

The BeChangeMaker (BCM) Youth Festival 2025

Igniting change, empowering action



Virtual, April 2025

Thursday, 10 April 2025, 09:00-15:00 (CEST) – Friday, 11 April 2025, 09:00-12:30 (CEST) (German time)

Introduction

The BeChangeMaker Youth Festival, organized by UNESCO-UNEVOC with the support of WorldSkills International and HP, is the first event that will be hosted for the BeChangeMaker Alumni Network. The goal of the event, themed “Igniting Change, Empowering Action”, is to unite our 300+ programme beneficiaries in a virtual festival that combines alumni led session as well as industry expert panels and mentorship sessions. The festival will host a project update that will be open to all previous alumni to share updates on their project and how they have progressed since graduating from the programme.

Thursday, 10 April 2025, 09:00-15:00 (CEST) (German Time)

Time	Duration	Description	Presenter
Moderator: Priscilla Gatonye, Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO-UNEVOC			
09:00	15 min	Introduction Welcome from programme partners	Friedrich Huebler Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC Daniele Mason Director, Global Communications Sustainable Impact, HP Inc Grace Lung Senior Manager, Partnership Programmes, WorldSkills International
09:15	45 min	Emerging trends in social change In panel conversations with leading social entrepreneurs	Selyna Peiris Director, Selyn Foundation and Co-creator, #BleedGood Movement Kaveto Tjatjara CEO and Founder, Flushh
10:00	30 min	Diary of a CEO Empowering to lead - in conversation with a CEO	Teddy Ruge Founder and CEO Raintree Farms Ltd
10:30	10 min	Coffee break	

10:40	45 min	Future of work Artificial intelligence and future predictions	Del Titus Bawuah Founder and CEO, Web3Africa Group & Co-founder, Vertria Simon Schmid Managing Director, Just Skills Hub and Public Sector lead, SkillLab
11:25	35 min	Networking mixer Virtual speed-networking break-out opportunity	All Speakers
12:00	60 min	Lunch break	
Time	Duration	Description	Presenter
13:00	30 min	Mentorship session Discussion on social change including mental health and managing burn out	Nisani Gnanasoorian Manager, Programming, The King's Trust Canada
13:30	10 min	Update on HP LIFE General information	Markus Schwertel Director, Global Policy and Strategy, HP Inc.
13:40	45 min	Micro-learning hub Enhance your skills with workshops on Business Management and Fundraising– breakout rooms	Lucia Raffaele Partnership Manager, Junior Enterprises Europe Markus Schwertel Director, Global Policy and Strategy, HP Inc. Secury (2024 BCM Alumni)
14:25	25 min	Alumni limelight TED-style talk from BeChangeMaker finalist	Medvax Health (2023 BCM Alumni)
14:50	10 min	End of Day 1	

Friday, 11 April 2025, 09:00-12:30 (CEST)

Time	Duration	Description	Presenter
09:00	5 min	Welcome to day 2 Welcome from programme partners	Lenny Martini Assistant Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO- UNEVOC
09:05	55 min	The power of skills in driving social change Panel Discussion	Kenny Muscat Programme Officer, Innovation and Excellence in TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC Idah Odeka (2024 BCM Alumni)
10:00	30 min	The circular economy Panel discussion	Julie Chrysler Director, Circular Economy and Social Impact, Yunus Environment Hub Taiping Blue (2023 BCM Alumni)
10:30	10 min	Coffee break	
10:40	55 min	Alumni-led masterclasses Successful alumni share expertise	
		AgriTech – Livestock mortality reduction system	Doorcas Africa (2024 BCM Alumni)
		SaaS health insurance management platform	Sekofia (2024 BCM Alumni)
		Promoting mental health for youth through technology	I Hear You (2023 BCM Alumni)
11:35	30 min	Alumni progress update Project update from BCM alumni	Various alumni
12:05	10 min	Regional exchange session Learn about initiatives in your region and brainstorm local impact projects	Various alumni
12:15	15 min	Festival close Festival evaluation survey	Priscilla Gatonye , Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO-UNEVOC Oliver Dubois du Bellay Partnership Programmes Manager, WorldSkills International

Speakers Bios



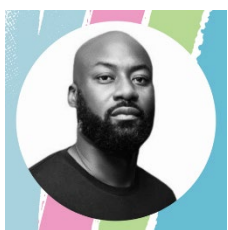
Danièle Mason

Director, Global Communications Sustainable Impact, HP Inc.

