

2016 Annual Report



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**Awel
Uwihanganye**

Founder & Senior Director,
LéO Africa Institute

Message from our Senior Director

Warm greetings to all our friends and partners of the LéO Africa Institute!

On January 18 we made three years as an organization and we could not possibly be prouder of the progress we have made thus far.

We embarked on the mission to work towards expanding a base for leadership development among young people and to contribute to ideas of how best to foster an environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and economic well-being. Equally, we are committed to working with young people and emerging leaders in building their capacity to exert impact on society and fulfill their own personal goals and aspirations.

As it often is with young organizations, it has not been an easy process starting projects and shaping the most impactful ways of achieving this mission, fundraising and rallying support towards this cause, but slowly our message is resonating. The call to action in empowering young people with leadership development, skills, and capacity is being heard.

In the last year, we were most grateful for the support from our partners, especially the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and United Nations in Uganda - in particular the UNFPA Country Office - for the unwavering support to our activities. I wish to also extend the same gratitude to other partners like CEED and Reach a Hand Uganda with whom we collaborated on the 2016 Economic Forum.

This past year we embarked on two new initiatives: the LéO Africa Review, our premiere leadership magazine focused on entrepreneurs and innovators in East Africa, and the Young and Emerging Leaders Project, our flagship leadership and mentorship programme. You will read more about these initiatives in the report.

We are excited about prospects ahead in 2017 and beyond, especially with the growing base of our networks of young and emerging leaders across the East African region. We value your continued contribution towards these goals and look forward to your continued support and partnership.

Awel Uwihanganye

About The LéO Africa Institute

Two fellows of the Aspen Global Leadership Network and Africa Leadership Initiative, Awel Uwihanganye, and Magnus Mchunguzi conceived the idea of the LéO Africa Institute in 2012, as a collaborative project, to provide space for advancement of thought leadership, nurturing young and emerging leaders, and spurring them to success, achievement and excellence.

The Institute leverages its network and extended networks of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, and the Africa Leadership Initiative to expand its reach and impact on issues of concern to Africa and the world.

Our mission is to train, orient and empower young and emerging leaders who are aware of their place and responsibility in shaping the Africa we want.



Our 2016 Events

The year 2016 has been a busy one at LéO Africa! From hosting the third annual Economic Forum, to launching two new initiatives: the LéO Africa Review and the Young and Emerging Leaders Project, we had our hands full for most of the year. Here are some of the conversations we were privileged to facilitate during the year.

The LéO Africa Review



This year saw the launch of a new initiative: The LéO Africa Review - an independent magazine published by the Institute, with support from our partners Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The magazine is a Uganda based but East African focused quarterly publication intended to advance constructive ideas on values-based leadership, with a major focus on innovations and social enterprise.

The publication's targeted readership includes the region's young and emerging leaders from several diverse sectors in government, the private sector, university students, as well as an emerging critical mass of young professionals in East Africa. The inaugural issue of the magazine, while offering a fresh perspective on innovations and business by young people in East Africa, featured trailblazers like Rwanda's Ephraim Rwamwenge, a 22-year-old at the helm Rwa-Business Group, one of the country's leading businesses and 20 other young innovators and entrepreneurs from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Work is already underway for the next issue of the magazine due to be published in March 2017. The magazine will be primarily distributed in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya, complimented by an online-targeted wider readership for the rest of East Africa.



The 2016 Economic Forum



Since 2013, the Institute has annually convened the LéO Africa Economic Forum in Kampala to discuss, among other things, the state of the economy in the East African region.

The 2016 Economic Forum focused on what economies in the East African region should do to stem the growing income inequality that is a threatening to create lasting social imbalances including regional security and stability. The theme for this year's conversation, "Leave No One Behind: Promoting inclusive economic growth & decent employment for all by 2030" centered on three areas: the role of government, the private sector and development partners in fostering inclusive economic growth; how to create decent jobs and bridge rising income inequality in East Africa; and, the role of local financial institutions like banks and the private sector in financing development.



The Forum attracted over 200 participants from Uganda and Rwanda, and facilitated constructive engagement on issues that majorly affect young people in the two countries. Compared to the past two forums, this year's saw a marked increase in both the number of attendees and speakers as well as the quality and depth of discussion.

Speakers at this year's forum included, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, the minister for Trade and Industry, Rosa Malango, the UNFPA Country Representative for Uganda, Patrick Mweheire, the Managing Director of Stanbic Bank in Uganda, Lucy Mbabazi the Country Manager for Visa Rwanda, among other speakers from both the public and private sectors in Uganda and Rwanda.

