# ANSTT6 Workshop Report
# 18–22 May 2026
# NRF-iThemba LABS, Cape Town

The 6th Advanced Nuclear Science and Technology Techniques (ANSTT6) workshop was successfully held at NRF-iThemba LABS, Cape Town, from 18 to 22 May 2026. The workshop brought together researchers, students, and industry participants to share developments across a broad range of nuclear science and technology topics, including nuclear structure, radiation and health physics, environmental measurements, nuclear energy, experimental techniques and cosmic-ray physics. The programme combined keynote and invited talks, contributed presentations, and poster sessions, providing a comprehensive platform for scientific exchange and engagement.

## Participation and Attendance Overview

The workshop saw strong in-person participation, with over sixty attendees representing institutions from South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Japan. The hybrid afternoon lecture programme further extended participation, attracting over thirty online attendees from universities in Botswana, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania.

Ten bursaries were awarded to scientists, through abstract submission and selection by an international panel, to support early-career researchers and enhance regional participation. The bursary included attendance at the SAINTS satellite meeting and support including travel, payment of conference fee and of on-site accommodation and subsistence at iThemba LABS was gratefully received.

## Scientific Programme and Keynote Contributions

The scientific programme featured seven keynote speakers and eight invited speakers, alongside contributed talks and student poster presentations. The keynote speakers provided high-level insights into current developments and future directions in nuclear science and technology and contributed actively to discussions and training activities.

## Afternoon Lecture Programme (Hybrid Delivery)

A defining feature of ANSTT6 was the structured series of afternoon lectures delivered in a hybrid format. The lecture series was closely aligned with the workshop themes and facilitated in part by keynote and senior invited speakers. These tutorial-style sessions provided in-depth coverage of key topics such as Environmental Measurements, Nuclear Safety and Data Analysis and supported student training and capacity development.

Participant feedback included:

- “The afternoon lectures were extremely valuable—clear, accessible, and directly relevant to my research.”

- “Being able to join the lectures online made a huge difference, especially for students who could not attend in person.”

Networking and Collaboration Outcomes

Networking was supported through poster sessions, informal discussions, and social functions – such as a welcome function, a spitbraai and a visit to our sister unit at NRF- the African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town. Outcomes included strengthened collaborations, new partnerships, discussions on joint projects, and exploration of student exchange and co-supervision opportunities, as well as potential formal agreements.

Participant feedback included:

- “This workshop created real opportunities to connect with collaborators I would not normally meet.”

- “The poster sessions were excellent—there was genuine engagement and useful feedback.”

- “I leave with several concrete ideas for collaboration and follow-up work.”

Feedback Highlights

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the scientific quality, strong student engagement, effective hybrid format, and valuable networking opportunities.

For the first time, an international Masterclass in cosmic-ray physics was held featuring the analysis of data from the Pierre Auger Observatory. A total of 444 events were analysed by 21 young scientists during the session, and personalized certificates were provided to the participants.

Award Winning Presentations

Prize winners for the best poster presentation was Khumoetsile Jonas, North West University, and best oral presentation Enock Mwita (MSc) - University of Dar es Salaam and Miles Kidson (PhD) - UCT

Conclusion

ANSTT6 successfully achieved its objectives of promoting scientific exchange, strengthening regional capacity, and fostering collaboration. The combination of a strong scientific programme, hybrid lecture series, and networking opportunities ensured both depth and broad accessibility.