



MSME Conference 2017 Panels Calendar (DRAFT, Last Update: 11/24/17)



Date	Session Title	Description	Roles	Panelist	Organization	Position
Thursday 30/11 11:00AM	The Role of IT in Fostering Innovation and Technological Entrepreneurship for Liberian SMEs	Inspiring technological entrepreneurship among youth is key to create more employment and improve livelihoods among Liberia's young population. A large segment of Liberian MSMEs remain backward in today's changing global economy. ICT can be employed to create innovative solutions to tackle some of the problems small businesses face. This discussion will focus on ICT as a driver to foster such innovation and entrepreneurship among Liberian ICT Professional/Innovators showcasing some of the innovations that have taken place in Liberia.	Panelist	Mr. Marvin Tarawally	SMART Liberia	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Charles Dorme Cooper	Cookshop.biz	Co-Founder
			Panelist	Mr. Oliver W. Klark, Jr	RoviaGate Technology LLC	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Edmund Kloh	HAK technology	General Manager
			Panelist	Mr. Vivien Jones	Mwetana	Chief Executive Officer
			Moderator	Mr. Bai Sama G. Best	Marketing Manager	Liberian Observer Corporation
Thursday 30/11 11:00AM	Reaching the Rural Area of Liberia using ICT and its Benefits to the Community	Technology is widely used in urban cities since urban areas have better infrastructure and people have more ICT literacy compared to those in rural areas. In Liberia like other African countries, majority of the population live in rural areas where they have limited access to markets, information, finance, and basic services such health care and education. ICT can help solve some of these community issues seen in rural areas. This discussion will focus on roles of ICT solutions to meet the needs of the Liberian rural community.	Panelist	Mr. Latim Da-Thong	Starz College	President
			Panelist	Mr. Darren Wilkins	Libtelco	Managing Director
			Panelist	Mr. Ernest K. Boakai	K3	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Philip C. Parker	NAS Global	President
			Moderator	tbd	Orange	
Thursday 30/11 1:30PM	Alternative Forms of Access to Finance: threats and opportunities of ICT?	This session addresses the alternatives to traditional financial loans for MSME growth. Is crowdfunding, or any other form of finance brought by ICT, a long term solution to increasing access to finance for Liberian MSMEs, or will it be insufficient to overcome all of the challenges faced by Liberian businesses to grow and expand their opportunities? How have traditional banks adapted to this evolution of the market of finance, and what alternative solutions do they offer?	Panelist	tbd	tbd	tbd
			Panelist	Mr. Frederick B. Krah	MFD	Director / MSME Project Coordinator
			Panelist	Mr. James B. Wilfred	CBL	Head of Financial Sector Development
			Panelist	Mr. Marvin Tarawally	SMART Liberia	Chief Executive Officer
			Moderator	Mr. John Davies	Bankers Association	President



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Thursday 30/11 1:30PM	Is ICT Helpful for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Liberia?	From international marketing strategies to streamlining daily processes, inventory tracking, e-payments and cashless transactions, ICT is increasingly used to improve business environment and improve the overall bottom line of MSMEs. As MSMEs constitute the large portion of Liberian businesses and play important roles in thriving the domestic economy, Liberian MSMEs need to leverage ICT tools for business development. This discussion will feature ICT professionals operating in Liberia, discussing ICT solutions/applications to enhance an MSME's daily operations.	Panelist	Mr. Caesar Morris	Allbright	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Mahmud Johnson	Jpalm	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Oliver W. Klark, Jr	RoviaGate Technology LLC	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Ernest K. Boakai	K3	Chief Executive Officer
			Moderator	<i>Ms. Ciata Victor</i>	TLC Africa	Webmaster
Thursday 01/12 3:00PM	Special Panel- "Ask Your Government"	This section is comprised of heads of government ministries, agencies and commissions to give the audience opportunities to address important issues related to MSMEs, entrepreneurs, ICT solutions/applications and ICT sector. It will allow these representatives to listen to public opinions and respond directly to those issues.	Panelist	Hon. Axel M. Addy	MoCI	Minister
			Panelist	Hon. James Dorbor Jallah	PPCC	Executive Director
			Panelist	Hon. Boima S. Kamara	MFDP	Minister
			Panelist	Hon. Milton A. Weeks	CBL	Executive Governor
			Panelist	Hon. Frederick B. Norkeh	MoPT	Minister
			Panelist	Ms. Elfrieda Stewart Tamba	LRA	Commissioner General
			Panelist	Hon. DeWitt VonBallmoos	NASSCORP	Director General
			Moderator	<i>Mr. Ledgerhood Rennie</i>	Liberia Broadcasting System	Director General



