

Carnegie Mellon Africa

Celebrates CMU-Africa Bot Party and Hackathon Winners



AIMABLE RWEMA



LENAH CHACHA



JOSHUA OCERO

Congratulations to the four students from Carnegie Mellon University Africa who won the hackathon that took place at CMU's facility in Kigali, Rwanda. The students received guidance from a team from Facebook, and then had 24 hours to come up with their own bot for Messenger that would address a local issue. Their reward? Attending the Facebook Developer Conference F8 in San Jose on April 18-19.

A bot for Messenger communicates with customers using the Messenger platform and combines aspects of artificial intelligence to learn from that interaction.

The winning bot designed by Chacha and Rwema enables merchants, who do not have access to expensive inventory software, to catalogue their inventory on the bot platform and to connect with buyers.

The runner-up bot, designed by Ozero and Uwizera, helps to instantly connect farmers who are selling produce with buyers. It estimates crop price by location based on the bot interaction, which helps stakeholders react accordingly.

Since 2011, CMU-Africa has been offering globally recognized master degree programs in both information technology and electrical and computer engineering at its facility in Kigali, Rwanda. This effort has addressed the critical shortage of ICT skills required for Africa to compete in the global economy.



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