

World Youth Forum 2019, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Youth Skills



By 2030, the 4th Industrial Revolution would have engulfed the work place. With Artificial Intelligence and Automation taking their rightful places here and there, young people will need to have the right skills so that the workforce won't be taken by surprise. Economies, Societies and Systems will all be digital.

However, for the African continent where many countries still fall under the developing category, aspects of the Second and Third Industrial Revolutions have yet to be experienced.

In these countries like my very own South Sudan, it is healthy to argue that the 4th industrial revolution is a talk for the west, or a talk for the developed countries.

So how can we even talk about the 4th Industrial Revolution while we are yet to realize the true benefits of the preceding industrial revolutions? Yet, looking forward to a better world, we expect to have our spaces on the global scene. For instance, we have all

witnessed the challenges of Climate Change, which are non-selective. Therefore, we need to be ready for the 4th industrial revolution, no matter what.

Since youth and youth skills are the core of these revolutions, investing in youth can lead to a rapid transition towards the 4th industrial revolution.

What Governments can do

Governments need to have policies, needed infrastructure and opportunities that can have huge impacts on the skills of young people, which will play key role in moving with the 4th Industrial revolution.

Public Private Partnerships can play a major role in developing the infrastructures and institutions needed to provide a conducive environment towards attaining the 3rd industrial revolutions in the developing countries in its completeness; as well as a stepping stone for youth and youth skills needed in the 4th industrial revolution.

Governments of Developing countries can liaise and benefit from the opportunities offered by developed countries which play a key role in ensuring that the developing countries cope up with such revolutions. For instance, the Government of Japan through its MEXT and ABE programs continue to provide scholarships to many other countries, so that youth skills rhythm with the technological revolutions at hand; which is needed more than anything at hand, in the developing countries.

What young people can do

Being the centre of attraction is very challenging. In today's societies, young people are at the heart of everything. Creativity and innovation lies in the hands of young people.

Benefiting from government policies and opportunities such as research opportunities provided by home institutions or those from the Developed countries, young people can immensely improve and acquire many more skills needed to drive their societies forward.

For instance, I am currently benefiting from the MEXT Postgraduate Scholarship provided by the Japanese Government at the University of Electro-Communications in Tokyo, Japan.

I believe that our day-to-day life is being affected by advancements in Information Technologies. With this in regard, I would love to be part of the innovative young people who put our societies at heart.

I believe that the knowledge and skills that I am attaining from Professor Kayoko Yamamoto's Research Lab of Social Informatics will equip me with the needed youth skills in revolutionizing the world, and South Sudan in particular.

I would like to pass a vote of thanks to the Japanese Government for giving young people from developing countries opportunities that are central to shaping youth skills. Youth skills are paramount for the 4th industrial revolution.

The World Youth Forum is such a big opportunity for young people to network, share, recommend to Governments and Development partners, as well as build bridges of cooperation amongst ourselves. The Egyptian Government should be applauded for being the first, in bringing Youth of the world, together, at a single stage.

The world will be a better place if young people are accorded the environment, infrastructure and opportunities that they need to thrive.

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