

16 October 2015

Re: Recommendation of Corneille Towendo for Unilever Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend Corneille Towendo for the Unilever Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015.

I first met Corneille this past February 2015 as he was a participant at the Hack for Big Choices Hackathon at Hub Accra in Accra, Ghana. He was part of a small team of emerging tech developers who created a social impact website within 72 hours of the competition. My role at this hackathon was via my company at Facebook, who was a leading corporate sponsor of this event. I work as a Strategic Product Partnership Manager and my role was to support the event, lead presentations about Facebook's program Internet.org, and to lead small break out group working sessions.

I recall meeting Corneille on the first day during the opening networking session. He welcomed me to Ghana with a friendly greeting and shared his personal story of growing up in Senegal, studying technology, and having a dream to change the world. He excitedly shared his ideas around education and economic empowerment for both his home town in Senegal and his current home in Ghana. His ability to think on a macro level about how his ideas could be adapted in two different countries with differing language, cultures, traditions and education levels was impressive.

I watched Corneille and his team pitch their idea at the end of the 72 hour hackathon with a strong concept and idea for change. Even when the power shut down during their presentation, they continued pitching without hesitation which displayed their ability to quickly troubleshoot situations and stay positive.

After the competition ended, I continued to keep in touch with Corneille. Since Facebook was expanding Internet.org into Senegal, Corneille proactively offered to do some research about the mobile market and suggested various organizations we could partner with. After a few email exchanges and phone calls, he quickly understood our goal and strategy for Senegal. He was able to adapt his thinking and provide localized suggestions. Without having ever been to Senegal myself I really appreciated Corneille's proactive support and enthusiasm for the project – not just because he wanted to get involved, but because he believed that accessing

knowledge via the internet could bring opportunities and creativity to the country of Senegal.

If you are looking for someone who already embodies the traits of a leader, I highly recommend Corneille. He has a vision for Senegal and Africa, which I am highly confident he will make great steps to achieve. He is inspiring, fearless, cooperative, and has a genuine heart. His many incredible experiences have shaped his thinking, spirit and attitude and I am confident he will make an incredible addition for the future of Africa.

Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any further questions about his candidacy at [Jennifer.js.fong@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.js.fong@gmail.com) or +1(650)404-7169.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Fong  
Facebook | Internet.org Partnerships