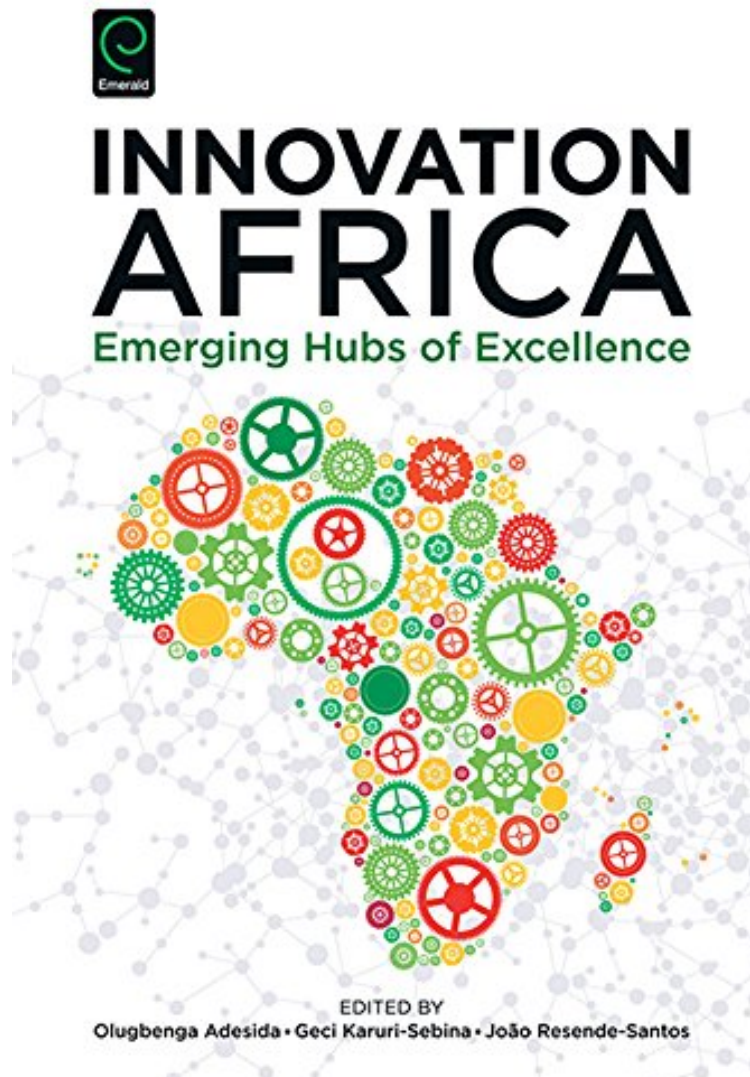


# Innovation Africa: Emerging Hubs of Excellence

*Olugbenga Adesida*

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**Olugbenga Adesida : Innovation Africa: Emerging Hubs of Excellence** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Innovation Africa: Emerging Hubs of Excellence:

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Innovation is critical to growth and development in Africa. In the context of a continent characterized by fast growing economies as well as an array of socioeconomic challenges, such as high levels of poverty, innovation in Africa must be understood in an encompassing manner. Africa needs to foster the emergence of its own Silicon Valley, but it must also foster the invention and adoption of more efficient wood-fueled traditional stoves that limit deforestation and

combat climate change. This book contains a number of analytical case studies that examine the nature and origins of emerging high-end innovation hubs in Africa. These hubs are both understudied and little known inside and outside the continent. With this analysis, the book intends to highlight and draw lessons from some of the most promising and successful innovation cases in Africa today, exploring the key factors driving their successful emergence, growth and future prospects. Relevant for scholars, policymakers and business leaders, the book provides both inspiration and useful policy advice that can inform strategies and concrete measures to foster and speed up the pace of innovation in Africa today.

Originating in ongoing conversations and initiatives about how to build and support innovation-driven development in Africa, the primary aim of this book is to offer an analytical narrative about the nature, origins, and performance of examples of innovative hubs in Africa. In nine case studies, it provides a panoramic picture of the key factors, issues, and conditions with a focused analysis that continually underscores the most important features and factors in each case. Distributed in North America by Turpin Distribution. Annotation copy;2016 Ringgold Inc. Portland, OR (proview.com) "As patron of the AIS, I am delighted about this book because for Africa there will be no better future without vibrant and developmental cultures, systems and institutions that actively leverage the innovativeness of our greatest asset: our people. This book shines a light of enquiry on some of what we have done in Africa at our best, and perhaps too at our worst when we have not managed to sustain or fully benefit our innovation systems. It is an important contribution to our learning, reflection and action." (Pedro Pires, Ex President, Republic of Cabo Verde (2001-2011) and 2011 Mo Ibrahim Leadership Laureate) "Innovation is a key enabler of development and structural transformation. At a time when Africa has bold aspirations through Agenda 2063, innovation is a must for the continent to confront challenges such as the ascendant demographic curve, green industrialization and domestic resource mobilization. The number of case studies presented in this book showcase Africa's ability as well as potential to research and offer solutions that will leave their mark. An exciting opportunity to make Africa the continent of the future is around the corner if we just pay attention to the messages of this book." --(Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)) "While acknowledging the many challenges, the diversity and richness of case studies that carry this book not only systematically show how Africa is indeed innovative in its own way, but also very skilfully demonstrates the fact that innovation goes beyond the technological. This is a must-read book for any serious innovation scholar and policy maker." (Professor Bitrina Diyamett, President, AfricaLics) "There is growing interest among African governments and international organizations for mobilizing innovation for development in Africa. But there is still a scarcity of knowledge on how innovation actually takes place in different contexts. This book helps close this knowledge gap. Edited by the organizers of the 2014 African Innovation Summit, it presents a number of case studies on innovation from four out of the five major regions of Africa. The case studies cover different sectors spanning from innovation in the use of mobile phones, in public administration, in cassava production and in heavy industry. The case studies add important specific insight and they are helpful in understanding the potential as well as the barriers for innovation." --(Bengt-Arving;ke Lundvall, Aalborg University and Secretary General for Globelics) "Innovation Africa is an important and original contribution to our better understanding of "rising Africa". While recognizing the challenges faced, the book assesses the true assets of the continent for innovation and technological upgrading, based on a detailed analysis of illustrative case studies. The message is clear: the future of Africa lies in its ability to develop and nurture innovation and the potential is there. Calling for a distinctly new approach to innovation for the African continent, this book is a source of inspiration for policymakers, business leaders and the public at large." (Anne Miroux, Former Head of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Visiting Fellow, Emerging Markets Institute, Cornell University) "There is an imperative role for innovation in Africa's continued development. Innovation is not about waiting for a good idea to strike it must be a deliberate practice and process to ensure that good ideas, including those emerging at local levels, are enabled by the right policies, and shaped for social and/or ecological benefits. Without being prescriptive, this timely book offers case studies that serve as detailed roadmaps to guide the way and is a welcome addition to any leader's toolkit." --(Kippy Joseph, Associate Director for Innovation at The Rockefeller Foundation) About the Author Olugbenga Adesida - Ihaba, Cape Verde Geci Karuri-Sebina - South African Cities Network, South Africa Joatilde;o Resende-Santos - Bentley University, USA