

SPEAKER PROFILES

U.S AFRICA BIZMATCH & ECONOMIC FORUM 2022

Brief Profiles of Confirmed Speakers as of Monday December 12, 2022

Speaker

Benoni Urey

Founder/Chairman/CEO, **Lonestar Cell MTN Liberia**

 Benoni Wilfred Urey is an Americo-Liberian businessman and politician, who was formerly the Liberian Commissioner of Maritime Affairs. In 2014 The Economist reported that Urey was Liberia's wealthiest man. He is the founder of Lonestar Communication Corporation, Liberia's largest nationwide mobile network and tax contributor, and Wulki Farms – one of the country's primary indigenous food producers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benoni_Urey

Guest Speaker

Celestin Mukeba Muntuabu

General Director/GM, **EquityBCDC Bank**

 EquityBCDC is a subsidiary of Equity Group Holdings Plc (EGH) following the acquisition of majority shareholding of BCDC by EGH from the family of George Forrest in July 2020.

Equity BCDC is the second largest bank in Democratic Bank of Congo with a balance sheet of USD 2.5 billion and a nationwide footprint of 74 branches, 214 ATMs, 13 local dedicated desks, 3055 agents, and a customer of nearly one million. <https://equitygroupholdings.com/cd/en/>

Guest Speaker

Tonya McNeal-Weary

Founder & Managing Director, **IBS Global Consulting**

 An award-winning entrepreneur, international business expert, world traveler, author, and global champion for women's economic empowerment. She is the Founder and Managing Director of IBS Global Consulting, a global management consulting firm that specialize in helping small and medium-sized companies expand into international markets. <https://tonyamcnealweary.com/>

Guest Speaker

Akinwole Omoboriowo II

Chairman, **Genesis Energy Group**

 With over 20 years' experience in the energy sector, Akinwole II has led various executive teams in structuring, financing, and implementing several innovative and commercially sound projects including solar PV plus battery storage, small hydro, and energy efficiency projects of small-scale LNG & LPG-fired power projects to displace the more expensive and environmentally unfriendly diesel oil to several customers in Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. <https://www.genesisenergygroup.net/>

 **Guest Speaker**

Patuxolo Nodada

Group Chief Executive Officer, **Busmark Group**

 A driver of his own business, as 100% owner of Busmark Group, a 45-year-old business which designs, develops, manufactures and maintains of buses on behalf local and international OEM's, using local funding, labor and raw materials, delivered 80% of BRT buses in South Africa to date. Actively managed his various investments in manufacturing from electronic equipment, tv's, decoders, smart meters, chemicals, rock drills, electrical sub-stations etc. A passionate entrepreneur, who has empowered many, in his value chains, as part of his Enterprise Development. Managing development of an industrial city on the West Rand of Gauteng in forming West Rand Accelerator, building up to West City Heavy Commercial Hub. <https://busmark.co.za/>

 **Guest Speaker**

Mary Waithiegi Chege

Managing Partner, **EMSI & Associates**

 Mary Chege is the founder and principal at EMSI & Associates, a boutique women-owned law firm in Nairobi, Kenya. She has over 20 years' experience in advising on a broad range of transactions across Sub-Saharan Africa and has acted for a cross-section of clients ranging from project sponsors, public entities and corporate clients in the energy, infrastructure, and real estate sectors. Over the years, she has led and participated in multi-jurisdictional teams in various project and corporate transactions across several countries in sub-Saharan Africa. She has been involved at every stage of project development from project feasibility and due diligence investigations through to drafting and negotiation of key project and transaction agreements, financing agreements and security documentation. <https://emsi.co.ke/>

 **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Sherine Helmy

CEO of **Pharco Pharmaceuticals**

 Pharco Pharmaceuticals is the mother company of Pharco group, founded in 1983 and operating in the pharmaceutical field for development, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and exporting of a comprehensive array of generics and branded generic drugs under the name of Pharco, along with a rising number of licensed pharmaceutical products. Pharco Corp. is the largest manufacturer of pharmaceuticals in the MENA region, focused on research, formulation, manufacturing, and commercialization of pharmaceutical products. Today Pharco Corp. employs over 8,000 employees and has over 650 million packs produced in 2017 — ranking as the leader in the Egyptian pharmaceutical market. Pharco also exports to 53 countries around the world. <https://pharco.org/>

