Ashoka Globalizer on Media Innovation

Bonn / Germany, June 22-24, 2015

Participating Social Entrepreneurs

Ben Cokelet

Ben Cokelet founded PODER (Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research) in 2008 to improve corporate transparency and accountability in Latin America and to strengthen civil society stakeholders. Through the project Ben Cokelet is training Latin American civil society organizations to become community guarantors of corporate transparency and accountability. The key to PODER is local capacity building, which can subsequently promote corporate accountability in a region where the concept is largely underdeveloped. PODER leverages business intelligence, transparency technology, and grassroots organizing to build a citizen-led corporate accountability movement.

www.projectpoder.org

Ramzi Jaber

With his company Visualizing Impact, Ramzi Jaber produces carefully-designed infographics in hopes of changing how the media and public think about Palestine. The team of Visualizing Impact turns raw data into a story, then tells that story through an arresting infographic that will hopefully go viral. Magazines and websites then buy and publish the infographics. By presenting information and data that would otherwise remain hidden into a simple, compelling and informative visual tool, his work challenges false narratives that make it difficult to make progress on a social justice issue and enlists citizen sector organizations to use these tools in a way that will shift opinion and behavior.

www.visualizingimpact.org

Joseph Sekiku

Joseph Sekiku is improving economic possibilities for small-scale farmers by giving them greater control over their products post-production and greater access to global markets. Joseph currently works with over 3,000 households, and is actively expanding his work. To achieve the reach he envisions, he is establishing a community radio and will air discussions to give farmers a voice in managing their livelihoods. Joseph is extending the reach of the internet to rural communities, and by 2009 plans to connect three more institutions in the region to the internet and to regional markets.

www.fadeco.info

Sascha Meinrath

Sascha Meinrath is Director of X-Lab, a new venture focused on tech innovation. The founder of the Open Technology Institute, Sascha has been one of the most influential figures in technology, described as a "community Internet pioneer" and an "entrepreneurial visionary. Sascha has focused his efforts in advancing policy and regulatory reforms that protect an open and free Internet, safe communications, and promote competition in mobile and wireline telecommunications. Through his work, he supports open architectures and open-source innovations and facilitates the development and implementation of open technologies and communications networks. Additionally, he has been actively developing open-source, low-cost community wireless networks, particularly in underserved areas.

www.oti.newamerica.net

Sengül Akcar

Sengül Akcar has designed a unique, community-based foundation that educates and empowers poor women and families, particularly in urban areas. By working at the community level, Sengül's programs are increasing women's political visibility and democratic participation. She understood that for people to lead quality lives, those women who had no voice and were living in poverty, need to gain a platform for active participation in society. Sengül was one of the first to start an NGO in Turkey after the 1980 military coup.
http://www.kedv.org.tr/

Christian de Boiresdon

Christian is incentivizing the first global community of leading editors-in-chief. This pioneering community, made up of 40 editors-in-chief representing 50 countries, is tearing down traditional exclusivity boundaries within the media sector while reducing production costs for a newspaper industry faced with the challenge of identifying new business models in order to survive. By facilitating large scale content sharing, he is giving agency to major media players to systematically increase the frequency with which the masses are in contact with solutions-based stories, which in turn inspires and generates citizen changemakers. www.sparknews.com

William Bird

William Bird is the director of Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), a non-profit organization that promotes democracy and a culture where media and the powerful respect human rights and encourage a just and fair society. Based in Johannesburg, MMA acts in a watchdog role to promote ethical and fair journalism that supports human rights in South Africa and the rest of the continent. At MMA William has overseen or been directly involved in over 100 media monitoring projects on subjects ranging from gender based violence, HIV, and racism to children and the media.
www.mediamonitoringafrica.org

Jeremy Druker

Jeremy is the executive director of Transitions (TOL), a Prague-based media development organization that he co-founded in 1999. TOL's mission is to strengthen the professionalism, independence, and impact of the news media in the post-communist countries of Europe and Eurasia. Through a combination of publishing and training programs, TOL targets "media multipliers," young journalists across the post-communist region either already making an impact through their work or with the potential to do so. TOL networks these reporters, introducing them to like-minded peers through on-site and online training programs and encourages them to write for its popular newssite (www.tol.org), which covers the post-communist region. Jeremy is also the founder of PressStart.org, a new crowdfunding site that works to raise funds for reporters in countries where freedom of the media is severely limited.
www.tol.org

