Technological Incubation as an Economic Engine

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI
ANDERSON ST. LOUIS FOUNDATION

Fritz Thelusma 01/12/2020

Executive Summary

In honor of our beloved and adored family Anderson St. Louis[i], we endeavor to continue his calling of using technology to build an economic base of skilled workers in Haiti. We enable these individuals by fostering their development in the disciplines of media, cloud computing and interactive platforms. Each of these fields drives the growth of the world through large, middle and small companies.

An Internet-connected computer, tablet or phone is as powerful in modern times as a pen, paper and the printing press were around the turn of the century. How then do we use the modern tools, such as the computer, the tablet and the phone to transform the educational and employment future of deserving individuals in places like Haiti?

CHALLENGE

While there are many NGOs and charities in Haiti, the long term prospect for Haiti is a self-sustaining **economic** base, a **brain exchange** with nations instead of a brain drain to nations. In Haiti, the challenge is providing a continuous line from the technology to the people so those people may in turn use the technology to build a community of well-paid professionals. The baseline challenge is securing the basic requirements which include continuous, predictable **power** supply, reliable **Internet** within a brick and mortar **building** where individuals may **collaborate**. The collaboration may lead to prototypes and products that may be then invested in by other companies or sold on the open market. This model has worked for other countries.[ii]

OPPORTUNITY

Imagine that there is a set of recently graduated young people in Haiti. Where do these people go for jobs? The option for foreign work visas is greatly reduced given the reality of the current world situation. Even NGOs are somewhat limited in their movements. What industry best aggregates different skill sets with a relatively low cost of entry? The viable solution for Haiti is a partnership with technology. Let's explore this through a use case. A recent graduate or a prospective graduate can participate in an ASL Foundation tract course that teaches the skills for cloud computing, media and interactive platforms toward the goal of building a prototype or an actual product. An amazing showcase of the benefits of the ASL Foundation would be combining teams into projects that demonstrate the skills learned.

IMPLEMENTATION

Procure the building, the power generators and the Internet access. All of these components must be reliable and secure in order to foster the greatest potential benefit. Disruptions in any of these areas will have negative implications for the progress in ASL Foundation's mission. Professionals in the USA and elsewhere would develop a curriculum with a final project as goal. In the case of media, it may be a project that uses special effects, computer graphics or interactive devices. In the case of cloud and interactive platforms, it may be a project that innovates on a game engine like Unity to deliver a unique experience. That project can be packaged and used to solicit donations in one scenario and investors in another scenario. For trees to grow, a seed must be planted. The instructors in the USA, the prospects in Haiti, form a brain trust, together. Our experience locally can be partnered with the reality of Haiti to deliver projects in the realm of health care and education. There is no reason that either in a for-profit or non-profit basis, that Haiti could not support an outsourced project in a manner that outsourcing has generated revenue for other countries. Prospective technologies include but are not limited to cloud(AWS, GCP, Azure), gaming(Unity, Unreal) and Adobe AfterEffects.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO HAITI

The potential benefits to Haiti are manifold:

1. Development of an economic nucleus, a Silicon Valley à l'Haiti.
2. Professionals with a specific competitive skill set
3. Brain drain becomes a brain exchange
4. A product base spun off from multimedia and technology projects
5. Another viable method for NGOs to help by teaching people to fish
6. A return on investment on contributions to the R&D phase of the project

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fritz Thelusma - Technologist / Entrepreneur

Mr. Thelusma has been working as a software engineer and solutions architect for over 22 years. He graduated from MIT and immediately went to work developing technology for Fortune 500 firms. He was fortunate to have begun his career during the advent of the Internet as a commodity and utility service. This vantage point provided him a unique perspective on the evolution of technology, granting broad insight into the application of Internet services to the business and consumer markets.

In 2009, Mr. Thelusma founded Terasuma LLC, a private technology consulting company. Through Terasuma, Mr. Thelusma and his team utilized proven and industry-recognized programming languages such as Java, Python, C#, and more to deliver custom software applications that met the operational requirements of each client, allowing them to meet critical program deadlines. Terasuma has worked with an extensive assortment of medium to large sized businesses in the federal, state, telecommunications, healthcare, financial, and educational sectors. The key foci for Mr. Thelusma in the technology realm are software engineering, cloud computing, interactive services and solution automation.

[i] http://Andersonstlouisfoundation.org

[ii] https://techcrunch.com/2020/10/24/why-you-have-to-pay-attention-to-the-indian-startup-scene/

https://www.cbinsights.com/research/southeast-asia-tech-financing-trends-investors/