

TIGIST AWOKE

Technology Leader • AI & Data • Digital Transformation • Entrepreneur

Founder, Awoke Technologies LLC | AfICTA AI Dialogue Chair | Virginia, USA
tigist@awoketechnologies.com | awoketechnologies.com | smartdeal.property



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Technology leader and entrepreneur with 15+ years of experience across international development, enterprise data, AI, analytics, cloud transformation, and capacity building. Senior experience spans the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Combines hands-on technical depth with governance, strategy, stakeholder engagement, and institution-building. Brings a global perspective and a strong commitment to strengthening Africa's digital economy, responsible AI adoption, and private-sector technology leadership.

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder / AI & Data Engineer / Consultant | Awoke Technologies LLC 2024–Present

Leads development of AI- and data-driven products and advisory work, including SmartDeal, a distressed-property intelligence platform, and initiatives connecting digital innovation with business and development challenges.

AI Dialogue Chair | AfICTA Current

Supports dialogue on responsible AI, data governance, digital transformation, and stronger participation of African technology stakeholders in the global digital ecosystem.

Technical Lead / Lead Data Warehouse Engineer | International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2022–2024

Led enterprise data and analytics initiatives; contributed to AI readiness, GenAI adoption strategy, cloud readiness, semantic modeling, and executive reporting.

Data Engineer | World Bank Group 2019–2022

Delivered enterprise data engineering, cloud, analytics, and modernization solutions in a global development institution.

Senior IT Trainer / Senior Information Systems Officer | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) 2009–2016

Led technology training, information systems support, capacity building, and digital initiatives serving institutional and regional development objectives.

BOARD CONTRIBUTION

- Strategic perspective at the intersection of AI, data governance, entrepreneurship, and international development.
- Experience connecting public institutions, private-sector technology firms, policymakers, and global partners.
- Commitment to advancing African technology companies, digital capacity, responsible AI, and cross-border collaboration.

EDUCATION

- MIT Professional Certificate in AI & Machine Learning — 2023
- MBA, Information Systems — Sikkim Manipal University, 2012
- BSc, Computer Science — Addis Ababa University, 2005
- Associate Degree in Chemistry — 2026

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

- PRINCE2
- ITIL Foundation & Intermediate (RCV)
- Cisco CCNA
- GSMA Big Data Analytics & AI
- UNICDL / CTT+ Trainer
- Data Strategy
- GIS certifications (2)

RECOGNITION

- SCSP AI+ Expo 2025 — 2nd overall; 1st in Meta track
- aiXplain Hackathon 2024 — SmartDC, 3rd place
- Mason SBDC Startup Pitch — 3rd place

EB-1A APPROVAL

Approved U.S. EB-1A (Extraordinary Ability) self-petition, 2025. EB-1A is the first-preference U.S. immigrant classification for individuals who demonstrate extraordinary ability and sustained national or international recognition in their field. The petition does not require employer sponsorship.

CORE AREAS

- AI & Responsible AI
- Data & Analytics
- Data Governance
- Cloud & Enterprise Architecture
- Digital Transformation
- Technology Capacity Building
- International Development
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation