

237

"Changing the Narrative"

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

MAGAZINE

EDITION 03

**Koree becomes first ever
Female led fintech
To win eco-Bank fintech
award**

SPECIAL GUEST FEATURE

Meet the first female Secretary
General of the Commonwealth
Telecommunications Organisation
and the international
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EDITORS NOTE

There was a time in Cameroon when access to science classrooms for Cameroonian women was a mystery. How much we have evolved! Today, we do not only have to celebrate the Cameroonian female superstars of the technology world, but we also have a female-led Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Over the years, there have been outstanding historical moments in Cameroon's history when glass ceilings have been shattered by courageous women in areas that have never been cracked. The appointment of the first Director General of the Cameroon Telecommunications by the December 14th 2018 presidential decree was an aha moment for Cameroonian women. Another presidential decree of 2019 appointed the first female president of the Board of Administrators of the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency.

In this edition, these articles will thrill you. You will also enjoy the stories of women on the global stage who have totally changed the narrative on how women are perceived in the field of information and communication technologies, as well as Cameroonian female telcos doing us proud abroad.

These stand-out examples do not however dismiss the reality that women continue face road blocks on their journey to success, not because they're less driven, but because the obstacles they've faced for centuries remain firmly intact.



***LINDA NEH N'GOBESING
EDITOR IN CHIEF***

We therefore call on everyone to join the "Female Telcos lean in" campaign, launched in this edition with the hope that women aspiring to excel in telecommunications will be able to overcome their roadblocks and believe that their success is possible.

Truth be told, there are tons of inspirational women forging successful careers in work environments dominated by men – from engineering and tech to aerospace and medicine. We hope that these stories will stay imprinted on an entire generation of girls and young women. Enjoy your read, and don't forget to write to us and let us know who you want to hear about.

Enjoy your reading

GUEST FEATURE: FIRST FEMALE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION-CTO

Ms. Bernadette Lewis has over 28 years of experience in the field of information and communication technologies. The National of Trinidad and Tobago was appointed first female Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) in August 2003, a position she held right up to 2020 when she became the first female Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation CTO after 120 years of the organisation's existence.

Over the years, Ms. Lewis has been on the frontline, contributing to the growth of the ICT sector, especially in the Caribbean. She is said to have revitalized and re-established the CTU as a credible, vibrant and relevant information and communication technologies (ICT) organization and ensured its success and growth at a time when rapid technological innovations were disrupting the telecommunications industry.

A passionate and strong advocate for ICT-enabled development, Ms. Lewis has received many awards for her pioneering work in the ICT sector.



Bernadette Lewis
CTO-SG

"But we know how influence peddling and sponsoring can propel the "highly connected", whose only outstanding contribution to the political environment was to have been born male"

GUEST FEATURE: FIRST FEMALE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION-ITU



Mr. Doreen Bogdan-Martin
ITU-SG

The future of connectivity has yet to be written. We have to make it equitable, affordable, universal, innovative, safe and sustainable.

Doreen-Bogdan-Martin

American born diplomat and telecommunications engineer Bogdan-Martin was elected secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union ITU on the 29th of September 2022 in Bucharest Romania. She became the first woman in 157 years to be elected to head oldest U.N. body in the world that has been existing since 1865.

Prior to her historic appointment at the helm of the ITU, Ms. Bogdan-Martin held leadership positions in the field of international telecommunications policy for over two decades, with a track record of fostering innovative partnerships to expand digital inclusion and connectivity for everyone across the globe.

She joined the ITU in 1994 and has since then served the organisation in various capacities notably, Chief of ITU's Strategic Planning and Membership Department, head of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau's Regulatory and Market Environment Division and Regulatory Reform Unit as well as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau.

She holds a Master's in International Communications Policy from American University in Washington, DC, a post-graduate certification in Strategies for Leadership from the Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, and a certification in Accountability and Ethics from the UN Leaders Programme and is also a qualified amateur radio operator.

GLASS CEILING SHATTERERS



WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER = MORE DEVELOPMENT



CAMEROONIAN WOMEN SHAPING TECH



Monique Ntumngia Co-founder and CEO of Monafrik Energy.

