

The 3rd East Africa Microfinance Summit 2017 was successfully held at Hotel Africana, Kampala Uganda. It brought together over 300 microfinance stakeholders to deliberate on Digital Financial Inclusion.

The theme “Digital Financial Inclusion: a Reflection on the Perspectives, Pros and Challenges for Various Stakeholders” was selected in consideration of the fact that both financial are offering digital financial services to the public, but is it really a simple binary choice between technology and tradition?

The keynote address was made by Bram Peters; Country Technical Specialist, Digital Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The Keynote address centered on analyzing how traditional microfinance has evolved, advantages and challenges that digital finance presents and whether technology has fulfilled the expectation of enhancing financial inclusion considering the key aspects of product development, regulation/risk management, digital infrastructure and consumer attitudes.

Other presentations were on “Infrastructural considerations for digital finance, status quo and recommendations” by David Cracknell, Global Technical Director, MicroSave. it also included panel discussions on mitigating digital risk through regulation and service providers by Mobile Networks and regulators from central banks of Uganda, Tanzania and SACCO Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA), Kenya

In addition there were présentations on market conduct and consumer attitudes by Boubacar Diallo, Senior Advisor, Africa Region, Smart Campaign , Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion, Consumer Attitudes by Luke Gormley, Country Manager, JUMO Uganda and Industry code of conduct by Jean Pierre UWIZEYE, Executive Director, Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR).

The summit was graced by Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance Planning Economic Development, State minister for Microfinance and the Minister of East African Affairs. This was the 3rd event being organized in East Africa following summits hosted in Kenya and Tanzania in 2015 and 2016 respectively. It was organised the Association of Microfinance institutions of Uganda (AMFIU), and Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development.

