AGORA DEVELOPMENT THURSDAY (DT) BRIEF

Event Round-up: Entering and Navigating International Development as a Young Professional | Agora Thursday Thriving In Development Special Series 1/6

Speaker: Olajide Charles | **Date**: 20 April 2023

Key Message

International Development is a broad field, so it is advisable for intending professionals to situate it in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to provide more clarity and structure. For young professionals who are passionate about going into the space, it is important to first identify, their interests among the sus all the SDGs. This will enable them to have a defined view of how they can contribute to the goals that they are passionate about.

What should prospective professionals do?

Interested professionals should:

1. Prioritise gaining skills across three main areas of development work: Policy, Research, and Practice. Specifically, there are seven basic skills required for development work: Project management, Policy Research, Advocacy, Communication for development, Leadership, Networking skills, Fundraising, and Information Technology awareness.

2. Volunteer with organisations that work in the individual's field of interest. This will help in building capacity, gaining knowledge, growing a network, and finding further opportunities.

3. Pay attention to cultural nuances in areas of work. This will be supported by human-centered research and design to identify the true problems and craft impactful and useful solutions.

4. Remain hungry for knowledge, and open to new situations and people from different backgrounds. The future of the development space is multiculturalism since professionals will be working with people from backgrounds.

Finally

It is possible to migrate into and within the development space. Individuals need to be clear about their passion and do the work to gain a footing within the sector.

About YouPaD and Agora Thursdays: **Young Professionals in Policy and Development (YouPaD)** is a youth-led non-profit with the goal to create a platform for young people to engage with, discuss, research, and analyse issues relating to Foreign & Domestic Policy, Security, Climate Change, Governance & Development. We are a collective of young professionals and youth-led organizations that are providing solutions that improve various aspects of governance and public policy, with a unique view to addressing the challenges that face young people.

Agora Thursday is the online version of YouPaD's Agora Public Policy Discussion Series. We exchange ideas, thoughts, and actions to improve the policymaking process and practice in Nigeria. The current series TiDE is focused on equipping young development professionals with skills and knowledge to thrive in the development field, join us in this 6-part series.

Disclaimer: *The views expressed during Agora Thursdays are those of the Speakers and do not reflect the views of YouPaD.*

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