



Koffi M. KOUAKOU

(South Africa – Scenario Planning,
Foresight, Strategic
Communications,
Media Sociology and Psychology)

Biography

Mr Kouakou is the managing director of Stratnum Futures, a scenario planning, futures and strategy consulting and advisory firm. He is also a director with the South Africa Node of the Millennium Programme, a network of affiliate of the Millennium Programme in Washington, D.C. that deals with futures and foresight-based activities and produces the authoritative annual publication “State of the Future”.

He specialises in scenario planning, foresight studies, strategic information communications technologies for development and telecommunications adapted to sustainable environmental management issues in Africa.

He is an alumnus of the Oxford University Said Business School Scenarios Programme and the Global Business Network Developing and Using Scenarios (DUS).

Mr. Kouakou was a lecturer at the Tshwane University Technology Business School in Pretoria where he lectures on change management, strategy translation and innovation. He was a former senior lecturer and now a course convenor at the Wits School of Governance at Wits University where he teaches strategic communications, media sociology and scenario planning and the discipline of anticipation. He lectures at the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (IAJ) in Johannesburg.

He is the former director of the Unilever Mandela Rhodes Academy for Communications and Marketing Academy (UMRA), a funded initiative by the Unilever Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Rhodes Foundation. He is also a business strategist, futurist, social commentator, storyteller and author.

He has facilitated the Open Society Initiative in Southern Africa (OSISA) scenario planning project for Swaziland and Zimbabwe, Anglo Platinum, Rio Tinto Africa Strategy workshops on communications strategy, Communities and Engagement Development with a particular focus on the changing Mining environment and strategies for a new Mining order in Africa.

He also lectured on Communicating Public Policy, the OSISA-sponsored leadership course for four years since 2011. He has also facilitated a Finland-sponsored workshop on mainstreaming Human Rights Policies in to Finnish Programmes in Southern Africa in 2015.

He is a senior associate member and media contact of Mining Dialogues 360 Degrees, a non-partisan mining dialogue facilitation platform set up in July 2012 to bring together the mining industry stakeholders in South Africa.

He has worked on the Lonmin Economic Footprint Research, a report on the economic footprint network of Lonmin, the mining and resources company in South Africa.

He was the co-ordinator of the Program on Environment Information Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa with the World Bank in Washington, DC for seven years. He also served as the co-Director of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Virtual Reality Solutions in Pretoria, South Africa.

Works

For the past decade, his works has combined scenario planning, foresight, strategic communications, media sociology and psychology mainly in Africa.

He has co-authored a book titled AfricaDotEdu: IT Opportunities and Higher Education in Africa, 2003.

Contributor to the Foresight For Development (FFD) www.sampnode.org.za/

Panelist to the Panel International des Prospectivistes (PIP) of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (2016 -27).

He is a regular commentator and an analyst on African Affairs and the future of the continent with a particular on the Africa-China nexus. He is fluent in English and French and does work in Francophone Africa.

He has been a regular Africa regional and media contributor to international, local media and business magazines such as the Al Jazeera, ANN7, BBC (TV and Radio in English and French), CCTV (China TV), France24 (English and French), Deutsche Welle, Radio France, SABC, SAfm, Power FM (Local radio in Southern Africa) Sputnik Radio, eNCA, VOA, The People's Daily and the China Economic daily in China, Brainstorm, The Media, CIO.COM, Intelligence and Brainstorm in South Africa.