector, NPO, and social enterprise leadership experience. US Department of State IVLP alumnus.



### **Joyce Mutangara, LLB**

More than ten years managerial experience in multiple areas of legal and administration. Her current passion is coaching individuals to help them attain success in being the best they can be. She is multilingual and has lived in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe



### **Mpi Ndebele**

An innovative thinker passionate about strategy and developing people. Enjoys discovering passion and energy in people and helping them develop corporate identity and culture



Revolutions are brought about by men, by men who think as men of action and act as men of thought.

Kwame Nkrumah

## Partnerships & Collaborative Exercise

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At the core of Innovation for Africa's ethos is the need for strategic partnerships and collaboration. Innovation for Africa partners with likeminded organisations and individuals including:

- Innovation, tech and arts hubs
- Startups and other SMEs
- Investors and financiers
- Industry and corporates
- Academic institutions
- Business support bodies and institutions
- Local and national governments
- Professionals & students across disciplines
- Donor agencies and organisations
- Embassies and other international partners



The only man I envy is the man who has not yet been to Africa - for he has so much to look forward to.

Richard Mullin

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