



**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN YOUNG ECONOMISTS
ASSOCIATION DES JEUNES ECONOMISTES AFRICAINS**

Mission statement : Cognizant of the relevance of knowledge economy in 21st century development, the Association of African Young Economists (AAYE) is an institution created on the 03/03/2013 which aims to facilitate scientific collaboration for contribution to and dissemination of knowledge towards development in the African continent.

Objectif: L'AAYE est une organisation à but non lucrative et apolitique créée le 03/03/2013 par un groupe restreint de jeunes chercheurs et expert Africains. Cette institution est destinée à mettre sur pied un réseau international des jeunes économistes Africains pour encourager le développement du continent à travers la collaboration et les publications scientifiques.

CALL FOR PAPERS

2016 AAYE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

05th -06th MAY, YAOUNDE, CAMEROON.

N°= __ 00207 __ /AAYE/NOVEMBRE/19/2015

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Boosting Investment and Business Environment in Africa Today: Digital Financial Sector Development as an Optimal Strategy for Financial Inclusion

Brief rationale:

It is empirically and theoretically well known that the major part of growth is supported by the investment and business performance. To this major factor of economic development; we should mention the importance of a well-functioning and developed financial system. In Africa, the main concern about is the inclusion and depth aspect of the financial system which tend to considerably explain the lower level of the contribution of the supply side of the economy. However, with his main specific characteristics such as instantaneity, cash holding free, privacy, security, perceived ease of use, compatibility, social influence ...etc. digital finance is more suitable to “*Homo Africanus*” behaviour and can therefore improve the inclusiveness of the financial sector and then unleash investments and economic development.

In Sub-saharan Africa, the 75% of the population which do not have access to any form of formal financial services is too significant to be ignored. The reasons of the felt of traditional financial system in terms of inclusion are mainly: the long distance to the nearest bank; the difficulty for population to trust and willingness to allow a tierce person like a bank to manage their very limited disposable income...etc. This contributes to the success of informal finance like ROSCAS.

The advancement of mobile communication and wireless technologies has made a rapid development in the sector of banking services using their mobile phones for example (see picture annexed). A fine system with great potential has the capacity to attract a huge block of customers to opt for banking services through their mobile phones for example. The dynamism in the present era of technology, where many other channels are available, this mobile banking system stands alone to attract more customers to come in the net of using mobile banking services. Recently, Africa has known a very high growth of cellular phones usage performing around 650 million of customer in 2012. The lower access rate of formal banking highlighted above and the important volume of immigrant transfer have contributed to unleash the increasing effective and potential demand of financial services innovation. The banking services started slowly in 2000 in Zambia, South Africa (which launched the



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biometrical payment system in 2012) and Philippines. There has been a rise of other countries such as Kenya with the launch of M-PESA (a money transfer through SMS) and M-Shwari (a banking service without folders) in 2007.

Interestingly the provision rate of mobile banking (2.7%) appeared to be less than the one of the traditional banking (5%) in this case. Indeed the development of mobile banking can improve communication and information exchange, formal savings, remittances and reduce operating costs. More interestingly, the informal finance which appears to be important in the African context can be reabsorbed by the formal system and allow data availability and good investment and well informed governmental financial policy implementations. African government should therefore mobilise and unleash the potential of digital finance in general and mobile banking in particular.

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The call for paper:

In view of the significance of digital finance at this important juncture of African growth trajectory and quest for inclusive development, the AAYE has launched a call for paper on “Digital Financial Sector Development as an Optimal Strategy for Financial Inclusion in Africa”. We are particularly interested in case studies on specific countries instead of framework paper.

Proposals on the following themes, or combinations thereof, (*but not limited to*) will be considered:

- 1) *Fostering digital finance: innovation, methods, reach, and diversity, and institutions;*
- 2) *Inter-country comparisons with respect to digital financial sector development;*
- 3) *Digital finance and smallholder agriculture;*
- 4) *Digital finance for SMEs, youth and/or women empowerment;*
- 5) *Technology, innovation and digital finance;*
- 6) *Traditional bank systems and digital finance;*
- 7) *Financial regulation and digital finance;*
- 8) *Digital finance and inclusive growth;*
- 9) *Monetary policy and digital finance.*

Requirements and Key Dates

- Proposals must consist of a maximum of 15 pages of full paper.
- Submission of proposals (**full paper only**) by March 25th, 2016 to:

