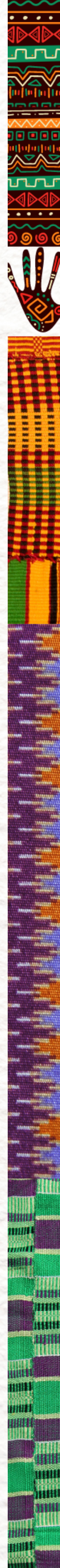


AFRICAN YOUTH ARCHITECTS



WHAT AYA
RESEARCH
LAB
STUDENTS
HAVE TO SAY

EDITORS

FATOU HYDRA & AISHA FATTY

AFRICAN YOUTH ARCHITECTS

From the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to AU Agenda 2063, we realized that the things we are passionate about the most are to invest in education.

Doing research and identifying issues that affect quality education in Africa and campaign across the continent to develop curricula and resources for students and upgrading education for children.

Facilitating access to resources for startups young entrepreneurs and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) including through access to financial services.

To learn more, please visit us at
www.africanyoutharchitects.org

WHAT AYA RESEARCH LAB STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY.

*We analyze policies and identify
evidenced-based solutions to tackle
today's most pressing educational
challenges in Africa. We are proud to host
students and teachers at leading
institutions around Africa.*

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AFRICAN YOUTH ARCHITECTS
RESEARCH LAB

“Young people, we are not only the future,
we are also an undeniable asset and a
critical partner to realize sustainable peace.”

— **Emamsy R. Mbossa**

“The future of Africa depends on the
attention that young people give to the
continent's affairs.”

— **Fatou Hydra**

*This eBook is dedicated to everyone
who have been a wonderful blessing
to our journey.*

THINK
CREATE
ACHIEVE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS VII

2 BIO OF AYA RESEARCH LAB PRESIDENT

3 QUESTIONS

4-28 RESPONSES

INTRODUCTION

AYA Research Lab First launched in 2021, Create and Innovate in SDG4 to enhance creativity and innovation in achieving the United Nations SDG4 2030 targets and commitments, is its first program run by African Youth Architects. Its first-batch graduates officially celebrated their newly-acquired prestigious AYA professional Certificate on 14th May, 2022.

AYA Research Lab was founded from the recommendations raised during the Students Speak Out Summit, organized by African Youth Architects in 2020. Nearly 3000 participants from colleges, high schools, youth activists, educators, parents, and the community representatives attended the intensive five days of discussions about the global crises caused by the pandemic of COVID-19 and its threats to achieving the United Nation SDG4 2030 targets and commitments.

AYA Research Lab is a project of African Youth Architects, that spotlight's promising approaches to persistent challenges in Africa's education systems. Testing technologies that help innovate teaching methods, focusing on an inclusive approach that can take into account, the needs of every student, boost teamwork and problem solving.

Our goal is to create a new conversation that connect parents, students and educators to drive innovative solutions.

We analyze policies and identify evidenced-based solutions to tackle today's most pressing educational challenges in Africa, through collaborations with students and teachers at leading institutions around Africa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our instructors, **Emamsy R. Mbossa, Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein**, and **Yahya Sonko** for their amazing lectures and feedback. Thank you so much for facilitating such a positive learning environment!

We appreciate how our program manager, **Musukebba Kinteh**, makes sure everyone is on the same page and communicating clearly. It's easy to talk to her and everyone can express themselves freely around her, and that's just amazing. We deeply thank **Aisha Fatty**, AYA Head of Finance, for providing all the necessary means for the program, the good advices, cheerful mood during the sessions and support whenever needed. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the entire African Youth Architects executives for the support that they provided and their dedicated work during the training process.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the support of Mr. **Modou Lamin Darboe**, CEO of Rainbow Properties & Construction Company Ltd for being the first person to open his office to AYA Research Lab and encouragement as we developed our vision for this program.

Most importantly, we would like to thank and express our gratitude to the 24 contributing graduates/authors who wrote chapters for this collection. Without their wisdom and willingness to share their insights this edition would not be possible.

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“Leadership is action, not a position”
— **Emamsy R. Mbossa**

We thank Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein for his outstanding leadership in AYA Research Lab.



*Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein, Ph.D.
Candidate*

*President of African Youth Architect
Research Lab*

Abdullahi is a hardworking and experienced executive with years of professional experience in leadership, practical fieldwork, operation, management and scientific research in aspects of climate change, environmental management and nature conservation to build sustainable habitat and resilient community.

He is an effective communicator, motivator who excels, identifies and leverages the strengths of every team member, and empowering them to achieve organizational goals.

Abdullahi is an inspired Pan Africanist who is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Pamukkale University; he demonstrated history of being a relentless optimist who sees failure as valuable experience.

He believes if we all engage to ensure that today’s growth initiatives represent the spirit and audacity of the people, only such a prerogative will determine the prospects for sustainable development and global peace.

WHAT AYA RESEARCH LAB STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY.

QUESTIONS

Every single person has their own unique reason for joining AYA Research Lab "Create and Innovate in SDG4 Program". What motivated you to join?

Did you learn anything new?

What have you learnt from the research program?

WHAT AYA RESEARCH LAB
STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY.

Responses.



