Social Enterprise World Forum

Local Traditions. Fresh Perspectives.

23 – 25 October 2019

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The importance of early childhood tech education

Betelhem Dessie
iCog Labs & Kudu Ventures, Partner
Intro to Ethiopia
• Located in the eastern part of Africa
• Has a population of 110 million, 2nd largest population in Africa (10%) of the population
• Never colonized (own calendar)
• Over 83 languages, nations and nationalities
• Origin of the first intelligent human (Lucy) and coffee
Tech Scene
In Africa
Tech Scene in Africa
Challenges
and
Opportunities
Challenges

- Education
- Policies
- Payment platform
- Financing
- Infrastructure

Opportunities

- Demography
- Current Reforms
- PROBLEMS
- Talent Pool
- Rise of Interest
Examples Of Successful Startups in Ethiopia
Successful Startups in Ethiopia
iCog Labs
iCog Labs

- AI Development and research company
- Founded in 2013
- Works on outsourcing projects Hershey Chocolate
- Known for its contribution on Sophia the robot
- 100 fulltime and part time employees
- AI is critical to todays economy
How can we build the human capital?

Teach:
Teach people on AI & Robotics

Start Early:
Focus on teaching children who are still in school

Collaboration:
Collaborate with corporates and governments

Synergy:
Create an environment where they can create and innovate
iCog – Anyone Can Code
Betelhem Dessie
Meet the 19-year-old tech genius coding at Ethiopia's first AI lab

By Alice McCool and Thomas Lewton, for CNN

October 11, 2018

Meet the African women who are changing the ratio in tech

SingularityNET, the startup that has the robot Sophia as one of its first use cases, is at the forefront of hiring and promoting female engineers.
Solve IT

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Solve IT

- Targeting youth 18 - 28
- Democratizing/decentralizing access to technology
- Competition + training
- Identify problems that exist through the patterns we see
- 10 Million jobs need to be created
Thank you!

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