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Friday 01/12 9:30AM	Facilitating transactions and bringing businesses and customers closer: the future of mobile money	This session focuses on how Mobile Money can help MSMEs address their everyday challenges and grow. Mobile money presents a real opportunity for businesses to shorten the distance between themselves and their customers and suppliers, but how far has Liberia gone into the sector, and what remains to be done? Actors of the market will engage in an active discussion and debate amongst themselves and the public on the importance and possible negative side effects of mobile money.	Panelist	Mlen-Too Wesley	Cookshop.biz	Co-Founder
			Panelist	Ms. Erica Bustinza	Chief of Party	mSTAR/Liberia
			Panelist	Mr. John Davies	Bankers Association	President
			Panelist	tbd	Orange	
			Panelist	Mr. Jallah Kesseley	Nobel	President
			Moderator	<i>Mrs. Eyvonne Bright-Harding</i>	Shark	Chief Executive Officer
Friday 01/12 11:00AM	Governing in the 21st century - Liberia's progress towards eGovernance	ICT is not a revolution merely for the private sector; governments have embraced its opportunities across the world to simplify immigration and customs procedures, among others. This panel will discuss the current projects the Liberian government has undertaken as a step towards facilitating its role as a regulator and supervisor, and address potential concerns, such as security and privacy that the public opinion may have.	Panelist	Hon. Frederick B. Norkeh	MoPT	Minister
			Panelist	Mr. Ashish Chatterjee	Techno Brain	Presales Head
			Panelist	Ms. Marlene Peterson	Customer Service Officer	APM Terminals
			Panelist	Dr. Adrienne T. Hunter	eHealth Africa	Deputy Director for Programs and Impact
			Panelist	Mr. Oliver W. Klark, Jr	RoviaGate Technology LLC	Chief Executive Officer
			Moderator	Zotawon D. Titus	LTA	Chairperson
Friday 01/12 11:00AM	Understanding Taxes for MSMEs	This session discusses the LRA tax system in detail, covering processes, procedures and payment methods, with feedback from Liberian MSMEs. Tax collation is necessary in order for the Government to function and paying taxes is integral to running a formal business, including MSMEs. However, the tax collection process is not always simple!	Panelist	Mr. Darlington Tarlery	LRA	Commissioner Domestic Tax
			Panelist	Hon. Saa Saamoi	LRA	Commissioner of Customs and Excise
			Panelist	Mr. Sebastian Weah	LRA	Assistant Commissioner for SME Taxation
			Panelist	Mr. Momo T. Cyrus	SEGAL	Chief Executive Officer and General Manager
			Moderator	<i>Mrs. Eyvonne Bright-Harding</i>	Shark	Chief Executive Officer



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Friday 01/12 1:30PM	25% Procurement Law, Liberian Business Registration and PPCC Vendor Registration Process	This session will discuss what impact the 25% procurement law has had on Liberian-Owned MSMEs since its inception in December 2014. It provides highlights on sectors of the economy that have benefited the most from the law and the amount spent thus far on Liberian-Owned businesses. Details of the process for PPCC Vendor Registration will be discussed to help small business owners learn how they can tap into government procurement contracts.	Panelist	Hon. Andrew G. Paygar-Flangiah, Sr.	MoCI	Deputy Minister SBA
			Panelist	Hon. James Dorbor Jallah	PPCC	Executive Director
			Panelist	Hon. Alieu Fuad Nyei	MFDP	Assistant Minister for Expenditure
			Panelist	Ms. Leelai Kpukuyou	LIBA	Secretary-General
			Panelist	Mr. Abu Kamara	LBR	Registrar General
			Moderator	Mr. Vivien Jones	Mwetana	Chief Executive Officer
Friday 01/12 1:30PM	Building Liberia's education future through ICT	This session focuses on education in ICT. What is happening in Liberia on the front of learning opportunities in ICT-related subjects and what can be improved. Liberia has great potential to foster a knowledge-based economy, develop an innovation hub for technology, and create a vibrant ecosystem for the government, industry, academia and the research sector with effective IT support. This discussion will focus on ICT ecosystems can be improved, how R&D and innovation can be facilitated, and how more coordination among stakeholders to strengthen the ICT sector in Liberia can be achieved.	Panelist	Mr. Marvin Tarawally	SMART Liberia	Chief Executive Officer
			Panelist	Mr. Luther D. Jeke	iCampus	Manager
			Panelist	Mr. Marcus Wleh	Bridge International Academies	Country Director
			Panelist	Mr. Latim Da-Thong	Starz College	President
			Panelist	Dr. Alfred Massaquoi	Blue Crest Univeristy	Lecturer
			Moderator	Mr. Wilson Idahor	Top Consulting Inc.	Chief Executive Officer
Friday 01/12 3:00PM	E-readiness: has Liberia embraced ICTs potential to its fullest?	This session addresses whether Liberia is ready for the ICT revolution. Panelists will discuss how far the Liberian economy has come to adapt to the digital era, embrace its opportunities and what remains to be done for the country to fully adapt this revolution, which has the potential to transform the country and lift it towards further development.	Panelist	Hon. Frederick B. Norkeh	MoPT	Minister
			Panelist	tbd	Orange	
			Panelist	Mr. N'Gbosco Boussou Julien	Blue Crest University	IT Expert / Lecturer
			Panelist	Ms. Maria G. Harrison	Liberia Telecommunications	Acting Chairperson
			Moderator	Mr. Rahul Bhatnagar	UNCTAD	Programme Officer