

Matching Social Entrepreneurs: An African – Japanese Entrepreneurship & Co- Creation Program

Organized by the African Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ)
and Ashoka Diaspora Networks.

ii



About the Organizers

ADNJ



The African Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ) is a dynamic network of the African community in Japan, committed to fostering socio-economic development ties between Japan and African nations. It is the United Africa in Japan with over 5000 members that brings Japanese and African together as one community for the betterment of both societies. As part of our activities to foster Africa-Japan business relationships and youth employment opportunities, we organize [Africa-Osaka Business Forum](#) every year in partnership with Higashi-Osaka City, Osaka Chamber Of Commerce, the organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation of Japan and many other partners. In addition, we are currently working with Japanese youths on youth-led policy proposals toward TICAD9 to impact youths in Africa, Japan, and youths around the world through [youth Drive and Co-creation](#).

Ashoka



Ashoka has pioneered the field of social entrepreneurship since 1980, identifying and supporting close to 4000 leading social entrepreneurs in over 90 countries, we refer to them as Ashoka Fellows. Ashoka is currently building and cultivating a community of Fellows, Young Changemakers, Changemaker Institutions, and beyond. Together, [amidst the exponential growth of a new inequality in changemaking at a worldwide scale](#), we mobilize (and accelerate) a movement to build an "Everyone a Changemaker" world where all people have the right and ability to co-lead solutions that transform their societies for the better...

Program Objectives

1 Connect Social Entrepreneurs for Co-Creation

Bridge gap between African and Japanese participants to boost entrepreneurial skills and expertise across both continents.

2 Foster Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Encourage mutual understanding, collaboration and co-creation between African and Japanese participants.

3 Strengthen Socio-Economic Ties

Enhance connections between Japan and African countries. Foster business partnerships and networking opportunities.



Key Program Features



Strong Network

By Leveraging ADNJ's extensive network within the African diaspora in Japan and Ashoka's global changemakers and social entrepreneurs' network.



Cultural Exchange

Through Unique cross-cultural collaboration between African and Japanese youth, thereby promoting diverse perspectives.



Expert Mentorship

By providing Access to experienced mentors and successful entrepreneurs from both regions and the Diaspora.



Multi-Industry Impact

***Due to it Holistic approach covering workshops, mentorship, pitching, and incubation support.



Program Components

- 1 Entrepreneurship Call-out Advert**

Invite entrepreneurs from Japan and an initial 5 Africa countries to submit their applications and existing businesses. Review proposals and inform successful entrepreneurs.
- 2 Matching Entrepreneurs**

Designing a Kick-off session to identify and create best fit partner matches for the co-creation program.
- 3 Co-Creation and Ideation**

Support matched participants to co-create an impact idea that can be launched in both their countries and/or organisation. Invite experienced entrepreneurs, business leaders, and industry experts from both regions to provide guidance, support, and insights.
- 4 Pitching**

Organize a space for matched entrepreneurs to present their co-created ideas that impact and influence both countries. This would be presented to government officials, industry experts, and investors for seed funding and support.

Expected Outcomes

Empowered Entrepreneurs

Participants will gain the skills and confidence to start and manage new impact ideas that cut across global communities.

Strengthened Socio-Economic Ties

New partnerships and networks will contribute to the socio-economic development of Japan, selected African countries and elsewhere.

Changemaker Mindset

Participants will develop a social responsibility mindset and become proactive changemakers in their communities.

Increased Employment Opportunities

Support for job creation will lead to new businesses, social impact, and innovative earning opportunities for youth.



Implementation Plan And Timeline

1

Phase 1: Planning (March 2025)

Establish steering committee, develop curriculum, and launch application campaign.

2

Phase 2: Execution (April – October 2025)

Conduct workshops, implement co-creation program, and organize pitching opportunities.

PS: Co-Creation Exhibition & Pitching in August 2025 during TICAD9

3

Phase 3: Evaluation (November 2025-March 2026)

Evaluate program impact and plan for scaling



Final Thoughts & Next Steps

The collaborative program presents a unique opportunity to cultivate a new generation of entrepreneurs in Africa and Japan. By combining resources, expertise, and networks, this program will create a transformative experience that fosters innovation, cross-cultural understanding, and socio-economic development.

Be part of this new co-creative drive for a better tomorrow!

Visit [application form](#) to register





For More Information, Contact:



David Kpondehou

Email: dkpondehou@adnjapan.org

Tel: +81 70-4111-6707

For Africa Diaspora Network Japan



Iveren Ityoikaa

Email: iityoikaa@ashoka.org

Tel: +234 803 429 6431

For: Ashoka Diaspora Networks