



Creating Youth Entrepreneurship Hubs:

A Developing World Take on Entrepreneurship Ecosystems.

It is evident that a more holistic and inclusive approach to entrepreneurship development is needed in order to realize a significant change in youth participation and long-term success¹. It can be identified in the fact that the efforts of the various non-governmental and government initiatives which exist, have not been able to make enough headway against the ever-increasing problem of youth unemployment, and limited entrepreneurial participation^{1,2}.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystems can be defined as a set of interconnected entrepreneurial actors, organisations, institutions and entrepreneurial processes, which formally and informally coalesce to connect, mediate and govern the performance within the local entrepreneurial environment, involving a dynamic and systemic nature, within a supportive environment³.

Incubators and business accelerators are in the unique position of having the ability to be the central focal point for an inclusive range of entrepreneurship activity, by creating community-based entrepreneurial hubs/ecosystems. This is a role traditionally held by academic and state institutions but one which has been realised by only a few, and one which current and future players in the entrepreneurship development space are potentially equally suitable. This can be achieved by expanding their offerings to include such elements as creating access to internships, and promoting entrepreneurship through community engagement and base-level entrepreneurial development, amongst others.

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Session 1: Creating Entrepreneurship Hubs, a South African Perspective (9:30 -10:45)

Panellists: York Zucchi (Entrepreneur & Investor); Unathi Tsoai (Specialist: Business Development, Economic Development Unit, NYDA); Dr Patrick Ebewo (Entrepreneurship development expert/Director: TUT's CED)

Running time: 01h15

- Reviewing the current state of youth unemployment and current interventions currently in place to encourage and assist youth entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship Hubs
 - Who will need to be involved & possible geographic location of these ecosystems, what they would ultimately look like - the different elements needed and how the individual elements would interact
 - Diversity: Focusing on both the informal & formal sector trade and services, how to serve the two sectors and a discussion on the need for fluidity within and between these ecosystems
- Q&A

Health Break (10:45-11:00)

Session 2: Youth & Woman in Entrepreneurship (11:00 – 12:00)

Panellists: Asanda Fotoyi (Lecturer & Research Author, NMU); Unathi Tsoai (NYDA)

Running time: 01h00

- Cultural and social underpinnings affecting women & youth entrepreneurship and suggested ways of tackling these barriers
- Exploring the role of coaching and cross-cultural mentorship
- Q&A

Session 3: Funding! Funding! Funding! Entering the gate to entrepreneurship (12:00 – 12:45)

Panellists: Sandile Mcithakali (Entrepreneur); Asanda Fotoyi (Lecturer & Research Author, NMU); Unathi Tsoai (NYDA)

Running time: 30-45min

- Starting entrepreneurship journeys with limited funding
 - Perceptions vs reality of resource requirements & availability
 - Success stories on entrepreneurship in Africa.
- The role of funders
- Q&A

Closing Statements (12:45 – 13:00)