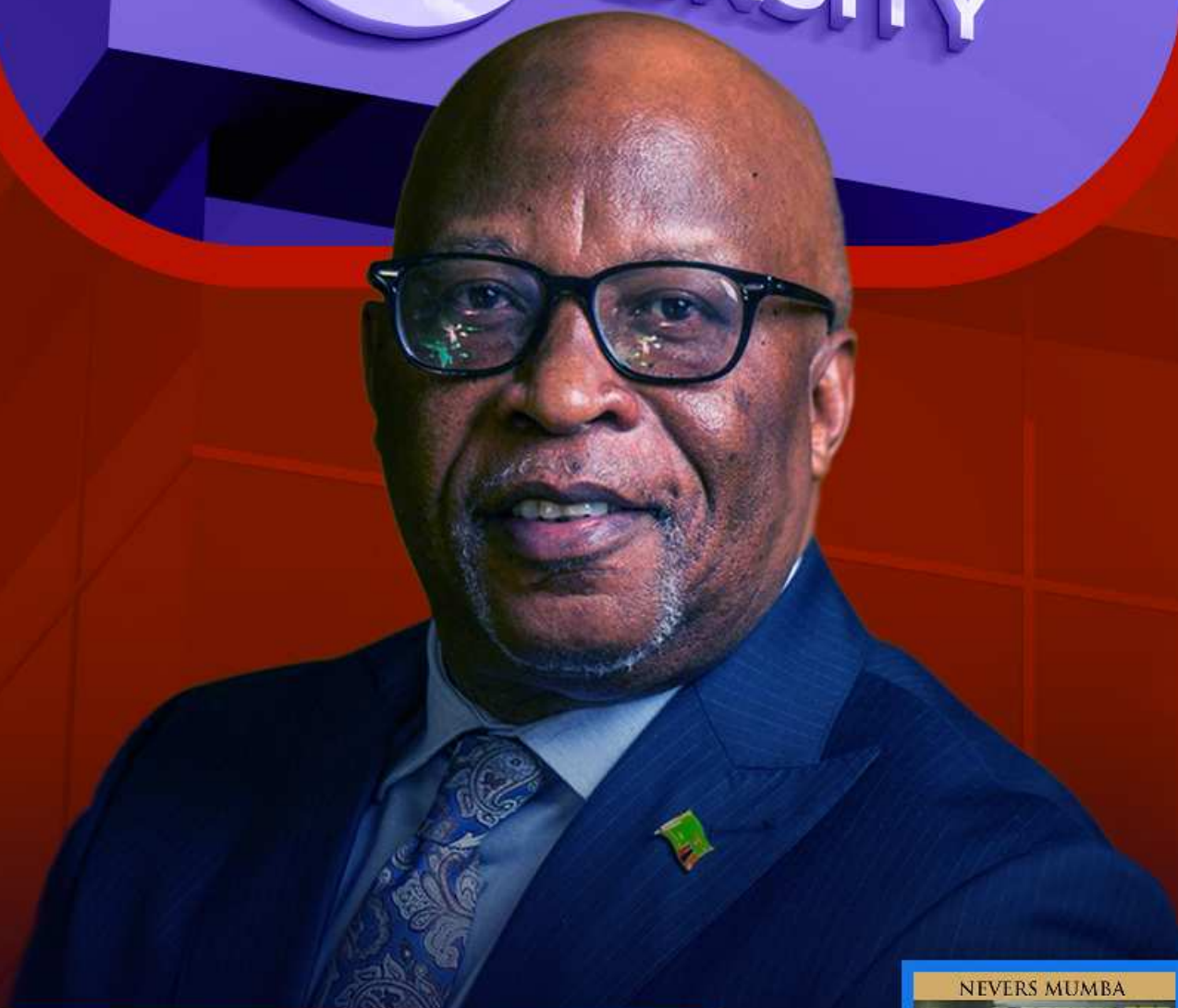




ATAFOM University External Newsletter

ISSUE 34

DECEMBER 2025



Up Close – Exclusive Interview with

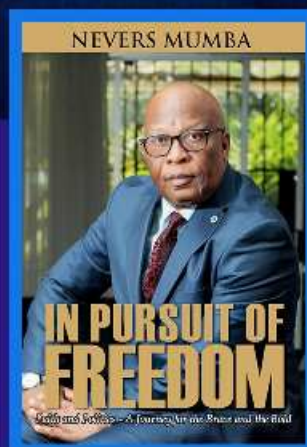
Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba

8th Vice President of the Republic of Zambia

Dean, Faculty of Political Science – ATAFOM University International

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ATAFOM UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL REPORT & PERSPECTIVE

"The success of every action begins in the head."



FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
Şakir Yavuz

Helped him pave a way to create the university offering an inclusive education. He is firmly convinced that the children of this world with different cultural backgrounds and countries of origin as well as languages should have the same right to education. He has set himself the task of giving young people access to university education of the highest international quality and with equal opportunities, in the conviction that success requires permanent concentration, strong motivation and extreme commitment.

At ATAFOM University International, "Education for Integration is developed, taught and lived. The team of internationally renowned professional teachers and experienced staff at ATAFOM University International will meet the highest international standards and will do everything possible to meet and exceed all of our students' expectations and educational goals as they embark on undergraduate studies or learn the English language when they enroll in ATAFOM Language Academy.

The digital innovation and knowledge campus of ATAFOM University International - ConiaSoft Online Campus, which accommodates everyone who is willing to learn, makes it possible to create educational bridges between all continents.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Education today must do more than inform it must connect, integrate, and empower. ATAFOM stands for a global academic community without borders. Our mission is to open opportunities, foster understanding, and prepare students for a world that needs collaboration, not separation. Together, we shape a future built on knowledge, respect, and unity."

— Şakir Yavuz



Celebrating

Mrs. Elena Mattera!

Administration Office –
Faculty of Initial Public Offering

Today, we celebrate a dedicated and invaluable member of the Administration Office at the Faculty of Initial Public Offering.