Monique is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Monafrik Energy a Pan-African cleantech company that has developed an AI-powered smart home energy management system that optimizes energy usage, reduces the energy consumption of home appliances and costs, and also promotes sustainability through real-time monitoring and personalized recommendations. She leads a team of renewable energy engineers recognized for the quality of work that they carry out across the African continent. She has been featured on Forbes, is a Global Energy award recipient, and is also a recipient of the prestigious Diplomacy in Ireland Award that recognizes world leaders for their contribution to solving global issues.

BEBGA is a Cameroonian award winning IT professional and entrepreneur. She is the founder of the non-profit African Women in Tech startups (AFRICANWITS), a women tech incubator that empowers women through technology entrepreneurship and digital skills. BEBGA doubles as founder of LIKALO 2.0, a digital media consulting and training company that provides services and solutions for SMEs and education for the African market. In 2018, she was named CEO GLOBAL's Most influential women in Business and Government in the ICT sector for Central Africa. She is a laureate of THE TONY ELUMELU FOUNDATION's award for 2018 and an alumna for the Techwomen 2018 program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Exchange for emerging women leaders in technology.

Charlotte Horore Bebga - Founder AFRICANWITS and LIKALO 2.0.





Selma Ndi - Data Girl Technologies

Selma is a full stack web developer and co-founder of Data Girl Technologies. A tech start-up dedicated to accompanying women and girls acquire digital skills and harnessing their potential to monetise skills acquired.

Over the past three years, her organisation has successfully trained over 3000 ambitious girls from across Cameroon and beyond in the art of web development, empowering them to conquer the digital realm.

Selma holds an esteemed MBA degree in Business Administration from the ICT University in Yaounde, Cameroon.

In 2018, she was acknowledged as Cameroon's exceptional youth of the year, a testament to her dedication and impact. Additionally, her talent as a web developer earned her the prestigious title of the best Web developer Women in Tech Startups in 2020. Continuing to soar to new heights, Selma's accomplishments caught the attention of Forbes in July 2021, propelling her into the spotlight as a recognised industry leader. Additionally, she secured a coveted spot in the esteemed 2022 TechWomen fellowship at Silicon Valley, USA.

Selma also dedicates herself as a tech mentor at the CareerFoundry Institute.

In 2009, Janet founded the private K-12 Tassah Academy in Cameroon, with 600 students enrolled. Throughout her career, Bih Janet has demonstrated her dedication to youth education and is a strong supporter of girls. In fact, 60 per cent of the students enrolled in her school are female. She is extremely passionate about the outcome of her students and envisions developing schools that are affordable for all. Bih Janet encourages girls at an early age to learn and be excited about the opportunities and applications of technology and the special spice and expression that females provide in this field. She builds and teaches solar photovoltaics so children can learn about the benefits of clean energy to the environment. She goes about this using solar pedagogic kits found in her own "STEM Boxes."



Janet Bih - Tech PhD. researcher at NIST/ Founder Intelligent Future.



Marie Makuate ,founder of kids and girls in the geospatial.

Marie Makuate – is a researcher and PhD. candidate in Geomatics. Her work focuses on using computer science in Geographic Information Science for environmental management. She is the founder of kids and girls in the geospatial. Scientific researcher and TechWomen Emerging Leader award 2022. She is passionate about climate change, disaster management, spatial analysis, and geo-artificial intelligence. She can integrate hands-on skills and knowledge in solving environmental issues using remote sensing and GIS. As an advocate of sustainable development, she dreams of inspiring the young generation in geospatial sciences and technologies for capacity building and development in the developing world.

Instructor. Dorothee is a multimedia journalist, a media education' Engineer & a blogger on IT related issues. She has accumulated over 12 years of experience working in digital journalism & and the IT&web sector. She's owns a Multimedia Journalist Blog, www.dorotheedanedjo.com, which documents stories on IT related issues, the use of technology for communication as well as social media management. Dorothee is also a STEM& FOSS advocate and head of Mozilla Cameroon. Dorothee is poised to launch a digital teaching platform on the web for journalists & communicators. She holds a Masters degree in Media Education'Engineering from Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 University. Dorothee has been teaching in Advanced School of Mass Communication-University of Yaounde 2 since 2011.



