

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
INSTITUT AFRICAIN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

SPEAKER



Anant Agarwal

Chief Academic Officer of 2U and Founder of edX

My mantra:
"Education is a human right–
everyone should have access to it
like the air we breathe."

Anant Agarwal is Chief Academic Officer of 2U, founder of edX, and professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT. Prior to becoming Chief Academic Officer, Agarwal served as 2U's Chief Platform Officer.

Since launching edX in 2012, Agarwal has guided the organization's vision to expand access to high-quality education for everyone, everywhere. Today at 2U, he leverages his expertise in building powerful online learning platforms to drive edX's growth as one of the world's most comprehensive free-to-degree online learning marketplaces.

As the first educator to teach an edX course on circuits and electronics from MIT, Agarwal drew 155,000 students from 162 countries. He remains a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT today. Previously, he served as the director of CSAIL, MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

Agarwal is a successful serial entrepreneur, having co-founded several companies including Tilera Corporation, which created the Tile multicore processor, and Virtual Machine Works. He has received multiple accolades over the years for his pursuit of great educational innovation. He won the Maurice Wilkes prize for computer architecture and MIT's Smullin and Jamieson prizes for teaching. He is also the 2016 recipient of the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize for Higher Education, which recognized his work in advancing the MOOC movement. Additionally, Agarwal is a recipient of the Padma Shri Award from the President of India and was named the Yidan Prize Laureate for Education Development in 2018.

A pioneer in computer architecture, Agarwal is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a fellow of the ACM. Scientific American selected his work on organic computing as one of 10 World-Changing Ideas in 2011, and he was named in Forbes' list of top 15 education innovators in 2012.

Agarwal held a Guinness World Record for the largest microphone array, is an author of the textbook "Foundations of Analog and Digital Electronic Circuits," and in his spare time he hacks on WebSim, an online circuits laboratory. He holds a Ph.D. from Stanford and a bachelor's from IIT Madras.

SPEAKER

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP STAFF



Eric K. Ogunleye

Director ECAD

Eric has almost 20 years of progressively responsible post-doctoral work experience, spanning international development, private sector, public sector, and academia. He is currently the Director of the African Development Institute of the African Development Bank Group, responsible for coordinating and overseeing the mainstreaming of capacity development into the Bank's operations and co-creating institutional capacity development and knowledge support for inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Bank's 54 regional member countries. He was the Division Manager of the Policy Management Division of the African Development Institute, focusing on capacity development initiatives in key areas of macroeconomic, public financial and debt management. Earlier, he was the Advisor to the Chief Economist and Vice President for the Economic Governance and Knowledge Management Complex of the African Development Bank Group, responsible for managing the front office of the Chief Economist and Vice President and coordinating the work program of the six departments under the Vice Presidency. Other previous work experiences include Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria, focusing on international trade and finance; Special Adviser to the Chief Economic Adviser to the President of Nigeria; Technical Adviser (Policy and Planning) to the Nigerian Minister of Budget and National Planning; Country Macroeconomist at the Nigeria Country Department of the African Development Bank; and Research Fellow at the African Center for Economic Transformation where he engaged in providing policy research and advisory services for all African governments on strategic policy actions to drive national and continental transformations. He has stints at the UNU-WIDER in Helsinki, UNCTAD in Geneva, WTO in Geneva, and the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

SPEAKER



Namawu Alhassan Alolo

Division Manager Knowledge Management
and Information Services
African Development Institute
African Development Bank Group

Dr. Namawu Alhassan Alolo is a seasoned development practitioner with over 18 years of international experience in developing corporate strategies and policies, building capacities on operational programming, designing and implementing development projects, as well as teaching and research. With a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Birmingham, she led the development of two of the Bank's three sovereign financing instruments, notably, the Bank Group Policies on Program-Based Operations (PBOs) and Results-Based Financing (RBF). The RBF instrument was the first in 30 years to be added to the Bank's menu of financing options for sovereign operations.

Dr. Namawu A. Alolo has also played a central role in developing and implementing several key policy initiatives and innovative approaches for the Bank, such as the innovative framework on Multi-Tranche Financing (MTF) – the first of its kind in the Bank's 60 years of operations.

Dr. Namawu A. Alolo has an established track record of effectively engaging Governments in high level policy dialogue, catalyzing policy change in a variety of challenging economic and political settings and supporting development initiatives through innovative project design. As a Country Portfolio Officer in the Sudan Country Office, for example, she coordinated the entire portfolio of 21 lending and non-lending operations close to half a billion dollars.

She has led numerous development initiatives in diverse country settings, ranging from transition states like Sudan and Liberia to large and fast-growing economies like Egypt and Nigeria. Prior to joining the African Development Bank Group in 2007, she worked as a Research Associate for the University of Birmingham and acted as an adviser on anti-corruption initiatives for Transparency International. She undertook substantial research on governance issues for international organizations, such as the International Council on Human Rights Policy and the former UK Department of International Affairs (DFID).

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SPEAKER



Sheila Jagannathan

Former Global Head of Digital Learning at the World Bank, Washington, DC
Consultant at the African Development Bank

Sheila Jagannathan is a lifelong learner and served as the Global Head of the Open Learning Campus at the World Bank in Washington DC, for 26 years, specializing in digital learning and technology in emerging countries. With over 35 years of experience in capacity building, knowledge management, and transformational change across global environments, Sheila has led the design and implementation of impactful solutions, contributing to performance and productivity enhancements. Her work extends to providing policy advice and technical assistance for the World Bank's capacity-building programs across diverse regions, including East Asia, MENA, Africa, and South Asia. Sheila's leadership in creating a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Future of Work won the prestigious EDX prize (Harvard/MIT) for 2020. All these highlight her commitment to addressing critical issues like the Fourth Industrial Revolution, diversity & inclusion, and innovative technologies in education.

Her seminal book further underscores her contributions to the field. 'Reimagining Digital Learning for Sustainable Development,' which explores upskilling, data analytics, and educational technologies' roles in closing the skills gap. Recognized for her influence, Sheila's insights have shaped the discourse on digital learning and sustainable development, earning her a spot on the advisory boards of prestigious learning associations worldwide. Selected as one of the 100 Executive Women in Tech to Watch in 2022, Sheila's extensive expertise and forward-thinking approach continue to drive advancements in education and capacity building on a global scale.

