

South Africa and European Union - 10 years of fruitful partnership

23 November 2007

South Africa's Minister of Science and Technology Mosibudi Mangena and his European Union counterpart, Commissioner Janez Potocnik, celebrate 10 years of a successful partnership in science and technology.

All media are invited to attend.

Details of the event:

Date: Thursday, 29 November 2007

Venue: The Cape Milner Hotel, 2a Milner Road, Tamboerskloof, Cape Town

Time: 12h30

Minister Mangena will deliver a keynote address at a celebratory event to mark the 10th anniversary of an intergovernmental agreement on science and technology, between South Africa and the European Union. Signed in 1996, the Agreement on Science and Technology Co-operation afforded South African researchers the opportunity to participate fully in the EU's Framework Programmes for Research and Technology Development.

The partnership complemented the longstanding political, economic and development co-operation ties between the two. The European South Africa Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) is a specific support action implemented by the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) and funded by the European Commission (EC).

Through enhanced networking and partnering, scientists and institutions from the European Union and South Africa jointly explore through Framework Programmes (FPs) new and emerging scientific and technological areas and needs and cooperatively seek to resolve major global issues.

These include climate change, energy and HIV and AIDS, with the European Developing Country Clinical Trial Partnership Programme (EDCTP) African office based in Cape Town at the Medical Research Council (MRC). The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) represents South Africa in an international, multi-partner project, aimed at demonstrating that solar disinfection (SODIS) of drinking water is an effective, appropriate and acceptable intervention against waterborne diseases.

The project had been awarded R17,6 million research grant from the EU to benefit vulnerable communities in developing countries who normally do not have a reliable, safe water supply, as well as those communities exposed to natural or man-made disasters.

It is envisaged that the project, under the auspices of the EU Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), will make a contribution to reducing the number of fatal casualties, especially among sub-Saharan African children under the age of five, who fall victim to diarrhoeal diseases as a result of being exposed to contaminated water.

The Minister will also hand certificates to the South African National Contact Points. These are researchers who at a technical level advance the science and technology relationship, effectively translating the agreement into actual action.

Programme

12h15: Arrival of guests

12h30: Welcoming remarks: Dhesigen Naidoo, Deputy Director-General, Department of Science and Technology

Starter served

12h45 to 13h05: Keynote remarks by Minister Mosibudi Mangena; Commissioner Janez Potocnik (including exchange of letters of appreciation)

Main course served

13h35 to 13:45: Presentation "Review of Ten Years of South Africa – European Union Science and Technology Partnerships" – Mmboneni Muofhe, ESASTAP co-ordinator

Desert served

14h00: Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to South African Framework Programme National Contact Points

Coffee

14h20: Closing remarks by Dr Phil Mjwara, Director-General, Department of Science and Technology

RSVP:

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