

Wiener Demokratiejahr
Europäische Demokratiehauptstadt 2024/25
Wien - international – innovativ

Demokratie im Digitalen Raum

15. Jänner, 17:00, Wien

Globaler Austausch & Best Practices

Lernen Sie die Internationalen Expert:innen kennen

→ Africa



Dorothy Gordon

Ghana

ICT4Development Consultant



Gender Rights, Policy Making, UN Agenda

Dorothy Gordon is a renowned specialist in digital technologies for development, with over two decades of transformative leadership experience in Africa and Asia. She recently chaired the UNESCO Information for All Programme and actively supports startups and innovation as a board member of WSA. A dedicated pan-Africanist and feminist, Dorothy's expertise spans gender and technology, educational technology, and the future of AI and security.



Madara Ogot

Kenya



Democracy & Education, Policy Making

CEO UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networks

Prof. Madara Ogot is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Enterprise), University of Nairobi and Chairman, Nairobi Innovation Week. Sample of consultancy projects carried out: Team Leader, Development of a Draft policy on Research Training and Innovation in Kenya on behalf of the Commission for University Education April - May 2015.



→ Africa



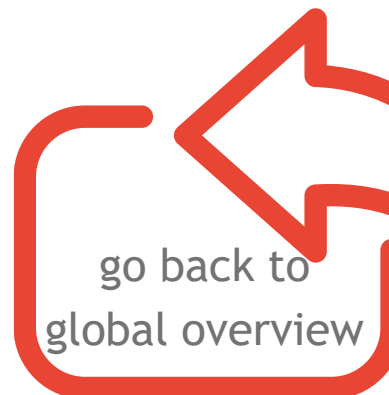
Harry Tomi Davies Nigeria



Innovation, Entrepreneurship,
Government Transformation

The African Business Angel Network (ABAN)

Harry Tomi Davies (TD) is an IT Systems Analyst turned Tech Advisor that as held leadership roles with global brands like Ernst & Young, Marks & Spencer, Elf Aquitaine, Sapient and the One Laptop Per Child project. Over the last decade TD has nurtured a growing portfolio of Africa-based tech-enabled early stage ventures as a business angel. He is co-founder of the Lagos Angel Network (LAN) and President of the African Business Angel Network (ABAN). In 2020, Tomi joined Greentec Capital Partners a venture building firm with a [focus on high-impact startups](#) on the African continent in Frankfurt Germany as [Chief Investment Officer](#).



→ Asia



Osama Manzar

India 

Civil Society, Rural Development, Democracy and Bottom of the Pyramid

CEO and Founder Digital Empowerment Foundation

Osama Manzar is a leading social entrepreneur, founder of Digital Empowerment Foundation, working to bridge the rural-urban information gap. He initiated awards like Manthan and mBillionth to recognize digital innovation, with expertise in e-content and extensive experience in journalism and ICTD case studies across India and South Asia. Fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, and Persian, he is committed to empowering communities through digital initiatives.



Jayesh Ranjan

India 

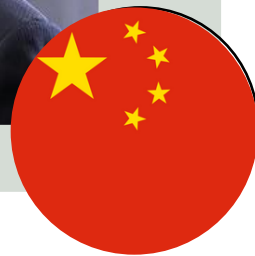
GovTech, WomenTech, AI & Policy Making

Special Chief Secretary of the ITE&C and Industries & Commerce Departments of the Government of Telangana

Jayesh Ranjan is a civil servant working in the Indian State of Telangana (Hyderabad). He holds the portfolios of Information Technology and Industries & Commerce. His responsibilities include attracting new investments in the State, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, creating digital infrastructure and fostering digital empowerment of citizens.



→ Asia



Witman Hung China

Shenzhen Qianhai Authority



Social Impact Investment, Innovation

Witman Hung is the President of the Internet Professional Association (iProA) and co-founder of Next Horizon Ltd. With over 22 years of experience in the computer industry, he has held senior roles at Jardine OneSolutions, Atos Origin, KPMG, and AT&T. Hung is recognized for his work in management consulting and outsourcing services, and has served on various government committees in Hong Kong. He holds degrees in business, history, and law, and is actively involved in social services, earning the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Hong Kong award in 2008.



Renuka Sena

Malaysia

Co-Founder and CEO, Proficeo



Entrepreneurship, Policy Making

Renuka, co-founder and CEO of Proficeo Consultants, has played a crucial role in developing the architecture and methodology of Proficeo's programs. With a background as a Barrister and a Master's in IP and IT Law from King's College London, Renuka transitioned from a legal career to entrepreneurship over twenty years ago. Her journey as a serial entrepreneur across various industries culminates in her current passion for aiding entrepreneurs through her work at Proficeo and as an Angel Investor.