“Under-education of young workers remains a significant concern and an important hindrance to transformative growth in Africa.”
Hon. Amelia Kyambadde
 Minister for Trade and Industry



In his remarks, the Managing Director for Stanbic Uganda, Patrick Mweheire emphasized the role of Agriculture in the move towards economic development for a country like Uganda which boasts 40% of the arable land in East Africa. "Let all the stakeholders, that is, private sector, development banks, insurance companies and the government, get in a room and come up with a sustainable agribusiness financing plan. That is our winning ticket," Mweheire suggested.

“Let all the stakeholders, that is, private sector, development banks, insurance companies and the government, get in a room and come up with a sustainable agribusiness financing plan. That is our winning ticket.”
Patrick Mweheire
 Managing Director
 Stanbic Bank, Uganda



“The most important issue facing SMEs in developing countries like Uganda are the difficulty in accessing finance. Economic policy makers need to improve the financing environment for small businesses in Uganda.”
Paul Mullard
 Senior Economist, DFID



Among the key recommendations from the 2016 Economic Forum was the need for synergies and collaboration between the public and private sector in Uganda and Rwanda if meaningful economic transformation and development are to be realized.

Young and Emerging Leaders Project (Y&ELP)

The Young and Emerging leaders Project is the second of our initiatives which we launched in 2016. The Y&ELP is aimed at nurturing a new breed of integral, socially responsible, and transformative leaders, committed to championing society's causes. Underpinning this program is the principle of "Agaciro", which espouses the dignity, self-worth, and identity of the African as the cornerstone of leadership. Specifically targeting young leaders, the inaugural Y&ELP seminar attracted 20 outstanding young people drawn across a diversity of disciplines, with a view of grounding them into having a robust appreciation of the development challenges Africa faces today, the type of leadership qualities required to devise possible solutions, and defining the kind of individual and collective actions that can contribute to this cause.

Alumni of the program will form part of the Institute's growing network of fellows across East Africa who shall meet annually at our events. The overall idea behind the Y&ELP is for the fellows to lift each other up, inspire each other, and work towards transforming themselves and their communities as opposed to having lectures and teachings on a subject as broad as leadership.

“You are a product of your decisions and choices, and NOT your circumstances.”
Francis Egubson
 Facilitator at the Inaugural Y&ELP Seminar.



The Idea that Ideas Matter: Why These Conversations Are Important



Looking back at the year 2016, the institute is honoured to have hosted some of the brightest minds across the region to share their ideas on topics ranging from development, the role of young people in transforming Africa, the place of entrepreneurs and innovators, etc.

We recognize that the future of our countries, and indeed that of the African continent, is largely dependent on how young people today choose to shape it. It is essential that we provide platforms that encourage debate and free exchange of ideas on the Africa we want and nurture a new breed of leaders who are invested in transforming their communities, countries, and the continent at large.

LéO Africa prides itself in being able to provide the right networks that young and emerging leaders need to expand their horizons and capacity to transform society.



Last year, we were able to have impactful discussions in spaces where young people felt heard; platforms where experts, leaders in the private and public sector met to develop new ideas, and generate consensus where contention exists. Such spaces are an essential tool in the transformation of Africa.

The LéO Africa Institute will continue its strive to provide an independent non-partisan platform for expanding public knowledge on pertinent issues on the continent by bringing together young and emerging leaders across Africa to interface with decision makers in government, academia, civil society and the private sector.

We remain committed to this century's cause: contributing to the Africa we want.

Our Year in Numbers



3,500+

Active followers
on social media



400+

People attended
LéO Africa events in
2016



2 **New partners**
brought on board



100s

**of Connections, Meetings
and Collaborations**
fostered at our Events


Our Team

Our dynamic team of young people committed to shaping leadership in Uganda, the region and Africa as a whole continues to grow along with the Institute. This year we bid farewell to our long-serving Finance and Logistics Coordinator Charles Kavuma who will now be serving the institute on part-time basis. Charles continues to be instrumental in managing our finances and accounts off-site.

We also bid farewell to Patricia Twasiima who had joined us earlier in the year as communications coordinator. She joins Chapter Four Uganda as Programme Officer. Patricia's role will be taken over by Ivan Rugambwa. Ivan has previously worked as a reporter for *The Independent Magazine*.

Kwezi Tabaro, formerly our Programmes Coordinator, was elevated to Deputy Director and will oversee the overall operations and programming for LéO Africa. Awel Uwhanganye remains Senior Director of the Institute.