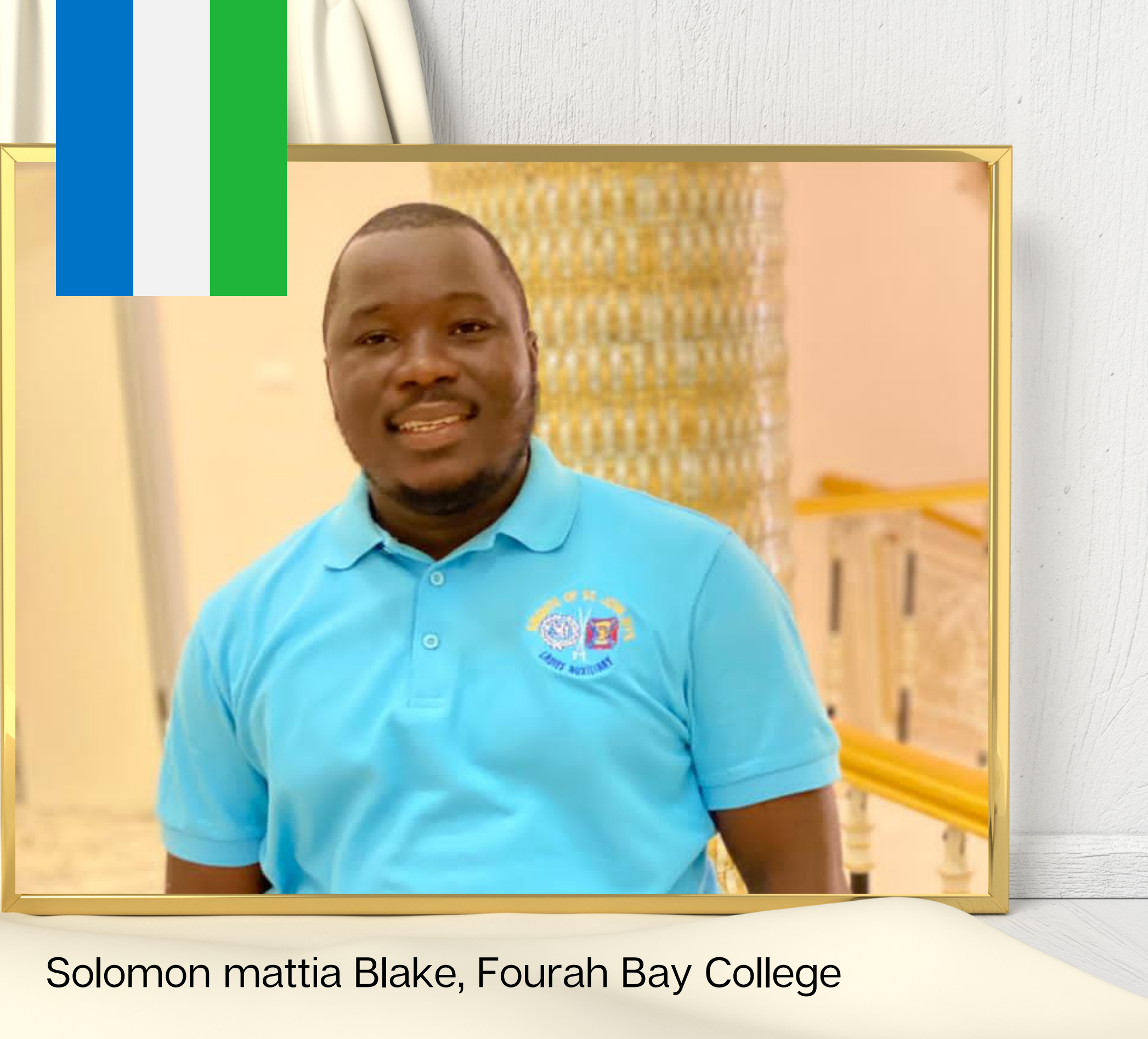
Mariama Jawneh, The Gambia College

// As the name implies, Africa Youth Architects create and innovate in SDG 4, which says quality and affordable education to all. Being a youth and African future leader, I find it necessary to join AYA in learning new ideas and coming up with great solutions that can be so vital in promoting quality and affordable education to all. And I believe with quality education we can always build the Africa we ever dream of. And you will agree with me that, with quality education we can be able to break the cycle of poverty, reduce inequalities and reach gender equality among people and enable us to lead to a healthier and more sustainable life that can foster tolerance and finally to a peaceful society. Now am saying thank you to AYA for giving me the the opportunity to learn new ideas from people of different backgrounds and culture also impacting a knowledge in me, which will forever be useful for a life time.once again thank you AYA.

Learn how to do research and the different types of research, and also I learn about how to do negotiations and how to manage risk.

I really learned a lot from the research lab, especially working with people from different countries of different backgrounds and cultures, coming up with different ideas and solutions to foster education and peace among young African leaders.am really honored to be part of this program.



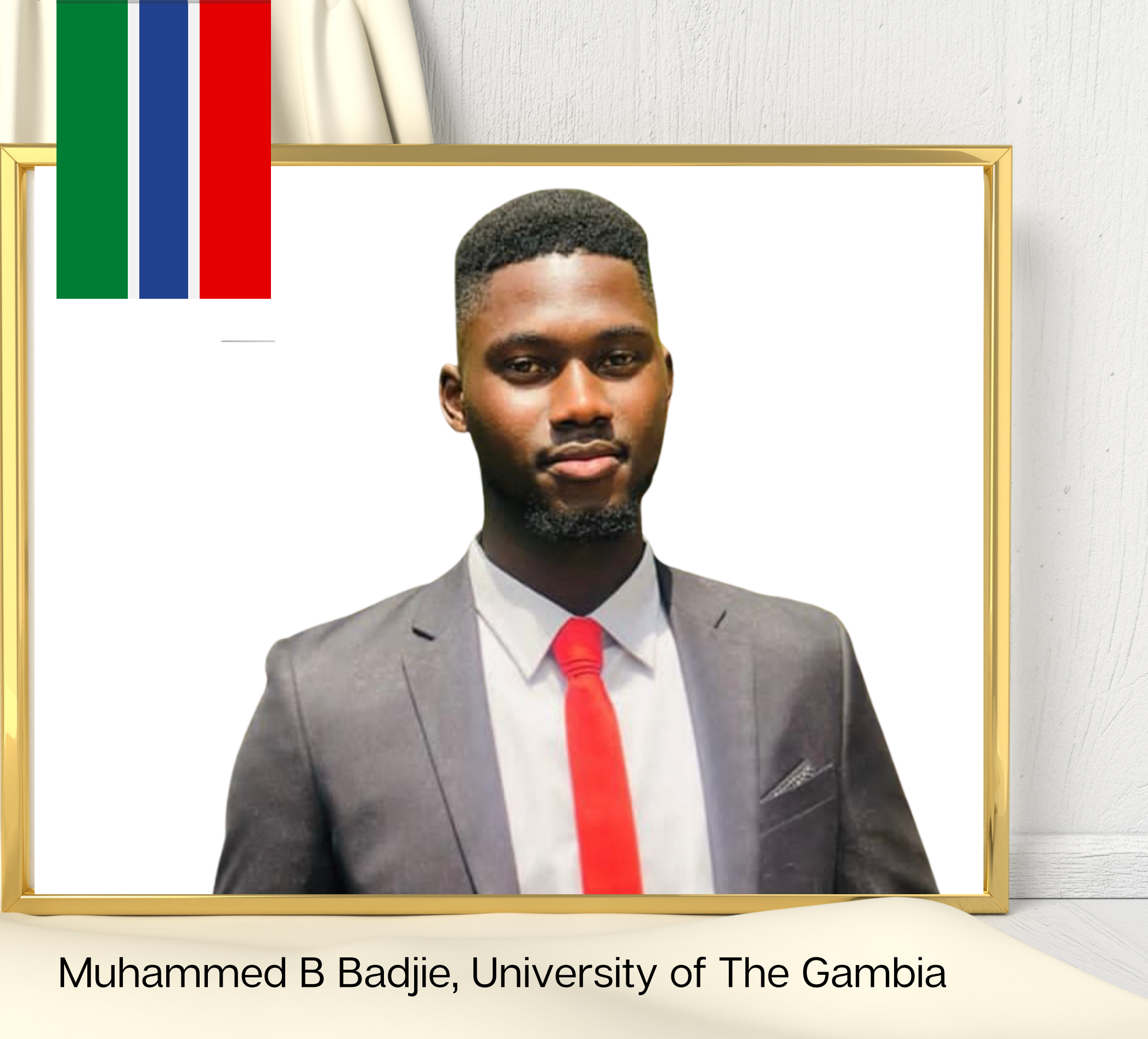


Solomon mattia Blake, Fourah Bay College

// The reason why I decided to join the AYA is because I wanted to join leaders, speakers and experts in finding solutions to societal problems. It is also the inspiration when it comes to innovation.

I learnt a lot more especially on how to bargain and also find solutions that are affecting youth globally.

I've learnt that it is very easy to find solutions when sober minded youth comes together. I have learnt some social problems such as poverty, unemployment, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and so many more. //



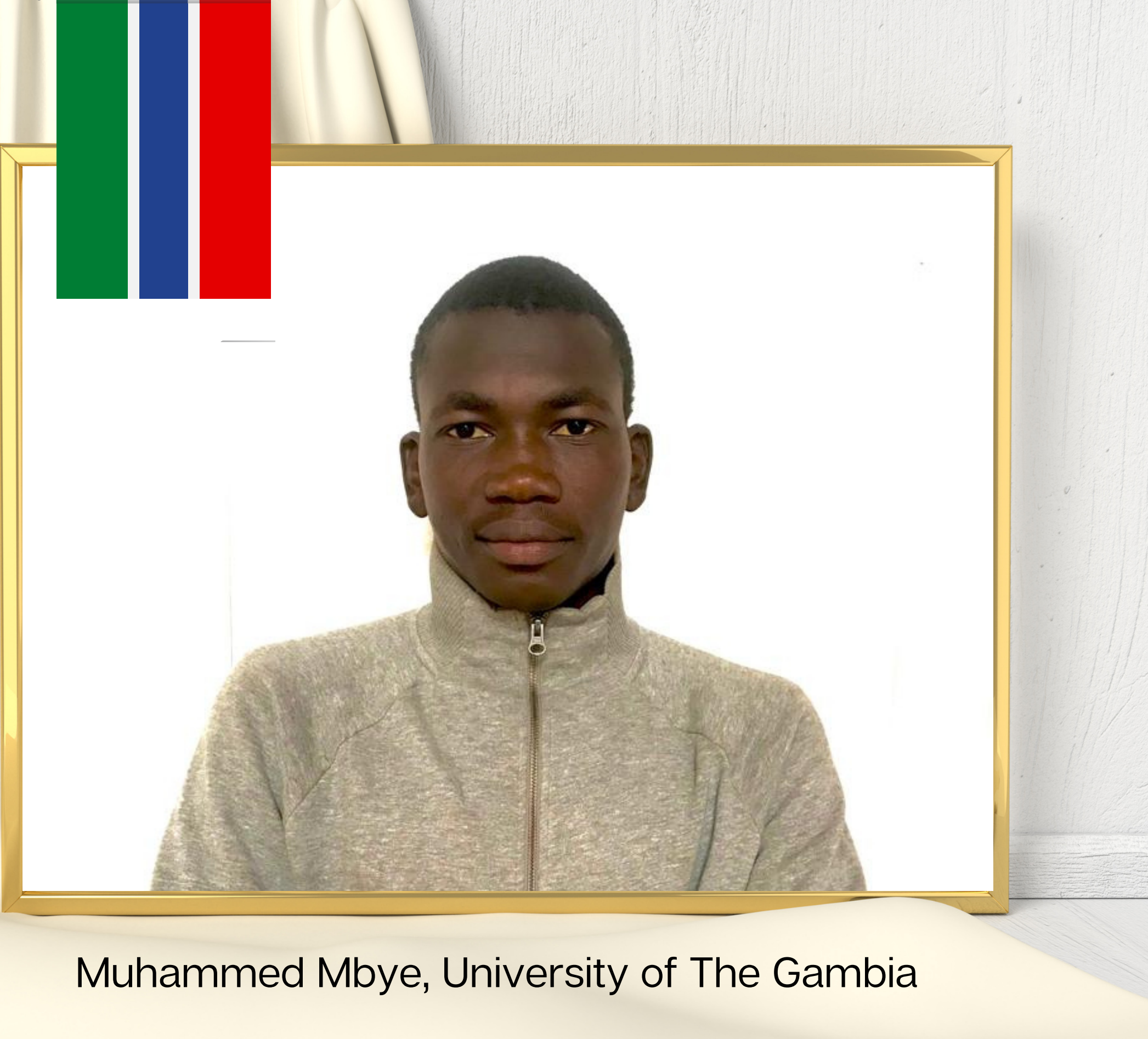
Muhammed B Badjie, University of The Gambia

