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MISSION
To educate and connect students, young professionals, and entrepreneurs with global opportunities through multidisciplinary research and public policy advocacy for a freer, prosperous society.

VISION
To build a peaceful, prosperous future for all.

Belinder Odek, President, and Nathaniel Dwamena, Programs Manager of Young Africans for Opportunities (YAFO)
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Africa has immense potential to make use of the numerous resources to create employment, build industries, support entrepreneurship and ensure food security for the entire populace. However, this is not the case as have been observed in several countries within the continent. There is tremendous looting and plunder of public funds by people in charge of projects, who are mainly political appointees. They steal public monies meant to establish projects and channel them elsewhere for personal gain. The result is a starved, angry, hungry and government dependent population. Our desire is to see a more self-reliant, happy and prosperous citizenry in Africa.

YAFO is changing the narrative by introducing an interesting perspective to change the common rhetoric from poverty reduction to wealth creation. That is what we do. We connect young Africans (students, young professionals, entrepreneurs) with opportunities across the globe through advocacy, capacity building and research. Our student leaders take part in cardinal policy dialogue and constructive solution-oriented political discussions meant to turn things around and promote economic freedom and growth.

YAFO welcomes partnership and support of any kind, that will help us achieve our goal. The support could be technological, financial, expertise or even a partnership to run a project together. Should you have interest in what we do, email me at either: odekbelinder@gmail.com or belinder.odek@yafopportunities.org.

BELINDER ODEK
PRESIDENT
OVERVIEW ON ACTIVITIES

Young Africans for Opportunities was borne in July, 2017 at a colloquium in Kenya, and is currently one of the fastest growing organizations in Africa. Our first event was held in Ghana, afterwards through our activities our tentacles’ have spread across six African countries; Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Burkina Faso.

CONNECTING YOUNG AFRICANS WITH OPPORTUNITIES

The first event of YAFO took place in Ghana on 10th March, 2018. This event was part of the project dubbed OPPORTUNITY SUMMIT under the Africa Invest program. Opportunity Summit seek to connect students, young professionals and entrepreneurs with opportunities and ignite entrepreneurial spirit in the young generation. The events collaborated with Max International, a network market company in Ghana to educate students, young entrepreneurs and professionals on the amazing opportunities available within the company. Also, the event featured a successful entrepreneur, who spoke on how to overcome the challenges in entrepreneurship. The guest speaker was Mr. Marricke Gane. The event had one hundred and twenty participants.

Nathaniel, Programs Manager, sharing Network for free Society CD’s with participants at Opportunity Summit Event at Kumasi-Ghana
OPPORTUNITY SUMMIT EVENT IN NIGERIA

In April, 2018, another episode of Opportunity Summit took place in Nigeria at the University of Lagos. The event presented the opportunity of blockchain technology to students, young professionals and entrepreneurs. Event was organized by our leaders, Mr. Taiye Salami and Babarinde Kayode.
INTRODUCING IDEAS OF LIBERTY DURING STUDENTS ELECTIONEERING PERIOD

Young Africans for Opportunities organized presidential debate in tertiary institutions during students electioneering process. In April, 2018, we organized the presidential debate for the Students Representative Council (SRC) and Local Chapter of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) at the University of Education, Kumasi Campus.

*SRC presidential candidates in the heat of debate*
ANNUAL REPORT

Members of YAFO moderating SRC Presidential Debate at University of Education, Kumasi-Ghana

NUGS Presidential debate hosted during Student’s Parliament Session at University of Education, Kumasi-Ghana.
YAFO-KNUST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Our campus chapter at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) also organized successful presidential debate for two Faculties associations; thus, Social Science Society - KNUST and International Association of Students in Agriculture and Other Related Sciences - KNUST. Interestingly, both candidates that topped the debate won their respective election at KNUST.

Great enthusiasm during IAAS-KNUST presidential Debate organizes by YAFO-KNUST

YAFO PARTICIPANTING IN THE AFRICAN JOURNALISTS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TRAINING IN GHANA (AJEOT)

Young Africans for Opportunity has made it a goal to connect students, young professionals and entrepreneurs with opportunities across Africa. In June, 2018, the Institute of Liberty and Policy Innovation in Ghana organized AJEOT which saw participants from across Africa. YAFO was able to sponsor six (6) of its members to benefit from the me training geared towards equipping Journalists to understand economic freedom so they can ask the hard but right questions for development. The members were from Nigeria, Kenya and majority of four from Ghana.

AJEOT training covered a range of topics on Liberty, Economics, Effective Writings etc. which will go a long way in equipping our members to become more effective for YAFO. We also had an opportunity to build strong network with other participants.
Belinder Odek (right), president of YAFO, contribution as adjudicator during project pitching at AJEOT 2018
Rita Aikins (YAFO-KNUST) presenting group assignment at AJEOT

Taiye Salami (YAFO-NIGERIA) making presentation on group assignment at AJEOT
BUILDING AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE

In July, 2018, the maiden YAFO Ambassador Course took place. This was a four-week online training with weekly modules and assignments for participants. The Ambassador course is an annual training focused on equipping change agents with knowledge and skills to promote individual sovereignty, stress the need for free markets, open borders and the rule of law in Africa for a freer, prosperous society for all. The course attracted 13 entrants but only 7 participants were able to complete successfully. Successful candidates were Mohamed Samuel Conteh (Sierra Leone), Bass Sheku Kamara (Sierra Leone), Amure Ridwan (Nigeria), Omolola Afolabi (Nigeria), Barbara Ofosu (Ghana), Stephanie Efua Yamoah (Ghana) and Annie Favour Abdulai (Sierra Leone).

