

# ENERGY POST-GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2013

The National Research Foundation, in collaboration with the Department Of Science and Technology is proud to invite you to the **Energy Post-Graduate Conference 2013 (EPC 2013)** which will be held at **iThemba LABS in Cape Town, South Africa during August.**

Already in 2004, the International Atomic Energy Association had identified three main issues for the nuclear industry worldwide, in terms of knowledge management and human resources development. These include:

- ***Retaining existing and create new skills and competences;***
- ***Supporting a revival of power plants in countries wishing to do so but whose workforce is ageing;***
- ***Developing specific skills for people already involved in the industrial workforce.***

The same challenges could be true for the renewable energy sector. In order to improve the competitiveness of the South African research community and to meet international expectations of quality in a knowledge-based economy, the need for an enhanced research base and an environment conducive for the development of young researchers/scientists for productive scientific research in the country has become even more pressing. Hence the Department of Science and Technology launched the Energy Human Capital Development and Knowledge Generation Programme (E-HCD&KG), utilising the modalities of the South African Nuclear Human Asset and Research Programme (SANHARP) which has proven to be very successful over the past seven years in sustaining a human capital development pipeline stretching from Grade 10 through to a PhD. This pipeline has been expanded to supply capable, qualified scientists, engineers and researchers for the energy sector in South Africa.

***However, the challenge is to increase the opportunity for these young people to do research and to find employment. It is therefore necessary to create a platform where these postgraduate students could find a match with potential research and employment opportunities by showcasing their research outputs.***

**EPC 2012** draws together Government, Private Sector, Academia and Research Agencies to:

- ***Showcase research work to create national and international exposure and enhance employment opportunities;***
- ***Create a networking platform for students and key players in the energy sector to share information and knowledge regarding challenges and resolution methods;***
- ***Create a learning platform for Grade 10 and 11 learners doing Maths and Science to create awareness about possible careers in the Energy Sector;***
- ***Raise awareness of the concept of applied research, its application and benefits to solve societal problems and challenges;***
- ***Create an enabling environment to enhance the opportunity for an increase in the number of collaboration efforts;***
- ***Create a platform for the involvement of researchers and academia in postgraduate initiatives rolled out by E-HCD&KG; and***
- ***Award and recognise excellence amongst the sponsored students.***

*Attached is a short video which shares more detail on structure and substance of EPC 2013 and expands on the value of participation for all stakeholders in the energy sector in South Africa, but also internationally.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JdMa5W0xas&feature=youtu.be>

**WE THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN EPC 2013.**

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