



spark

I want to rebuild my country

Yasmin Hariri

4th **IGNITE Conference**

#IGNITE2016

Tackling Instability,
Radicalisation and
Forced Migration

16 November 2016
Beurs van Berlage
Amsterdam

Photo front cover

Yasmin Hariri *Syria (in Jordan)*

Yasmin left Syria in 2012 at 22 years old and moved into a refugee camp in Jordan. A desire to contribute to the rebuilding of her country led her to apply, successfully, for a scholarship. She now holds a major from Al-Quds College, Amman. She wishes to return to Syria as soon as possible.

SPARK welcomes you to the fourth annual IGNITE Conference, entitled Tackling Instability, Radicalisation and Forced Migration

Since 1994, SPARK has been supporting entrepreneurship and higher education in fragile and conflict affected regions. Over the years we have worked with many inspiring initiatives and people, some of whom we are delighted to welcome today.

This year, in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), SPARK is proud to present the 4th IGNITE Conference which focuses on Tackling Instability, Radicalisation and Forced Migration in the Middle East, Africa and the EU. Entrepreneurs, refugees and practitioners connected to SPARK's international offices, from as far afield as Libya, Syria and Iraq, are here. They will be offering personal insights into the importance of education and employment opportunities for stability in fragile states.

The conference aims to advance dialogue on subjects such as entrepreneurship development, the creation of enabling business environments, investment strategies, access to higher education and leadership. We are excited to be able to offer some of the world's leading experts under one roof.

We strongly encourage new, concrete partnerships and closer working relationships to tackle the complex problems we all face together.

SPARK and IFC wish you a successful and inspiring IGNITE 2016!

