

Curriculum vitae Koert Lindijer

From 1973 till 1976 Mr. Koert Lindijer worked as a freelance correspondent in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Thereafter, he studied at the School for Journalism in Utrecht, The Netherlands, where he graduated in 1979. From 1979 till 1983, he was Africa editor at NRC-Handelsblad in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. And from 1983 onwards, Mr. Lindijer lives in Nairobi, Kenya, from where he works as Africa correspondent for NRC-Handelsblad, Radio 1 and Radio Netherlands International.

For his work as a correspondent, Mr. Lindijer received several awards, such as the “Dick Scherpenzeel Press Price” (1996), the “Journalism for Peace Price” (2007) and the “Best (Dutch) correspondent of 2014 Price”.

Mr. Koert Lindijer wrote four books on African affairs (in Dutch language).

Biodata of Ms. Oluwaseyi Alalade

Ms. Oluwaseyi Alalade was born in Oyo State, Nigeria. From 2007 till 2011, she studied for her B.Sc Biochemistry at the Bowen University. Iwo, Osun State.

From 2013 till to date she is a M.Sc student at the Wageningen University.

In the period 2011-2012, she worked as a teacher at the Little Saints Secondary School. Cross River State, Nigeria.

From 2012 till 2013, she was Youth President at the Baptist Chapel. Kaduna State, Nigeria.



Some statistics on socioeconomic developments in Sub-Saharan Africa

In the midst of the worldwide economic crisis comes an interesting surprise: strong economic growth and improving socioeconomic conditions in sub-Saharan Africa. The improving social and economic fundamentals in many sub-Saharan African nations are at odds with the West's dated image of Africa and have placed the continent in the spotlights.

In past years, much of the news from Africa, especially the sub-Saharan countries, has concerned political instability, the AIDS and HIV epidemic, and presently the Ebola outbreak, famine, civil strife, and war.

However, economic data suggest that conditions may be improving. IHS* forecasts that between 2013 and 2017, sub-Saharan African economies are likely to outpace every major regional economic bloc, except China, in both real GDP and population growth.

Indeed, real GDP growth for sub-Saharan Africa is likely to be 4.9% in 2013 and to average 5–6% annual growth between 2014 and 2022. In contrast, real annual GDP growth for the global economy is expected to be in the 2.5–3.9% range between 2013 and 2022.

Sub-Saharan Africa's demographic indicators are also improving: HIV infection and infant mortality rates are falling, while life expectancies are on the rise. During the past 20 years, infant mortality in the region dropped markedly, while fertility rates declined only modestly, leading to a baby boom in the region. Currently, 40% of the sub-Saharan population is 14

years old or younger. However, over the next 30 years, assuming fertility rates keep declining, the working-age population is expected to grow significantly faster than total population, setting the demographic pillar for an economic leap.

A concern is that sub-Saharan Africa's growing labor force is a ticking 'time bomb' that could be triggered by a lack of job growth. In 2012, while the world's unemployment rate stood slightly above the 9% mark, joblessness approached 14% in 11 of the most populous sub-Saharan African economies. More than half of all Africans aged 15 to 24 are unemployed, and 40% of working-age women are without a job. An increase in women's participation is widely considered a necessary driver of economic growth.

African nations have acknowledged that neither current growth rates nor political stability can be expected in the future without higher youth employment. In 2009, the leaders of the 54 member states of the African Union labeled the next 10 years as the “African Youth Decade,” and issued a plan of action aimed at “accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development,” notably by reducing youth unemployment by two percentage points every year. On a positive note, the rapid increase in young Africans' education levels during the past 20 years might help bridge the current mismatch between demand and supply of qualified labor.

*) IHS is a global information company with world-class experts in the pivotal areas shaping today's business landscape: energy, economics, geopolitical risk, sustainability and supply chain management. “We employ more than 8,000 people in more than 31 countries around the world”. IHS Global Headquarters is based in Englewood, Colorado (USA)