

Harnessing research, development and innovation to grow the economy and tackle key challenges

Private Sector Forum

 13 March 2024

 08:30 – 14:30

 Zoom Webinar*

*This is a hybrid event

Why innovation matters, now

Across the world innovation is an essential ingredient of economic growth and sustainable development. Economies that facilitate and support innovation across society – in companies, government enterprises, universities and even households – are able to tackle complex problems, improve quality of life and spread prosperity. Using international methodologies stewarded by the OECD, South Africa's R&D and innovation rates can be measured and compared across sectors and with other countries.

The Human Sciences Research Council is mandated by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) to collect and analyse R&D and innovation survey data in a continuous cycle. Through rigorous analysis it provides evidence of trends, and detailed insights into the strengths and weaknesses of South Africa's national system of innovation.

This year the HSRC celebrates 20 years of measuring innovation and R&D in South Africa, and is releasing new RDI datasets informed by key development challenges. In marking this milestone and preparing for the future, we are collaborating with DSI and Business Unity South Africa to deepen our dialogue with the private sector and organised business leaders, as well as economists, skills development practitioners and innovation policy specialists, around evidence to implement policy goals.

Themes for discussion

- ▶ Research, development and innovation (RDI) expenditure and funding in the South African private sector today
- ▶ Characteristics of an enabling environment to expand private sector RDI investment
- ▶ Innovation dynamics in sub-sectors such as agriculture, energy, manufacturing and mining: opportunities and challenges
- ▶ Ramping up SA's competitive ecosystem, and building on pockets of excellence in both the public and private sectors

*Updates expected

08:30	REGISTRATION	
09:00	<p>Overview by Programme Director</p>	<p>► Kgomotso Matjila, Department of Science and Innovation</p>
09:15	<p>Welcome address</p> <p>► Innovation policy goals to grow the economy and tackle key challenges</p>	<p>► Department of Science and Innovation</p>
09:30–10:45	<p>PRESENTATIONS Setting the scene: RDI incentives and indicators</p> <p>► International RDI incentives</p> <p>► New evidence from recent surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D Survey, 2021/22 • Business Innovation Survey, 2019-21 • Agricultural Business Innovation Survey, 2019-21 • Innovation in the Informal Sector Survey 	<p>► Daan du Toit, Department of Science and Innovation</p> <p>► Dr Glenda Kruss, HSRC Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators</p>
10:45–11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00–12:00	<p>PANEL Innovation in key economic sectors: Opportunities and challenges</p> <p>► How business perceives the current environment for RDI in South Africa</p> <p>► Using RDI to address key priorities</p> <p>► Assessing SA's RDI incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Mining • Manufacturing • Agriculture 	<p>Chair: Cas Coovadia, CEO, Business Unity South Africa</p> <p>► Dr James Mackay, Energy Council</p> <p>► Sietse van der Woude, Minerals Council South Africa</p> <p>► Dr Malika Khodja-Möller, Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies & University of Pretoria (virtual)</p> <p>► Dr Ronald Heath, Forestry SA</p>
12:00–13:00	<p>PANEL Inclusion and sustainability: RDI sector collaboration to address SA's problems</p> <p>► RDI perspectives across sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour • Environment/Climate • Universities • Business • Venture Capital & Technology Transfer • Government 	<p>Chair: Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, CEO HSRC</p> <p>► Prof. Haroon Borhat, SALDRU/DPRU (virtual)</p> <p>► Dr Crispian Olver, Presidential Commission on Climate Change</p> <p>► Dr Phethiwe Matutu, Universities South Africa</p> <p>► Shameela Soobramoney, National Business Initiative</p> <p>► Ketso Gordhan, South African SME Fund</p> <p>► Department of Science and Innovation</p>
13:00–13:30	<p>Towards an agenda for indicators and practice</p> <p>► Summary of key agenda-setting opportunities by HSRC</p>	<p>Speaker: Dr Glenda Kruss</p>
13:30–14:30	LUNCH	

Speakers*

*By programme order



Kgomotso Matjila

Kgomotso Matjila is Chief Director: Science and Technology Investment at the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). In this role, she works on national R&D, business innovation, and IP and technology transfer surveys, as well as facilitates national, Africa-wide and global stakeholder engagement on STI measurement. She is also responsible for econometric modelling on behalf of the DSI, and was a lead chapter writer of the Science, Technology and Innovation Decadal Plan 2022-2032. She has also worked on financial stability analysis of the banking sector at the South African Reserve Bank, and was responsible for financial system econometric modelling.



