

Speakers' biographies

Sulyna Nur Abdullah



Sulyna Abdullah is the Chief of the Digital Knowledge Hub Department in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). She was formerly Chief Officer of Corporate Strategy and Chief Transformation Officer at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, where she was for almost two decades. Before ITU, she had a short stint at Netflix. Sulyna is an Advocate and Solicitor of the Malaysian Bar.

Innocent Asimwe Mudenge



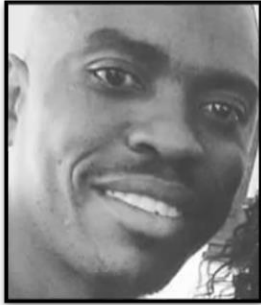
Innocent Asimwe Mudenge works with Rwanda Information Society Authority as Division Manager of the “Digital Cluster Coordination and Community Development Division”. This department has a keen role in coordinating the digitization of the Rwandan’s economic, social and governance clusters and implementation of digital literacy in all communities across the country. Innocent’s role prior to RISA involved working as the Director of ICT for five years for the National Export Development Board of Rwanda focusing on Agri-Export digitization development and training stakeholders on digital solutions which led to efficient and convenient Agri-Export business processes. Innocent holds a master’s degree in Information Technology from Jain University (India), a bachelor’s degree in Computer Applications from Bangalore University (India) and has a wide range of experience in Information systems, ICT skills development, digitization of various sectors (namely Education, Agriculture and Trade etc.) and project management.

Gordian Frey



Gordian Frey coordinates GIZ Digital Transformation Centers with the goal to contribute to the further development of digital ecosystems at a local level in order to support a green, inclusive and self-determined digital transformation process in partner countries of German Development Cooperation. He has been working for GIZ since 2015, and he holds master’s degrees in Global Governance from the University of Gothenburg and in Politics and Public Administration from the University of Konstanz.

Mulomba Hameja



Mulomba Hameja is an Assistant Director, Change Management at SMART Zambia, Cabinet Office. He is responsible for ensuring a coordinated Approach to providing and Developing Strategies for Embracing and Utilisation of Information Computer Technology (ICTs) Systems and Applications being Deployed and Implemented across Government of the Republic of Zambia.

He graduated from the University of Zambia with a meritorious Degree in Development Economics and public Administration. He is also a holder of a Diploma in Human Resource Management. He has wide experience in Public Sector Management and provision of support to ICT based Transformational Programmes across Government spanning over 20 years.

He has held various Middle and Senior level portfolios in Government from a Human Resource Management and Change Management perspective.

Mohamed Alfie Hamid



Alfie Hamid is Cisco's Corporate Affairs Senior Manager for Global Partnerships, focused on Networking Academy and Skills for All. He joined Cisco as Manager of the Networking Academy program for the Southern Africa Region, being promoted to Regional Manager for Africa over the years. He received numerous awards from Cisco.

Prior to this experience, he was Academic Programs Manager at Microsoft for almost three years, where he managed the Partners in Learning Program, Schools Agreement, Fresh Start, IT Academy Program, PC Refurbishment Program and Schools Technology & Innovation Centre program for South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. At Microsoft he received the Microsoft Worldwide Partners in Learning Progress Award for Managers in his category. Mr Hamid started his career as a Mathematics & Science teacher in South Africa, before being promoted through the ranks of School Head of Department, Deputy School Principal, and Acting School Principal, and then appointed within the Western Cape Education Department as the Head of the Sub-Directorate called Education Technology.

Alfie Hamid also serves as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission's TVET Cluster.

Kasia Jakimowicz



Kasia Jakimowicz is a global lead for the ITU's International Centre for Digital Innovation (I-CoDI) that uses co-design methodologies to accelerate innovative solutions for connectivity.

She is a strategic policy advisor and entrepreneur, guiding the design, development, and implementation of global policies and programs on technology and entrepreneurship in multinational and public service consulting companies, think-tanks, the UN, the European Commission, and the World Bank. Amongst others, she was a Senior Program Advisor for the European Innovation Council, responsible for designing a blended finance accelerator program for 41 countries, as well as Senior Investment and Digital Innovation Expert setting up the EU Fund-of-funds for Strategic Digital Technologies. As an Associate Director at the Lisbon Council think-tank, she supported the VP of the European Commission, Andrus Ansip, at the Working Group on Digital Entrepreneurship at the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. Prior to that, she worked in multinational corporations developing and launching brands (e.g. PepsiCo, L'Oréal, Mars, Henkel). She also founded a successful social enterprise in education. She is a public speaker and moderator, and co/authored numerous publications.

She is a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School, Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA) and an Innovation in Government Fellow'21 at the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation as well as a former visiting mentor at MIT Media Lab Global Ventures (Data and AI for the post-COVID world) where she focused on exploring how technology can solve global challenges.

She also holds a master from Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) and an M.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration from Aarhus School of Business.

Yuyo Nachali-Kambikambi



Yuyo Nachali Kambikambi is a Communications Specialist with almost 30 years' experience having first launched her career as a journalist and thereafter moved into the human rights space and eventually the corporate world.

