



Innovating equality: The Post as an engine of digital empowerment

9 March 2023, 10h00-11h30 CET

Online on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/upuiwd23>

Speakers

Wendy Eitan, Director of E-Commerce and Physical Service Integration, Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Wendy Eitan is a postal logistics expert with 31 years' experience in the postal industry.

Currently, Ms. Eitan is the Director of E-Commerce and Physical Service Integration and the Postal Operations Council Secretary for the UPU. In her role, she oversees a team of twenty-five individuals and is responsible for the formulation of strategies and policies in the areas of e-commerce, physical service and addressing development and operations.

Wendy began working for the UPU in December 2012. Prior to taking up this function, she worked as Director of International Relations in the Operations Department of Israel Post. Within this role, Wendy was involved with product development and logistics of all international mail products as well as relations with international stakeholders.

Wendy earned a BA in Economics from McGill University and a MA in Public Policy and Management from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Christine Sund, Senior Advisor, Regional Office for Africa, International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

Dr. Christine Sund serves as Senior Advisor for International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Previously she was the Advisor for ITU's Development Sector technical membership-driven study groups, and has held different roles within the organization spanning from cybersecurity to human capacity development, and more. Christine is passionate about exploring digital connectivity solutions that are demand-driven and human-centric, and pursued with sustainability integrated into their design and implementation. Bottom-up and inclusive strategy work also constitutes her research portfolio.

Vanessa Chocteau, Managing Director, Docaposte Institute & Start-Up Accelerator "French IoT", La Poste France

In 2015, Vanessa Chocteau joined Docaposte, a subsidiary of La Poste Group specialised in digital transformation. She launched and managed the acceleration programme French IoT, to promote innovation around connected services in both large groups and start-ups. Today, French IoT has more than 100 partners in France and Europe as well as a community of more than 300 start-ups working together to develop new and high-added value digital solutions in the sectors of local services, e-health and services to companies and local or regional governments. The programme supports women entrepreneurship with more than 50% of selected start-ups founded by women. Committed to digital parity in the workforce, Vanessa represents the La Poste Group at the Femmes@Numérique foundation.

After spending 3 years heading up internal transformation at Docaposte on top of her other responsibilities, Vanessa took on the role of a new business unit in June 2022, Docaposte Institute, a professional training company. Its mission is to act as an accelerator of digital skills for companies and organizations who are investing in their digital transformation.

Rose Vambe, Entrepreneur, Fashion Designer, Founder and Owner of Ashava Designs (Zimbabwe)

Rose Vambe is a Zimbabwean entrepreneur, fashion designer, founder and owner of Ashava Designs. She participated in various local and international exhibitions including the Zimbabwe Women's Business Fair, Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, UNTWO General Assembly and that experience kept her brand growing. She has won 8 awards and the most memorable one to her was the first award that she won in 2014. She is one of the women who benefitted from the Zimbabwe Post (Zimpost)'s online store as it facilitates customs clearing of imports and exports and provides access to domestic and international markets.

Moderation

Susan Alexander, Sustainability Services Programme Manager, UPU

Susan Alexander is Sustainability Services Programme Manager at the UPU International Bureau (Policy, Regulation and Markets Directorate). For the last four years, her responsibilities have included managing the Sustainable Development Programme. In total, she has worked at the UPU for 26 years, most of them spent in Regulatory Affairs as part of the secretariat for the Council of Administration and UPU Congresses.

Before becoming an international civil servant, Susan served as an Assistant Attorney General for Virginia (USA) after being admitted to practice law in the state of Virginia. She received her Juris Doctor at University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco and before that, her Bachelor of Arts in French and German Literature from Duke University. She grew up in Roanoke, Virginia.

Ian Kerr, Voice Mail podcast host, Postal Hub Podcast host & founder of the Decarbonising Delivery initiative

Ian Kerr is the founder and host of the Postal Hub Podcast, founder of the Decarbonising Delivery initiative, and host of the UPU Voice Mail podcast. He has a lifetime of experience in the postal and delivery sectors, and is an advocate for creating a more sustainable delivery and e-commerce ecosystem.