

REPORT ON GYIN GAMBIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO DAKAR, SENEGAL

Dakar, Senegal: 15th – 19th May, 2019

The Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia Chapter) -www.gyingambia.gm- Executive Director, Mamadou Edrisa Njie, visited Dakar, Senegal from 15th – 19th May, 2019. He was on an official visit to explore agribusiness opportunities with one Senegalese young Entrepreneur by the name Yama NDIAYE, Director General of WA YAbi DISTRIBUTIONS in Dakar, Senegal.

The purpose of the visit was a pre-visit which is part of a Regional Exchange Visit which is organized by GYIN Gambia Chapter for its five Rural Youth Awards Winners of 2017 and 2018 to travel to Dakar, Senegal from 26th- 31st May, 2019.



While in Dakar, the participating entrepreneurs will visit businesses of Senegalese entrepreneurs' in their sectors and enhance their professional networks. The Regional Exchange Visit is part of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a Grant under Project B179 between the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Geneva and the Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia Chapter) with the collaboration of the Government of the Republic of the Gambia.

During his pre-visit, Mr. Njie was introduced to the Institute of Food Technology (ITA) in French Acronym Institut de Technologie Alimentaire by Yama NDIAYE, Director General, WA YAbi Distribution.

Mr. Njie's pre-visit in this May 2019 was a follow-up visit to a previous pre-visit made by him (Mamadou Edrisa Njie, Executive Director and Modou Lamin Darboe, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) to Dakar, Senegal on the 28th September to 3rd October 2018.

During the first visit 28th September to 3rd October, 2018, the visiting team met Mr. Mamadou SECK, Director General, **KARARA SUARL FARM**, one of the agricultural integrated farms in Senegal.

The team also visited **TAARU ASKAN FARM** which is located in Mbour, Senegal. Taaru Askan is an association that promotes environmental protection and works with local communities and youth.

After series of correspondence that resulted futile for the Regional Exchange Visit to happen in December, 2018, GYIN's Gambia Executive Director, after a consultation with **Elena Mayer-Besting, ITC**, decided to prepare for another visit.

The 2019 pre-visit was facilitated by Yama NDIAYE, whom the Executive Director met during the Global Entrepreneurship Week on 13-14 November 2018, Dakar Senegal 2018.

GEW is an event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders involved in the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and particularly in the area of youth entrepreneurship and self-employment to engage, share experiences, innovations, and opportunities for scaled action. The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) funded the participation GYIN Gambia's Executive Director together with other young entrepreneurs' and institutions.

Pre-visit Meetings:

Meeting was held between Mr. Fallou SARR, Director of External Affairs of ITA and Mamadou Edrisa Njie, Executive Director of GYIN Gambia on 17th May, 2019 at Mr. Sarr's office in the presence of Mr. CISSE Ndiaga, a staff of ITA.



Meeting with Mr. Fallou SARR, Director of External Affairs, ITA

Giving a brief background of the institute, Mr. SARR said the Institute of Food Technology (ITA), is a research and development institute with agri-food vocation

founded in 1963. It is a Public Scientific and Technological Establishment (EPST) which is under the technical supervision of the Ministry in charge of Industry.

He added that ITA's vision is to be a reference institute in Senegal and the sub-region in terms of research and development generating knowledge and technological innovations for the development of the agri-food industry and science.

He suggested for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ITA and GYIN Gambia, which he said, can availed the opportunity for GYIN Gambia benefit from numerous supports including but not limited to; Technical Support, Equipment, Promotion and Marketing of Agro-Products, Participation in Trade Fairs in Senegal as well as Trainings and Research Development.

Mr. SARR said that in Africa especially farmers are using farming equipment's/materials that are not adaptive to the natural resources and said since the establishment of ITA they have been working in that area and today, they are doing all types of fabrications in the institute to address the issue.

“Our partnership with GYIN Gambia will help your office to produce great entrepreneurs” thus benefit from the services that the institute is offering in Senegal and the sub-region at large which The Gambia is included. We're Gambia who comes here for trainings.”

He told our Executive Director, while he (Sarr) was in Thailand for studies, he was there with some Gambian and cited Dr. Saikou Sanynag, Director General of Agriculture of the Republic of The Gambia as one of them. He said Dr. Sanynag is his personal “Best” friend.