→ Asia



Ryan Gersava Philippines



Youth, Inclusion, Democracy Movements

Founder, Virtualahan

Ryan Gersava, founder of Virtualahan, a tech social enterprise, is dedicated to breaking down employment barriers for Persons with Disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. A Global Shaper and SDG Champion, he has spoken at prestigious forums like the World Economic Forum and the Global Disability Summit, advocating for inclusivity. Recognized globally, Ryan received the Inspired Leadership Award for Diversity and Inclusion, and won the Global Champion for the Young Innovators Award and Google Business Stories Award.



→ Arab Countries and Middle East



Ali Hilli

Iraq



Innovation, Government Transformation

Marketing & Communications Director, Miswag

Ali, with 14+ years of experience in business development, FinTech, and telecommunications, now drives growth and innovation at Miswag, Iraq's leading e-commerce startup. An MBA graduate from NYIT and an advocate for entrepreneurship, he actively contributes to social initiatives and was recognized as Techstar's community leader of the year.



Batoul Hussein

Syria, Turkey



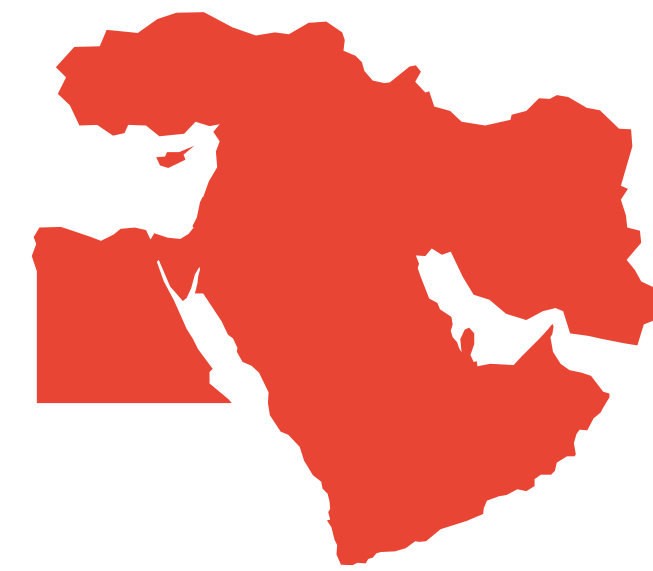
CSR, ESGs, Government Affairs

Regional Executive Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility, SAP

Batoul Hussein stands out as a digital inclusion advocate and leader, currently the Director of Digital Government and Corporate Social Responsibility at SAP in the MENA region, where she drives technological transformation in the public sector. She founded the Refugee Code Week, an SAP-UNHCR collaboration, empowering youth in refugee communities with coding skills. Additionally, Batoul established Alakat Public Relations & Communications and has been instrumental in organizing significant public events and initiatives in the digital space.



→ Arab Countries and Middle East



Agha Hamza

Pakistan



Innovation, Democracy development

Country Head, Hello Tomorrow Pakistan Hub

Agha Hamza is passionate about supporting and advocating for social enterprises and entrepreneurs, aiming to create a positive social impact through technology and innovation. He works with the UKAid programme 'IIm Ideas 2,' supporting educational innovation across incubators in Pakistan, and leads Hello Tomorrow Pakistan Hub, assisting scientists and entrepreneurs. He also helps bring global entrepreneurial initiatives to Pakistan.



Malak Yacout

Lebanon



Gender, Youth, NGOs, Volunteering

Founder, The Volunteer Circle

Malak Yacout is a dynamic, multidisciplinary entrepreneur bringing startup energy to the humanitarian sector. As the youngest candidate in the EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women Network and a member of the World Economic Forum's Under 30 Excellence Program, she is passionate about empowering youth. She founded The Volunteer Circle, a social enterprise in Beirut using AI for volunteer management and capacity building.