Your professionalism, consistency, and attention to detail continue to strengthen the smooth operations of FIPO and support both our students and faculty with excellence. Your work reflects the very spirit of ATAFOM - reliable, inspiring, and committed to growth.

Mrs. Mattera, your contributions ensure that our programs run efficiently and that every learner feels seen, supported, and guided. The entire ATAFOM community appreciates the warmth, precision, and dedication you bring to every task.

We wish you a birthday filled with joy, encouragement, and continued success.

May the year ahead bring you new accomplishments and memorable moments - both personally and professionally.

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Elena Mattera!
From the entire ATAFOM Family.



www.ATAFOM.University



Happy New Year



We wish you Health, Peace, Happiness and Abundant Success.



Yeni Yılınız Kutlu Olsun!
Sağlık, Huzur, Mutluluk ve Bol Başarı diliyoruz.



Frohes Neues Jahr!
Wir wünschen Ihnen Gesundheit, Frieden, Glück und reichlich Erfolg.



Bonne année!
Nous vous souhaitons santé, paix, bonheur et succès abondant.



¡Feliz Año Nuevo!
Les deseamos salud, paz, felicidad y mucho éxito.



नए साल की शुभकामनाएँ!
हम आपके स्वास्थ्य, शांति, खुशी और सफलता की कामना करते हैं।



С Новым Годом!
Желаем Вам Здоровья, Мира, Счастья и Больших Успехов.



إقدي عيس كديج قنس
ريغول احاجنل او قناعسل او مالسل او ةحصل ا ملل ینمتن



ATAFOM UNIVERSITY COURSE OFFERINGS

BACHELOR COURSE OFFERINGS

SECOND SEMESTER // SUMMER SEMESTER 2026

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

Welcome to ATAFOM University International

Empowering Global Minds. Building a United Future.

At ATAFOM University International, we believe that true education is a journey that connects hearts, minds, and cultures. More than just academics, we offer an experience that inspires unity, fosters innovation, and cultivates future global leaders.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Şakir Yavuz, our university lives by the motto "Education for Integration." We're creating a worldwide community where students from every background come together to learn, grow, and transform their potential into purpose.

Our online classrooms are vibrant hubs of diversity, where bold ideas are celebrated, global perspectives are shared, and lifelong friendships begin. Whether you're just starting your academic path, upskilling for career advancement, or seeking intellectual enrichment, ATAFOM offers programs designed for today's world and tomorrow's challenges.

Here, education is more than textbooks and lectures. It's a gateway to meaningful impact in an interconnected world. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and cultural understanding shapes not only careers but character.

Join ATAFOM University International where learning has no borders, and your global journey begins.

Discover the programs that are redefining international education.

BACHELOR COURSE OFFERINGS

SECOND SEMESTER // SUMMER SEMESTER 2026

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

- Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communications (B.A.) at the Faculty of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts in International Business Development (B.A.) at the Faculty of Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (B.Sc.- IT) at the Faculty of Technology
- Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.) at the Faculty of Initial Public Offering



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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-to-atafom2/>

15 IT CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS

- 
- Basics of Python
 - Basics of AutoCAD
 - Basics of Graphics Designing
 - Basics of Backend Development (Using Django)
 - Basics of Blockchain
 - Basics of Data Analysis
 - Basics of Java
 - Frontend Development - Level One: Beginner
 - Frontend Development - Level Two: Intermediate
 - Frontend Development - Level Three: Advanced
 - Frontend Development - Level Four: Expert
 - Database and SQL
 - Generative AI for Everyone
 - Deep Learning and Neural Networks
 - Basics of Software Engineering Principles

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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-it-certification-course/>

ATAFOM LANGUAGE ACADEMY COURSE OFFERINGS

English language courses are available at ATAFOM Language Academy, with options for different proficiency levels, ranging from

- ALA 1 to ALA 11.
- ALA-A0 as Pre ALA-A1: Starter
- ALA-A1: Beginner Level
- ALA-A2: Elementary Level
- ALA-B1: Pre-Intermediate Level
- ALA-B2: Intermediate Level
- ALA-C1: Upper-Intermediate Level
- ALA-C2: Advanced Level
- ALA-BE I: B2 Business English I (Requires minimum language level of ALC-B2)
- ALA-BE II: C1 Business English II (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C1)
- ALA-BE III: C2 Business English III (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C2)
- ALA-IT English



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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/language-academy/>



LEARN ENGLISH
ATAFOM LANGUAGE ACADEMY
Communication Made Easy
— Online —



FACULTY OF INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS:

The Faculty of Initial Public Offering at ATAFOM University International brings you multiple PreIPO certification programs along with the Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.).

The certification programs begin every month. Find your best match here -

- **3-month PreIPO certification course**
- **6-month PreIPO certification course**
- **9-month PreIPO certification course**
- **One-year diploma course**

At ATAFOM University International, we are committed to providing an education that blends modern innovation with academic excellence. Our goal is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to succeed in today's fast-changing world.

With a strong emphasis on global perspectives and real-world learning, we ensure that our students are not only prepared for their careers but also for leadership in an interconnected society.

Join a university where education knows no boundaries and opportunities are limitless. Your future starts here!

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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-preipo-certification-course/>



STARTUPS AND THE IPO JOURNEY: INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

A STRATEGIC INSIGHT FOR THE ATAFOM EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, start-ups are more than just emerging businesses—they are transformative forces shaping industries, accelerating technological progress, and opening new pathways for economic growth. From Silicon Valley to emerging innovation hubs across Africa, Asia, and Europe, entrepreneurship is redefining what nations, markets, and societies can achieve. One of the most significant milestones in this entrepreneurial journey is the path toward an IPO, or Initial Public Offering a transition that transforms high-potential start-ups into publicly recognized economic players.

