



Introducing

LUZ DE CALCIO®

CENTER FOR SUPPORT OF AFRICAN INNOVATIONS

RC 154631



Background

Africa is a new land of opportunity as against the popular belief of her being a dark continent. In a report published by Phil McKinney on the TEDx Boulder blog post tagged "Innovation in Africa: Challenges and Opportunity" he stated; "Africa is quickly becoming a hotbed of innovation, and smart investors are taking notice. In terms of population age, the continent is the youngest in the world. According to TechCabal, 'In 2050, 40% of global youth will be African today, 60% of Africa's unemployed are between 15 and 24 years old.' Invariably, if that young talent is invested in, mentored, developed, and coached, there is huge potential return - and huge

potential loss if they're left behind."
(Posted Thursday, June 23, 2016)

Despite many economic difficulties and social limitations, Africans are taking matters into their own hands. They are subsequently finding answers to local problems in their ways and in such discoveries that are now of great benefit not only to the continent but to the world largely. This bold step deserves more support in place of frustrations that have cost the continent to lose her best of minds to western countries, where such talents will not only be well appreciated but also harnessed and traded back to us in Africa in a no-distant time.

In this light, Luz de Calcio Center for Support of African Innovations (LUCSAI), a non-governmental organization, was established to address such impediments affecting African indigenous technological innovations towards public recognition and adequate support.

Our Vision

"Awakening and unveiling inherent potentials of young Africans in technological inventions and innovations towards Africans' socio-economic advantage."

Our Mission

"To source for promising, young and talented Africans with outstanding initiatives in technological inventions and innovations, and giving them platform to come to limelight."

Since it was founded in 2018, we have contributed our quota to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9 in support of domestic technological development, research, and innovations.

We have the understanding that the strength and development of any nation lie in the strength of its technological base and advancement. Recently, we held the maiden edition of our "Inventors' Party" in Lagos, Nigeria where young and talented minds from various schools and other institutions were in attendance.

Posterity will never forget a man's contribution towards innovation



Our Objectives

- We seek to encourage young and talented Africans by creating a system that will help overcome difficulties encountered in bringing their technological innovations to limelight.



- To create digital space for the exposure of young talents and their technological innovations.
- To provide a suitable atmosphere of training and mentoring for gifted children and ultimately make available a platform to grow their talents beyond the local markets.
- To establish a strong belief that Africans have all it takes to make great her continent, as we catch young the best of minds and secure them from all

possibilities that may lead to brain drain and frustration with their discoveries.



Challenges Ahead...

Despite what has been lost and for how long, we are assured that the best time to regain it back is here.

In her keynote address during African Economic Conference (AEC) 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Demitu Hambissa (who was then the Ethiopian Minister of Science and Technology) emphatically stated that *"To sustain the economic growth of Africa has experienced over the last decade, policy-makers of the region should focus and learn the best practice in fostering critical innovation barriers and gaps to achieve increased productivity and structural transformation of its economies"* (The AEC 2014 theme *"Knowledge and Innovation for Africa 's Transformation"*. Culled from www.afdb.org titled *"Poor technological capability undermining Africa's growth potential"* Nov. 1, 2014)

Without a doubt, talented innovators in Africa have suffered many discouragements due to lack of adequate

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support. Innovations in Africa has ever remained challenged by restricted access to capital, poor technical manpower, and inadequate infrastructure that supports global competitiveness.

The followings are considered major challenges that the Luz de Calcio Center for Support of African Innovations (LUCSAI) is set to beat towards the growth and development of African-borne inventions and innovations today.

- * **Stakeholders' Support:** Where her government economies only rely on single commodities such as minerals and oil, inadequate support has significantly restricted the advancement of technological innovations in Africa. The consequences come with poor technical manpower and defective infrastructure. At LUCSAI, we believe youths can also excel in technology commensurately in the entertainment and sports sectors. Hence we take the lead in advocating for support and projecting viable technological innovations from talented young Africans to the world.
- * **Infrastructure & Capacity Building:** Meeting up with counterparts in the developed world requires necessary and adequate resources to help grow these gifted young minds to standard. LUCSAI will create structures and programs in partnership with leading tech companies for capacity building and also establish a digital connectivity platform where mentees can share ideas; we are confident this will help bring young talented Africans into interaction with required developments and update knowledge and resources to broaden their scope for international relevance.
- * **Legal Backings:** Lack of adequate protection against intellectual property theft can ultimately bring great discouragement to owners. In all required ramifications and agreement with the registered owner of the project, LUCSAI shall pursue all legal requirements in the creator's protection right of original work and breach of the same.

Overall Approach

Luz de Calcio Center for Support of African Innovations (LUCSAI) is ready to partner with all major stakeholders in the sector through a “launch platform system” and our “bringing unknown works to the known” approach. This intervention will project viable tech innovations and solutions through the following steps:

- Acquisition of project details by registration on our website
- Screening of projects in accordance with project submission criteria
- Pre-exhibition meeting with successful project owners
- Public showcasing of projects to stakeholders and investors
- And finally creating access for capacity building and platform for knowledge sharing for the tech mentees.



Our Luz de Calcio Annual Tech Innovation Exhibition for various institutions of learning in Africa will target awakening Africans’ young minds in bringing forth exceptional technological innovations and solutions to many lingering problems in their immediate environment and Africa in general.

The exhibition is meant primarily to showcase these talents to all stakeholders and create a market beyond Africa.



Registration of projects on LUCSAI platform at www.luzdecalcio.net



Screening of project in accordance with project criteria.



Pre-exhibition meeting with successful project owners.



Public exhibition of projects to stakeholders and investors.



Capacity building and access to knowledge sharing platform

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