 **Guest Speaker**

Nancy Abdelhadi

Chief Commercial Officer, **MAG Trade & Investment**

 Nancy Elbassiouny is the Chief Commercial Officer at MAG Trade & Investment with over 30 years of work experience in the fields of business development, marketing, sales, public, and government relations. She worked at different diplomatic organizations like the Egyptian Consulate in New York and the Saudi Cultural Mission in Washington D.C. She has also worked for several international organizations including Qatar Foundation which is headquartered in Qatar. She is also currently the Director of International Relations at Pharco Pharmaceuticals and & also the CEO and founder of International Business & Investment Services - IBIS, a consulting firm specializing in business development, and event management. <https://www.magtrading.com/> - www.ibisme.com

Guest Speaker

Dr. Jeannice Fairrer Samani

Managing Director, **Fairrer Samani Group**

 Dr. Jeannice Fairrer Samani, MBA, MCP is an Innovationalist. Dr. Samani has co-creating over 100 global competitive organizations. Her executive experience as a VP of IT and Senior Manager of Global Operations, she shares her experiences as a thought leader in her upcoming book *Fifth Wave of a Transformative Leader*,™ addresses the demands of global and strategic foresight for successful leaders. An Executive Leader in Artificial Intelligence, Digital Transformation, Blockchain, Data Analytics, strategic business integration management, and a global speaker on Tech and Innovation. An award-winning technologist, recipient of the Minority Economic Development Technology Award, an entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience, and a certified investor. www.linkedin.com/in/jeannicefairrersamani

Guest Speaker

Angelle B. Kwemo

President & CEO, **Astrategik Group, LLC**

Founder & President, **Believe in Africa**

 Ms. Kwemo is President & CEO of Astrategik Group, a firm that provides international trade advisory and strategic services to multi-dimensional entities willing to engage with Africa and emerging markets. She was the co-host of "Count Down to the White House TV Show", a weekly one-hour TV show, covering the 2020 U.S. presidential elections to 14 million African audiences with a target to the 1.2 African descent voting block.

A native of Cameroon, she started her career in France at Bestaux Law firm. In Douala, Cameroon, she served as the Chief of the Maritime Claims and Disputes Department, and later as the General Counsel for Bollore Technology Group and Geodis Overseas. She worked for seven years in the U.S. Congress as Legislative Counsel for two members of the House of Representatives, including Rep. Bobby L. Rush, Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Ms. Kwemo was instrumental in the U.S. Congress and played a key role in policy formulation on issues affecting the global economy. She worked tirelessly on the passage of legislations to increase U.S. – Africa trade relations that led to the first African Leaders Summit under President Barack Obama. <https://www.astrategikgroup.com/>

Guest Speaker

Mgr Eva Skornickova

Business Development, **SEDA Africa Group**

 For 15 years, she worked as an Executive and the Chief Legal Counsel of the Central European legal divisions in the multinational companies Kimberly-Clark and Mondelēz (former Kraft Foods). She also worked as a diplomatic consul and led the Consular Section at the Czech Embassy in Canada.

Currently, she serves as the Business Development at SEDA Africa Group, a company with activities and projects in Africa, and a proud exclusive sales representative of Hutira for the African market. S.E.D.A. Consulting s.r.o. cooperate in the project "Water for Africa".

<https://farminc.cz/eng/>

Co-Host & Speaker

Mr. Andre Bouassa

Chairman of **\$Pay Rem Inc**

 Andre Bouassa is a visionary that takes an idea and makes it reality through sound strategic development. He is the Chairman of Pay Rem Investment Group Inc, a mobile money, and digital payments application company. He is also the Chairman and CEO of World Class Business Development, an aviation company, and the Chairman of Out of Fence Foundation, a Non-Profit Organization. In addition, he also serves as the President of Capital Investment Holding Group. He attended HARVARD Business School – Financial Technology: Guidance & Insight of the Financial Sector. <https://www.payreminc.com/>

Co-Host & Speaker

Dr. Tamara Alqolaghassi

President of **American International Education Federation**

President of **Capital Investment Holding Group**

CEO, **\$Pay Rem Inc.**

Peace, Humanitarian, and Goodwill Ambassador

Dr. Alqolaghassi has many years of expertise in leadership, management, investment, development (sustainable development, humanitarian, and Peace), IT, education, and entrepreneurship. Currently holding a lot of high-level positions, Experience of many high-profile positions like chairwoman, CEO, president, vice president and founder for profit companies and nonprofit organizations. Working globally throughout many organizations emphasizing the sustainable development goals of the United Nations and 2030 agenda.