Dorothee Danedjo Foubu – Multimedia Journalist/ Engineer/STEM



Arielle Kitio Tsamo – computer scientist/CEO at CAYSTI

Arielle Kitio Tsamo is a young Cameroonian computer scientist and entrepreneur. In 2017, she created Caysti, a centre that trains young people aged 6 to 15 in coding.

Arielle recently launched the global movement – competition “Coder en Français (www.coderenfrancais.org)”, “Code in African Languages” with the support of La Francophonie MasterCard Foundation and UNESCO.

The multiple award won the Margaret Prize 2019 for the African Digital Woman of the Year. In 2018, Forbes Africa included her in its 30 Under 30 Francophone Africa ranking. She also won the Margaret Africa Prize on Digital Women’s Day in 2019, in 2019, UNESCO also awarded her the Prize for Innovation in Education.

Sophie Monkam has been teaching in a Technical High School for 15 years. She is a Techwomen 2019 Awardee of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, a Grace Hopper Celebration Scholarship 2016 recipient and Women Leaders for the World 2019 fellow. Sophie founded a youth vocational-technical training and entrepreneurship development center in 2010 Centre for Youth Education and Economic Development (CYEED), an organization serving as a community resource center for technical training and education working to empower girls and young women towards acquiring digital skills. She contributes passionately to an incredibly positive impact on tech inclusion via STEM training programs for young women in order to close the gender tech gap. She promotes women in Mozilla being the WoMoz Lead Bamenda and is an active member of Women Techmakers Bamenda, Code4Cameroon & Women in Tech Africa. she was recently named World Pulse Ambassador, AnitaB.org Africa community Leader 2017 and was one of the 3 Cameroonian Women Techmakers Udacity Scholarship recipient by Google in 2017.



Sophie Ngassa Monkam- STEM Instructor.



***Ruth – Founder and CEO of African Vision
Communications***

Cameroonian born Business Development Manager, Brand and Marketing Strategist, Publisher, President of the Cameroon-India Business Council, and the AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (AEDA) a Pan-African Organization that works to foster economic growth and development in Africa through various Trade and Investment initiatives. Ruth is the founder & CEO of AVICOMM (African Vision Communications) GROUP. She also founded LEWA - Leading and Enterprising Women of Africa and the AWCCT - African Women Chamber of Commerce and Trade. Ruth is part of the new generation of women who are changing the face of Africa, a Business Woman who is committed to developing the African Entrepreneurial ecosystem with a focus on Youth and Female Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development in Africa. Ruth is a champion for women's socio-economic development, which earned her an appointment as the President of the Cameroon-India Business Council by the Women Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. After working with Ghanaian Media companies like the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Citi FM and the Ghanaian Observer, Ruth started her Entrepreneurial journey in 2011 when she founded AVICOMM (African Vision Communications) GROUP in Ghana which started with the publication of Business magazines and Corporate Events. Since its creation, AVICOMM GROUP has grown to become a Global Strategic Marketing and Business Development firm with clients spanning from the Manufacturing, Technology, Education, FMCG, Beauty and Hospitality sectors including NGOs and Government agencies. Through AVICOMM GROUP, Ruth, together with her team, has helped companies find new markets across West and Central Africa precisely in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. Ruth is also the founder of the Leading and Enterprising Women of Africa - L.E.W.A. organization through which she empowers women to take on leadership roles in business, governance, and society. She founded the African Women Chamber of Commerce and Trade to help Female Founders grow their businesses by trading internationally. they

GLOBAL STATS OF WOMEN IN TECH , WHERE ARE WE ?

We constantly hear about the gender gap in technology. From the shortage of female founders and CEOs to discrimination, through the comparatively small number of women choosing to study computer science or Telecommunications.

Looking at the available data can bring clarity to the issue. Some women in technology statistics might surprise you. For example, how many people are aware that the percentage of women in computer science majors was higher during the 1980s than it is today? Or that, today, as operations research analysts, women are slightly overrepresented?

Some of the most compelling research is around the overall skills shortage in the tech industry. For example, today and in the coming years, there are and will be a vast number of technical job vacancies. Simply reducing female attrition from the field could help fill many of these roles.