Beurs van Berlage

L Grote zaal

B Berlage zaal

E Mendes da Costakamer

I Roland holst kamer

H Ontvangkamer

D Verwey kamer

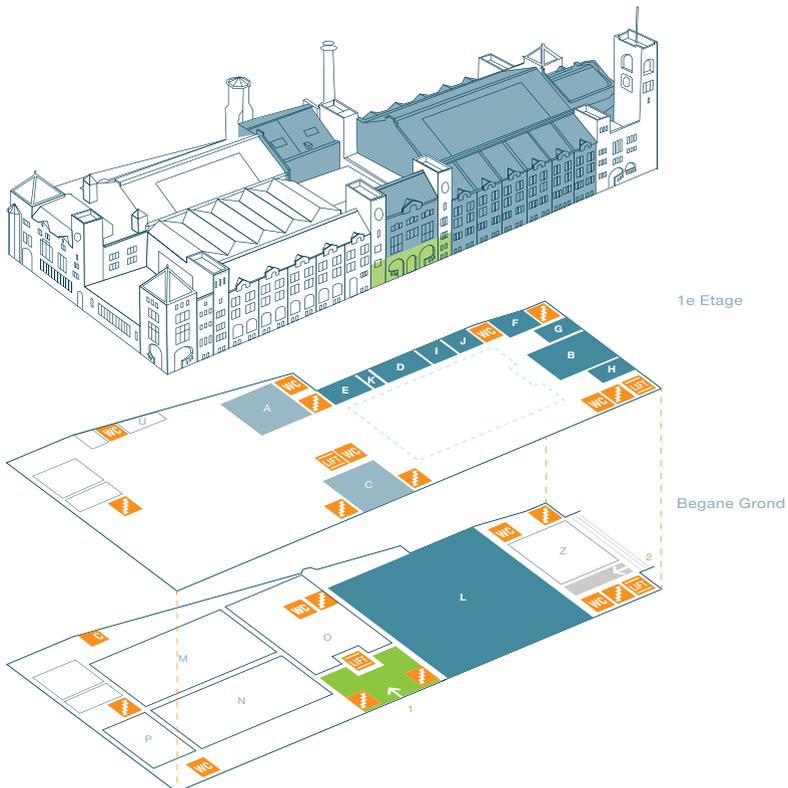
G Blauwe kamer

K Zijkamer

F Rode kamer

1 Hoofdentree Damrak 243

J Derkinderen kamer



08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.10	Opening
09.10 – 09.30	Keynote by Michel Botzung
09.30 – 09.50	Keynote by Paul Collier
09.50 – 10.00	Break
10.00 – 11.25	Workshops Round 1
11.25 – 11.45	Break
11.45 – 12.10	Talk of the Day 1
12.10 – 12.30	Keynote by Hans Docter
12.30 – 12.50	Keynote by Mahmud Johnson
12.50 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.05	Keynote by Antoinia Norman
14.05 – 14.25	Keynote by Mustafa Sagezli
14.25 – 14.45	Keynote – to be announced
14.45 – 15.10	Talk of the Day 2
15.10 – 15.30	Break
15.30 – 16.55	Workshops Round 2
17.00 – 17.15	Closing Ceremony
17.15 – 18.00	Drinks

Host **Petra Stienen**

Programme

09.00 - 09.10

Welcome by Yannick du Pont, SPARK

Director

Video portrait by *Studio Halfvol* of Alaa Alwani (Syrian refugee and entrepreneur, in Turkey)

Grote Zaal (L)

Keynotes – Round 1

09.10 – 09.30

Michel Botzung

(Manager FCAS, IFC)

Beyond Business As Usual

Michel Botzung reflects upon IFC's experiences in fragile states and discusses what the private sector can do to address the causes and consequences of conflict, through economic security and going beyond the 'business as usual' attitude in these countries.

09.30 – 09.50

Paul Collier

(Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Oxford)

New Solutions To The Syrian Refugee Crisis

A reflection on new solutions to the Syrian refugee crisis and the need to 'reboot the donor-centric response to humanitarian disasters by turning them into economic conundrums'.

12.10 – 12.30

Hans Docter

(Director Sustainable Economic Development, NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Inclusive Investment, Entrepreneurship and Public-Private Partnerships

About the importance of promotion of sustainable and inclusive investment in fragile countries, involving host communities and migrants, as well as strategies for recovery from conflict through entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships.

12.30 – 12.50

Mahmud Johnson

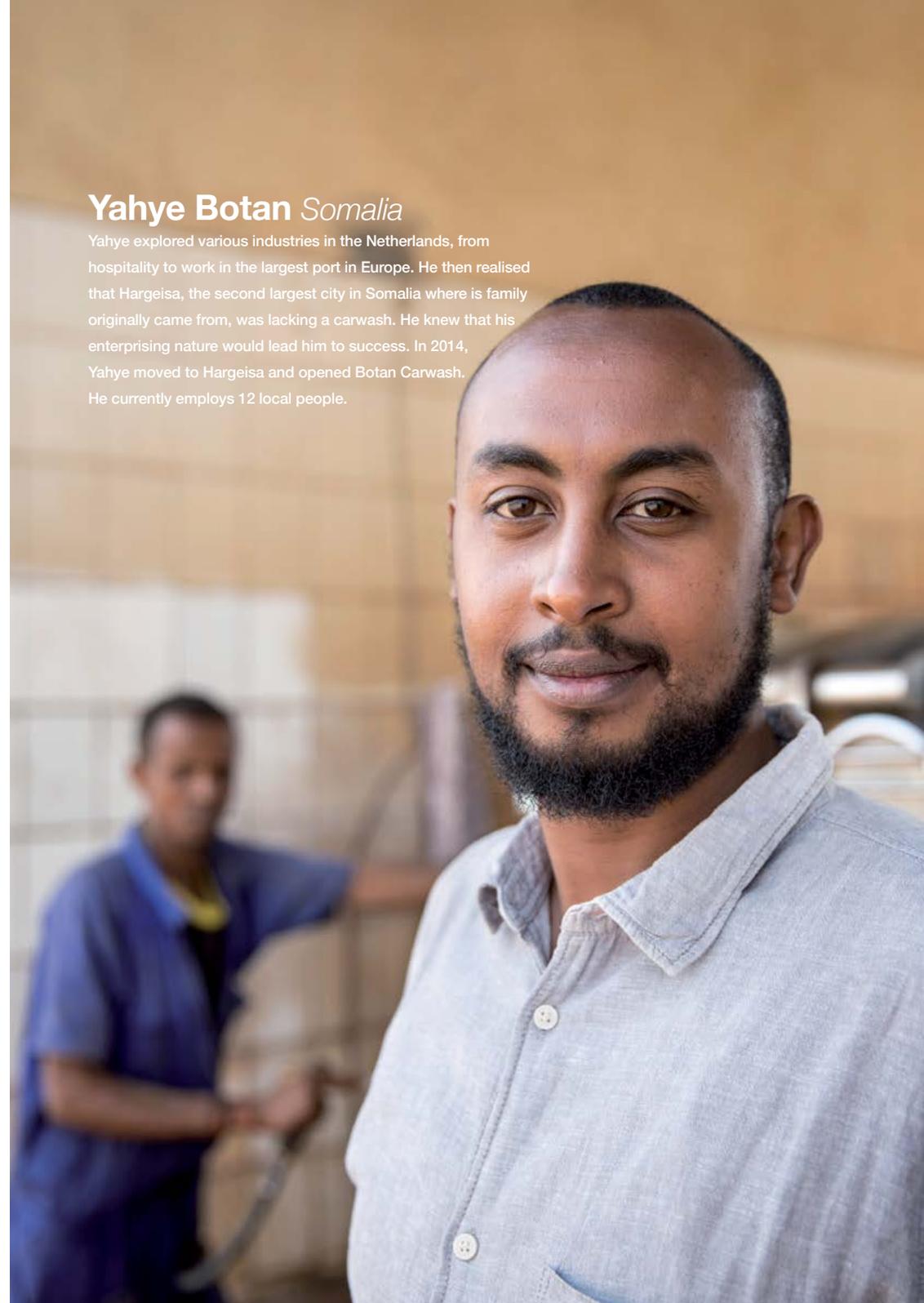
(Founder, J-Palm Liberia)