As ATAFOM University International launches cutting-edge PreIPO and IPO educational programs, including 3-, 6-, 9-month certifications, a One-Year Diploma, and the comprehensive Bachelor of Science in PreIPO, a deeper understanding of this global landscape has never been more relevant.

The Essence of Startups: Innovation Meets Opportunity

Start-ups are uniquely positioned to challenge established norms, driven by creativity and boldness rather than tradition. Their defining characteristics include:

- **Rapid innovation cycles**
- **Disruptive technological models**
- **Scalable business concepts**
- **Ability to attract global investment**



In 2025, the start-up ecosystem has expanded into new sectors deep technology, artificial intelligence, green energy, fintech, biotech, and education technology reflecting a world where innovation is not optional but essential.

Global Start-up Market Snapshot (2025)

- Over 150 million new businesses are created annually worldwide
- Global venture capital investments in 2024/25 exceeded \$350 billion
- Africa recorded 25% year-on-year growth in tech-driven start-ups
- Europe strengthened its position as a global innovation hub, with Germany, France, and the Nordics showing record investment levels
- Education-based start-ups (EdTech) grew by 18% globally, driven by digital learning adoption

These trends underline a powerful truth: start-ups are the engine of the new global economy.



From Startup to IPO: Understanding the Growth Path

Every globally successful company—from Amazon to Zoom—began as a start-up. The IPO journey represents the pinnacle of this growth trajectory.



WHAT IS AN IPO?

An Initial Public Offering occurs when a company transitions from private to public ownership by offering shares on a stock exchange. This move:

- **Provides large-scale capital**
- **Attracts institutional investors**
- **Enhances global visibility**
- **Strengthens long-term business credibility**

An IPO marks the transformation of a promising start-up into a mature corporate actor.

PrelPO: The Strategic Phase Before Going Public

The PrelPO stage is often the most critical—and most misunderstood—phase of corporate development. It is the period during which an organization prepares its financial, structural, strategic, and operational foundations for public offering.

Key Components of PrelPO Preparation

- **Financial restructuring and auditing**
- **Corporate governance enhancement**
- **Risk management and compliance**
- **Brand positioning and investor communication**
- **Valuation analysis and pricing strategy**
- **Market-readiness assessment**

This stage determines whether a company can successfully launch on global markets such as NASDAQ, NYSE, Borsa Istanbul, or Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Global IPO Market Highlights (2025)

Despite economic fluctuations, IPO activity in 2025 demonstrates resilience and strategic adaptability:

- **Over 1,000 IPOs worldwide in 2024-2025**
- **Technology, AI, and renewable energy lead the IPO pipeline**
- **Africa sees increasing PrelPO interest, particularly in fintech and infrastructure**
- **Europe shows renewed growth in mid-cap IPOs**
- **Global IPO proceeds exceeded \$180 billion in 2025**

This data reflects the rising demand for companies that can scale globally with transparent governance and strong innovation capacity.

Why IPO and PreIPO Education Matters Locally and Globally

With the world transitioning toward digital, knowledge-driven economies, countries increasingly rely on high-growth start-ups to create jobs, attract investment, and stimulate economic transformation. Understanding IPO mechanisms is no longer just a financial specialty—it is a strategic leadership skill.

Economic and Social Relevance



Job Creation

Start-ups are projected to generate more than 50 million jobs globally in the next decade.



Market Expansion

IPO-backed companies scale internationally faster than private firms.



Innovation Acceleration

Public capital allows large-scale R&D investments.



Global Integration

IPO processes encourage adherence to international standards and transparency.

For emerging economies such as in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia PreIPO knowledge is increasingly vital for unlocking local entrepreneurial potential.



ATAFOM University's Vision: Preparing the Next Generation of Global Financial Leaders

ATAFOM University International stands at the forefront of interdisciplinary education by offering one of the world's most forward-thinking PreIPO and IPO programs. Under the leadership of the Faculty of Initial Public Offering, ATAFOM bridges academic excellence with real-world experience.

ATAFOM's PreIPO Programs Include:

- 3-Month Certification – Foundations of IPO & investment models
- 6-Month Certification – Applied corporate finance & valuation
- 9-Month Certification – Governance, compliance, and market readiness
- One-Year Diploma – Advanced IPO strategy and international finance
- Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.) – A full academic pathway into global finance, investment banking, and entrepreneurial leadership

Students benefit from:

- Expert faculty with real-world Wall Street and global financial experience
- Live case studies of successful IPOs
- International student networks
- A modern digital campus and interactive e-learning environment

Through these programs, ATAFOM University equips students with the knowledge, strategic depth, and global mindset required to thrive in modern financial ecosystems.



THE FUTURE OF START-UPS AND IPOS: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2030

Over the next decade, analysts anticipate:



Surge in GreenTech and Climate-Focused IPOs

A surge in GreenTech and climate-focused IPOs.



Growth in AI and Autonomous Systems

Major growth in AI and autonomous systems companies.



Expansion in African and Middle Eastern IPO markets

Expansion of African and Middle Eastern IPO markets.



Rise of Tokenized Securities and Digital Stock Exchanges

Increased tokenized securities and digital stock exchanges.



Govt-Supported Innovation Ecosystems

Government-supported innovation ecosystems in developing countries.

The world is moving toward more transparent, inclusive, and digitally connected capital markets making PreIPO education a major competitive advantage for future leaders.

START-UPS AND THE IPO LANDSCAPE

PRE-IPO | IPO | TREND STATISTICS | GLOBAL ECONOMICANCE

WHAT ARE START-UPS?

Young entrepreneurial ventures developing innovative solutions, disrupting industries and driving economic growth.

SUCCESS

The number of successful start-ups has exponentially increased in recent years, with some emerging as leaders in their fields, such as Airbnb, Spotify, and Zoom.