Also present at the meeting was Dr. Lat Souk TOUNKARA, Head of Biotechnology Division, ITA, who welcomed GYIN Gambia Executive Director to his unit and brief him on their works.

Dr. TOUNKARA said some of their research and result activities can be found on their website at www.ita.sn

He told our Executive Director, the present Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of The Gambia, Mrs. Amie Faburay together with some Gambians on several occasions visited ITA on trainings and research.

GYIN Gambia Executive Director on a conducted tour to inspect the Center

Meeting with Yama NDIAYE, Director General of WA YAbi Distribution, an agro-food enterprise said that the GYIN Gambia's Rural Youth Award Winners will have an enjoyable stay while learning new innovation from their counterparts. She assured GYIN

Gambia Executive Director that places identified have all confirmed and are ready to welcome the visiting team.



Posed with Yama NDIAYE, Director General WA YAbi

She said that the visit will lead to many opportunities as the Award Winners will be networking with institutions that are into research, distributions, promotion and marketing of agro-products as well as some young successful entrepreneurs' that have already make names for themselves in regionally and globally.

The Regional Exchange Visit seek to improve the knowledge and practices of the participants and to integrate the experience gained from the visit into their daily lives.

The idea of the Regional Exchange Visit came as a Recommendation after the Second Edition of the Rural Youth Awards 2018 that in creation of entrepreneurs especially in the rural areas one has to expose them to the real practical world by facilitating a meeting with external entrepreneurs.

Exposing rural youths to the real world by facilitating a meeting with successful entrepreneurs will support the small and medium rural entrepreneurs and provides them with capacity building opportunities believing that capacity building of locals could encourage local investment in agriculture and food industry.

On 18th May, 2019, as part of his pre-visit, GYIN Gambia's Executive Director had the honor and privilege to meet with Fr. Godfrey NZAMUJO, OP, Director General of Songhai, Benin together with some young entrepreneurs in a programme organized by GIZ Senegal and partners in Thies, Senegal under the theme "Employment Prospects and Opportunities for Young People".



Yama NDIAYE, Fr. Godfrey NZAMUJO, OP and Mamadou Edrisa Njie

Strawberry Farms were also visited in Dakar and Thies for the diversification and the opportunities in the growing of strawberries in The Gambia.



Mamadou Edrisa Njie & Yama NDIAYE at Strawberry Farm in Dakar, Senegal



DAKAR, Senegal: In the Market, where local women sells Fresh Strawberries

GYIN Gambia Executive Director met with several other entrepreneurs” and enterprises.

During his pre-visit, the following institution’s and enterprises were met. The following institutions and enterprises agreed for the Five Rural Youth Awards Winner to visit their places while in Dakar, Senegal as part of the Regional Exchange Visit 2019

CONFIRMED PLACES TO BE VISITED ON 26th – 31st May, 2019

- 1- Institut de Technologie Alimentaire, Route des Peres Maristes, Hann- DAKAR (Senegal)- BP: 2765
Tel: (+221) 338590707, Fax: (+221) 338328295
Email: ita@ita.sn
Website: www.ita.sn
- 2- Yama NDIAYE, Director General of WA YAbi, Réseau de Distribution de Produits Agralimentaire Senegalaise el Africains,
Tel: (+221) 773007865/ 773931322
Email: yaboye2006@yahoo.fr
Address: Hann Mariste en face ITA
Dakar, Senegal
Website: [yabi- distribution.com](http://yabi-distribution.com)
- 3- Thieno Souleymane Agne, C.E.O FraiSen
Ouakam, Impact
Dakar, Senegal
Tel: (+221) 777957115
Email: contact@souleymaneagne.fr / tsa855@gmail.com
Website; www.fraisen.com

- 4- Dodou NDIAYE, Founder and Manager of 2GBT
Dakar, Senegal
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- 5- Simon Latyr DIOH, Senior Expert Technique Clinique des Palntes GROUPE
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- 6- Mohammed Adnama Yasback
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Address: 64, Rue Galandou DIOUF
- 7- Doudou NDIAYE, JEADER
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- 8- Simon Peter Lokomo, , AFRIWIDE
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- 9- Nassib WEHBE, Director, First Jet Sarl
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