

Digital transformation support for Rwanda from Alibaba

Delegates from the government of Rwanda participated in a four-day New Economy workshop at Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, China, to learn about FinTech, logistics, eCommerce and big data technologies.



New Economy workshop participants from Rwanda.

During the four-day workshop, 12 government leaders met with Alibaba executives across multiple businesses to learn about the transformative impact and promise of a new digital economy, as well as how to drive economic growth by accelerating digital finance, logistics, e-commerce and big data industries.

The New Economy Workshop program aims to empower participants to use their knowledge to continue supporting the development of Rwanda's digital economy. Participants included the CEO of Rwanda's National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB); the Rwandan Ambassador to China and representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM); Higher Education Council (HEC), Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority (RURA); Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA); Rwanda Development Board (RDB); Rwanda Energy Group (REG); and the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT).



African entrepreneurs join Alibaba's eFounders Fellowship in China

Gabriella Mulligan 6 Jul 2018



The workshop follows the launch of the first African eWTP (electronic world trade platform) hub in Rwanda witnessed by President Kagame and Alibaba Group executive chairman Jack Ma, last October. Under the eWTP agreement, the government of Rwanda and Alibaba committed to work together to strengthen the country's economic development by promoting policy innovation and providing capacity building to empower the growth of Rwanda's digital economy.

“At Alibaba we have seen first-hand the transformative impact digital technology can have in building an inclusive society. This New Economy Workshop is meant to not only provide capacity building to Rwanda’s policy makers, but also to inspire them to become advocates for Rwanda’s digital transformation and for the country’s technology entrepreneurs,” said Angel Zhao, President of Alibaba’s Globalization Leadership Group.

“The Alibaba ecosystem has enabled millions of people to participate in the global economy and improve their standard of living through the use of technology,” said George William Kayonga, chief executive officer, National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). “I see great opportunity for Rwanda to similarly build a digital economy allowing us to move rapidly up the learning curve using the Alibaba experience as our guide.”

This week’s New Economy training is the latest example of Alibaba’s ongoing commitment to support Rwanda’s economic development:

- In October 2018, the first African eWTP (electronic world trade platform) hub was launched in Rwanda. Through this partnership, Rwanda and Alibaba work together to enable cross-border trade of Rwandan products to Chinese consumers and facilitate China outbound tourism to Rwanda.
- In August 2018, 50 lecturers from Rwanda’s top universities attended the first Global E-commerce Talent (GET) Program organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education’s Higher Education Council and the Rwandan Development Board. GET is a five-day course to boost the competencies of Rwandan university teachers and deepen their understanding of the e-commerce industry, so they can train future entrepreneurs.
- In partnership with UNCTAD, Alibaba Business School is training 1,000 entrepreneurs from emerging markets over five years. Two hundred of those entrepreneurs will come from Africa. Five Rwandan entrepreneurs have already graduated from the eFounders Fellowship program.
- As part of eWTP collaboration, Alibaba Business School will host the first Alibaba Netpreneur Training program from March 2-13, 2019 for approximately 40 entrepreneurs contributing to digital transformation, who are currently operating in the Rwandan market, or are in the process of expanding to the Rwandan market.

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