



Global Diaspora Week Launch Event October 9, 2015

Session Title: Leveraging Diaspora Skillsets: Myths, Models, and Matchmaking

Speakers: Clare Muhoro (Towson University), Komal Bazaz-Smith (Development Alternatives, Inc), & Malcolm Quigley (Strategy Consultant - Volunteerism & Skills-based Models)

Session Summary: Members of the diaspora are often the first movers in delivering much needed development aid and assistance. They have the knowledge and capacity to deliver innovative ideas and contribute greatly in development work. However, diaspora communities need strong networks where information and skillsets can be transferred in order to maximize impact.

Key Themes:

- Theme 1: Skills Transfer – Diaspora community members offer volunteer, mentorship, etc. services that are necessary for impact.
- Theme 2: Diasporans are leading the charge/effort in developing networks to attack development challenges.
- Theme 3: Partnerships with corporations and government bureaus.

Best Practices/Recommendations/Suggestions:

- “Diaspora Champions” – incentivizing diaspora innovation through sponsored competition.
- Home country (Diaspora bureaus) need to be engaged with community. They are, in some cases, the most effective advocate of diaspora communities.

Discussion Topics:

- Diaspora Champions for Social Innovators/ Corporate Twinning/ Volunteer Placement Fund/ Scientific and Technological Knowledge Exchange/ Science and Technology Awards.
- How do you identify the right partners?
- Linking young diasporans (distracted by careers) to objectives