PRE-IPO & IPO

An Initial Public Offering (IPO) is the process where a start-up goes public by offering shares to investors. Before an IPO, founders often raise capital through "Pre-IPO" funding rounds.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

- Start-ups drive innovation and job creation, bolstering economies both locally and globally.
- The IPO process is vital for transforming start-ups into significant market players,

TRENDS & STATISTICS

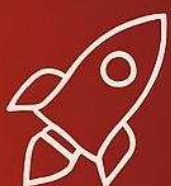
- There are currently about 150M start-ups worldwide, with an average of 50M start-ups launching annually.
- The global IPO market saw significant activity in recent years, with technology and healthcare sectors leading.
- The surge in online businesses has fueled impressive growth and scalability for start-ups.

START-UPS:

A Catalyst for Innovation and Growth



Start ups are an innovative coptor' that invests products and services, they create soffriting ideas, fillind unique products and services offering firm market gaps, and anagifty solutions to modern socio-economic challenges.



SUCCESS

126%

Global growth
2017-2022

305 Million

startups
worldwide

\$30.4 Billion

Global venture
capital investmens 2023



FORECAST & PERSPECTIVE

Key sectors like AI, fintech, and blotech driving future innovations.

New policy environments aimed at decreasing entry barriers.

Interconnected modern economy, with resilient global ecosystems.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

3.3 Million jobs created annually
in the US

>\$ Trillion Combined market value
of start-ups worldwide





CONCLUSION

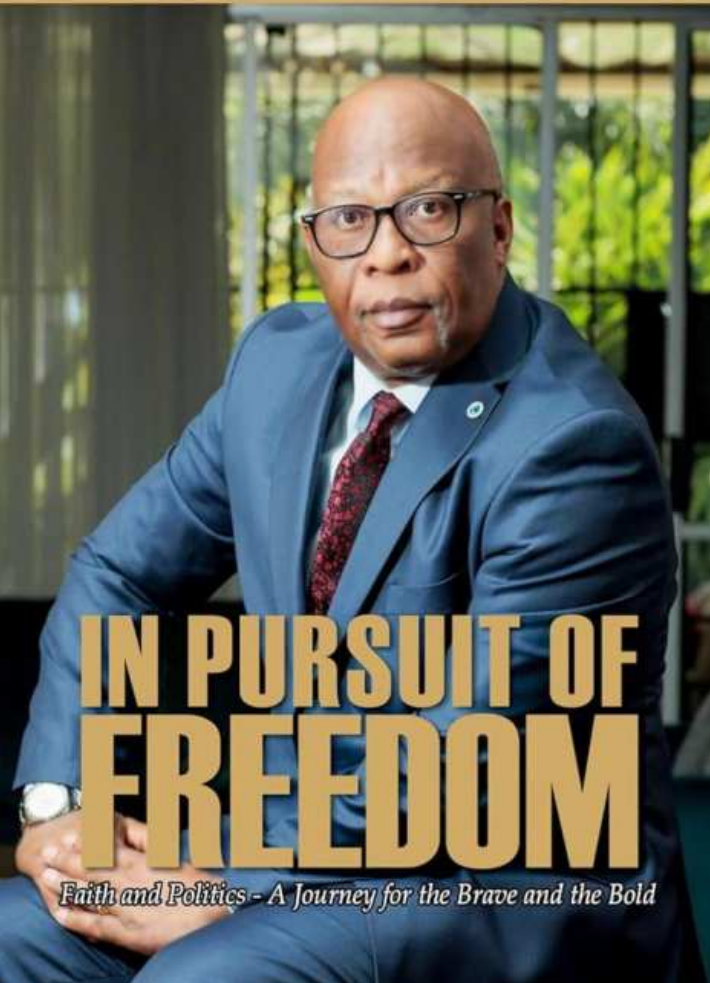
A NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Start-ups and IPOs represent more than financial milestones—they symbolize creativity, opportunity, and the courage to convert ideas into global impact. As markets evolve, so does the need for professionals who understand how to navigate innovation, finance, governance, and international strategy.

ATAFOM University International, through its visionary PreIPO programs, empowers the next generation to shape the future of entrepreneurship and global capital markets. The world needs leaders who think boldly, act strategically, and innovate responsibly—and ATAFOM is committed to cultivating exactly these leaders.

***THE FUTURE BELONGS TO INNOVATORS.
THE IPO JOURNEY BEGINS WITH KNOWLEDGE.
AND KNOWLEDGE BEGINS AT ATAFOM.***

NEVERS MUMBA



ATAFOM UNIVERSITY UP CLOSE WITH Exclusive Interview with Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba

8th Vice President of the Republic of Zambia

Dean, Faculty of Political Science
ATAFOM University International

<https://atafom.university/faculty-of-political-science/>

Author of In Pursuit of Freedom (2025)

In this exclusive conversation, Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba former Vice President of Zambia, diplomat, faith leader, and now Dean at ATAFOM University International reflects on his journey, leadership philosophy, and the ideas behind his new book, *In Pursuit of Freedom*. The discussion sheds light on freedom, ethics, and education as cornerstones of responsible leadership.

ATAFOM Newsletter: Prof. Mumba, congratulations on your new book. What inspired you to write *In Pursuit of Freedom*? What was the moment or experience that compelled you to put your philosophy of freedom into writing?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *I have come to appreciate that freedom is not an event but an ongoing fight to improve one's life or nation. As significant as political freedom has been to Africa, our independence has not yet delivered the freedom we yearn for. Freedom to shape our own destiny. Freedom to own and exploit our own natural resources. Freedom to be original and not carbon copies of any other people group. This is my motivation behind my new book.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Why did you choose August 25, 2025, for the book's release? Was there a symbolic or personal significance behind that date?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *There was no sentimental reason for choosing the date.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: How long did it take to bring the book from concept to completion, and what challenges did you face along the way? What moments tested your resolve during the writing process?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *It took me 15 years to write this book. The book was meant to introduce me and my controversial journey in politics ahead of the 2016 Presidential election. The book was meant to show that, "the equitable delivery of goods and services to any people depends on the morality and integrity of its leaders." My goal was to insist that men and women of faith must participate in politics in order to instill godly values into politics.*

The length of time it took me to write created a challenge of always wanting to include new developments which in a way broadened the scope of the book instead of it being razor focused on Faith and Politics.

