

Science, technology and innovation: By the youth, for the youth

Inviting all youth organisations and individuals involved in science, technology and innovation to participate in the first Youth in Science, Technology and Innovation Indaba.

The realization and achievement of South Africa's long-term prosperity as envisioned by the National Development Plan cannot be possible without active engagement, creating and enhancing capabilities and opportunities for and with its youth. The National Development Plan and the National Youth Policy 2015-2020 recognize the need to collectively define and devise a future wherein youth are active agents of socio-economic change. In accepting that science, technology and innovation (STI) is key for South Africa's prosperity and that her youth is the future, there is a need to strengthen the active engagement and inclusion of youth in STI. It is in this regard that you are invited to register to attend the Youth in Science and Innovation Indaba, 9-10 June 2017, Gauteng.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Indaba are as follows:

- Reflect on inclusion of youth across the national system of innovation: This aspect is important and will take into consideration youth inclusion and participation in key growth and development initiatives.
- Sharpen the contribution of STI in youth empowerment.
- Strengthen STI support systems and render them more responsive, accessible to all youth, in line with the principles of the 2015-2020 National Youth Policy.
- Strengthen youth networks and youth efforts to work together and increase recognition and investment in STI youth-led and youth-managed initiatives.
- To provide a platform for the youth to reflect on the progress made with regard to their inclusion across the STI system. On this basis, the youth shall be afforded an opportunity to propose tangible solutions in the use of STI to address their key challenges; advance townships and rural economies, reflect on Agenda 2063 and the 2015 Sustainable Development goals agenda and opportunities.
- Acquire input from the youth for developing an action plan to improve their participation in the advancement in the Science, Technology and Innovation

The Indaba will include a ministerial roundtable that will involve key youth formations, select industry leaders and the Ministry of Science and Technology on reflecting on achievements, gaps and recommendations for better inclusion and support to youth for the knowledge economy.

It is expected that this Indaba shall be attended by youth in STI Policy, Research and Development, Business, STEM education.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- A Youth in Science and Innovation declaration.
- A Youth in Science and Innovation action plan.
- A Youth in Science and Innovation Policy Brief.
- A database/directory on youth organizations working in STI.
- Social media to advance the STI dialogue with the youth.

To attend the Youth in Science and Innovation Indaba on 9-10 June 2017, you are advised to register at www.dst.gov.za

The registration will close by 22 May 2017. For more information, kindly contact Tiyani.Ngoveni@dst.gov.za