The institute continues to rely on the diverse skill sets, innovation and hard work of both our staff and associate faculty to whom we are grateful for the amazing work they have put in this year. We hope to attract a more diverse team of volunteers and interns in 2017 to contribute to this growing community.



The out-going Team L-R: Charles Kavuma, Twasiima Patricia, and Kwezi Tabaro now Deputy Director

Board of Directors

Our governance board is constituted with individuals whose integrity is beyond reproach, whom we share a commitment to advancing a better society, and better future with young people at the center of shaping the society of today and tomorrow. A crop of leaders in their own right contributing to the Africa we want.

The Board



Chairperson

Lucy Mbabazi; Country Manager VISA Rwanda, Burundi & Malawi



Awel Uwhanganye
Founder & Senior Director,
LéO Africa Institute



Gilbert Kamuntu
Senior Commercial Advisor,
Tullow Oil



Daniel Kaggwa
Uganda Fund Country Manager,
Business Partners International



Patricia Nsanze-Nzeyi
Governance & Policy Expert,
British High Commission



Kwame Rugunda
Founder & CEO,
WhatCan Initiative



William Babigumira
Certified Trade Advisor,
Private Sector Federation,
Rwanda

Secretary to the Board: **ABMAK Associates**

Associate Faculty

Members of the Associate Faculty are a valued component of the Institute structure. They constitute a pool of key resource persons who make significant contribution with their time in shaping content and ideas towards various initiatives under the Institute.

Faith Mbabazi;	Communications & CSR Specialist
William Babigumira;	Trade and Export Promotions Specialist
Philippa Mbonye;	Public Health & Management Specialist
Leonard Mungarulire;	Private Sector & Trade Development Advisor
Michael Mugisha;	Assistant Lecturer, Makerere University
Donald Ntare	
Byamugisha;	Founding Partner, BITEPH Strategic Consulting
Paul Kasenene;	Medical Doctor, Nutrition Educator and Professional Speaker on Health, Lifestyle and Wellbeing
William Makanza;	Project Management Consultant
Lucrezia Koestler	
Bitete;	Managing Director, Laboremus Consulting
Ernest Mugabe;	Managing Director, Pixel City
Angelo Izama;	Journalist, Energy Oil and Gas Policy Analyst
Bob Mukiza;	Trade Policy and Energy Expert
Hashim Mulangwa;	Economist, Policy Analyst, Development Strategy Expert
Job Kahigwa;	Energy and Petroleum Specialist
Grace Muguli Kwizera;	Economist & Entrepreneur
Mohammed Shuriye;	Corporate Social Responsibility Expert
Ivan Kyambadde;	Founder & Managing Director, The East Africa Movement
Robert Damulira;	WWF Energy Coordinator, East and Southern Africa
Ronnie Asiimwe,	Legal Counsel, Managing Partner Capital Law Firm
Bob Katera;	Business Development Specialist
Daniel Makubuya;	Legal Counsel, Capital Partners
Didace Ruzigamanzi;	Entrepreneur
Howard Mutimbo;	Economist, Business Development Manager, Philips East Africa
Yusuf Kiranda;	Governance & Project Management Specialist
Musoke Timothy;	Technology & Software Expert, Laboremus

Our Community of Advisors

Magnus Mchunguzi;	Entrepreneur and co-founder LéO Africa Institute
Evelyn Kamagaju;	Certified Chartered Accountant, former Auditor General Republic of Rwanda
Faustin Mbundu;	Entrepreneur, former Chairman Rwanda Private Sector Federation
Ali Mufuruki;	Leading African Entrepreneur, Founder & Chair Africa Leadership Initiative East Africa Foundation
Dr. Ben Mbonye;	Orthopedic Surgeon, Public Health Specialist
Richard Mugisha;	Senior Partner Trust Law Partners
Ambassador Frank Mugambagye;	Senior Diplomat, Rwanda Ambassador to Uganda
Andrew Mwenda;	Journalist & Managing Editor, The Independent News Magazine
Ambassador Nimisha Madhivani;	Senior Diplomat, Uganda's Ambassador to France, Portugal & Spain
Clare Akamanzi;	Head of Policy & Strategy, Office of The President, Republic of Rwanda
Rosette Rugamba;	Founder & Managing Director, Songa Africa Travel Company
Leslie Rance;	Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Executive
Stella Kilonzo;	Capital Markets Manager, African Development Bank
Adonia Ayebare;	Senior Diplomat, Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rehma Kasule;	Managing Director, CEDA International



"Building Better Societies by Investing in Effective Leadership among Young and Emerging Leaders in Africa and the World."



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