ATAFOM Newsletter: What is the core message you hope readers — particularly young Africans — will take from *In Pursuit of Freedom*? How do you want it to shape their view of leadership and personal responsibility?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *The belief that "politics is a game.." has been the source of the huge problems Africa has faced the last 60 years. Politics devoid of values. Politics of violence and power play. In my book, I insist that until and unless we encourage people of faith and godly values in politics Africa will continue to be abused by godless and heartless dictators that have led our nations into poverty. Politics is not a game. It is the God structured vehicle meant to protect citizens from each other by insisting on the rule of law and the promotion of justice for all.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: You've served as Vice President of Zambia, a diplomat, and now a university dean. How do these distinct roles intersect in shaping your broader vision of leadership?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *I feel greatly honored to have served in politics as Vice President of my country. As ambassador and diplomat in Canada. I am also glad to serve in the academia as Dean for Political Science at ATAFOM university. This combination of key sectors of society has helped me to be a more seasoned and balanced leader. The combination of all this experience helps me to understand the challenges of Africa and an ability to offer solutions to my community.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Your academic background spans public policy and practical theology. What drew you to these disciplines, and how do they inform your worldview today?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *I felt a call to serve God at the age of 17. I enrolled in Bible college at age 22 in Dallas, Texas and became a minister of the Gospel. My vision has always been to make Zambia a Christian nation. In 1990, it was constitutionally declared a Christian nation. It is this influence of Christianity on my nation that led me to get involved in politics to ensure that Christian values were instilled in the nation's polity. I further studied and obtained my masters in public policy at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: As Dean of the Faculty of Political Science at ATAFOM University, what motivated you to take on this academic role? What is your long-term vision for the faculty and its place in global education?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *I decided to take this academic role as a way of expending my rich experience in public policy and diplomatic service. I was further motivated in order to teach that politics without moral values is a danger to society. Greed and Corruption in politics is as a result of the absence of godly values.*

My long term vision is to grow the faculty of Political Science so that it becomes the breeding place of presidents.

ATAFOM Newsletter: How do you plan to translate your ideas on freedom and governance into the academic life of ATAFOM University? What does “freedom in practice” look like in a university setting?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Freedom is necessary for students to be able to innovate. To be creative in introducing new concepts of governance. The message of freedom will unleash a new vibrant and innovative generation of young people. Only a free people are capable of developing a nation.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: ATAFOM University champions global education with African relevance. How does that vision connect to your belief in “Education for Integration”?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *I am convinced that ATAFOM’S approach to education is compatible with my message of freedom. Africa must adopt her own relevant curriculum in order to bring development in Africa. Imported educational systems have not served Africa well. In my book, I have insisted that until we introduce home grown educational systems, freedom shall continue to be illusive.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: In what ways do you expect your book to influence curriculum development, research focus, or student mentorship at ATAFOM? Can *In Pursuit of Freedom* become a teaching tool for the next generation of political thinkers?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *My book IN PURSUIT FOR FREEDOM was written specifically to be used as a research tool. Its focus is to show why so many African countries are failing. To create a new path for African governments to become authentic.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Since its release, what kind of feedback have you received from readers and the international community? Have any reactions surprised or deeply resonated with you?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *The feedback in Zambia has been beyond my expectation. The book has inspired both the old and the young who believe that Africa must take its destiny in its own hands. The book has also highlighted that the current underdevelopment and poverty of most Africa is tied to a lack of morality and integrity in leadership.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: What legacy do you hope In Pursuit of Freedom will leave — both intellectually and practically — in shaping political thought and leadership?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *The book will reshape the political space in Zambia and Africa as a whole. It is a typical African story of an unassuming young man who went against all odds. From a village boy without shoes to the position of Vice President. The book speaks to the truth that. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Having spent decades in both ministry and politics, how do you see the relationship between faith, ethics, and governance today? Can moral conviction and political pragmatism truly coexist?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Moral Conviction and political pragmatism must coexist. A stable society needs an equal measure of all these values. Faith, ethics and governance must work together.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: What do you view as the major ethical challenges facing today's leaders, and how can they guard against them? Is the moral compass still relevant in modern politics?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Many african leaders join politics to satisfy greed and as a means to enrich themselves. This belief has drastically cut down on chances for servant leadership. Until we get men and women of faith in leadership, there will be no moral compass amongst political leaders.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: What daily habit or personal discipline has helped you stay grounded and effective in leadership over the years?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *My faith in God has been the solid foundation upon which I base all my political decisions and actions. I also study biographies of great political leaders of the past, like Zambia's first president Kenneth Kaunda, Nelson Mandela of South Africa and many others.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: You've earned recognition on the global stage. What do Africa's emerging leaders need to do differently to navigate and lead effectively in today's complex global landscape?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *African younger generation of leaders must faith have faith in themselves. They must never be carbon copies of neither the West or the East. They must have the freedom to evolve their own ideas. Only a free leader can lead effectively.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Freedom is both a personal pursuit and a societal ideal. How do you define freedom — and what do you see as the greatest threats to it today?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently. Poverty is the greatest threat to freedom. A poor man or a beggar cannot participate in an intelligent debate because he fears losing the hand outs.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: How has *In Pursuit of Freedom* been received internationally since its publication? Have you seen differences in how readers from various regions interpret its message?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Although I am the author, I have learnt so much from the feedback I have received from all over the world. It is clear that every society has a different interpretation of what true freedom means.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: What advice would you give ATAFOM students and aspiring political scientists who wish to make a meaningful, lasting impact in their societies?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *Political Scientists must be helped to understand that the greatness of a society does not only hinge on a strong economy but on faith based values of morality and integrity.*

ATAFOM Newsletter: Finally, what's next for you after this publication? Are there upcoming projects, initiatives, or goals you can share with our readers?

