



Avant-Garde Network



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Africa 2030: Akon Lighting Africa

Leading business leaders and professionals - headlined by the founders of Akon Lighting Africa - meet to examine market-based solutions to bring light and electricity to millions in Africa

NEW YORK, September 16, 2015 -- On September 23rd, Africa 2030 with its partners Chadbourne & Parke LLP will host a special event to examine the role of business in ensuring affordable light and power for the millions of African people without access to the power grid. Africa 2030 is an initiative to promote and strengthen Africa's enterprise-led future. *Africa 2030 is presented by the [Avant Garde Network](#) and [Gobee Group](#).*

According to the World Bank, outside of South Africa, the rest of sub-Saharan Africa has electricity generation capacity of 28 Gigawatts, the same capacity as Argentina. The global non-profit – One – estimates one-third of African health centers and schools have unreliable access to electricity and 730 million Africans heat and light their homes using traditional fuels like wood or dung or kerosene, which is expensive and dangerous. Deaths from smoke inhalation are estimated at four million per year.

The founders of Akon Lighting Africa (Samba Bathily and Thione Niang), Dirk Muench, Managing Partner of Persistent Energy Partners, LLC will debate the role of the market in expanding access to power in Africa. Ikenna Emehelu, Partner at Chadbourne & Parke LLP, will moderate the discussion. The panel participants and moderator are on the frontlines of the goal to double Africa's power generation capacity and access by 2030. The need for power is intertwined with capacity for economic growth in Africa. The audience will leave with a richer understanding of the current challenges and promising future new directions to bringing light and electricity to all Africans by 2030.

The interactive discussion will be followed by a networking mixer. Those with an interest in Africa are encouraged to take advantage of this professional development opportunity and engage with experts and leaders in attendance.

Doors open at 6:30pm, and the program begins at 7:00pm. Chadbourne & Parke LLP, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10019. The event website is <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/africa-2030-akon-lighting-africa-tickets-17833174505>

###

Media Contact: Adeola Adejobi, Esq. +1.404.550.8374; info@avantgardenetwork.com