At 32%, the share of women working in tech is now lower than it was in 1984, when it was 35%. The percentage of women in tech leadership roles has fallen to 28% in 2023.

In 2022, all-women startup teams received an all-time low of 1.9% or \$4.5 billion out of \$238.3 billion in venture capital funding. Women make up the following percentage of employees at the 8 biggest tech companies:

Apple – 38%

Microsoft – 34%

Alphabet (Google) – 34%

Amazon – 44.8%

NVIDIA – 19%

Tesla – 22%



As of 2023, women account for 14% of the global cloud computing workforce.

In engineering, women make up 20% of the workforce, and in data and AI, the share of women is 32%.

At 33%, virtual reality (VR) projects have the highest share of female developers.

Augmented reality (AR) projects and games rank second at 28%. Backend services and web application projects have the lowest concentration of female coders, at just 13% and 16%, respectively. Despite the funding boom in African tech over the last few years, female-led startups in Africa received only 4% of the total share of funding in 2022.

The figure is a slight improvement on the 3% of investments made into African startups between 2013 and 2021.

Around 14% of African tech startups had female founders. While women continue to drive entrepreneurship in Africa, they remain the minority among tech company founders on the continent.

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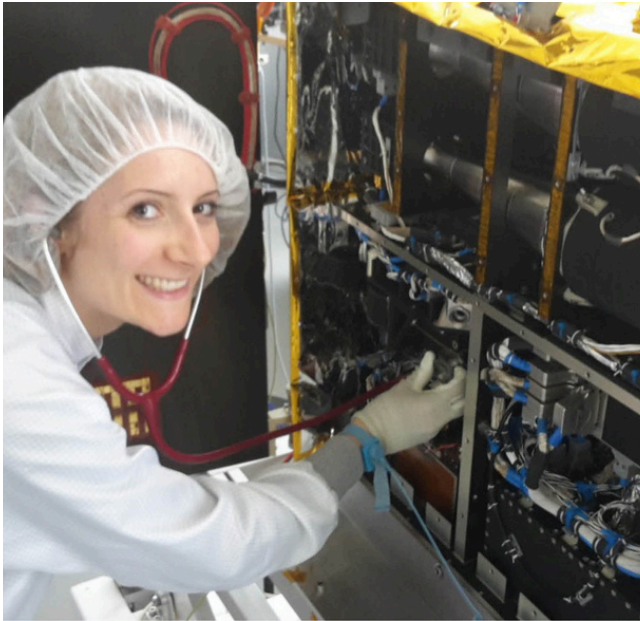
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The Amelia Earhart Fellowship

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship was established in 1938 in honor of famed pilot and Zontian, Amelia Earhart. The US\$10,000 Fellowship is awarded annually to up to 30 women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. It may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees in these fields.

Since the program's inception in 1938, Zonta has awarded 1,734 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling more than US\$11.6 million, to 1,305 women from 77 countries.

*Consult the website of
The Amelia Earhart Fellowship For details*

This is a one-year virtual boot-camp for girls and young women of African descent to acquire beginner to advanced data skills. For participants who have some experience working with data, this is also an opportunity to take part in projects and competitions on the Datacamp platform so that you can build your portfolio, gain hands-on experience and confidently take on data science job interviews.

**The GirlLEAD
Project -
Promoting
gender inclusion
in tech
and
entrepreneurship**



*Consult the website of the future
is female at
<https://thegirlleadproject.org>*

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Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum AWIEF 9th annual Conference, Exhibition and Awards

Registration is now open for our annual AWIEF conference and awards, which will be held at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC), Kigali, Rwanda, on 9 and 10 November 2023.

The ultimate goal of AWIEF is contributing to Africa's inclusive and sustainable economic and social transformation.

*Consult the website of opportunity desk for more
www.opportunitydesk.com*

Chevron International REACH scholarship program for more

The program is open to current high-school or secondary school students who are planning to attend as a full-time student in an approved college, university or vocational-technical school. Current first-year college students enrolled in a full-time STEM course are also eligible to apply.

The Institute of International Education was established in 1919. It is one of the largest and most experienced non-profit international educational and cultural exchanges, training and technical support organizations in the world.



*Consult the website of Chevron International
REACH scholarship program for more*



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