“The general societal belief that the scarcity of our resources and weaknesses of our institutions, especially the governments are the main reason for the limited growth and developments in almost all sectors of our societies, is a notion I am dedicated to dispel. To prove this otherwise and establish an unlocked dimension as well as a roadmap solution is my main motivation to join AYA. My continent has witnessed the commencements and initiations of the most beautiful projects at individual levels, corporate and government levels only to result in tanish hopes and wastage of resources of stakeholders; what are the causes?What is the solution? Whose responsibility is it? and Where do we start from? Are questions I am striving to find answers to; for which I hold a firm conviction that the answers can be found in the cream of our continent “THE YOUTHS ” , hence my reason for Joining AYA.

One of the most important elements I learn is application of research in any productive engagement.

The mindset and communal sensitivity of youths is paramount to the development of Africa.



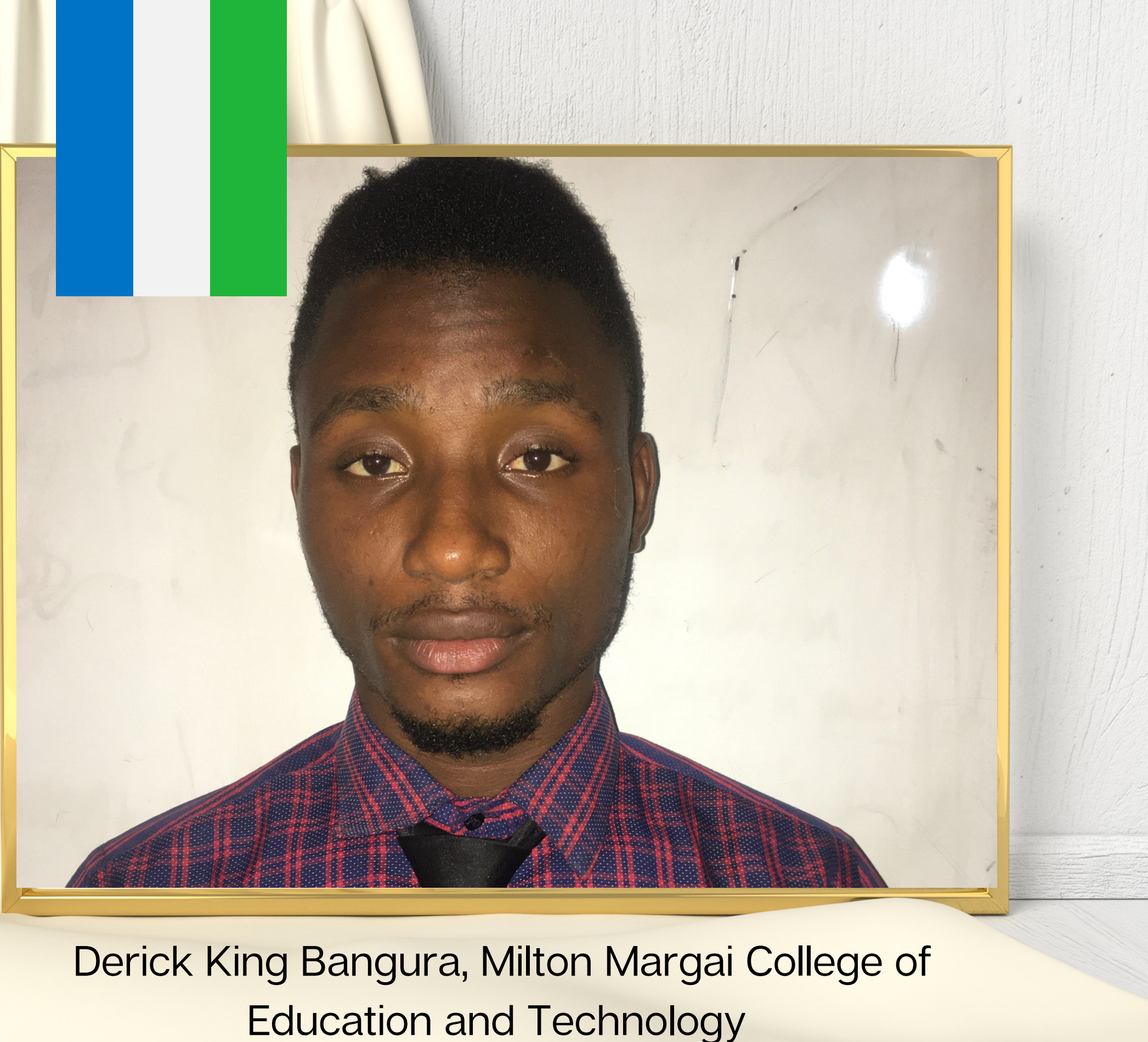


Muhammed Mbye, University of The Gambia

My passion for enrolling in the AYA Research lab is clearly envisaged in the theme “Create and innovate in SDG4. I hold the popular belief that education is the tool that can enable us to break away from ignorance and underdevelopment as a Continent. Joining the AYA research lab is one of the best things that have happened to me in the past few months. I join the AYA research lab in order to offer solutions to Africa's pertinent perennial problems faced with young people in the Education sector. After few months of intensive online sessions I am confident to state “ AYA research lab enhanced our capacities and made us goodwill ambassadors of SDG4.

For the first time in my educational trail I was presented with the opportunity to discuss my Research work. The experience from that exercise is a big lesson. I also draw a lot of inspiration from AYA and this has added another feather in the cap for me.

I have imbibed the art of good writing skills. The program has expanded my horizons on research work, conflict resolution and Risk management. Above all, the program is tailored to young people’s needs in our world today.