She is the Head of Corporate Communications at Zambia's largest Telecommunication Company, Airtel Networks Zambia Plc, a position she has held for the last 8 years. Yuyo has worked for all three segments of the employment sector starting with Government, then NGO and now the Private Sector.

She has a passion in sharing life nuggets with young people.

Yuyo holds a Masters' Degree in Media Leadership from the University of Cumbria in Manchester, UK and a Degree in Public Relations from Cavendish University in Zambia.

Varya Meruzhanyan



Varya Meruzhanyan works in the Strategic Partnerships Division at the World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome. Prior to joining WFP, she worked with UNICEF and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, as well as did brief deployments to UNDP in the Regional Hub in Istanbul and Kyrgyzstan.

Before her engagement with the UN system, Varya worked in various international organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United States Agency for International Development in Armenia. Varya was also actively engaged in the civil society in Armenia by managing large-scale projects focusing on civic education, youth engagement and civil society engagement.

Varya has a masters' degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School and a masters' degree in NGOs and development from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Mike Nxele



Mike Nxele is the Senior Capacity & Digital Skills Development Division within the Capacity & Digital Skills Development Division of the Bureau of Telecommunications Development of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He is based at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. Prior to joining ITU in 2002, Mike Nxele worked as Human Resources Director within the incumbent fixed telecommunications organization in his native country, Zimbabwe.

Abena Nyamesem



Abena Nyamesem is the Head of Sustainability and Partnership at GIFEC. She is a Development and Training Consultant with specialization in developing Sustainability Models, Compliance, facilitation and training in Entrepreneurship and ICTs as well as Universal Access and Service principles. She is responsible for developing innovative models that ensure compliance, value and sustainability of projects to serve the needs of now and future generation. She endeavours to establish profitable industry partnerships and corporate arrangements with a focus on maximizing impact in beneficiary communities and for its members.

Ms. Nyamesem holds Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Sociology and Philosophy, MBA in Project Management and Master of Arts (M.A) in Development Studies. She also holds an Advance Certificate in Private –Public Partnership and Sustainability Planning and a Certificate in Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) Marketing Strategies from Cornell University, USA. She is a trained Management Consultant from the Ghana Institute of Consulting, Grid Certified Trainer from Len Stevens Training, South Africa and holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree.

Ms. Nyamesem is passionate about discovering sustainable digital literacy models, enabling digital transformation of local economies and studying the sociological aspects of digital development.

Annemjin Perrin



Annemjin Perrin is the CEO and founder of The Digital Skills Foundation (www.digitalskillsfoundation.org), an organization that provides Digital Literacy to all people through the Digital Skills Passport. Digital Skills Passport is an End-User ICT skills training and certification program. Annemjin has over 15 years of experience in the education sector, as a business development director, educational project engineer/manager, a lobbyist, a teacher and as a lecturer on the African continent. With a love for the world, the African continent and a first-hand experience of the educational, public and business environment on this

continent, she believes that the focus of all transformation should be based on knowledge transfer, train the trainers and sustainability for the generations to come. Annemjin is also active as “Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France” (Foreign Trade Advisor for France) -VP Training and Youth on the board of the Committee Auvergne Rhone Alpes CCE.

Marian Pletosu



Marian Pletosu is Digital Skills Officer within the Capacity & Digital Skills Development Division of the Bureau of Telecommunications Development of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He is currently coordinating implementation activities of the ITU Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative from the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. Prior to joining ITU, he worked on ecommerce and etrade development related issues for least developed countries (LDCs) within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Marian Pletosu has a Masters' Degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Karine Sonigo



Karine Sonigo has recently joined the International Labour Organization Skills Branch as a Skills Digitalisation Specialist to support ILO constituents in the digitalisation of their national TVET and skills systems. Before joining the ILO, Karine had extensive international experience in the private sector as a Learning & Development Specialist. She spent 8 years as Head of Content working with language learning companies, in charge of the design and implementation of online learning programmes. Karine is passionate about Skills development and Lifelong learning, as well as Technologies applied to

Education.

Susan Teltscher



Ms. Susan Teltscher is Head of the Capacity & Digital Skills Development Division (CSD). She is responsible for ensuring the delivery of ICT related capacity building activities and projects, with the objective to enhance knowledge and capabilities in the field of ICT, in particular in developing countries. This includes the direction and coordination of the ITU Academy and of the ITU Centres of Excellence network, working in partnership with Government, industry and academic institutions. Before joining CSD she was Head of the ICT Data and Analytics Division where she was responsible for ITU's work on the collection, harmonization, analysis and dissemination of ICT statistics worldwide, and for the production of analytical reports on global and regional trends in ICT, including the annual ITU Measuring the Information Society Report and the ICT Development Index. Before joining ITU in July 2008, she was Chief of the ICT Policy and Analysis Unit, ICT and E-Business Branch, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva. She received her Ph.D. in Economic Geography in 1992 from the University of Washington (Seattle, United States).