Boosting Liberia's Entrepreneurs

Doing business in Liberia comes with unique challenges. Mahmud's business survived conflict and crisis, but going forward, what opportunities and services do young entrepreneurs need to build a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem? And how can entrepreneurs be supported to achieve long-term, sustainable growth in Liberia?

Yahye Botan *Somalia*

Yahye explored various industries in the Netherlands, from hospitality to work in the largest port in Europe. He then realised that Hargeisa, the second largest city in Somalia where his family originally came from, was lacking a carwash. He knew that his enterprising nature would lead him to success. In 2014, Yahye moved to Hargeisa and opened Botan Carwash. He currently employs 12 local people.



10.00 – 11.25

Workshops – Round 1

Room

Grote Zaal (L)

Guest speakers

Mokhtar Al Khanshali

(Port of Mokha)

Moderator

Nina Aqlan

(SPARK)

Masterclass: The Art of Coffee Making in War-torn Yemen

Be prepared for a fully immersive lesson in entrepreneurship and Yemeni coffee making from the 27 year old Yemeni American, Mokhtar Al Khanshali. Port of Mokha is the coffee company founded by Al Khanshali, which works to educate farmers on best agricultural practices, employ local people and remain transparent, so that the coffee can be traced from bean to cup. Come and enjoy yours and learn about doing business in the midst of ongoing conflict.

Room

Berlage Zaal (B)

Guest speaker

Paul Collier

(University of Oxford)

Masterclass: Accelerating (post-conflict) Economic Recovery

After his keynote Paul Collier dives deeper into issues related to the Syrian refugee crisis and how to address its challenges. He also talks about economic recovery during and after conflict and how to accelerate this. The private sector – and the necessary skills it brings along – seems to be crucial, just as alliances between public money, NGO's and businesses are to overcome the many barriers to viable operation.

Room

Verwey Kamer (D)

Guest speakers

Aki Harima

(University of Bremen)

Stephanie Deubler

(GIZ)

Valerie Wolff

(ICPMD)

Khaalid Hassan

(SPARK)

and several diaspora entrepreneurs

Moderator

Thomas Loudon

(VJ Movement)

The New Pioneers: Diaspora Entrepreneurship

While diaspora engagement was not previously valued, diaspora communities have begun to show how much they can contribute to the development of the countries of origin. The question now is: how can we best support diaspora entrepreneurs and innovators in reaching their full potential? This workshop explores obstacles diaspora entrepreneurs face in starting businesses and discuss the best ways to tackle these issues.