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba: *We have lined up several new publications meant to guide African nations on how to own and fully exploit their own resources, because this is the true meaning of freedom. Others will cover the dismantling of the current 'shape' of democracy and introduce a system of governance that unites and not divide our nations.*



EDITOR'S NOTE

Prof. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba's remarkable journey spanning faith, diplomacy, and public service embodies the ideals of integrity, courage, and transformative leadership. His reflections remind us that freedom is not a destination but a lifelong pursuit one that defines the measure of leadership in every generation.



THINK PIECE

SKILLS FOR TOMORROW – WHY SOFT SKILLS ARE BECOMING HARD SKILLS

In a world that is rapidly digitalizing, globalizing, and evolving, the skills required for professional success are changing fundamentally. While technical abilities “hard skills” once dominated job profiles, today so-called “soft skills” have become essential competencies for the global workforce.

In truth, these skills are no longer “soft” at all — they are the new hard skills of the future.

Digital workplaces, international teams, and AI-driven processes demand professionals who can communicate effectively, collaborate across cultures, adapt quickly, and think critically. Without these abilities, modern work environments simply cannot function.

Teamwork – The Foundation of Tomorrow’s Workplaces

Teamwork has always been valuable, but in the digital age, it has become indispensable:

- Project teams collaborate across continents.
- Meetings take place virtually.
- Assignments are completed through shared online platforms.
- Decision-making happens globally.

Strong team players can:

- communicate clearly,
- resolve conflicts constructively,
- share responsibility,
- achieve goals collaboratively.

Today's employers expect individuals not only to perform independently, but to succeed as part of multicultural, virtual teams.

Teamwork is now a strategic professional skill.

Intercultural Competence – A Key to Thriving in a Global World

People in almost every industry today work together across regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East.

Intercultural competence is no longer a “nice-to-have”—it is a global requirement.

It includes:

- understanding cultural differences,
- listening actively and respectfully,
- embracing diversity of thought,
- communicating across languages and cultures,
- showing openness toward new perspectives.

Students who learn to collaborate productively with people from different backgrounds become highly competitive in the global job market.

International online universities like ATAFOM create ideal conditions for this — multicultural interaction is part of the daily learning experience.



Digital Competence – The Core Skill of the 21st Century

Digital competence is now the foundation of nearly every profession.

It goes far beyond technical usage and involves:

- mastering digital platforms,
- communicating effectively online,
- managing information efficiently,
- problem-solving in digital environments,
- thinking critically and adaptively.

Digitally competent individuals can:

- work remotely,
- use virtual tools efficiently,
- adapt quickly to technological change,
- contribute effectively to digital teams.



Today, digital competence is not an extra skill it is the basic requirement for entering the modern workforce.

Why Soft Skills Are Becoming Hard Skills

Teamwork.

Intercultural competence.

Digital literacy.

These are not soft, optional, or secondary abilities anymore.

They are:

✔ **measurable**

✔ **expected**

✔ **essential**

✔ **career-defining**

Automation changes industries.

Artificial intelligence takes over routine tasks.

Globalization connects societies.

Digital platforms transform communication.

What remains are skills that are fundamentally human, relational, global, and collaborative.

This is why soft skills have already become the hard skills of tomorrow.

5. The Contribution of ATAFOM University International

ATAFOM University International, the mission “Education for Integration” creates the ideal environment for the development of tomorrow’s competencies.

Through:

- International virtual classrooms
- Multicultural student groups
- Interactive digital learning environments
- Project-based global teamwork
- A multilingual and inclusive campus
- Communication-centered teaching

ATAFOM students develop exactly the skills that define the future global workforce.

Under the visionary leadership of Şakir Yavuz, Founder and President,

the university fosters:

- ✓ **teamwork**
- ✓ **intercultural competence**
- ✓ **digital literacy**
- ✓ **communication skills**
- ✓ **global citizenship**

ATAFOM graduates are not only prepared for careers —

they are prepared for a global future.

INNOVATING WITH AI CODING THE FUTURE





EDUCATION FOR INTEGRATION



A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE TRENDS, TECHNOLOGIES, OPPORTUNITIES

Digital Education in 2030: How Online Universities Are Reshaping Global Learning

The digital transformation has profoundly changed the education system in recent years yet what we are experiencing today is only the beginning. By 2030, the global higher education landscape will have evolved more dramatically than in the past hundred years. Online universities will play a central role in this transformation: They make education more accessible, more modern, more global, and more inclusive.

Digital education is no longer just an alternative to traditional studies. It is a new, independent model of academic excellence that uniquely combines innovation, flexibility, and global connectivity.



Global Learning Mobility Without Borders

Whereas studying abroad once meant costly travel, relocation, and complex bureaucratic requirements, digital higher education will enable a completely new dimension of academic mobility by 2030:

- students learn from any location in the world,
- without geographic limitations,
- without financial barriers,
- without social obstacles.



Virtual mobility becomes the standard:

International students participate in global seminars, work in teams spanning three or four continents, and discover new cultures – all within digital learning environments.

Education thereby becomes broader, fairer, and significantly more accessible.

Artificial Intelligence as an Academic Partner

By 2030, AI will be an integral element of higher education.