The AAYE Secretariat

Email: info@aaye.org with cc to: africanyoungeconomist@gmail.com

Mail: AAYE, PO BOX: 959, Yaounde - Cameroon

On or before the 15 March 2016



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- Authors of proposals will be informed of the decision on their proposals by April, 01th 2016. Qualified women are encouraged to apply

Participation scholarship:

It should be noted that AAYE will only be able to offer financial support to a very limited number of proposal submissions depending on fund availability. We encourage paper submitters to apply for an AAYE membership to maximize their chance to win a grant. Please kindly specify in your application if you need a scholarship to attend the meeting along with the country you will come from.



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CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

2016 AAYE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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N°= 00207 /AAYE/NOVEMBRE/19/2015

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AAYE Secretariat

Tel: + (237) 675 282 771

**Email: info@aaye.org /
africanyoungeconomist@gmail.com**

Web: www.aaye.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AfricanYoungEconomists/



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Dear Partner,

The Programmes Committee of the 2016 Association of African Young Economists (AAYE) Network Assembly invites your proposal submission for the breakaway sessions at the first AAYE General Assembly, taking place from 05th – 06th May, 2016, in Yaounde, Cameroon.

The Association of African Young Economists (AAYE) was launched in Tunis, Tunisia on the 3rd March 2013 as a continent-wide network of African researchers which aims to facilitate scientific collaboration for contribution to and dissemination of knowledge towards development in the African continent.

A key programme of the AAYE is the *Annual AAYE General Assembly*. The Assembly convenes African and international development organisations and partners to debate development issues, showcase emerging philanthropy practices and demonstrate exciting innovative trends on the continent and beyond. This wealth of information is shared through case studies, expert presentations, plenary and breakaway sessions.

The theme for the 2016 Assembly is “*Boosting Investment and Business Environment in Africa Today through Scientific Research*”. The overall objective is to bring together various stakeholders including regional and national government representatives, academics, donors and the private sector to discuss knowledge needs and agree on a common work program to address the needs.

Specifically, we intend to bring together various stakeholders acting in Cameroon and overseas to discuss knowledge needs and agree on a common work program to address the needs highlighted during the conference. There will be a presentation of a clear picture of issues faced by the sector and a short-term program of a way toward a solution. It is expected to interest and develop the need of the entire participant to sign the overall common draft program and to clearly mention the way they will invest themselves to the achievement of the program. It is also expected for participant from public and private sector to act as donor to accelerate the realisation of the program and for them to have the answer and solution to the several issues they were facing by trying to develop the African digital financial sector.

Call for Workshop Submissions

The Programme Committee hereby calls for submissions for workshops that fulfil the overall aims of the AAYE Annual Assembly programme. The purpose of the workshops is to showcase cutting edge innovation and practice that will unearth new knowledge and generate fundamental questions and dialogue on our understanding of Digital Finance in Africa. The organization committee welcomes case studies, debates, research and knowledge sharing at community and policy levels in Africa.

In particular, examples of how the gaps between policy and practice for digital finance development can be addressed with scientific research improvement/development/capacity



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development are most welcome. Also of interest are submissions examining how digital financial sector development can be used as an optimal strategy for financial inclusion and boosting investment and business environment in Africa today.

Workshop submissions will be a maximum of 2 hours duration and can be made online at www.aaye.org, or emailed to info@aaye.org / africanyoungeconomist@gmail.com. Or mailed to AAYE, PO BOX: 959, Yaounde – Cameroon.

The deadline for submissions is 1700hours GMT on Friday 29th February, 2016.

For additional information about the 2016 AAYE General Assembly, please visit the AAYE Web Site.



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Call for workshop proposals – 2016 AAYE General Assembly

1. Contact details of submitting person/organisation.

Name: _____

Job Title _____

Organisation: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

AAYE member

Non-AAYE member



2. Title of proposed workshop

3. Workshop objectives (200 words maximum)

4. Workshop description (300 words maximum)



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5. Context of proposed workshop (250 words maximum)



6. Workshop format including proposed speakers where applicable (300 words maximum)

The workshop format should be designed to allow interactions, skills building, sharing of experiences/models and audience recognition.



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7. Workshop Outcomes (250 words maximum)

Give details of what those attending the proposed workshop can expect to take away in terms of learning, gained insights and so on.