Danièle Mason is the Director of Global Communications for Sustainable Impact at HP Inc. In this new role, Danièle is responsible for driving HP's communications strategies to support its vision of becoming the world's most sustainable technology company. Danièle is deeply passionate about driving impact and has a proven ability to collaborate across geographies. Currently, Danièle is focusing on HP's communications initiatives related to Climate, Human Rights, and Digital Equity.

With over 20 years at HP, she has held a variety of communications leadership roles in the markets, most recently serving as Director of Communications for the EMEA and APJ markets.

Prior to HP, Danièle has held various communications in the technology industry. Danièle is based in Grenoble, France



Del Titus Bawuah

Founder and Chairman, Web 3 Africa Group and Co-founder, Vertria

Del Titus Bawuah is the Founder and Chairman of the Web 3 Africa Group, a pioneering conglomerate transforming Africa's digital landscape through blockchain technology, decentralized finance and innovative policy frameworks. As Global Chair for the Artshep and United Nations Digital Climate Library, he champions the integration of Web3 solutions for climate action and cultural preservation.

Additionally, he serves as the CEO of the soon to be launched Telos X Africa (Part of The Telos Exchange), a leading crypto exchange expanding financial access across 10 African markets. With a vision to empower Africa and its diaspora, Del combines technology, policy and sustainability to drive economic growth and digital transformation.



Friedrich Huebler

Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC

Friedrich Huebler is the Head of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET. He has been employed by the United Nations for more than two decades and worked previously at UNICEF Headquarters in New York and at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Montreal. He has a PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research.



Grace Lung

Senior Manager, Partnership Programmes, WorldSkills International

Grace Lung is the Senior Manager of Partnership Programmes at WorldSkills International, which is the global hub for skills excellence and development. Grace joined the WorldSkills movement in 2011 for the organization of the WorldSkills Competition 2013 in Leipzig, Germany. Since 2014, Grace has been leading and managing projects that are providing positive impact in communities around the world through promoting skills and capacity building. Prior to joining WorldSkills, Grace was involved in international sports events both as the event owner and organizer.



Julie Chrysler

Director, Circular Economy and Social Impact, Yunus Environment Hub

Julie is the Director of Circular Economy and Social Impact at Yunus Environment Hub, where she oversees the strategic positioning and design of new programs that support social business entrepreneurs to adopt and implement circular solutions. She leads research, projects and thought leadership on just transition for a circular economy and builds key partnerships with organizations to help deliver the YEH mission of a world of 3 Zeros.

Julie brings over 20 years of experience leading large scale impact programs. Prior to joining Yunus Environment Hub, she was the Global Operations Lead for SAP One Billion Lives intrapreneurship program, helping employees to build sustainable social impact at scale and launched the Cisco Entrepreneurship Institute in Spain. Julie is an active mentor and coach for social entrepreneurs and students who want to go into impact careers.



Kaveto Tjatjara

CEO and Founder, Flushh

Kaveto is the CEO and Founder of Flushh, which tackles the sanitation crisis in Namibia by turning human waste into valuable biochar that can be used as fertilizer. Kaveto works hard to form cross-sector partnerships to challenge the status quo by using alternative technologies in the sanitation sector as suitable alternatives for building more resilient communities. He's earned extensive recognition for his work, including being named most impactful startup by SEED SPOT Impact Accelerator, achieving the Global Good Fund fellowship for his leadership abilities, and was granted the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



Kenny Muscat

Programme Officer, Innovation and Excellence in TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC

Kenny Muscat joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2023 as a Project Manager for the [Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET \(BILT\) project](#). He now serves as a Programme Officer where he leads projects and activities related to Innovation and Excellence in TVET. He is also UNESCO-UNEVOC's Regional Focal Point for Europe, CIS and North America.

After finishing university, Kenny worked as a Process Engineer with an international manufacturing company. He then moved to the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) as a Lecturer. During the fourteen years at MCAST he held various lecturing and leadership positions and managed several Erasmus+ projects. He contributed significantly to the professional development and training of vocational teachers in compulsory education and beyond.

Kenny holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Master's degrees in Integrated Product Development and in Business Administration as well as Postgraduate Certificates in Vocational Education and Training and in Research Methods.



Lucia Raffaele

Partnership Manager, Junior Enterprises Europe

Passionate about youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and innovation, I have dedicated my work to creating opportunities for young people to develop their skills and take an active role in shaping the future. As Partnerships Manager at Junior Enterprises Europe, I foster collaborations that connect students with industry leaders, helping bridge the gap between education and the professional world. My experience includes organizing international conferences, policy discussions, and interactive workshops that equip young changemakers with the tools to drive positive impact. With a strong interest in the intersection of technology, public policy, and societal challenges, I am committed to initiatives that promote inclusivity, employability, and meaningful youth participation.