Rather than solely automating, it will provide personalized support:

- AI tutors accompany students individually
- Adaptive learning platforms adjust to a learner's progress
- Predictive learning analytics identify learning challenges at an early stage
- AI-driven feedback systems enhance writing and communication skills



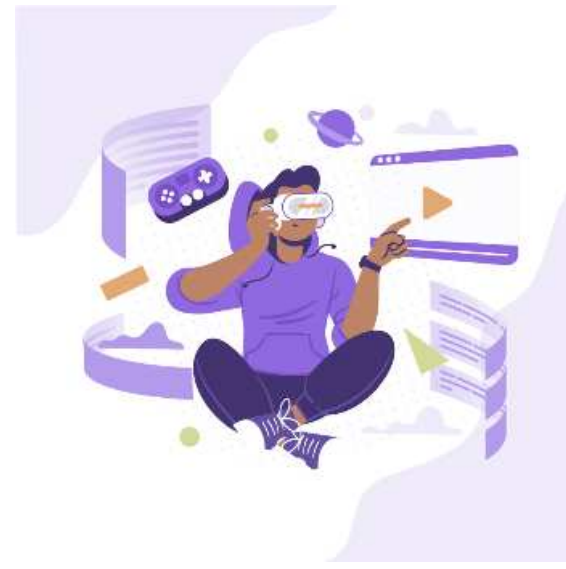
The role of faculty evolves:

Professors become mentors, coaches, and scholarly guides, while AI makes everyday learning more effective and individualized.

Mixed-Reality Campuses - Learning in Virtual Space

By 2030, immersive technologies will introduce entirely new educational formats:

- Virtual reality laboratories replace expensive physical labs
- Augmented reality enables interactive simulations
- Metaverse campuses create international learning spaces with true community experience



Students can:

- work together in virtual classrooms
- simulate scientific experiments
- present in 3D environments
- attend global conferences digitally

The digital campus becomes a space of genuine social interaction – limitless, diverse, and realistic.



Micro-Degrees & Modular Learning - The Future of Academic Qualifications

The labor market of the 2030s will require continuous learning.

Online universities respond with flexible structures:

- Micro Degrees
- Nano Certificates
- Modular Courses
- Upskilling & Reskilling Programs

Students combine modules according to individual goals like building blocks – and design their academic pathways autonomously.

This creates:

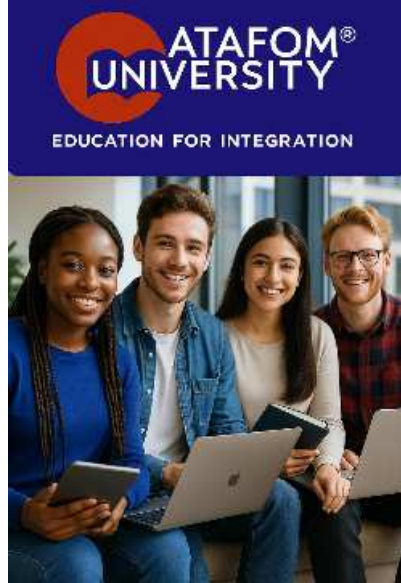
- ✓ improved employability
- ✓ lifelong learning routes
- ✓ rapid adaptation to new professional fields

Global Learning Communities as a Driver of Integration

The social dimension of digital education will be one of its greatest strengths in 2030.

Online universities will become international platforms of integration:

- students from different countries collaborate in mixed teams
- cultures and perspectives interact at eye level
- intercultural competence is practiced daily



Education becomes a tool of global understanding.

Digital learning creates a new sense of belonging beyond geographical, political, and cultural borders.

The Contribution of ATAFOM University International

ATAFOM University International is among the institutions already anticipating the education of tomorrow

With its vision “Education for Integration”, ATAFOM fulfills the core requirements of digital education for 2030 today:

- ✓ a fully digital, global campus
- ✓ students from all continents
- ✓ modern, interactive learning platforms
- ✓ intercultural and multilingual academic environment
- ✓ AI-supported learning
- ✓ mixed-team collaboration for global competencies
- ✓ flexible and accessible programs

Under the far-sighted leadership of Founder and President Şakir Yavuz,

ATAFOM sees itself as a driver of international integration, digital innovation, and equitable global education access.

ATAFOM is not merely a university of the present –
it is a model for the university of the future.

CONCLUSION

By 2030, digital education will not only complement but define higher education.
Online universities create:



FLEXIBLE AND FAIR LEARNING PATHWAYS



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES



INTERCULTURAL CONNECTION



GLOBAL ACCESS

They are key to an inclusive, international, and technologically advanced educational world.

*"The future of learning is digital.
The future is global.
And it begins now."*

EDUCATION FOR INTEGRATION





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Artificial Intelligence as a Strategic and Academic Partner of ATAFOM University International

By 2030, AI, especially integrative and adaptive AI, will be an integral part of the teaching and learning process at ATAFOM University International.

The use of AI takes place gradually, depending on the quality level achieved by the AI systems on the one hand and the application results in the training process on the other. The different requirements and results a) in the differentiated subject areas of university education

and b) in the field of language training must be taken into account.

Areas of application of AI in university education

a) Organisation, management and individualisation

- Efficient administrative processes: automation of registration, scheduling of lessons, performance evaluation according to Barcelona standards, as well as the provision of personalized certificates of completion. As AI maturity (from rule-based systems to self-learning AI models) increases, automation becomes more precise, flexible, and individualized.

- Step-by-step quality development:

- 1: Rule-based automation (e.g. automatic scheduling)
- 2: Machine learning for individual recommendations
- 3: Self-optimizing systems that create personalized offers based on big data and continuous learning.

b) Support for teachers

- Creation of teaching materials: AI-powered tools support the creation of presentations, learning materials and interactive elements. As AI quality progresses, these systems can independently adapt and expand teaching content.

- Communication and interaction: Availability of a chatbot that answers questions in real time, supports literature and source research, and offers exercises to consolidate the learning material.

- Performance diagnostics: AI-based analysis tools provide individual feedback and evaluations of the students' level of knowledge, which enables differentiation according to the individually achieved learning level.

c) Promotion of independent research and access to literature

- Support in accessing further sources, research databases and literature.
- Recommendation systems that are tailored to individual interests and learning progress.

2. Differentiated application in the teaching areas

The integration of AI in different disciplines (e.g. science, humanities, languages) requires differentiated approaches:

•Natural Sciences:

Simulations, virtual laboratories and predictive models to support complex experiments.

