



**Aku Kwamie from Ghana** is one of the young African scientists pursuing research on the future of a continent.

## LOOKING UP TO AFRICA

African scientists have often had to emigrate to the United States or Europe if they wanted to pursue their research projects under ideal conditions and with support. The African Institute for Mathematical Science (AIMS) and the Robert Bosch Stiftung want to counteract this brain drain. The Next Einstein Forum gives young scientists from Africa the opportunity to network with others, while presenting their work on cutting-edge research projects to the international scientific research community. The Next Einstein Forum will take




place in Kenya in 2020, following the forums held in Senegal and Rwanda.

## 'THE BALL' – CONNECTING THROUGH SOCCER

*The 2018 FIFA World Cup will start in Russia on June 14, and the Luzhniki Stadium will play host to a ball with a very special travel journal. 'The Ball' has traveled around 18 countries for three months – from England to Belgium, from Germany to the Balkans – on its journey to Russia.*

Former soccer star Andrew Aris and his Spirit of Football club from Erfurt, Germany, have it packed in their bags. Together with a team of coaches and educators, they've traveled to every soccer World Cup since 2002. They always depart from London if possible, by car, carrying The Ball with them as an Olympic torch for soccer. On the way they stop at other soccer clubs, both large and small, school classes, and educational initiatives. They offer workshops and play pick-up games with experts and politicians, children and refugees. Anyone who touches the ball while it's in play can sign it. The goal of the project is to promote values such as fair play, respect, and equality through people's enthusiasm for soccer. It also promotes European cohesion and the power that soccer possesses to bring people together.

The Ball also visited the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Germany, which had made the project possible in the first place. Former Brazilian forward Cacau was there. "Soccer brings people together," he said, "managing things that politics can't." 



**Spirit of Football:** Andrew Aris holds The Ball. It's the same one that Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool manager (left), also signed – and before him German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

# THE NEXT EINSTEIN IS AN AFRICAN

Robert Bosch Stiftung has created an international platform for Africa's scientific community: the **Next Einstein Forum**. The scientists are filled with confidence.

**T**he Next Einstein Forum gives me the opportunity to meet other young scientists from around Africa working on cutting-edge research projects," says Aku Kwamie. "The forum helps to position us Africans to better understand our problems and to develop innovative solutions for them on our own." Kwamie is a health policy and systems researcher from Ghana. She is one of 16 fellows of the Next Einstein Forum, the largest conference for the scientific community in Africa.

This year's forum was held in Kigali, Rwanda, with nearly 1,600 participants: astrophysicists from Ethiopia, biologists from Zimbabwe, nanotech researchers from Niger. There were also Nobel Prize recipients, publishers of prominent scientific journals, and presidents from research institutions around the world.

Sponsored by Rwandan president Paul Kagame this year, the Next Einstein Forum is a way for the Robert Bosch Stiftung to improve networking among leading African researchers

and establish Africa as an international scientific hub. Kagame attended the opening ceremony.

The forum focused on the fellows, a group of outstanding young scientists from Africa who have received scholarships for their research projects. For example, over the next two years, Aku Kwamie will more closely research the impact of health systems on health care designed to meet specific needs. She presented her research project to like-minded people from around the world at the forum in Kigali.

Another forum fellow, Ghada Bassioni, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt explains, "The world can see the potential for the future harbored by Africa at the Next Einstein Forum." She plans to use interdisciplinary approaches to find solutions to challenges such as the fresh water supply in Africa. She confidently adds: "We're the youngest continent, and I expect that a quarter of the best up-and-coming scientists worldwide will come from Africa by 2030. The world will need to look up to Africa more." 

PHOTOS: ARUM FUGA. ET VOLUPTASIT ASPELIT ATEMPORE PRAERIT