2nd International Conference on Business Management and Sustainability (ICBMS) 2026

1 - 4 December 2026, California, United States

Program

Organized by

GAIBP

The 2nd edition of the ICBMS conference will be in beautiful California, United States on 1-4 December 2026.

The Conference details are available through the website - https://gaibp.org/

The Conference will take place at the USC Conference Center, located at 3409 S Figueroa St, California, CA 90007, United States

Language: The official language of the Conference is **English.**

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1. Tuesday, 1 December 2026

9:00 – 9:30 REGISTRATION and ACCREDITATION

- Delegate credential underlay required
- Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis

9:30 – 9:40 Opening Plenary

Opening Speech. Delivered by the President, the Global Alliance for Independent Business Professionals

9:40 – 11:40 Conversation 1: Getting ready for growth

This session will explore both from a macro and micro economic view the factors that make a country sector competitive as well as tactics and tools entrepreneurs need to identify and capitalize on new opportunities.

Conversation 2: Energy for the Bottom of the Pyramid – Opportunities and Innovation

Provision of off-grid energy solutions for the hard-to-reach and under-served populations present a mostly-untapped market as well as a number of opportunities for innovation. In this workshop, we will discuss existing business models as well as the nature of the market to identify new opportunities Beyond the Grid.

Conversation 3: Brand Building and Customer Experience

Get an insider's view of how world-class brands are created, and then roll up your sleeves alongside a senior brand strategy expert who has years of experience working with Fortune 500 companies. You'll learn to define critically important elements of your brand, including your purpose, differentiators, and brand personality, and pick up easy-to-implement strategies to create emotionally powerful, loyalty-building, and memorable customer experiences that can back it up.

11:40 – 12:30 Coffee Break, Networking, Innovation Marketplace

12:30 – 13:30 Workshop 1: Protecting Intellectual Capital

This session is designed to give participants practical tools for protecting intellectual property. How can you adequately protect your idea? Where do you turn for information on patents and trademarks? Where and when should you file?

Workshop 2: The Missing Middle

Perhaps one of the most pernicious challenges for entrepreneurs is "the missing middle" - how to finance the transition from successful startup to a thriving and growing job creator. Financiers and entrepreneurs will discuss tools and strategies to bridge this gap.

13:50 – 14:20 Lunch / Coffee Break / Networking

15:20 – 17:30 Speed Monitoring - Financing

- Speech delivered by Mr. Gavin Newsom, Governor of California: California -an ideal place for the investment and development of Chinese enterprises.
- Class taught by Mr. Magarios, Former UNIDO Director General: Latin America - a big market waiting for Chinese enterprises to explore.
- Class taught by Mr. Wulff, Former President of Germany: Prosperous Germany and SME development.

Conversation 4: David and Goliath – Linking to International Supply Chains

Developing partnerships with established corporates can be an important stepping stone for growth for an entrepreneur. However for the partnership to be mutually beneficial there are a number of components that need to be in place.

Delegates can learn from those who have successfully done so, distilling key best practices from their own experiences.

Conversation 5: Crowd Funding and Angel Investing

At the earliest stages of development, entrepreneurs are finding new tools to access capital, while investors at all levels are seeking ways to capitalize on the potential success of new and innovative ventures. Participants will discuss the growing opportunities (and challenges) in this field role of building strong entrepreneurial eco-systems to advance women's entrepreneurship.

Conversation 6: Building the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

This session will provide an overview of activities and programs to support the ongoing work of ensuring entrepreneurs continue to thrive. (Conversation will be followed by workshops on Specialty Incubators and Innovation Hubs, as well as by Challenge Hacks.)

Workshop 3: Bootstrapping and Noncommercial Financing

This session surveys the growing network of noncommercial funders targeting entrepreneurs as an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction.

Workshop 4: Intra-Regional Entrepreneurship and Trade

Trade within the States is estimated at a woeful 12%similar problems plague the Middle East, Asia, and other regions. The barriers to this trade need to be brought down to drive growth and development. This session will explore what these barriers are, what needs to be done to change these dynamics, and more importantly, the experiences of those who have successfully made the jump across borders.

Challenge Hack 1 (three sessions simultaneously)

Solving one (1) of the eight (8) Challenges of High Impact Entrepreneurship: There are eight (8) challenges that face high impact entrepreneurs-

- Ideas VS execution;
- Customer insights - perceived markets VS real markets;
- Distribution;
- Financial health;
- Effective teams VS the entrepreneur;
- Outcomes perceived impact VS measurable change;
- Cultural context VS how to transfer to other countries.

*Participants in each of these three simultaneous sessions will select one or more of these challenges to develop innovative solutions.

17:00 Day 1 Program ends

Day 2. Wednesday, 2 December 2026

9:00 – 9:10 Introduction

9:10 – 11:40 Conversation 7: Building a Double Bottom Line

Addressing Global Challenges via Entrepreneurship- This session will explore how entrepreneurs (including NGOs) are building successful business models that not only provide innovative solutions to global ills but also generate sustainable returns on investment. Investors will discuss the unique challenges for funding these types of enterprises.

Conversation 8: How to Fail Forward

An essential element to entrepreneurship is embracing the risk of failure and learning from past mistakes. Entrepreneurs will share their stories of how they overcame the legal, financial, and cultural consequences of failure to move on and build successful enterprises.

Conversation 9: Leveraging Technology for Entrepreneurship

This session will be a multifaceted discussion about the role technology can play in catalyzing entrepreneurship and accelerating business growth. Leading global technology leaders will join African business leaders and emerging entrepreneurs to explore how technologies are disrupting business models and transforming how new businesses emerge, scale, and are able to become global enterprises. The moderated panel discussion will be followed by a workshop on Payment Platforms.

11:40 – 12:30 Coffee Break, Networking Innovation Marketplace

12:30 – 13:50 Workshop 5: Specialty Incubators and Innovation Hub

This session will explore the ever expanding network of specialty incubators (in fields from agriculture to fashion), innovation hubs, maker spaces and the likes, and their role in supporting the development of the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Workshop 6: What Attracts Venture Capital Private Equity?

Venture capital investments often mark the most mature level of an entrepreneurial enterprise, while private equity investors often seek to nurture, develop or restructure companies that support their investment strategies. However, such investors have very stringent requirements regarding past and expected future performance. Panelists and participants will discuss the challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurs to attract this specific type of capital.

Speed Mentoring: Preparing for Growth

- Class taught by Mr. Pottering, Former President of the European Parliament: The Belt and Road initiative and opportunities for Chinese enterprises to invest in Europe.
- Class taught by Mr. Kruger, Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG: Industry 4.0 and the future evolution of the world economy.

13:50 – 14:20 Lunch / Coffee Break / Networking

14:20 – 17:30 Focus on Africa - Different Business Models for Africa

Just as some countries 'leapfrogged' over wired telephone networks to wireless and digital economies, the rapidly growing economies of Africa have the opportunity to go beyond 'tried-and-true' business models to new mechanisms more suited to ever-changing local, regional, and international markets. Come hear how individuals have created unique business models that respond to the challenges of operating in Africa with ingenuity to serve their customers profitably.

Workshop 7: Enabling Scale: Building a Global Heather Ecosystem for Impact

Global health entrepreneurs face unique challenges developing, introducing, and scaling innovations. This workshop will explore strategies and business models for successfully developing and delivering products to serve the health needs of the poor and enhancing business growth.

Participants will include growing social enterprises, a multi-national company experienced in scaling a technology-based innovator and an in-country incubator.

Workshop 8: The Creative Economy

While the creative industries (arts, entertainment, and fashion) are attractive to many young people, few understand the business behind these industries and how to tap the creative economy to make them returns. In this session delegates will hear from panelists who are turning the creative arts into sources of revenue, jobs and wealth creation.

Workshop 9: Expanding Horizons – The Next Brilliant Cadre Women Entrepreneurs

This dynamic panel will discuss the rising power and potential of women entrepreneurs to create innovative businesses and social impact; what it takes to bring the next big idea to global markets; how to scale a successful domestic business to be able to compete in regional and global value chains; and the important role of building strong entrepreneurial eco-systems to advance women's entrepreneurship.

17:00 Day 2 Program ends

Day 3. Thursday, 3 December 2026

9:00 – 9:10 Plenary Talk

9:10 – 10:30 Conversation 10: Financing Entrepreneurship

A broad range of investors will discuss a range of tools, mechanisms and new programs which can increase the ability of entrepreneurs around the world to access the capital they need to grow.

Conversation 11: Inspiring the Next Generation of Agricultural Entrepreneurs

This session will be focused on agricultural innovations in:

- Food security and nutrition;
- Technology including post-harvest losses, pest control, connecting farmers to markets;
- Financing; and
- Jobs for young people.

Finally, what are the unique solutions they have arrived at, and how can these solutions be communicated and adapted to inform like-minded entrepreneurs?

10:30 – 11:20 Coffee Break / Networking Time

11:20 – 13:00 Workshop 10: Scaling Your Business Operations

Most entrepreneurs are seeking unlimited growth. But is fast growth always good? During this workshop, learn why fast growth doesn't always correlate with quality growth. Also, discover what strategies and processes you will need to put in place to grow your company faster, and find out the key secrets to sustain such growth over the long term.

Workshop 11: Payment Platforms

Digital payment platforms were revolutionized with the introduction of easy platforms. What are the business models that can sit on top of this major innovation? What's the next evolution of digital payments, Bitcoin?

Workshop 12: Connecting With Your Customers

Your innovative product or service potentially meets the needs of dozens, or perhaps millions, of customers around the world. In a global economy that is oversaturated with media and messages, how do you find those potential customers and help them find you?

13:00 – 13:45 Lunch / Coffee Break / Networking Time

13:45 – 15:00 Challenge Hack 3 (three sessions simultaneously)

New and Better Models for Training Entrepreneurs: The world over, entrepreneurs are looked to as the answer to the unemployment challenge, creating wealth for investors, increasing tax receipts for countries, and bringing solutions to critical pressing challenges for the world. However, our current traditional training models are stuck in the 19th Century format of mass production of individuals for factories or jobs.

These three simultaneous sessions will bring together thinkers and actors who are on the leading edge of defining what are the skills entrepreneurs need, and subsequently mechanisms, platforms, approaches to building those in the next generation of students.

13:45 – 15:00 Winning Entrepreneurs

- Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google
- John Hennessy, President, Stanford University
- Former President of the United States of America, Barack Obama
- Mark Zuckerberg, Founder of Facebook
- Jean Bosco Nzeyimana, CEO, HABONA, LTD
- Mai Medhat, CEO, Eventtus
- Mariana Costa Checa, CEO, Laboratoria
- Closing Remarks: Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

17:30 – 21:30 Gala Dinner / Award Ceremonies and Closing Plenary

21:30 Day 3 Program ends and Shuttles Departs for Hotels

Day 4. Friday, 4 December 2026

10:00 – 19:10 Excursion

The conference program ends with a visit to some interesting attraction centers. The places to be visited are listed below.

- Universal Studios Hollywood
- Aquarium of the Pacific
- Petersen Automotive Museum

Day 5. Saturday, 5 December 2026

Departure of delegates to their respective countries

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