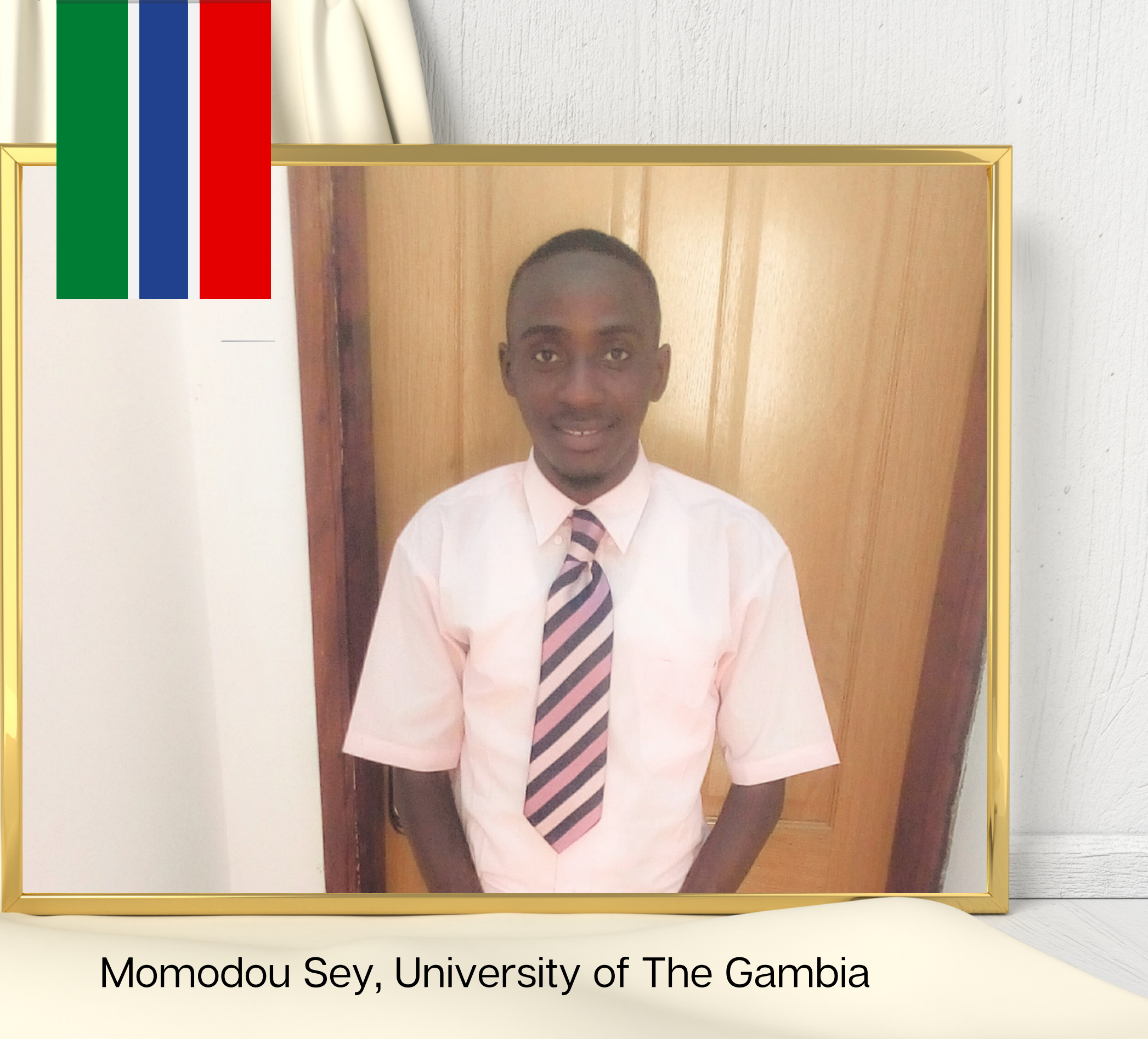


Derick King Bangura, Milton Margai College of
Education and Technology

I am passionate about learning new things everyday and am always open to broadening my knowledge in even the things I know. And that is one of the major moves AYA makes- enriching the minds of youths in this unique way of learning.

AYA helped me realize all that I've learned. In a sense, no matter how much we think we know about some topic, it's only after we have put that knowledge into use that we get confirmation of the actual level of understanding that we possess. Sure, we could read about painting, learn all the techniques and brush types, colour palettes, etc. but only when we get in front of a canvas and start painting we put our knowledge to the test. So big thanks to AYA for helping us with practical works.

Communicating with other members from a distance.



Momodou Sey, University of The Gambia

// Having gone through the education system in an African country and being a teacher that interacted with students, I find it necessary to participate in such a program that gives me the opportunity to create and innovate strategies that can help improve the education system of my country. This is necessary in making sure the target of SDG4 is met with time. Through research we can come up with solutions that seek to tackle the gaps in education; access to education for all with the proper resources. I therefore deem it fitting to take part in this program to share my little ideas in improving education in the world at large.

I learned from this program the strategies of carrying out good research, that is to say; the steps involved in having a good research paper that can contain solutions that seek to tackle a particular societal problem. Again, I learned with ease what negotiation entails with its skills and tips that earns one a positive result in the end. Risk management as well was one of the things I learned during the interactive sessions AYA provided. Therefore, I totally learned so much from this program, to say the least, and I wish to have so many of such from higher levels at AYA.

The fact that we were exposed to so many modules that can aid us in our subsequent research programs was one of the things I leant. The modules are really important and timely. I wish to use them wisely.





Mamudu Sumbunu, The Gambia College

My passion for enrolling in the AYA Research lab is clearly envisaged in the theme “Create and innovate in SDG4. I hold the popular belief that education is the tool that can enable us to break away from ignorance and underdevelopment as a Continent. Joining the AYA research lab is one of the best things that have happened to me in the past few months. I join the AYA research lab in order to offer solutions to Africa's pertinent perennial problems faced with young people in the Education sector. After few months of intensive online sessions I am confident to state “ AYA research lab enhanced our capacities and made us goodwill ambassadors of SDG4.

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Sallu Osman Munu, Fourah Bay College

My motive of being part of AYA is to acquire knowledge or learn new things. Since I am a student and I am passionate about SDG4 which is education. I am also motivated to be part of it with other foreign students and learn new things from them.

I learnt a lot of new ideas during the training. I was able to learn how to be constructive in doing research, speech writing and doing presentations. I learnt about the importance of a second chance in life or how to make use of a second opportunity because my group performed badly during our first presentation and the second one we are able to do something acceptable. I learnt about leadership roles and how to be responsible as a youth and taking ownership of youth platforms.

I learnt about how to go about conducting a research, types of research and how to build or develop a research questionnaire.



Fanta Darboe, University of The Gambia

My reasons for joining AYA Research Lab is definitely to enrich my life with knowledge purposely in the area of education. However, networking with my fellow young leaders is never an exception , as every individual's network is their net-worth. To have the privilege to interact and understand issues differently and ways to solve them.

The importance of teamwork as well as distance teamwork.

Being a critical person when dealing with issues and finally being a good researcher.



