

African Entrepreneurship Award winners announced

CASABLANCA, Morocco - The winners of the African Entrepreneurship Award 2017, a program to assist innovative African entrepreneurs, have been announced.



African Entrepreneurship Award 2017 finalists.

BMCE Bank of Africa launched the final of the [African Entrepreneurship Award 2017](#), a program to assist innovative African entrepreneurs - 40 finalists from 19 countries attended bootcamp in December.

BMCE Bank of Africa announced the launch of its sponsorship of the final phase of the [3rd African Entrepreneurship Awards](#). Devised and developed by the group, the initiative provides support for African entrepreneurs, or entrepreneurs with African origins, rewarding talent and technology in three categories: education, environment and uncharted areas on the continent.

Round three of the 2017 Awards produced 40 finalists. The average age of contestants is 32, and over 35% of them are women, demonstrating the spirit of entrepreneurship and diversity driving African youth.

The most popular category is the environment, accounting for 46% of projects, demonstrating the focus of entrepreneurs on ecological problems. Moreover, 61% of projects have now reached the start-up phase, as an indicator of the solid maturity of finalists.

On the next phase of the programme, the 40 finalists went to a boot camp in Casablanca from 6-10 December.

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For the third edition of *African Entrepreneurship Award*, 12 winners from nine African countries shared an envelope of 1 million dollars:

First PRIZE: \$100 000

Category: Education

- Louise Williamson, South Africa, Sustainability Professionals startup: sustainable fuel ovens for schools in remote areas.

Category: Environment

- Allen Kimambo, Tanzania, Zaidi General Enterprises startup: paper collection and recycling to protect the environment.
- Folashade Amusa, Nigeria, VicFold Recyclers startup: waste collection, processing and recycling with reward system for households.
- Adan Mohammed, Kenya, Ecodudu startup: animal food production from insects and larva.
- Sylvester Mujakperuo, Nigeria, Saint Michelles and Joey Limited startup: transforming used paper and cardboard into new paper products.
- Kwame Ababio, Ghana, Green Afro Palms startup: optimising the cultivation and use of palm oil.

Category: Unchartered Fields

- Flavien Simo, Cameroon, Save Our Agriculture startup: production of aquaponics kits that combines fish farming and plant farming.
- Paul Bartels, South Africa, *Waterbok Community Fire-Fighting Cart* prototype: fire-fighting Cart.

INNOVATION PRIZE: \$50, 000

- Meryam El Ouafi, Morocco: Green Engineering Mission prototype: new irrigation technology to optimize water consumption.
- Badr Idrissi, Morocco, Atlan Space startup: smart drone use to combat illegal fishing.
- Geoffrey Ssekatawa, Uganda, Brent Technologies startup: lubricant collection and recycling.
- Christelle Kwizera, Rwanda, VOMA Groundwater Solar Kiosks startup: drinking water purification and distribution to vulnerable communities.

The winners were selected by the following jury headed by Othman Benjelloun; chairman of BMCE Bank of Africa:

- Brahim Benjelloun Touimi, CEO of BMCE Bank of Africa.
- Gong Li, Chinese innovator and technologist.
- John-Bernard Duler, Silicon Valley investor.
- Marie-Paule Niat, Cameroonian entrepreneur.

Acting as a vehicle for BMCE Bank of Africa's commitment to innovative entrepreneurship since 2015, the African Entrepreneurship Award has a prize fund of one million USD. Every year the initiative conveys the group's vision in favour of a continent driven by its young entrepreneurs, in a bid to improve the quality of life of all Africans.

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