Markus Schwertel

Director, Global Policy and Strategy, HP Inc.

Markus is Director for HP's Global Policy and Strategy team leading on worldwide policy engagement with international organizations (UN family and beyond), digital equity and education. Before taking this role in January 2023 he worked for Government Affairs in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. providing advice to business leaders with the objective to help driving public sector business growth creating a level playing field for HP to compete successfully.

Markus joined HP in November 2015. Before, Markus was working for Cisco in Asia Pacific (based in Bangkok), Eastern Europe and Germany (based in Berlin) for 14 years in Corporate Affairs and Public Sector managing Cisco's flagship education program "Cisco Networking Academy" and Social Innovation Group country teams. Prior to this he worked for eight years as Head of Staff for Members of German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag), Bonn/Berlin.

Markus holds a PhD degree on Public Private Partnership in Vocational Education from Technical University in Berlin, a master's degree on Media and Education from University of Rostock, Germany, and a master's degree on Political Science, Sociology and National Economy from RWTH Aachen. He is a certified trainer in Leadership and Responsibility and trained not for profit groups in Europe in creativity techniques and program management.



Nisani Gnanasoorian

Manager, Programming, The King's Trust Canada

Nisani is a Manager, Programming at The King's Trust Canada. Previously, she held positions at youth organisation in the UK such as Restless Development and UpRising, leading program development and delivery of youth employment and leadership programs. Nisani has a Biomedical Science from St George's, University of London. When not at work, Nisani enjoys trying out new recipes, going for walks and travelling.



Selyna Peiris

Director, Selyn Foundation and Co-creator, the #BleedGood Movement

Selyna Peiris (Attorney-at-Law) is Director - Selyn Foundation and co-creator of the #BleedGood Movement, a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform to end period poverty in Sri Lanka. With a diverse and dynamic 15-year career, she is also Director - Business Development and next-generation lead at Selyn Sri Lanka, a leading fair trade social enterprise in Sri Lanka.

As a policy specialist and proven development practitioner, she is a Co-Founder and Partner at Positive Impact Consultancy and The Institute for Future Creations. She has previously worked for the Government of Sri Lanka and continues to sit in many high-level advisory committees for Government, international organizations and private sector entities.

A TEDx Colombo alumna, Selyna was recently recognised as the Most Innovative Entrepreneur of the Year by the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2024 and as the Emerging Business Leader of the Year at the Top 50 Professional and Career Women Awards - Sri Lanka and the Maldives in 2021. Among other accolades, she was notably mentioned in LMD – The A-List: Millennial Torchbearers in 2020, Cosmopolitan Sri Lanka's 35 Under 35 in 2020 and Echelon's 50 Most Powerful Women in Sri Lanka in 2014. Under her leadership, Selyn's innovative work was also recognised by Forbes Asia in their 50 over 50 list in 2023.

As a youth activist, she has spear-headed and worked along many movements working towards a racism-free Sri Lanka and continues to be a strong advocate for equitable development, especially for the women of Sri Lanka.



Simon Schmid

Managing Director, Just Skills Hub and Public Sector lead, SkillLab

Simon Schmid is the Managing Director of the Just Skills Hub and the Public Sector lead at SkillLab. SkillLab is an impact business empowering people to turn their skills into careers. Prior to joining SkillLab, Simon was at Ernst and Young and the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies.



Teddy Ruge

Founder and CEO, Raintree Farms Ltd

Mr. Teddy Ruge is the founder and CEO of Raintree Farms, an agriculture business based in Masindi, Uganda. A 2012 White House Champion of Change, he has over a decade of experience helping African and global organizations—such as the World Bank—leverage design, media, and technology to engage audiences and strengthen their global presence.

A passionate advocate for African-led development, Mr. Ruge is known both for his critical insights on foreign aid and his commitment to fostering meaningful global partnerships that drive social and economic progress. He has co-founded several ventures, including Remit.ug, Hive Colab—Uganda's first tech incubator—and Project Diaspora. He also founded Villages in Action (ViA), a groundbreaking conference that gave rural Ugandans a voice in global development conversations.

TMS serves as a board member and advisor to organizations like Africans in the Diaspora and Hive Colab. A widely respected writer and speaker on Africa's technology-driven renaissance, youth innovation, and diaspora engagement, his work has been featured by CNN, The Guardian, The Globe and Mail, and he regularly appears on media platforms such as Al Jazeera, BBC, and Voice of America. He holds a degree in Communication Design from the University of North Texas and is a former national record-holder in Uganda for high jump, pole vault, and decathlon.