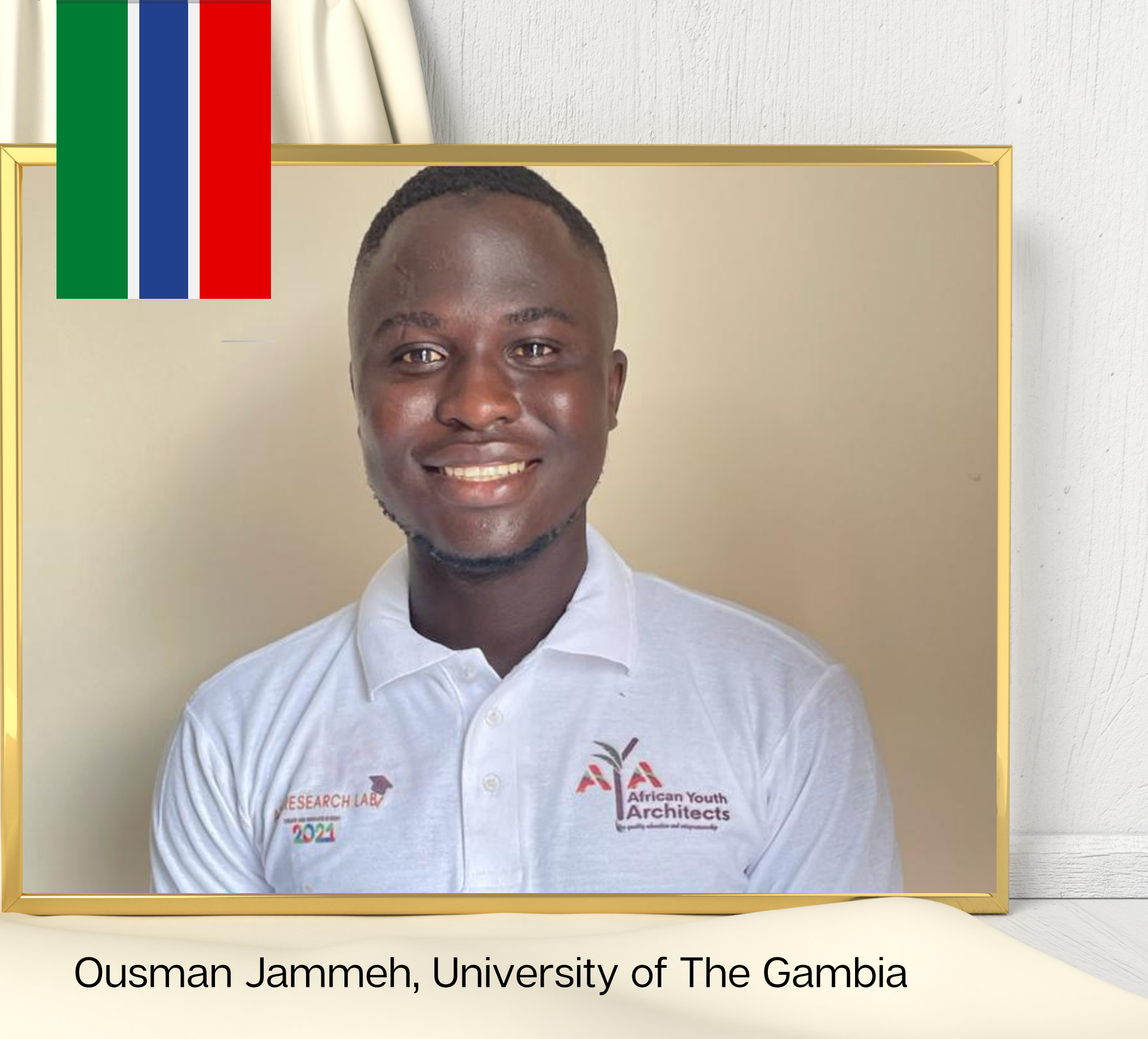
Edwina Koroma, Unimtech University

// In order to challenge myself and make sure that I will be as prepared as possible for the African Youth Architects programme. I have pushed through the past two years of school work and I have made it possible thanks to my passion, commitment and hard work in Reading and counting. From there on, I was captivated. I started working on small projects of my own, helping the out of school adolescent girls on how to read and count etc. I seek to combine all the knowledge I have gathered over the years and try to deepen my understanding and my experience as a student, combined with my courses in management that motivates and inspires me to join this programme. Management is a career option I would like to explore and this is a desire that motivates me to join this programme. Successful friends and colleagues who have gone through this programme are key motivation for joining the programme. I have decided to go down this route which is more humanitarian compared to, because of my greater interest in the programme combined with my ability to solve problems and the joy I take in doing so. I feel that this is my driving passion that will allow me to succeed during the programme.

I learned about so many modules from AYA research lab for example. Data Analysis and knowledge management. Effective writing skills. Negotiation and risk management skills.

I learnt about some for the things that they teach us during the training session like what is happening in our country like for example Sierra Leone our educational system is very poor.





Ousman Jammeh, University of The Gambia

My passion to join AYA was driven by the organization's willingness to impact on the lives of the less privileged people. This desire was more than enough for me to join in ensuring that the goals and aspirations of the organization are met. Thus, I hesitate no time in taking part in their recruitment.

I learned a lot about academic writing and good composition of literature.

I've learned a lot in the area of academic writing skills, research methods and leadership.



Musa Kelfala Sesay Jnr, University of
Management and Technology

// After a long career networking with various youth advocacy platforms. By getting in touch with a lot of young people through interviews, especially in regards to jobs for youths, and low-productivity employees, I've come to realize the importance of professional development and how much feedback is key to the development process. I realized that it was important to look at the potential, and I decided to work on the other side, in favor of professionals looking for jobs and career growth in general, in order to make them more ready for the job market. The motivation: to believe that it is possible to develop human potential and how much it can transform society. In that regard AYA created a platform wherein youths are encouraged to learn more by creating such a learn and educational forum which is an additional career development course which enhances human development.

How to negotiate with both parties in conflict resolutions. And many more.

How to communicate, how to write a research proposal and of course how to negotiate.





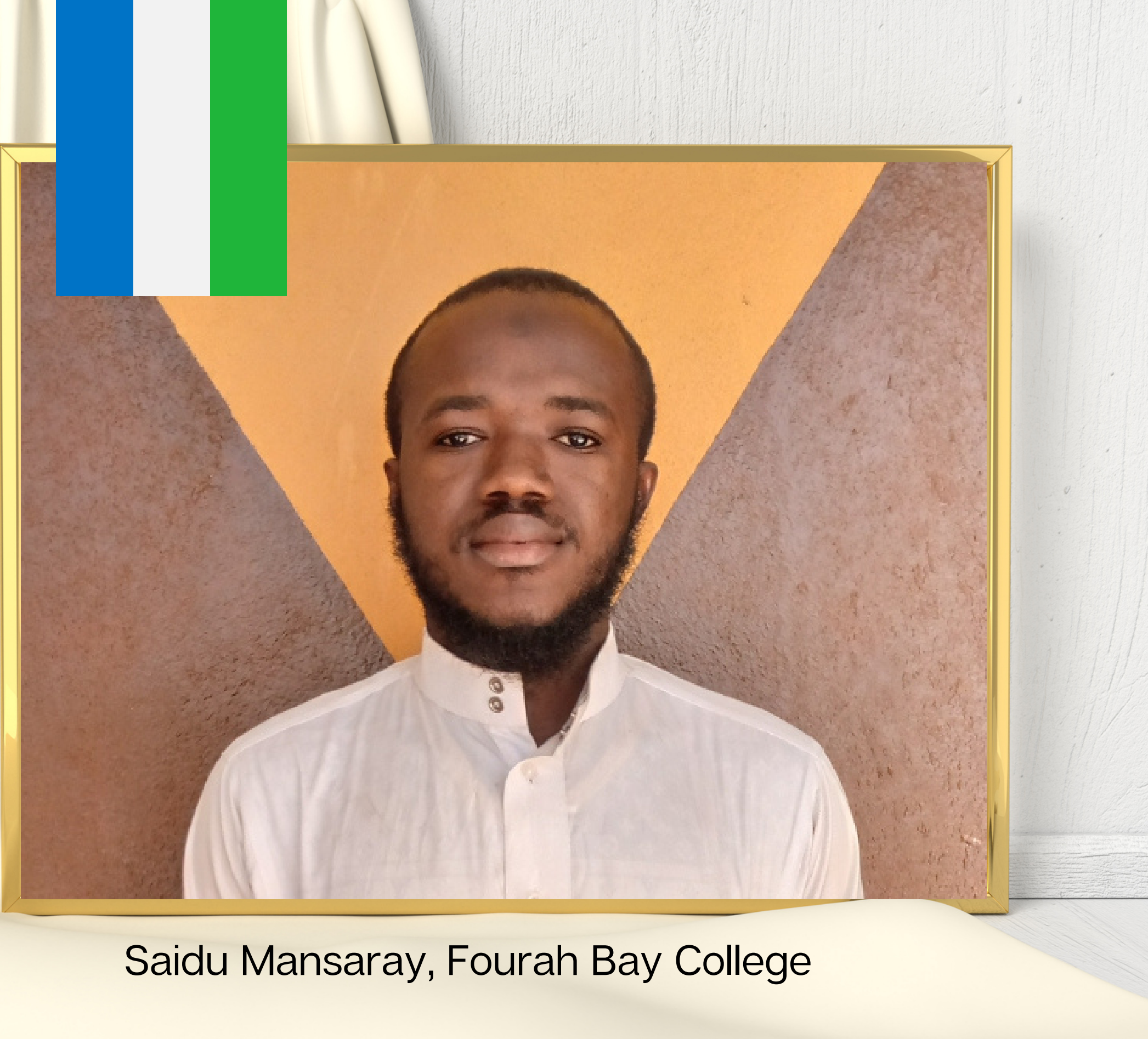
Kaddijatou Saidy, University of The gambia

“My love for education and giving back to my society really motivated me in joining this great SDG4 program. As the program is centered on improving quality education which is very paramount in every society therefore I see it as a God given opportunity to be part of this great innovation.

I have learned about negotiation and its elements. I believe these are day to day activities of our society because most of the time we do negotiate to come to terms and for peace to reign among us.

