



Supporting social entrepreneurship in Togo

The three laureates of Energy Generation Abel, Lalle, and Prince share their stories of social entrepreneurs in energy-related fields.

Schneider Electric Access to Energy Training & Entrepreneurship program

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“ I believe my project can solve significant problems that rural people are facing and at the same time create jobs locally. ”



Abel Kidane

18, Ethiopian, laureate of the Energy Generation Prize 2016 - a pan African contest for social entrepreneurs to invent their own solutions to Africa's energy challenges.

What was your background before entering the entrepreneurship program?

Before entering the incubator, I was already working on construction installation, electricity installation and plumbing system.

What was your academic and professional background before entering the entrepreneurship program?

I was doing precollege studies: I was studying natural science at the International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia before I joined the program. I also acquired common electronics maintaining and fixing skills through short courses and academic classes.

Why did you decide to become entrepreneur and why did you choose our program?

I wanted to become an entrepreneur because I believe my project can solve significant problems that rural people are facing and at the same time create jobs locally. I have run entrepreneurial activities in the past, but it wasn't formal and advanced as I lacked knowledge. I found this program very useful to help me launch my project called Hand Crank Power, and to strengthen my skills and my entrepreneurial experience.

What has our program supporting entrepreneurship brought to you?

Thanks to the courses I gained knowledge on topics that I was not aware of before. Now I believe it was very important to learn it to avoid making mistakes. The program also helped us to finalize both our prototype and business plan effectively and to get ready for next steps. The individual coaching has been a real strength to move forward in our project. Finally, working in group is helpful to exchange ideas and to get the support you need sometimes.

How do you envision your entrepreneurial activity and what are your objectives for the coming years?

I would like to work on new technologies that will have great impact on people's life, especially in rural Africa to give access to affordable energy to everyone. In the coming years, I want to launch different products in my startup, and try to bring different inventions to the market.

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Lalle Yentaguime Nadjagou

24 ans, Togolais, lauréat du Energy Generation Prize 2016 – concours pan Africain destiné aux entrepreneurs sociaux qui inventent leurs propres solutions pour faire face aux défis énergétiques de l'Afrique.

Quel a été votre parcours avant le programme de soutien à l'entrepreneuriat social ?

Titulaire du baccalauréat depuis 2016, je poursuis mes études en électromécanique à l'Université des Sciences et Technologies au Togo. Sur le plan professionnel, j'ai travaillé au woelab comme formateur en technologie du bricolage, technologie de l'imprimante 3D, modélisation en 3D, initiations à l'informatique et réseaux sociaux. Je suis aussi membre actif du club de l'Unesco pour les

chantiers de reboisement à Dapaong. Enfin, mes réussites de recherche sont : une voiture commandable, une mini imprimante 3D fabriquée à partir de lecteurs DVD recyclés, une motopompe automatique pour arroser le jardin sans intervention du jardinier.

Pourquoi avez-vous décidé de devenir entrepreneur et choisi notre programme ?

J'aime la recherche scientifique : pour satisfaire ma curiosité et faire des expériences, j'avais besoin d'argent et d'équipement. Je voulais être indépendant, et voyant la tâche qui m'est réservée en tant qu'africain, j'ai décidé de remettre à plus tard mon parcours universitaire et d'entreprendre pour trouver des moyens financiers tout en résolvant les crises dont le monde souffre actuellement (pollution, énergie, etc.).

“ Entreprendre pour trouver des moyens financiers tout en résolvant les crises dont le monde souffre actuellement. ”

“ Faire ce programme en groupe était très enrichissant. ”

Qu'est-ce que le programme vous a apporté ?

La formation m'a permis de consolider mes connaissances, notamment sur le business plan et le plan de financement. De plus, le fait de faire ce programme en groupe était très enrichissant. Les contributions des autres étudiants et leurs questions m'ont aidé à mieux comprendre les cours.

Comment envisagez-vous votre activité d'entrepreneur et quelles sont vos objectifs pour les prochaines années ?

Dans le cadre du projet pour lequel je suis lauréat du concours Energy Generation, HydroPower (un groupe électrogène qui fonctionne à l'eau), j'aimerais apporter une solution énergétique pour les populations pauvres, au Togo notamment. Sur le long terme, j'aimerais développer mes activités sur le marché extérieur au Togo.



Prince Nana Kow Essel

24, Ghanaian, laureate of the Energy Generation Prize 2016 - a pan African contest for social entrepreneurs to invent their own solutions to Africa's energy challenges.

Why did you decide to become entrepreneur and why did you choose our program?

What made me want to become an entrepreneur is the joy and fulfillment that come with meeting people's need with an innovative solution. After my bachelor's degree, I decided to enter this program supporting social entrepreneurship in energy because I took a look at the content and I realized it was tailored to my entrepreneurial needs and expectations.

“ It was tailored to my entrepreneurial needs and expectations. ”

What has our program supporting entrepreneurship brought to you?

The program brought me the strong entrepreneurial core knowledge that I needed, and I believe that the strength of the courses is that the fundamentals were taught in an easy to understand manner. Unlike other entrepreneurial programs that usually have

“ I would like to be recognized as the region's leader in my area of venture. ”

greater number of student and fewer teachers, this program gave me the opportunity to interact with trainers and to have personalized sessions with them during and after courses. Finally, since the program is in group - with people coming from all over Africa - I found it interesting to be able to interact with people from different cultures.

How do you envision your entrepreneurial activity and what are your objectives for the coming years?

The project that I presented to the Energy Generation Prize is called EcoDiesel (production of fuel with plastic waste), and I would like to be recognized as the region's leader in my area of venture. In the next two years, my objective is to see my project developed into a lucrative business venture.