



# SCIENCE FORUM

## South Africa

8-9 December 2015, CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa

**South Africa will be hosting a Science Forum from 8-9 December 2015, in Pretoria.**

The science forum SA is inspired by events such as ESOF, AAAS and the Japan Agora, at which we have participated, and we look forward to working with each of the organisers.

The key objectives of the Event are to:

- To create a platform for a vibrant national debate on the role of science, technology and innovation and society in South Africa; as well as to strengthen South Africa's strategic international science, technology and innovation partnerships.
- To initiate the organisation of a series of events, which in due course could fulfil the role for public science debate in Africa, which the AAAS and ESOF events play in North America and Europe.

The event will create a platform for senior government leaders, academics, scientists, industry, civil society, students, etc. to interact.

The Science Forum is meant to spark a conversation on science.

The theme for the event is proposed as **Igniting conversations about science**

Offers an "enticing" conference programme comprising several parallel sessions, addressing a diverse range of science and science policy orientated themes;

A conference programme not only compiled "top-down" by the organisers but also enabling public input through a competitive call for proposals for the organisation of sessions; the call will open on the 1 July 2015 and will close on 31 July 2015; and

A strong international dimension to the event, reflected by the participation of speakers and attendees from a diverse range of countries.

Some of the exciting proposed sub-themes for the conference programme include:

- **Responding to societal challenges** (interrogating the socio-economic impact of STI);
- **Skills for the knowledge economy** (focusing on the importance of and challenges for STI-orientated human capital development);
- **Showcasing South Africa's best** (a platform for highlighting flagship South African science success stories, especially those related to international partnerships);
- **Science agenda for Africa** (a platform for discussing regional and continental partnerships to advance Africa's growth and development);
- **What does the scientist say** (interrogating the role of science in informing policy- and decision-making, including with regard to topics prominent in public debate); and
- **African eyes on the sky** (providing a public platform for discussion about various aspects of astronomy in Africa including the SKA project).

**We look forward to seeing you at the Science Forum South Africa**