I have learned about how to organize ideas into points, how to make effective communication, how to go about effective writing in academia, how to conduct effective research and the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.





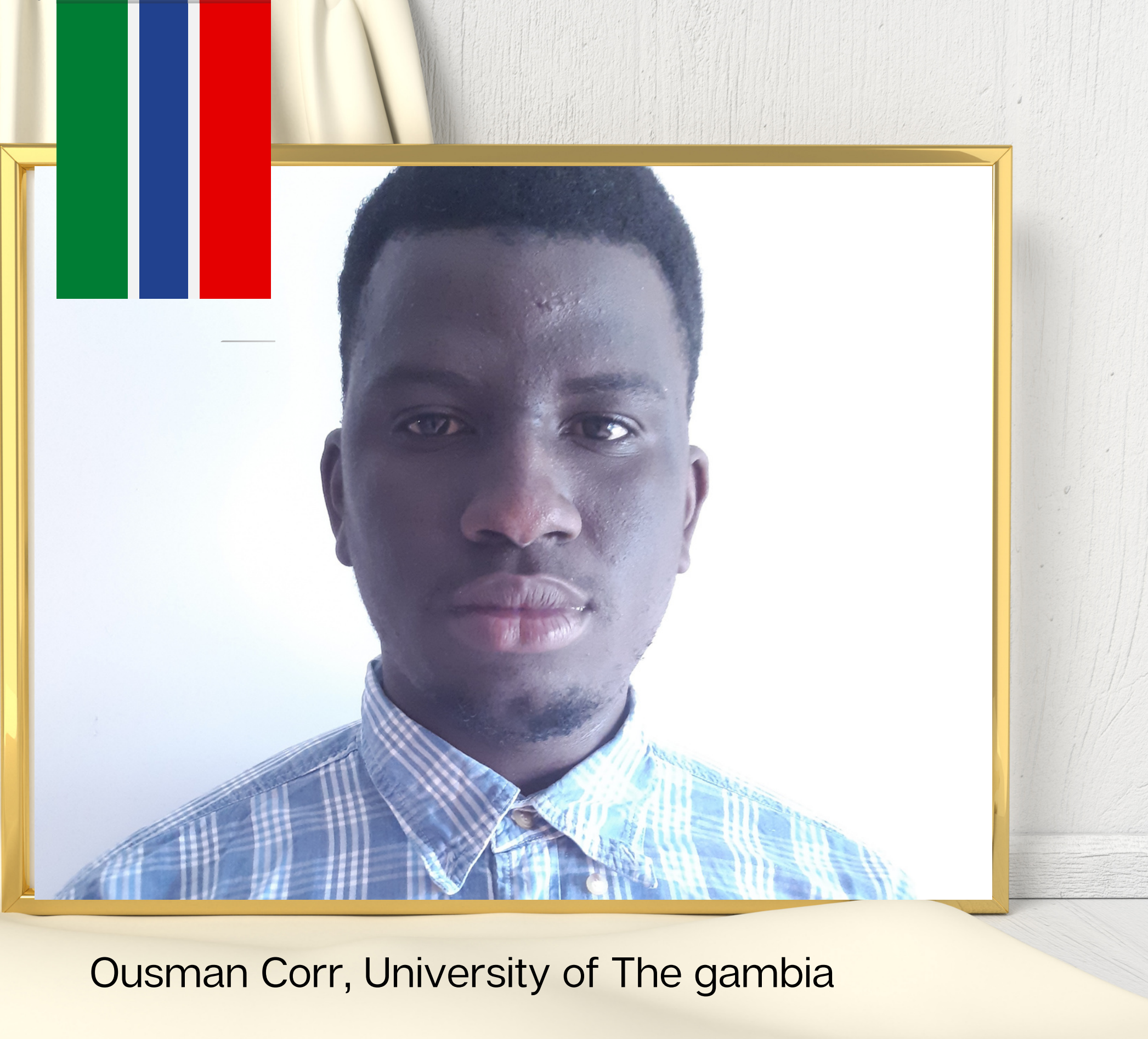
Saidu Mansaray, Fourah Bay College

// Want to acquire knowledge and skills as to how I can contribute to the development of my nation by providing solutions through research.

Risk management and research methodology.

Research methodology.



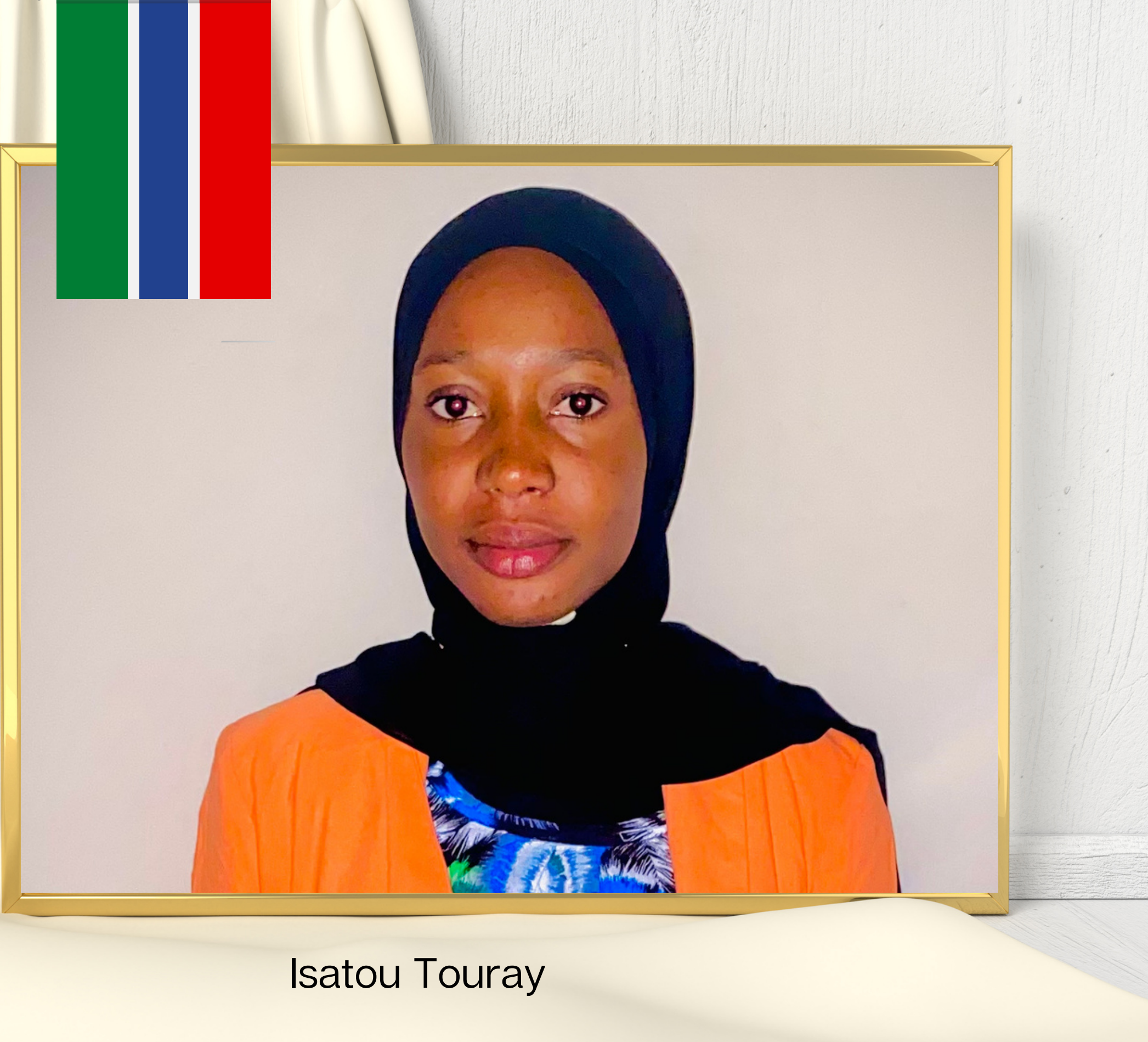


Ousman Corr, University of The gambia

I joined the AYA lab to learn and participate from such a dynamic, apropos and opposite platform. At this juncture, I have learnt a lot alongside that I have also contributed my part to such a germane initiative. Finally, I would like to thank the entire AYA team for their great work.

