



# APYouthNet Talk Show Summary #27

Evan Davis  
(January 2014, Bangkok)



Guests: **Mr Evan Davis**, Economist, journalist and presenter for the BBC

Host: **Mr Matthieu Cognac**, ILO Youth Employment Specialist

Camera, sound, editing: **Mr Julian Hadden**



Available at: <http://apyouthnet.ilo.org/podcast/>

## On Dreams of Becoming an Entrepreneur as a Youth

Mr Davis never had dreams of becoming an entrepreneur in his youth. He felt that he was born into a generation where entrepreneurship was never taught or discussed openly in school. He worries if youth nowadays are not offered the option of becoming an entrepreneur. However, he admits that he would not have a good entrepreneur either way, due to his upbringing.

## His Beliefs in Entrepreneurship

Mr Davis agrees that entrepreneurship is a way out of youth unemployment. However, he cautions that entrepreneurship is not for everyone, especially after his experiences with people on the venture capitalist reality TV show, “Dragons’ Den”. He opines that there are always people who should stick to working for others, but it would be tragic if capable people are not aware of the option of entrepreneurship. He believes that there should not be any wasted talent or resources in an efficient economy, and recommends youths with personality and a disposition for entrepreneurship to start their own company.

## Connections: An Ingredient for Success in Entrepreneurship

He understands that most people lack the opportunities to meet investors but believes that connections are still important for entrepreneurs – connections to other entrepreneurs, apart from investors. The energy by connecting with other people doing similar things and facing similar challenges can be infectious. He encourages leveraging on social media to get together online. New businesses can copy, collaborate and compete. Once a critical mass is formed online, or as in the case of the ‘Silicon roundabout’, East London Tech City, investors would be attracted to the talent pool.

## On How Governments Can Aid in Entrepreneurship Promotion

Governments cannot create entrepreneurs but they can enable or nudge entrepreneurship by assisting youths to connect with other like-minded people by supporting entrepreneurship clubs and societies. The government can influence the gathering people with capital to meet in informal meeting sessions to encourage budding entrepreneurs through sharing and interaction to kick-start interest. He would also like basic business skills to be taught in school such as bookkeeping, as well as basic business terms such as gross margins, deficits, etc.

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