Established a lot of events, profit and nonprofit projects, and conferences as the head of many organizations and under her vision, mentorship, and supervision. Joined many conferences as a mentor, main speaker, and honorary/main guest. Chaired many conferences and projects involving political, scientific, educational, economic, developmental, environmental, and humanitarian fields. <https://amief.org/>

Guest Speaker

Remi Duyile

Founded, **Legacy Premier Foundation**

 A proven business leader with over 30 years of banking and community engagement experience. Founder of Legacy Premier Foundation, a nonprofit with the mission of empowering the underserved with programs in financial literacy, mentorship, small business development, and community investment. In 14 years of operations, Legacy Premier has successfully impacted over five hundred small businesses. I am a serving member of the social committee for our oak creek community. She is also a founding member of the Global Engagement Committee of Bowie State University School of business and currently serving as a Mentor for the Bowie State University Leadership & Mentoring Academy. She serves on the legislative and the empowerment committee for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Prince George's County chapter, which is an advocacy non-profit organization that works as a change agent to influence policy that promotes gender equity in health, education, and economic empowerment. <https://www.legacypremier.org>

Co-Host

Dr. Emmanuel O. Irono

Economist & Businessman

Founder, **Motir Services Inc.**

 As President and Chief Executive Officer of MOTIR, Emmanuel O. Irono is responsible for providing strategic leadership for the company and directs the Administration, Corporate Governance, Marketing, Finance, and contracts. He has traveled all over the world and has created a company of diversity that gives back to US-based heritable organizations and his homeland through his nonprofit organization. TIS feeds, educates, and provides medical treatment for African children. Whether feeding the hungry and abandoned, supplying educational tools to rural area schoolchildren, or implementing an AIDS Awareness Program, Mr. Irono is taking local action, reaching global heights. With MOTIR, the future is still an ever-evolving globe of successful initiatives.

A strategic visionary with analytical ability, good judgment, and strong operational focus, after completing his studies, Emmanuel took a job working as a budget analyst for a federal contractor. Pursuing a lifelong dream of owning his own business, he bought out a small, struggling janitorial service company for \$10,000 and turned it into a \$50 million profit generator. He renamed the company Motir Services, Inc. in honor of his parents: Memory of Theresa Irono Romanus. <https://www.motirservices.com/>

Guest Speaker

Jeff Lahl

Chairman of the Board
The Northland Campus

 An accomplished business leader and operations executive with over 36 years of experience in multi-site operations, best-in-class networking, and relationship management, and radically increasing revenue growth while providing superior customer service and client engagement. He has an extensive experience in complex project management, building and leading top performing teams, and driving administrative excellence. I enjoy building valuable partnerships and work well with people at all levels of the organization, including stakeholders, customers, team members, vendors, and community leaders. To date, he has spoken in over 1,700 venues, primarily related to education, camp, church, and leadership events.

Guest Speaker

Josh Knauer

Emerging Tech & Business Strategist
Former Advisor to **President Obama on Science and Technology**

 Josh is a serial tech entrepreneur with two successful exits and a ceaseless fascination about how we can use emerging technology and data to make decisions for a better future. He's currently a co-founder of ReSeed, General Partner at JumpScale, an Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, an Advisor for Columbia Technology Ventures/NYSERDA and a Board member at WQED, which of course is the PBS station founded by Mr. Rogers. Over the course of his career, he has seen a wide range of experiences from the African Savanna to help indigenous tribes implement business strategies to protect their land and culture, to the boardrooms of Fortune 100 companies, universities, nonprofits and in between.

He was asked by President Barack Obama to join the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to work on creating and implementing open data initiatives. Josh has served on a wide range of local, national, and international non-profit boards, including the Social Venture Network and WQED Multimedia, he is a mentor to many startups and entrepreneurs and a frequent speaker at events like SXSW, AdWeek, the International Television Festival and many universities. <https://www.reseed.farm/>

Guest Speaker

Dr. Osama Elmustafa

Executive Director and Program Manager
RBC TV

An Executive Director and Program Manager an Experienced great media career extensive experience in TV areas worked as an executive senior producer. A media strategic planner for programs, program management, worked in a program quality management. Expert in both management of media relations and worked in media training in television and management of TV channels. Expert in both news editing and team leadership management. Strong media and mass communication professional with experience of over 22 years.