It exposed me to new topics that are very pertinent to me as an individual. The AYA initiative also connected me to other people within continental Africa.

I have learnt about the necessities of Research, alongside that, the research program also exposed me to topics that are very vital to me as a young person. The knowledge of such topics will go along in helping me.



Isatou Touray

Seeing what AYA Research Lab is doing in Africa, made me believe that ‘in order to develop your country, you’ve to develop and love yourself first and that will motivate you to work hand in hand to develop your community, country and African at large’. Quality Education In SDG4 We need quality education in Africa. I believe that we don’t even have an equal quality educational system in African countries. For instance, the educational system in urban and rural areas in an African country is not equal and that has to change. The achievement of SDG 4 – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for me. Quality education is crucial to achieving upward social and economic mobility plays a central role in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies.

Teamwork is the first thing that I have learned. To be working with different people within and outside your country and meeting at an alternative goal is one of the things I’ve learned and it boosts my education career.

It made me believe that in order to avoid future problems and conflict, we need a very good negotiation strategy and that can help you build a suitable relationship with your business partners.



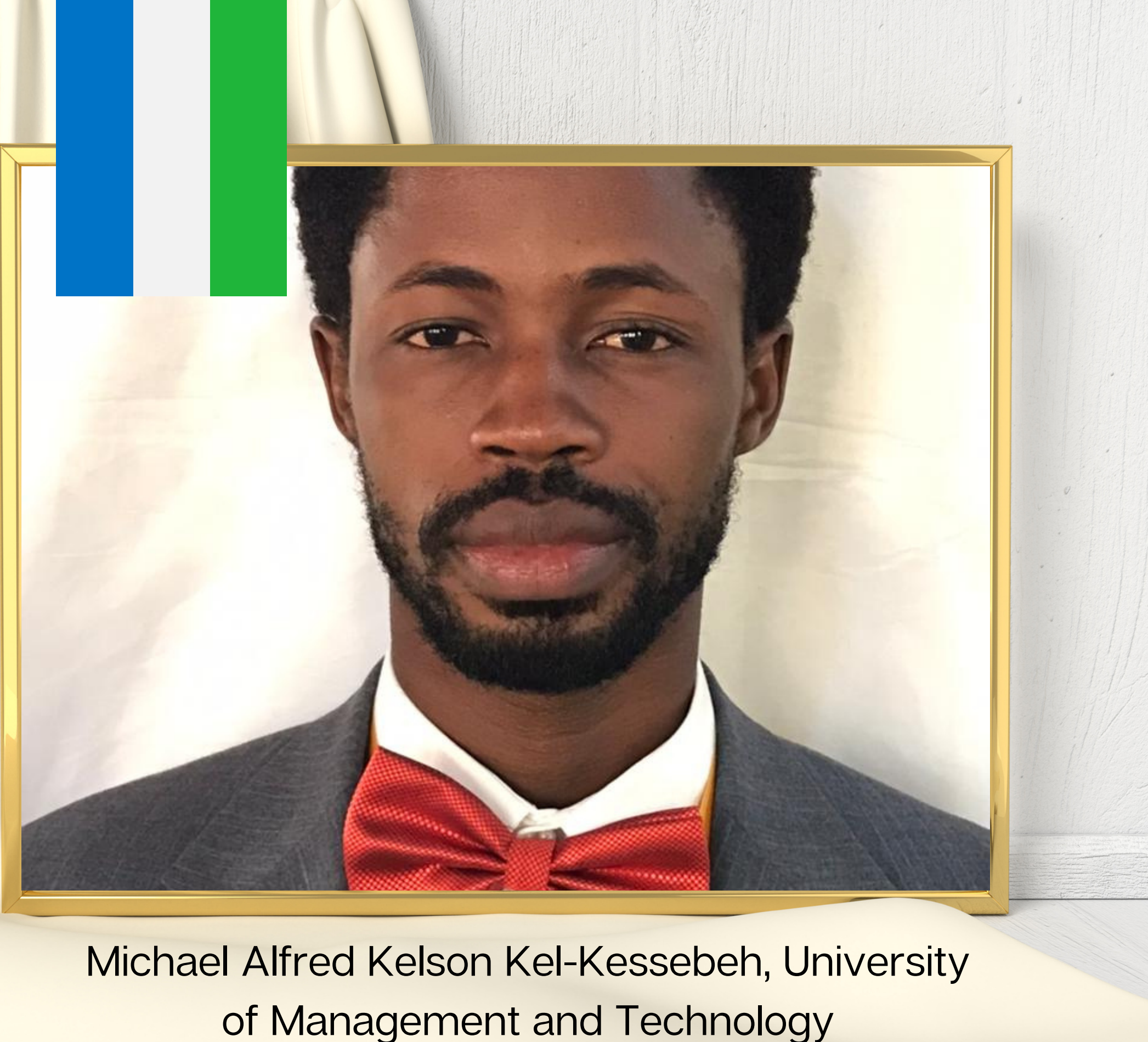


Lamin Tunkara, University of The gambia

// As an aspiring researcher I thought the AYA Research Lab create and Innovate in SDG4 program would be an exceptional platform to join, in order to interact with different people from different socio-economic backgrounds, growing up in a village and as the only person from my family to go to the university. I challenge myself to promote and advocate the right of children to go to school, get the education and the tools they need to change their lives and their country at large. I was motivated by the great minds of these young men and women of this great association with coming up with this great initiative of making the dreams of these children into reality.

During the course of the program I have learnt many things from our wonderful presenters. The research program has helped me to understand various research methodologies, how to conduct a good research and also how to interact with your colleagues at work or at various institutions and also how to solve issues using different negotiation skills. And above all, the program has given me the opportunity to work and interact with different people from different countries.





Michael Alfred Kelson Kel-Kessebeh, University
of Management and Technology

// I decided to be part of AYA Research Lab so I will be part of the youths that will bring positive change in our beloved continent (Africa).

This program teaches me as a youth not to occupy the back seat. But rather take the fort in decision making and as a leader.

I learnt as a youth everybody can make or bring a change irrespective of you being educated or not, we can all make our own input. And also not to always take the back but the front to hold on the fort to foster development and growth.





Dawda Ceesay, The Gambia College

As I aspire for positivity always, I got the chance to try and join AYA therefore I wasted no time but to grab the opportunity. This association I believe will push me to be more passionate with my beloved continent, Africa. I have seen the signs of it as I interacted with fellow Africans through AYA and all the knowledge gathered is centered on Africa which helped to expand my understanding of the dynamism and nature of Africa. Thank you very much AYA. I am honored to be part of you.

I understand how to operate in a team and it is through AYA that I am exposed to online classes. I understood some business strategies and health issues. I was able to have a better insight of my continent, Africa. Kudos to AYA.

I learnt how to manage risk and from that on I believe I have what it takes to run a business and be resilient.



Isatou Manneh, The Gambia College

//

I choose to join AYA in order to learn how to work with people from different countries, backgrounds and cultures. AYA is an African based association therefore I join the association to play a quarter in the development of the continent Africa.

Negotiation and risk management.

How to go about negotiation and risk management and also how to work in pairs.

//



Vinord Musa, Institute of Public Administration
and Management

//

I may want to broaden my horizon through your sessions, also I can gain exposure to external and internal influences, make meaningful connections, and bring back valuable ideas to my community.

New communication skills How to convey your message by knowing your audience.

During our research project, I learned how to coordinate and relate with people beyond the border.

