



Angelique Kidjo's Batonga Foundation wins first place prize in the 2017 Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education

LONDON, 3 November 2017 - For 10 years, [The Saville Foundation Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education](#) has recognised organisations leading the most innovative programmes teaching young people entrepreneurial skills. Since the Awards began in 2007, joblessness and economic insecurity among a growing youth demographic has become an international priority. In Africa, youth unemployment is particularly acute as there is only one job for every 3-4 young people entering the workforce each year.

This year's winners of the Pan-African Awards - The Batonga Foundation, Dare to Innovate, Livingstone Tanzania Trust and IDEA4Africa - are tackling these challenges head-on. By working with young people across the continent, these organisations are building a generation of forward-thinking Africans who have the skills for today's job market and the experience to become the job creators and business leaders of the future.

About the Pan-African Awards

The Pan-African Awards are generously sponsored by [The Saville Foundation](#) from South Africa. [Teach A Man To Fish](#), a UK-based NGO specializing in international entrepreneurship education, manages the award. The 2017 Awards received over 475 applications - a record number indicating the amount of organisations running entrepreneurial training programmes.

"Every year, we see more and more innovative projects and organisations applying for the Pan-African Awards," says Teach A Man To Fish CEO and Founder Nik Kafka. "By offering prizes for ongoing projects, we can ensure we support projects that are teaching 21st-century skills with a proven, sustainable impact."

Female entrepreneurs programme takes home first place prize

[The Batonga Foundation](#), which won first place and a \$15,000 USD prize, was founded in 2006 by Grammy Award-winning singer and UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador, Angelique Kidjo. Kidjo, born and raised in Benin, says the most important gift she ever received was access to education. At a time when few girls made it to secondary school, Kidjo's parents fought for her to continue attending school. This inspired Kidjo to provide more girls with access to education and employability skills.

Today, the Foundation works in West Africa supporting "off track" young women and girls. Some are continuing their formal education and a handful have even gone on to university. Batonga's "Girls' Club" programme, which started last year, helps female youth develop entrepreneurial and life skills through business start-up mentorship, training and a financial literacy curriculum. The Foundation has already recruited over 1,600 girls into these clubs.

The Foundation plans on using the prize money in Benin to support their data-driven recruitment and

community mapping activities, as well as train local female mentors and fund the activities of their Girls Clubs. "This award means that Batonga can continue to go beyond the paved road, reach more vulnerable girls, serve more distant villages and create more safe spaces for girls and young women to learn and grow," says Kidjo.

Capacity-building programmes win runner-up and partnerships prizes

[Dare to Innovate](#) and [Livingstone Tanzania Trust](#) both won the £5,000 runner-up prizes for promoting entrepreneurship education through hands-on programmes. Since 2012, Dare to Innovate has trained over 4,000 young people through intensive entrepreneurship fellowships and training programmes across West Africa. They have also fostered 78 young African entrepreneurs who have gone on to create over 270 jobs for their peers. Many businesses, including a mobile veterinary clinic and a private school, are social enterprises and give back to their communities.

The UK-based Livingstone Tanzania Trust partners with local organisations to deliver agricultural business training. Throughout Tanzania, it's common for students to not progress to secondary school. By delivering business training programmes to students while they are still in primary school, the Trust ensures that more students are gaining entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

This year's Future Partner Prize - a \$5,000 prize and partnership opportunity with Teach A Man To Fish - goes to [IDEA4 Africa](#). The organisation, founded by Wheaton College President Dr Dennis Hanno, works with students in Uganda and Rwanda through school business club mentoring and week-long seminars. The organisation is also the national host for Global Entrepreneurship Week in Rwanda. IDEA4Africa has already started talks with Teach A Man To Fish's Rwanda team on how to reach more schools throughout the country.

All winners are also receiving a paid trip to London for a delegate to represent their organisation at [Education That Pays](#): an annual conference held by Teach A Man To Fish to discuss innovative strategies for teaching students skills for work and life. It will also be an opportunity for the winners to meet international educators, leaders in international development, entrepreneurs and policymakers.

Organisations leading entrepreneurship education programmes, including applicants who were not successful this year, are encouraged to apply for the 2018 Pan-African Awards in the spring. (769 words)

Notes for Editors:

- **The Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education was founded in 2007**
- **477 applications were received for the 2017 Pan-African Awards**
- **The 2017 Education That Pays Conference will be in London from 14th - 16th November**

Teach A Man To Fish is an international non-profit organisation working to improve the relevancy and quality of education in developing countries. Their pioneering approach uses school-run businesses to teach entrepreneurship and livelihood skills. For more information visit www.teachamantofish.org.uk

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