The world is changing at an unprecedented pace. This is fueled by technological and digital advancement. In Africa, like in other parts of the world, digital innovation is disrupting the traditional economy and creating new avenues for technological breakthroughs.

For instance, drone technology has made it easy to deliver blood to remote villages in East Africa to save lives. Africa has the fastest growing mobile phone market and across the continent mobile money is used in daily transactions by millions of previously unbanked and underserved Africans. In Nigeria, teenage girls are taking on counterfeit drugs through a fake drug detector mobile app they created. It is clear that there is no shortage of ingenuity and talent on the continent.

However, Africa is barely catching up with the pace of innovation compared to the rest of the world. This lag is often due to major limitations such as lack of infrastructure and wide ICT skills gap, which impede the sector’s performance and growth. It also affects the wider growth of African economies. If these gaps are not addressed the continent risks being left behind rather than leapfrog to economic transformation.

“PREPARING AFRICA’S NEXT GENERATION OF DIGITALLY ENABLED WORKFORCE”
The African Development Bank recognizes this challenge. Through our Coding for Employment program, which is part of the wider Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy as well as the Bank’s High5s, we aim to equip Africa’s youth, with the skills needed to secure ICT, ICT enabled, and ICT services employment.

The Bank has partnered with The Rockefeller Foundation and private sector knowledge partners such as Microsoft and Facebook to pilot the Coding for Employment program in Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire. This is in a bid to nurture the next generation of Africa’s digitally enabled workforce.

In one of our pilot countries, the Bank is launching the first-of-a-kind model Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) school entirely devoted to training talented world class developers and meet immediate industry needs through in demand digital skills.

The digital revolution in Africa will require that various stakeholders, including DFIs, governments, the private sector, and academic institutions rise up to the challenge and create a prosperous environment for learning and advancement for the youth in Africa. This is how we will ensure economic transformation for the continent and make Africa a global leader in the digital age.

Meet the Team

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9 Million Jobs
The flagship aims to create 9 million jobs
234,000 Trained
At least 234,000 will be trained in the areas of digital literacy
130 ICT Centers
The flagship will establish 130 coding centers across Africa

Website: www.afdb.org