ENTREVISTA COM: EPHIAS RUHODE

Ephias Ruhode

1) Talk a little about yourself, professional training

Ephias Ruhode: I am an information technology and qualified business model innovation and research professional with a total of 23 years of work experience in managing Information Systems, lecturing software engineering, strategic information systems, knowledge management and conducting research. I did the Design Thinking course and have been a Design Thinking Coach at the University of Cape Town's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design Thinking. In addition to undergraduate qualifications in computing, I hold an MBA and a Doctor of Technology in Information Technology. I have travelled extensively on study, workshop, conference and exchange programmes and have to countries as Japan, Brazil, Switzerland, the USA, Finland, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia, Ghana, China, Germany, Zimbabwe, etc. He is currently an Executive Board Member of the Institute of Digital Business Strategy [https://institutedbs.com/about/meet-the-team]. I am the African coordinator of the Learning Network of networks on Sustainability (LeNSin), an EU-funded project with more than 36 collaborating universities worldwide.

2) When and why did you start to get interested in sustainability?

Ephias Ruhode: After I got appointed to coordinate LeNS Project at CPUT, I then realized that all the research we have been doing had a strong focus on sustainability. In fact any community based research fosters tenets of sustainability. When sustainability became a focus of my research, I got excited after realizing that I have been doing it all along.

3) Have you been interested in sustainability since the beginning of your career or has this interest been built throughout your career?

Ephias Ruhode: As I said above, I never knew I was involved in sustainability till the LeNS project came along

4) What is your main line of research on sustainability today?

Ephias Ruhode: E-Government in Support of Sustainable Development and design of sustainable e-health systems

5) Considering the current moment in which we live, do you think it is possible to integrate in practice the so-called pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) today, or are we still far from the theory?

Ephias Ruhode: It is possible if the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) are rooted in the three elements for a successful organizational and societal transformation (people, process, technology).

6) What is e-health?

Ephias Ruhode: "E-health is an emerging field in the intersection of medical informatics, public health and business, referring to health services and information delivered or enhanced through the Internet and related technologies. In a broader sense, the term characterizes not only a technical development, but also a state-of-mind, a way of thinking, an attitude, and a commitment for networked, global thinking, to improve health care locally, regionally, and worldwide by using information and communication technology." (Eysenbach, 2001)

7) How can information systems contribute to sustainability?

Ephias Ruhode: Health is identified as a factor to society's wellness and happiness, hence fostering social, environmental and economic sustainability. E-Health has the ability to empower citizens to be able to manage their health. E-Health has shown to be a key enabler in providing better quality and safer healthcare.

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