 **Guest Speaker**

Nneka S. Achapu

Political & Public Affairs Strategist

Founder of **Asha Strategies LLC**

Nneka S. Achapu is a political & public affairs strategist from Houston, Texas, now living in Washington D.C. She has centered her work on United States - Africa trade relations, immigration and civic & political engagement. Nneka was born in Nigeria and raised in Italy, she later moved to the United States to pursue further studies at the University of Houston where she earned bachelor's degrees in Political Science, Spanish and Language Literature and a minor in Global Business. Nneka is currently a graduate student attending the Bush School of Government and Public Service, at Texas A&M University.

She is fluent in Italian, Spanish and proficient in Arabic, Hindi and several other languages. Nneka is the founder of the U.S. Bilateral African Chamber of Commerce an organization focused on increasing bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Africa. In her role she directed the Chamber's efforts to help American businesses penetrate the African Market by providing seminars, educational workshops and networking opportunities for entrepreneurs interested in doing business in Africa. She is also the founder of the African Public Affairs Committee (AfriPAC) an organization that advocates for the empowerment of African immigrants in the U.S. through civic engagement and their inclusion and participation in the political system.

 **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Shady Murad Zoin

Chief Operating Officer,

President, **MAKERS USEG CORPORATION**

VP – Pharco Corporation

➤ Managing Director –Prime Pharma Co., Egypt Feb 2016 Till present

Responsible for Prime Pharma Export Department

- Managing Product Development, Packaging Material & Sampling Preparation.
- Managing Orders Handling & Logistics Managements.
- Managing Opening New Markets, Contracts Proofing & Registration Process.
- Creation of new products and developing new approaches in product design, packaging & marketing tools.

 **Guest Speaker**

Bako Ambianda

Chairman & CEO, Labacorp Group

 A Global African Entrepreneur, well-known and respected as an International Development Expert. He is the Chairman and CEO of Labacorp Group of Companies (LGC) with a portfolio of activities in plastic waste recycling, solar energy installation & distribution, real estate development, trade & investment services, electric motorbikes assembling & distribution, and corporate events operating in six countries.

 **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Ghassan Bou Diab (Ph.D, Dr. Sc. Rel)

Managing Partner, **USLCIC**

 **Guest Speaker**

Ambassador Nickson Deng

Director of Regional Organizations Department

Republic of South Sudan

Former South Sudanese Ambassador to Belgium and the EU. Implemented to reflect the situation in South Sudan and the escalating tensions with neighboring Sudan. To the international community is very concerned and the UN Security Council passed a resolution on 2012 to demanding an end to hostilities between the two countries. Sudan and South Sudan he was, and he succeeded in his mission.

 **Co-Host & Moderator**

Salahuddin Tauhidi

International Liaison officer & Board Member, **ATIGS Group International**
CEO, Ta-Meri Visions

International Entrepreneurial Engineer, Business Development Specialist, Holistic-Resource Development. Former Sr. International Trade Specialist, Africa - Mideast, US Department of Commerce. Founder Ta-Meri Visions, LLC, a boutique pan-African based eco-environmental and sustainable trade, investment, and business development enterprise and collective.

 **Guest Speaker**

Ambassador Fassally Tarawally

Special Envoy on Trade & Investment
Office of the President of Sierra Leone

 **Albert H. Anoubon Momo**

Vice President, **Trimble**, and was formerly in charge of SERVIR at USAID

 **Chukwudi Ofili**

Director of Investment Management & East African Regional Counsel, **Renew Capital**

 **Chabala Kaunda**

Senior Advisor, Blackstone Africa Strategy Partners

 **Dr. Toby Malichi, Hon.D.Bus., D.H.L**

Founding Executive Chairman, **Malichi Group Worldwide**

 **Daniel Klinck, CEO**

East African Power Ltd

 **Dr. Osama Elmustafa**

Executive Director and Program Manager, **RBC TV**

 **Dr. Sabina Anokye Mensah**

Chief Executive Officer, Anomena Ventures

 **Elhadji Malick SOUMARE**

Deputy Chief of Party, **USAID Entrepreneurship & Investment**

 **Jerry Roane**

CEO, **TriTrack Motors**

 **Jamiu Junior Adekunle**

Head, Internal Audit, **Lagos State Employment Trust Fund**

 **Kazeem Bello**

Principal Partner & CEO, **Afrique Capital & Equity Funds Limited**

 **Nelly U Ndaguba**

CEO, **Nelsag Enterprises Intl Limited**

 **Wissy Sedadji Homawoo**

President Group Africa, **Cameron Group Int**