Room

Mendes da Costa Kamer (E)

Guest speakers

Sascha Noé (Cordaid)

Barthout van Slingelandt (XSM)

Jean-Michel Severino (I&P)

Nasser Al Faqih (UNDP)

Michel Botzung (IFC)

Moderator

Donata Garrasi (ECAS)

Room

Rode Kamer (F)

Guest speakers

Farooq Burney (Al Fakhora)

Yannick du Pont (SPARK)

Alaa Alwani (Syrian entrepreneur in Gaziantep)

Nada Charara (American

University of Beirut)

Hamza Khedr and Ahmad Taleb

(Syrian students in Gaziantep)

Moderator

Petra Stienen (independent

advisor, Arabist)

Room

Ontvangkamer (H)

Guest speakers

David Kenning (Gemeente

Amsterdam)

Sjoerd Raaijmakers (VICE)

Agnese Macaluso (KPSRL)

Fadi Yarak (Lebanon Ministry of Education)

Dr. Eri Park (University College Roosevelt)

Heleen Cousijn (Diversio)

Moderator

Anna Gouwenberg (KPSRL)

How to Promote Sustainable Investment in Fragile Countries

Three out of five fragile or conflict-affected states (FCS) tend to fall back into crisis within five years after the end of violent conflict. What should we do differently to increase investment in African FCS to contribute to sustainable economic and social development of fragile states that will eventually contribute to stability? This workshop will decide how to effectively promote sustainable investment in FCS.

The Little Things: Holistic Approach to Higher Education for Syrian Refugees

The attendees are taken on a journey of the challenges faced by Syrian refugees in accessing higher education. Syrian students talk about the 'little things' which form huge obstacles on a daily basis. In response, Al Fakhora and SPARK introduce their holistic scholarship programme, which enables refugees to continue their studies elsewhere, and share their view on higher education and economic empowerment for refugees.

Learning and Working: Countering Radicalisation

Recent studies suggest that access to education reduces the risk of radicalisation towards violent extremism. This interactive workshop explores links between education, employment and violent extremism. Are educated people incentivised by the lack of qualified jobs to become violent extremists? Are development or security approaches to prevention most effective? Can these approaches be complementary, or do they obstruct one another?

Scholarships for refugees

There is an urgent need to enroll Syrian refugees in (higher) education in the MENA region. If this does not happen, there will be no educated workforce to help rebuild the country once the conflict is over. SPARK is already planning for the future of Syria: we offer thousands of higher education scholarships to students in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and within Syria.

The students in the picture have found that possibilities for Syrian refugees to study in Jordan have increased, thanks to efforts of several international donors such as EU-MADAD, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al Fakhoora. SPARK offers 30% of its scholarships to local Jordanian students, in order to support the host community in building strong economic foundations.



Room

Blauwe kamer (G)

Guest speakers

Fathi Al Mudaris

(Ministry of Trade and Industry/
KRG)

Ahmed Dezaye (Salahaddin
University-Erbil)

Mohamed Baban (Asia Cell)

Moderator

Mohammed Skaik (SPARK)

Room

Roland Holst kamer (I)

Guest speakers

Dr. Dia Abuhadra (GIZ)

Tarek Elgheryani (entrepreneur
from Benghazi)

Enas Lbhari (Founder Mozart,
cake company)

Dr. Abdalnaser Abouzkeh (Libya
Enterprise)

Majdalena Bentaher (SPARK)

Moderator

Richard van Hoolwerff (SPARK)

Room

Derkinderen Kamer (J)

Guest speakers

Nataliya Zhuhay (CIPE)

Ayman Tabbaa (Syria Economic
Forum)

Alban Hashani (Riinvest Kosovo)

Moderator

Marc Schleifer (CIPE)

