

ATDF CORNER

Entrepreneurship investments

In January 2007, ATDF officially announced the Zambian Entrepreneurship Award 2007 as well as the Entrepreneurship Challenge Award.

By May 1, 2007, the official deadline for submission, TDF has received over 100 Business Plans with many original ideas. The proposed businesses include agro-tourism, alternative energy products, infrastructure improvements, non-traditional export crops, waste management, telecentres, transport services, etc. Most of the applicants are highly qualified. Some of the applicant are already running small businesses and hold degrees of higher education obtained at home and abroad. The business plans prove that there is much more entrepreneurship spirit in African countries than social planners wish to acknowledge.

The business plans will go through a first screening process by end of May, second screening by end of June and the final selection by July. At each stage, comments will be sent to the applicants and those selected may have to make some modification before the proposals go to the next stage.

About 10 applicants will be invited to make a presentation and meet the Zambian advisory board and members of the Board of Directors of the Hub around mid August in Zambia. The awards are supported by the Swiss entrepreneur and member of the Board of Director of the Business Hub, Ernst Thomke.

ATDF would like to thank all the applicants for their efforts and interest in the Hub's investment products. Although the first round is now closed, those with business ideas may send them to:

info@atdforum.org

The Entrepreneurship Course

The course has attracted significant interest and several requests have been made. Here we provide answers to some of the frequently asked questions:

What is the cost? Approximately US\$200. This does not include transportation costs

What will the course cover? Business foresight, developmental entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial mindset and attitudes, planning, investment options, competition, project evaluation, intellectual property rights, taxation, other business-related legal and regulatory instruments and business plan design, among others. Teaching is largely via case studies, demonstrations and presentations by established entrepreneurs and policy makers.

How does one apply? Candidates are expected to submit a business proposal (less than 1100 words) and will be selected based on their proposals (as a team or as individuals, and firms may also propose a candidate). The course is designed to help refine and develop these ideas, experiment through mini-consulting units or prototypes.

Can one apply for the course as well as for the Hub's other products? Yes

What is the main expectation? The candidates will have developed their ideas into successful business concept that may qualify for the Hub's funding in 6 to 10 months. The course is not intended to qualify workers, but to develop entrepreneurs, capable of weighing and taking investment risks and understanding the business environment.

You may send your applications to info@atdforum.org

Website design competition fails to attract applicants

The website design competition, though offering an attractive commercial rate for a prototype, not a single application was received from Africa. The few requests for consideration came from Asia. Given that we received business plans for internet café development, their seems to be a huge gap in ICT knowledge in Africa.

ATDF, through the Entrepreneurship Hub, is considering the development of specific IT skills at secondary and tertiary levels. The target is to move from usage knowledge to creative and innovative IT skills.

Coming soon: ATDF French website and content

You want to be involved to help ATDF speak French?

**African Technology Development Forum
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