//

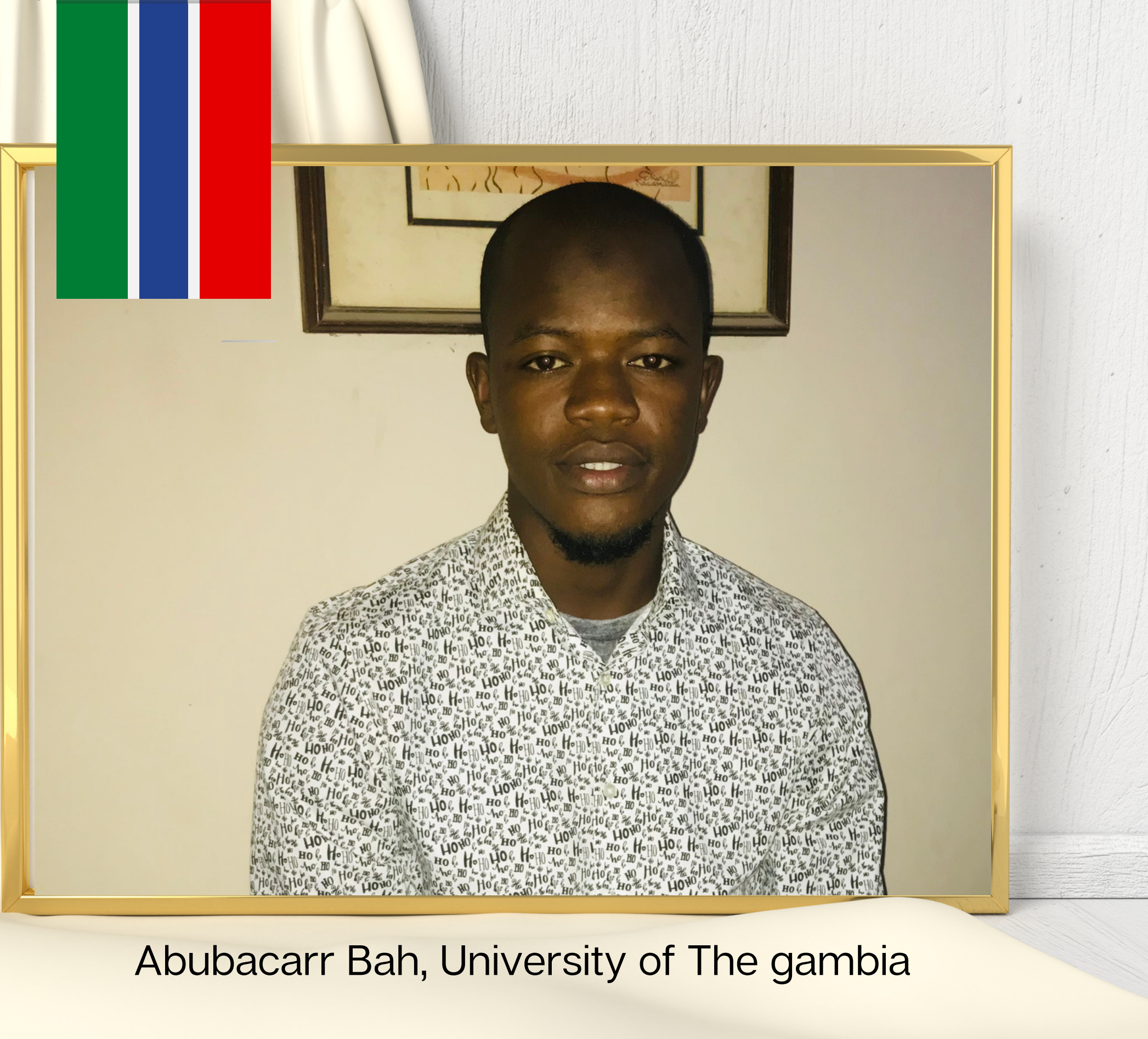


Fatou B. Bojang, University of The gambia

AYA's aim of encouraging education within Africa is in line with my goals as a teacher hence I deem it necessary to contribute my quarter by joining AYA and as well contribute in research works and other key factors that will uplift Africa in particular. A proud African I AM; I don't think twice about joining African platforms.

I have learned to interact with my fellow Africans from other nations for the first time and the knowledge of risk management has helped me a lot in comorting myself at work.

I have learned that Africa as a continent has a long way to go. The issue of malnutrition, back way syndrome and education needs a whole lot of intervention.



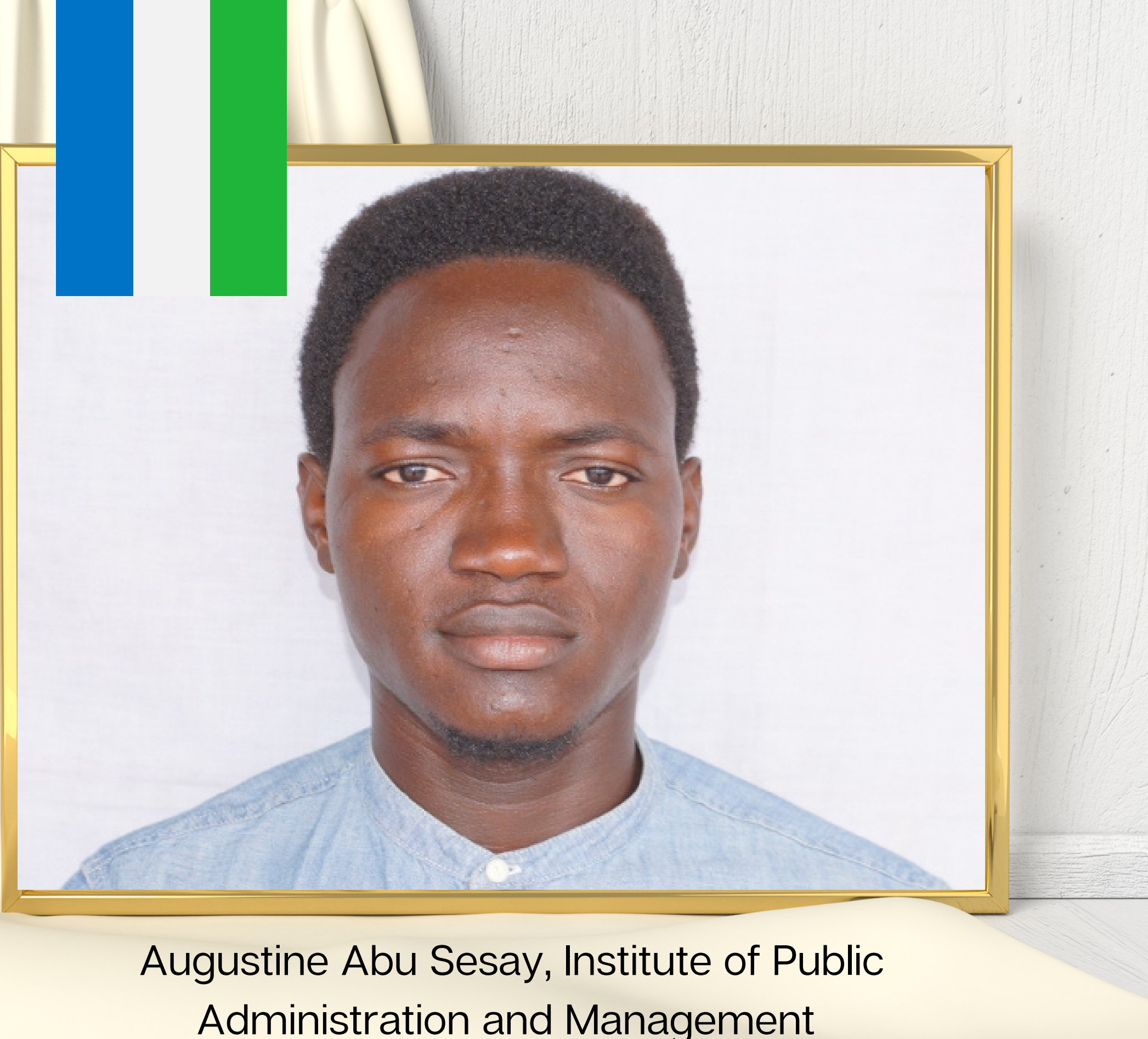
Abubacarr Bah, University of The gambia

// The struggle for my education under the guidance of my parents, one of which was a teacher, has been a key motivator in joining the SDG4 challenge on creating a better and more inclusive educational system for all.

Using modern technology in conducting research.

There are a wide range of issues out there that need attention and collectivity is needed in solving existing emerging issues in the globe especially within the African continent.





Augustine Abu Sesay, Institute of Public
Administration and Management

// I was motivated to join AYA Research Lab because I strongly believe I will learn new things and create impact in my country and the world at large.

I learnt how to work with different people from different countries and achieve successful result

I learned how to work with different people and the appropriate methods to use when undertaking research work.



AFRICAN YOUTH ARCHITECTS RESEARCH LAB



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