Striving for Education and Jobs in Iraq/ KRG

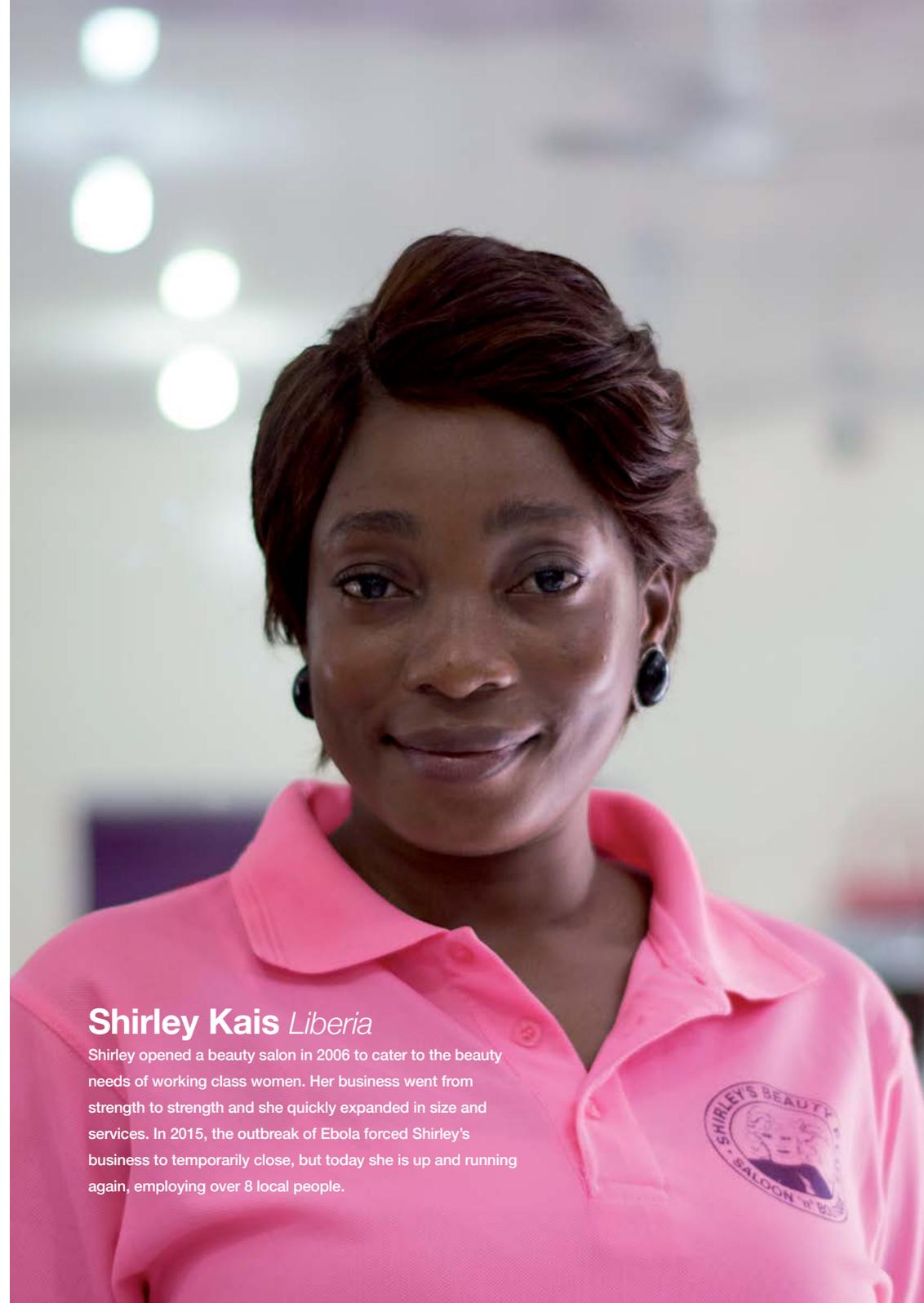
The Kurdistan Region of Iraq has to deal with major challenges including ISIS and financial struggles, resulting in 40% (2.2 million) of its population are now refugees or IDPs. Yet despite not being able to pay professors, Kurdish universities made places for thousands of IDP and refugee students. In this workshop the director of Salahaddin University (Erbil) and the advisor to Minister of Trade and Industry share their recent experiences of tackling these challenges and how they promote economic empowerment and job creation.

Libya: How to Move Forward

Libya's descent into civil war after the revolution has been well-chronicled. So too, has Libya's role in the mass-migration of millions of refugees. Yet there are now many initiatives attempting to rebuild the fragile state through entrepreneurship & employment development. This workshop will focus on the role of the government in the reconstruction of private sector development. A Libyan entrepreneur from Benghazi will explain the obstacles faced in starting a business surrounded by on-going conflict.