At the end, certificates were awarded to seven participants. We support YAFO Ambassadors to advance ideas of freedom in their localities.

Some of our maiden Ambassadors could not hide their smiles after receiving their certificates

THINK TANK ESSENTIAL COURSE WITH ATLAS NETWORK

Improving staff’s quality and efficiency is one thing most organization invest in, and it is no different at Young Africans for Opportunities (YAFO). In August, 2018, YAFO was privileged to have two of its staffs selected to an in-person training by Atlas Network in Nigeria. This was the first of its kind and as a young organization, Belinder Odek and Nathaniel Dwamena, President and Programs Manage respectively, represented YAFO at the training.

The on-going restructuring, good database among other areas are all applications of the many things learnt from the training. YAFO members and Ambassadors are connected to Atlas Leadership Academy for resources and capacity building.
We Are YAFO
Atlas Network team impacting resourceful knowledge during Think Tank Essential Course, Nigeria
MY AFRICA, MY FUTURE

The backbone of Africa’s economy is Agriculture. In order to promote economic prosperity in Africa, we have to invest in Agriculture using the latest technology. Through one of our Campus Organizations, YAFO-KNUST in partnership with the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Other Related Sciences organized the event dubbed ‘’THE USE OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE. ‘’

The event feature Mr. Abdul-Raman Sarpong, head of the Center for Blockchain and Management Information Systems at Institute of Liberty and Policy Innovations (ILAPI).

Dash Digital coin was introduced at the event by a Dash Ambassador, Mr. Abdullah.

YAFO is committed to connecting young people with opportunities and encouraging them to take advantage of such rare opportunities.
CELEBRATIONS

ANNUAL DINNER WITH YAFO-KNUST

Dinner celebration with YAFO-KNUST at the University Dining Hall. Awards were given to members and outgoing executives for great work done. The 2018/19 executives of YAFO were inaugurated.
NEW CAMPUS ORGANIZATION

One of the measurable impact for the YAFO Ambassador course is to trained leaders who can advance the mission of YAFO in their respective locality. In view of this, Miss Barbara Ofosu, who is one of our maiden Ambassador, was able to lead a team to establish YAFO at University of Cape Coast, (YAFO-UCC), thus a campus based organization at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Our team was delighted to visit during the first Opportunity Summit Event in Central Region of Ghana. The event was under the theme Strategic Networking and Entrepreneurship.

YAFO is grateful to the following patrons for making the establishment of campus organization possible in accordance to the rule and regulations of tertiary institutions in Ghana;

1. Mr. Kwadwo Afriyie, Lecturer, KNUST
2. Dr. Eric Anane, Lecturer UCC
3. Dr. Lebbeaus Asamani, Lecturer, UCC
YAFO AMBASSADORS

Amazing works underway as Ambassadors advance freedom in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria. Mohamed Samuel Conteh, Bass Sheku Kamara and Ibrahim Thullah are putting efforts together in Sierra Leone, to advance the free market principles.

Barbara Ofosu and her team are advancing freedom while promoting entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in the newly established campus organization YAFO-UCC.

PARTNERS

YAFO was able to undertake all the wonderful projects and events because of the significant support and donations from our partners.

We take this time out to say a big thank you our partners thus; the Institute for Liberty and Policy Innovation, Kingscel and Center for Better Society Advocacy and Research. We would also like to thank the Atlas Network for their generous support in helping two (2) YAFO executive staff build capacity at the Think Tank Essentials course in Nigeria and other online courses that are extremely useful.

It is our hope to expand and build strong partnership with numerous institutions to aid the spread of free market enterprise in Africa. Together, we will help build a freer Africa.
CHALLENGES

As an organization, YAFO and its activities encounter some challenges. Despite the fact that we were able to achieve a lot of successes and targets, there were some hurdles that we encountered. These challenges were as follows:

- The free market movement in Africa faces systematic oppositions. Getting Africans commitment to change is really difficult. Our leaders are used to the idea of developing policies that promote their vested interests while oppressing the young Africans who are willing to invest in their own business, to improve their lives and that of others.
- YAFO as a young organization, is gradually building its strong network across the continent. Getting materials such as books and CDs on liberty across borders is also very challenging. Most countries still have oppressive tax policies which sometimes forces one to pay tax on charitable items.
- We were not able to accomplish all the projects set out in our work plan due to limited funds.

OUR TEAM

EXECUTIVES

Belinder Odek, CO-FOUNDER & CEO/PRESIDENT

Nathaniel Dwamena, Programs Manager

Peter Bismark Kwofie, Director of Outreach

Kingsley Mensah, Head of IT
“If one prevents a man from working for the good of society while at the same time providing for the satisfaction of his own needs, then only one way remains open to him: to make himself richer and others poorer by the violent oppression and spoliation of his fellow men.”

Ludwig von Mises

Kindly Donate to support YAFO

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