•Humanities:

Text analysis, speech recognition, and AI-powered translation to promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

•Language training:

Use of speech recognition software, AI-supported pronunciation trainers and adaptive language learning platforms that respond individually to the language level of the students achieved or targeted.

3. Step-by-step qualitative expansion of AI use

The evolution of AI usage takes place in phases based on the increasing capabilities of AI:

Quality	Characteristics	Examples	Technical aspects
Stage 1: Rule-based systems			
Automation of simple processes, fixed rules		Automated scheduling, standard feedback	Basic functionality, low adaptability
Stage 2: Machine Learning			
Adaptation to individual needs, automatic recommendations		Personalized learning paths, adaptive tests	Improvement of individualization, data analysis
Stage 3: Deep Learning / Self-Optimizing AI			
Independent development, complex interactions Intelligent tutoring systems, predictions of learning difficulties		High level of personalization proactive intervention	Integration into complex teaching and research processes

4. Specific aspects of language training

•Language support:

AI-powered speech recognition and synthesis enable realistic and interactive language practice.

•Cultural and contextual competence:

AI can recognize and support cultural nuances, which is essential for intercultural communication.

•Step-by-step integration:

• Initial level:

Simple speech recognition and correction functions.

• Advanced level:

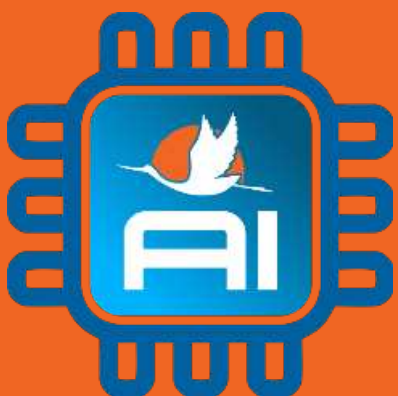
Adaptive feedback systems that analyze individual sources of error.

• High-quality AI:

Natural-sounding dialogue systems that simulate complex conversations and integrate cultural contexts.

5. Implications for teachers and students

- Teachers are increasingly supported by AI in lesson preparation, diagnosis and individual support.
- Students benefit from personalized learning paths, instant feedback, and improved interaction options.
- The continuous development of AI quality enables an increasingly independent and flexible design of the learning process.



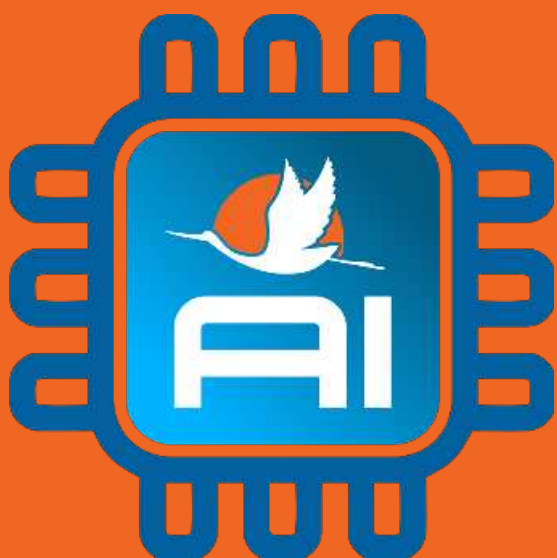
Conclusion:

The integration of artificial intelligence at ATAFOM University International takes place in a step-by-step process that is tailored to the respective technical, methodological and didactic requirements of the AI application area.

After each level of AI integration has been reached, it is important to examine in detail from the point of view of the learners and the teachers which parameters of AI use are to be varied with regard to

- Applicability
- Personal acceptance
- Content quality
- Ratio of effort / result for teachers
- Etc.

The differentiated use in the areas of university education and language training as well as the continuous qualitative expansion of AI systems will create an innovative, effective and inclusive learning environment that meets international standards and has a forward-looking effect.



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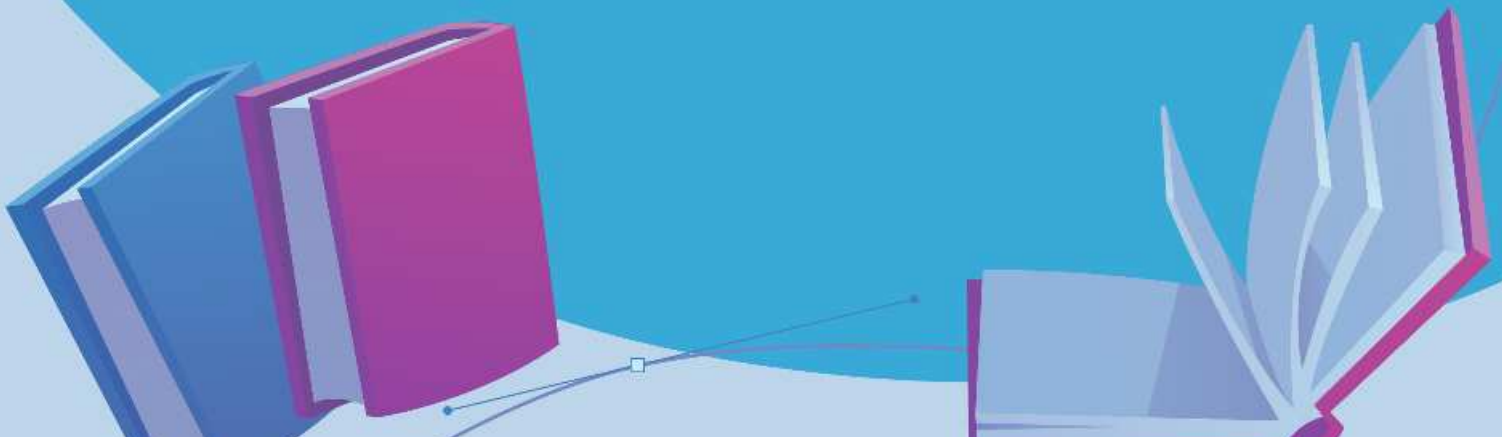
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