Strategies for Recovery from Conflict through Entrepreneurship

After conflict, insufficient attention is often paid to how conflict affects the private sector, and the role of the private sector in recovery. Currently, the Syrian Economic Forum hopes for eventual recovery through policy research and advocacy. In Ukraine, the Center for International Private Enterprise supports entrepreneurs to spur recovery. This panel explores how post-conflict, economic revival through private sector development can spur boost inclusive growth that is needed for long-term stability.



Shirley Kais *Liberia*

Shirley opened a beauty salon in 2006 to cater to the beauty needs of working class women. Her business went from strength to strength and she quickly expanded in size and services. In 2015, the outbreak of Ebola forced Shirley's business to temporarily close, but today she is up and running again, employing over 8 local people.



Eman El Assali *Syria (in Lebanon)*

Eman was in her first year of university when she was forced to flee to Lebanon as her home country descended into violence. In Lebanon, a scholarship allowed her to continue her studies in Early Childhood Education. Speaking at her graduation, she said: "I will now be able to support future Syrian generations".

Grote Zaal (L)

Keynotes – Round 2

13.45 – 14.05

Antoinia Norman
(Branson Center of
Entrepreneurship)

How Small Business Overcome Social Restlessness and Political Discords

Antoinia Norman focuses on the impact of worsening trends in line with social restlessness and political discords on the economic gauge of South Africa. And, even more, on a nation wellbeing as a whole. What does this mean for small business and how do we still transcend entrepreneurial sustainability in fragile contexts?

14.05 – 14.25

Mustafa El-Sagezli
(SESRIC)

Reintegration Towards Tackling Radicalisation

Mustafa El-Sagezli is chairman of the Board of Directors and Libya Representative at the 'Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries' (SESRIC). He shares his experiences on reintegration towards tackling radicalisation. He holds years of experience in politics, public management, social services management and SME Development.

14.25 – 14.45

To be announced

Grote Zaal (L)

Talk of the Day

11:45 – 12.10

Talk of the Day 1

14.45 – 15.10

Talk of the Day 2

Host Petra Stienen talks to entrepreneurs, refugees, students and other special guests of IGNITE 2016 about challenges they face starting or maintaining their business and finding access to higher education.

15.30 – 16.55

Workshops – Round 2

Room

Berlage Zaal (B)

Guest speakers

Dr. Obay Al-Dewachi

(Mosul University)

Dr. Ahmed Khalaf Hussein

(Tikrit University)

Thomas Hill (NYU)

Moderator

Lonneke van Genugten

(OneWorld)

Room

Verwey kamer (D)

Guest speakers

Wissam Hema

(Syrian Entrepreneur)

Kurdo Mohamad

(Gemeente Amsterdam)

Amina Calder

(Capabel)

Giselle Schellekens

(SPARK)

Moderator

Eefje Blankenvoort

(De Asielzoekmachine)

Room

Mendes da Costa kamer (E)

Guest speakers

Dr Faiz Ali Bash

(Raqqa University)

Prof. M. Yavuz Coskun

(Gaziantep University)

Prof. Hasan Mandal

(YOK)

Moderator

Subhe Mustafa

(SPARK)

Universities at the Centre of War

Mosul University and Tikrit University, Iraq, have faced many challenges. With the arrival of the Islamic State both institutions were shut down, but managed to continue educating their students in alternate locations. Tikrit University is almost a year into its post-IS experience, whereas students from Mosul University are still waiting for a chance to return. How to rebuild a university after war? How to address the needs of students after their return? What can we learn from Tikrit's first year after IS?

Arrived, now what? Getting Refugees to the Right Work

Many newcomers in the Netherlands struggle to find suitable work. The rate of unemployment for refugees is high: only about 30% of 'permit holders' have a fulltime job. Many are working (far) below their level of education and skills. What solutions are there and how do we really make them happen? Wissam Hema, together with Eefje Blankenvoort, will present their ideas about these problems and will, together with Gemeente Amsterdam, Capabel and other participants, try to find solutions.