Hamadou Tidiane Sy

In Senegal, print and broadcast news media has historically been controlled by the government meaning that journalists were simply seen as civil servants. When independent journalism began to emerge as an opposition-led press, journalists were not always adequately trained and many were exposed to a host of pressures from political and business interests—a situation that still exists. Tidiane has founded a region wide online news outlet—Ouestafnews—in which a corps of independent, investigative journalists report on the stories they care about without being subject to outside pressure. He focuses heavily on ensuring that the stories reported are trustworthy, fact-based, and fact-checked, to the standards of the most professional of traditional news outlets. By establishing a well-respected, reputable alternative news service, Tidiane hopes to show the world that this approach to news is both sustainable and may be done by a new generation of journalists. More recently, Ouestaf News was part of the global collaborative investigation work which resulted in what is now known as the Swissleaks. wwww.ouestaf.com

Paulo Rogério Nunes

In Brazil, the power of the media to celebrate the diversity of its population, particularly citizens of African descent, has rarely been harnessed. Paulo Rogério Nunes is training black and white media professionals to foster interracial understanding in mass and alternative media. Paulo Rogerio also advocates and facilitates the inclusion of diversity issues in the curricula of journalism faculties in Brazilian universities and assists the black movement to employ effective communication techniques to achieve its goals. www.midiaetnica.org

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Regina Agyare

After six years in the banking/technology industry, Regina Agyare decided to follow her passion and founded her own social enterprise called Soronko Solutions, which provides unique technology innovations that help create social change. Through the provision of role models and special tools such as an interactive one-day workshop, Regina aims to bring women and girls in Ghana into the ICT space and turn them from consumers into creators of technology. www.techneedsgirlsgh.com

Sami Hourani

Sami is a pioneer in the Arab world, working to break the vicious cycle of elitism and nepotism in young people's accessibility to education, skills development, and civic engagement opportunities. Within a context where youth are passive or apathetic towards the social and political scenes, Sami is creating a shift in the norms by introducing a new way for youth to counter this disempowering trend and become an active, educated, and motivated generation. Moreover by his organization "Leaders of Tomorrow" Sami is fostering a culture of sharing opportunities in a very egalitarian way. http://leadersot.org/

Alejandro Brito

Alejandro and his organization, Letra S have formed a broad network of public health CSOs and government agencies in breaking down the stereotypes about HIV/AIDS, helped start the most innovative and effective HIV/AIDS treatment centers in Mexico, and is making real progress toward the ambitious goal of eradicating AIDS. Through a wide array of mass media, Alejandro is mitigating social prejudices about people living with HIV/AIDS and who identify as gay, lesbian, transgender or transsexual (GLBT) in Latin America. http://www.letraese.org.mx/

Kingsley Bangwell

Kingsley Bangwell is empowering Nigerian youth to be informed citizens and effective future leaders by utilizing e-forums and innovative television programs that educate them about good governance and about their democratic rights. On his first organization, Youngstars Foundation International (YFI) Kingsley built a youth program that brings together young people from different backgrounds to deepen their understanding of democracy and encourage active and informed participation in good governance processes. After taking part in this DESPLAY academy, young graduates serve as role models and spread positive messaging through an extensive peer, online, and television network. http://youngstarsfoundation.org/

Asma Mansour

Asma is creating a new culture and approach for solving social problems in the Arab Maghreb sub-region (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Libya) by introducing to the community, the government and the private sector the concept of social enterprise. As an alternative to government dependency or immigration when facing social problems, with the "Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship" Asma is offering communities a third option which empowers them to have an active, innovative role in changing their situations. http://www.mict-international.org/

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Ashoka is the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs—men and women with system changing solutions for the world's most urgent social problems. Since 1981, we have elected nearly 3000 leading social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows, providing them with living stipends, professional support, and access to a global network of peers in more than 70 countries.

Ashoka's vision is a world where everyone can be a Changemaker: where solutions outpace problems, and where every human being has the empathy, confidence and skills to create a better future for themselves and their communities.

EVERYONE A CHANGEMAKER. www.ashoka.org

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