Daan du Toit

Daan du Toit was appointed as Deputy Director-General responsible for the portfolio International Cooperation and Resources at the Department of Science and Innovation in 2014. Over the years Daan has had the privilege to contribute to multiple initiatives in support of a diverse and rich international partnership portfolio for South African science, technology and innovation. Daan has represented South Africa in diverse multilateral forums such as the OECD's Global Science Forum, the Group on Earth Observations and the BRICS partnership, as well as in various structures related to African regional and continental cooperation of the African Union and the South African Development Community. In addition to being a member of the Department of Science and Innovation's Executive, Daan currently chairs the Strategy and Business Development Committee of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) global radio telescope project.



Dr Glenda Kruss

Dr Glenda Kruss is the Executive Head of the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators at the Human Sciences Research Council. Over the past ten years, she has worked in the field of innovation studies, to understand the role of universities and public research institutes in economic and social development, and the determinants of skills and knowledge flows within sectoral, national and global systems of innovation. Her current research focus is oriented towards more contextually appropriate measures of STI for inclusive and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa. She has collaborated widely on comparative research projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, and has led large-scale projects for national government, building alliances and networks between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in South Africa. Glenda Kruss is an editor of the international peer-reviewed academic journal *Innovation and Development*.



Dr Cas Coovadia

Cas Coovadia was appointed CEO of Business Unity South Africa in April 2020 on retiring as Managing Director of The Banking Association SA (BASA), which he served for 15 years. He is chairperson of the National Business Initiative, a member of the Council of the University of the Witwatersrand and serves on several boards including the Centre for Development and Enterprise.



Dr James Mackay

As a multi-disciplined professional in both engineering and finance, James brings a broad range of skills and experience to his role as the CEO of South Africa's Energy Council. Previously head of Energy Strategy for PwC he has worked across various energy sectors, including power markets, natural gas and green hydrogen. James has worked across Africa and is experienced in both public and private sector. With over 20 years of experience in delivering large investment and transformation projects, James brings a wealth of knowledge and diversity to the task of developing a sustainable national energy transition pathway focused on ensuring a thriving energy sector, whilst creating shared value and prosperity for all South Africans.



Sietse van der Woude

Sietse van der Woude is Senior Executive: Modernisation and Safety at the Minerals Council South Africa, and is well-known for his extensive knowledge and passion for people-centered innovation and modernisation of the mining sector. Van der Woude holds an MSc in radiation physics and a Master's in business administration, where he focused on integrating sustainability issues into the strategy of businesses. His multi-year experience in the field also includes holding positions in various institutions such as the National Nuclear Regulator, where he was responsible for the establishment of a regulatory framework for radiation protection in mining. Van der Woude also held a managerial position at Xstrata and was responsible for safety, health, environment, and quality, and is a member of the newly appointed CSIR Future Production: Mining advisory panel, where is supporting the organisation in positioning itself as a leader in mining innovation and safety and maintaining a forward-facing approach in the mining industry.



Dr Malika Khodja-Möller

Dr Malika Khodja-Möller is the The Foschini Group (TFG) Research Head: Future of Manufacturing at TWIMS. She is responsible for guiding and developing the Institute's Future Manufacturing curriculum. In addition to this, she supervises MBA students and lectures on the "Future Manufacturing" GIBS Manufacturing Focus MBA elective and on TWIMS' executive short courses. Malika is a member of various industrial committees, including the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), for industrialisation through innovation activities and a member of the BRICS future skills group. Malika has been volunteering her time to promote and support women in additive manufacturing under the flagship of the international organisation "Women in 3D Printing" as the Africa chair. She has a background in mechanics of materials and numerical simulation, with a focus on Finite Element Analysis and fracture mechanics.



Dr Ronald Heath

Dr Ronald Heath is Director: Research and Protection for Forestry South Africa, the forestry sector industry association. He is a qualified forester and holds a Master's degree in Plant Pathology and a PhD degree in Genetics. He obtained experience in the public sector as the Forestry Science, Technology and Innovation Advisor in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Ronald is the current Chairperson of the National Forest Research Forum which he was instrumental in establishing more than 10 years ago.



Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa

Professor Sarah Mosoetsa is CEO of the South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council. She was instrumental in establishing and setting up the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) in 2013, and held the position of CEO at the Institute since 2014. She currently serves as the interim chairperson of the South African Think Tank (SABTT) and is a member of the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC). Mosoetsa holds a Doctorate in Sociology from the University of the Witwatersrand. She is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the same University and the author of several publications. She has worked for various organisations, including the Society, Work and Politics Institute (SWOP), the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). Mosoetsa sits on various Boards and Committees, inter alia, the National Minimum Wage Commission, the University of Venda Council, and the Advisory Board for the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.



Prof. Haroon Borhat

Haroon Borhat is a Professor of Economics at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and the Director of the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU). He obtained his PhD in Economics through Stellenbosch University, studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was a Cornell University research fellow. Professor Borhat is currently a member of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC), established in 2019 by President Ramaphosa to generate new ideas for economic growth and job creation in South Africa. Professor Borhat has been or is currently a member of numerous international committees and panels, including the Advisory Board of the UNDP's 2020 Human Development Report, and the World Bank's Advisory Board of the Commission on Global Poverty. He served as a board member for the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), and currently sits on the boards of the UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the International Economics Association (IEA). He is regularly consulted by Ratings Agencies, as well as local and international investors on both South African and African growth and market dynamics.



Dr Crispian Olver

Crispian is the Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), an independent multistakeholder advisory body established by the President of the Republic of South Africa. Crispian is a member of the Commission ex-officio and is responsible for running the Secretariat of the PCC and its various policy and research programmes. He has served in the South African government in various capacities, including as Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (1999 – 2005), in which position he crafted much of the climate policy and environmental legislation, as well as leading South Africa's hosting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002). Crispian is a medical doctor by training and holds BSc (Med) (1983), Psychology Honours (1984) and MBChB (1988) degrees from UCT. He is completing a PhD at Wits Politics Department, and is a research fellow at the Public Affairs Research Institute.



Dr Phethiwe Matutu

Dr Phethiwe Matutu is the CEO of Universities South Africa. She was previously the Group Executive: Strategy, Planning and Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF), where she was responsible for long-term strategy. Prior to her tenure at the NRF, Dr Matutu had been a Chief Director: Human Capital and Science Promotion in the former Department of Science and Technology (DST). Dr Matutu has served in various committees and structures including the Ministerial Task Team for the Drafting of the Implementation Plan for the White Paper on Post-School Education and Training in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). A mathematician by discipline, Dr Matutu's career was launched in academia, where for 16 years she focused her teaching on making Mathematics accessible, particularly to the previously marginalised groups. Her teaching career culminated in a senior lectureship in Rhodes University's Department of Mathematics in 2004, a position she held until 2008.



Shameela Soobramoney

Shameela Soobramoney is the CEO of the National Business Initiative (NBI), an independent coalition of the local and multinational businesses focusing on taking action to achieve social and environmental sustainability underpinned by good governance. She joined the NBI in 2023. She was previously the Chief Sustainability Officer of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (the JSE) – the largest stock exchange on the continent. As a sustainability specialist she has, inter alia, been a key contributor to the JSE's work into climate change, the potential for a local market to trade in carbon credits and environment-related products, the development of a Green, Social and Sustainability bonds framework, impact investing, the JSE's sustainability, innovation and CSI strategies as well as the annual sustainability investor briefing/showcase sessions. She has served as chair of the World Federation of Exchange's (global) Sustainability Working Group, a member of the Strategy Group of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance (GISD), and chair of the Sustainable Finance Working Group of the National Treasury of South Africa. She is the winner of the SERAS Africa CSR/Sustainability Professional 2021 and the IRMSA ESG Sustainability Professional 2020 awards.



Ketso Gordhan

Ketso Gordhan is the CEO of the SA SME Fund. He was Head of Private Equity at FirstRand for almost a decade; managing a personal impact investment portfolio with a focus on education in SA and Rwanda; serving as Africa advisor to the Omidyar Network; and Head of Africa for the Commonwealth Development Corporation where he led the Africa investment strategy for the UK government's development finance arm. In addition to this expertise, Gordhan was the first post-apartheid Director General in the Ministry of Transport; the City Manager for the City of Johannesburg during 1999-2000; and an advisor to the Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency in 2009-2010. In the latter role, he sought to develop and institute performance outcome metrics and targets for all government ministries. Gordhan has served on numerous private sector, foundation and non-profit boards of directors. He was an advisor to the World Bank Urban Sector on Municipal Restructuring, is an Aspen Global Leadership Fellow (a member of the Aspen Institute's African Leadership Initiative), and in 2000, was elected a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader for Tomorrow.