→ Europe



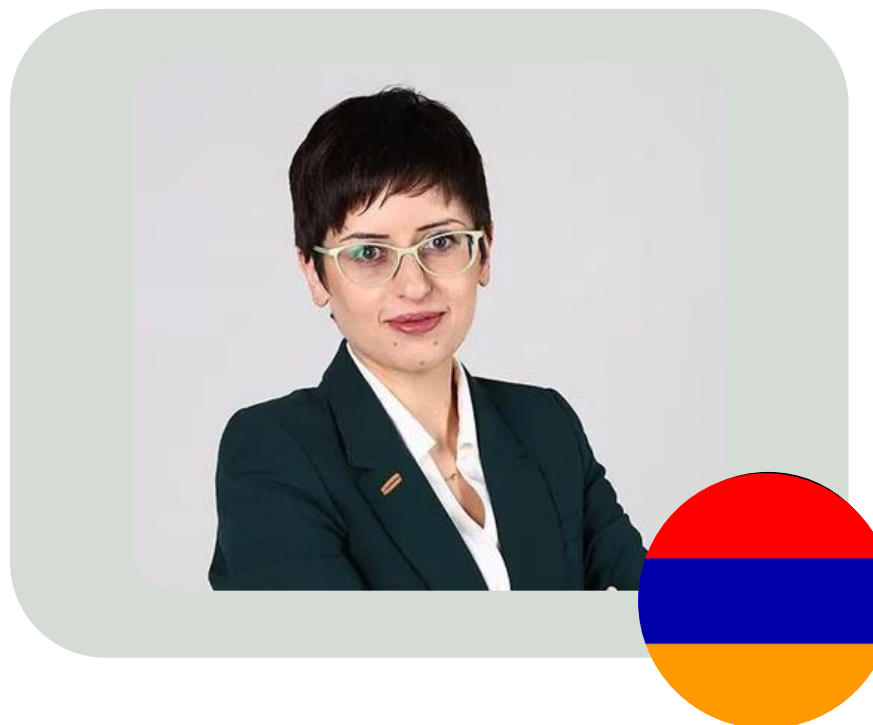
Tanja Wehsely

Austria

💡 CSOs, Social Work, Policy Making

CEO, Volkshilfe Wien

Tanja is the CEO of Volkshilfe, based in Vienna. Before her appointment as managing director, she was a member of the Viennese state parliament and chairwoman of the economic and finance committee of the City of Vienna. As a trained social worker, she taught social work at FH Campus Wien. She is a board member of numerous social enterprises and a member of the supervisory board of WU's NPO Institute, as well as a juror for the annual World Summit Awards (WSA) and Social Impact Awards (SIA).



Lilit Shakhulyan

Armenia

💡 Gender, Law, CSOs

Co-Founder, Safe YOU

Lilit Shakhulyan is a seasoned Legal Consultant with over a decade of expertise advising private companies, predominantly within the IT sector. Her proficiency spans Contract Law, Corporate Law, Tax Law, and Administrative Law, complemented by over five years of operational management experience. As a dedicated mother of three and a proud Armenian, Lilit is committed to fostering peace and prosperity for her nation.



→ Latin America and Caribbean



Rodrigo Assumpção

Brazil

President, Dataprev

💡 Government, Policy

Rodrigo Assumpção is the President of Dataprev, a social-focused IT company for the Brazilian government. Before this role, he served as the Deputy Secretary of Logistics and Information Technology for the Ministry of Planning, Budget, and Management. Rodrigo is a recognized figure in the field, receiving the Professional Award for Information Technology for three consecutive years



Rudy Laddaga Lopez

Mexico

Founder & CEO, Gnius Club

💡 Education, Innovation

Since his early teens, Rudy has seamlessly integrated technology into his life, completing a Technical Career as a System Analyst and Programmer at 13. Recognized as Entrepreneur of the Year in Mexico in 2010, he continues to explore the future through projects in education and 3D printing, driven by a passion for storytelling and innovation. He won WSA three times with 3 different ventures and is now working at Supercool Center, a one stop shop for sustainable mobility.



→ North America and Oceania



Connor Sattely

USA, Netherlands

Startup Consultant



GovTech

Connor, a social entrepreneur and startup enthusiast, co-founded GovFaces and worked with over 100 startups at HiiL Justice Accelerator. Passionate about clear presentations, he conducts pitch trainings worldwide and mentors young businesses, including co-founding SEMA in Uganda.



Carlos Abler

USA



Communications, Storytelling

Innovation & Communications Consultant

Carlos Abler is a leader in digital transformation and content marketing, helping organizations excel in customer experience through effective content and data use. He focuses on developing content-driven customer relationships to enhance digital transformation, marketing, and business management. With a 30-year career in mixed media communications across various disciplines, Carlos has directed initiatives recognized internationally, including a Webby Award-winning project for the Smithsonian Institution and multiple awards for takemefishing.org, acclaimed as a top fishing education website.



→ North America and Oceania



Sherry Kennedy

Canada



International Relations, Global Affairs

Director Communications, SEforALL

Sherry Kennedy leads the communications strategy at SEforALL, focusing on stakeholder engagement and driving global action for SDG7 and energy transitions. With over 20 years of experience in brand management, media relations, and international development, she has worked with governments, civil society, and the private sector globally. Prior to joining SEforALL in 2021, Sherry was Head of Communications at the African Trade Insurance Agency and held roles at the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. She holds degrees from Queen's University, Wilfrid Laurier University, and American University.



Sachi Wickramage

Australia



Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Immigration Rights

CEO, 4T Global

Sachi Wickramage is a sustainability advocate and Co-Founder/CEO of i4T Global, specializing in PropTech and Field Service Management solutions. He has managed over 50 large-scale Cloud SaaS projects and co-founded award-winning apps like FlipBeats. Sachi, an MBA graduate, is also the National Expert for World Summit Awards Australia, promoting digital innovation and mentoring future technologists.



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