Rebuilding Syria

What is the role of education in rebuilding war-torn Syria? This workshop zooms in on restoring the ties between the universities of Aleppo and Gaziantep. Before the war, there used to be lively collaborations. Now, the renowned Aleppo-Gaziantep Agreement needs to be revived. Three issues are crucial in supporting education in Syria: quality, recognition of degrees, and financial support. That also counts for another challenge ahead: rebuilding the University of Raqqa. How to go about that?

Room

Rode kamer (F)

Guest speaker

Brandon Oelofse

(RNW Media)

Room

Ontvangkamer (H)

Guest speakers

Rafat Al Akhali

(University of Oxford)

Mohammed Al Qadasi

(Tawteen)

Rashed Shagea

(Yemen Mocha Coffee)

Sandra Doempke

(GIZ)

Moderator

Pyt Douma

(SPARK)

Room

Blauwe kamer (G)

Guest speakers

Mustafe Othman (Shaqadoon)

Warda Diri (Innovate)

Mahmud Johnson (J-Palm)

Tarek Elgheryani

(Benghazi Entrepreneurship

Centre)

Antoinia Norman

(Branson Center of

Entrepreneurship)

Moderator

Lauren Servin

(Founder of Di LORÉN)

Masterclass: Online Radicalisation

Nowadays, the internet is a frequently used instrument for radicalisation all over the world. Political extremists and terrorists use the power of this medium to reach young people. The internet has ensured that organisations can easily get in contact with vulnerable people. In this masterclass Brandon Oelofse pleads for the 'E word' and explains why counter radicalisation needs to use emotion.

The Price of Abandoning Yemen

Yemen's 'forgotten war' has led to the deterioration of all aspects of life. This state of emergency has influenced a shift from development focused work to emergency, humanitarian relief. With young people representing over 50% of Yemen's population, employment, self-sustenance and income sources are lacking. A Yemeni entrepreneur, former politician and local youth organisation will use this workshop to explore what the true price of abandoning entrepreneurial development in Yemen could be.

Hear from the Experts: Doing Business in Fragile States

Entrepreneurs offer new insights about doing business in fragile states. During an interactive masterclass, the entrepreneurs will share their personal experiences of becoming business-owners and describe what entrepreneurship means for their country. Obstacles such as corruption, slow government and lack of competition or capital can have a major influence on the future of businesses. The masterclass will demonstrate the struggles faced by entrepreneurs and will deliver solutions.

Room

Roland Holst kamer (I)

Guest speakers

Corita Johannes

(CNV Internationaal)

Josette Dijkhuizen

(Entrepreneurship advisor)

Nassira Boudhan

(Ffore)

Enas Lbhari

(Founder Mozart, cake company)

Moderator

Edith van der Spruit

(WO=MEN)

Room

Derkinderen kamer (J)

Guest speakers

Tilman Brück

(The Hague Institute)

Neil Ferguson

(ISDC)

Valentina Calderon Mejía

(UN-ESCWA)

Fernando Cantu

(UN-ESCWA)

David Connolly

(The Hague Institute)

The Impact of Women and Social Enterprises

Several studies show that investing in women and gender equality is the right and smart thing to do. Removing the obstacles of women and girls obtaining an education, having access to safe healthcare, living lives free from violence, and overcoming discrimination are fundamental keys to solving some of the world's greatest problems including poverty. In this session WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform and the guest speakers explore the benefits and challenges of gender within social enterprises.

Peace Building Effects of Employment in the MENA Region

Having a high share of unemployed young men in urban areas is considered a key risk factor for the outbreak of violent conflict. The MENA region has a large share of unemployed young people, facing uncertain economic prospects. The promotion of employment is hence considered a key tool to strengthen peace and stability. This session will review if these assumptions are valid, what evidence we have on this issue and what next steps are needed from governments, donors and civil society.

Vedaste Ahimana Rwanda

Vedaste is the only surviving member of his family from the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Having attended an entrepreneurship training session, he decided to start a second-hand clothing business in Kigali market. Slowly 20 items and a few customers blossomed into enough return to invest in new business - a banana plantation in his late mother's village with nearly 3000 plants.



THANK YOU!

SPARK and IFC would like to thank everyone involved in making the 4th IGNITE Conference a success! We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Main partner



Supporting partner



Media partner



Participating partners

