

Dates

8 – 9 December 2016

Venue

CSIR International Conference Centre,
Pretoria, South Africa

Remote sites

“Science in the City” at shopping malls in various cities and towns

“Mirror Sites” – mirror events at national science centres

Registration (free)

1 August 2016 – 30 November 2016

Call for exhibitions

1 August 2016 – 2 September 2016

Coordinator

Francois Davel via email on francois@sfsa.co.za

More information

www.sfsa.co.za or email info@sfsa.co.za

We look forward to seeing
you at the SFSA2016

“I would like to thank you very much for receiving the delegation from the Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) on the occasion of the Science Forum South Africa. ... I am glad to report that the numerous visits undertaken during our stay in South Africa proved very successful ... I also take this opportunity to congratulate you once more on organising such a successful and useful event to bring institutions and actors active in science on the African continent together and to wish you all the very best for the coming year.”
Phillippe Gillet [Vice-président, Pour les Affaires académiques, Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)]

“I deem it my privilege at having been invited last week to attend the ‘Science Forum South Africa – Igniting Conversations about Science’, as well as the first ever ceremony on Science Diplomacy Awards instituted by your Ministry. Let me reiterate that these are not only the visionary initiatives taken by Your Excellency for the growth of the African nations but are also the symbols of hope for the entire developing community across the globe ... I sincerely believe that it has proved to be a ‘Think Tank’ where new ideas would transpire.”
Arun P. Kulshreshtha [Director-General, NAM S&T Centre (Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries)]

“We were happy to be part of the successful forum and participated in many of the plenary and parallel sessions. We were pleased to see many Fellows of our Academy participate in many sessions ... We greatly appreciate your thoughts and advice during your opening address and we carried home the ‘seven messages.’”
Prof Berhanu Abegaz, [Executive Director, The African Academy of Sciences]

SCIENCE FORUM South Africa



8 – 9 December 2016
Pretoria, South Africa

Eager to continue to Ignite Conversations about Science and to build on the success of the first Science Forum South Africa (held in December 2015) the South African Department of Science and Technology will be hosting the second Science Forum South Africa on 8 – 9 December 2016.

The Forum will again serve as a large, open, public platform for debating the science and society interface.

The 2016 Forum will have a specific focus on the social sciences and humanities, as well as the role of science in Africa’s development.

The Science Forum South Africa is inspired by events such as ESOF, AAAS, and the Japan Agora.

The event provides Africa with its second “open science” event, similar to forums convened with great success elsewhere in the world. The two-day programme brings together more than 1 500 participants for discussion and debate in plenary sessions, short seminars and individual lectures (labelled as “Science talks”). The SFSA also includes an exhibition and public outreach activities.

Key characteristics of the Science Forum South Africa 2016 (SFSA2016) will include:

A provocative and stimulating forum programme comprising several parallel sessions, addressing a diverse range of science and science policy orientated themes;

A rich diversity in the background of participants, comprising scientists, students, public and private sector representatives as well as civil society constituents;

A forum 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; and

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

Forum theme

Igniting Conversations about Science

Sessions themes

Shaping humanity

The focus will be on how social sciences shape our human experiences and behaviours to improve the quality for all human beings, and the world we live in, including a better understanding of what is required to uplift people in a sustainable manner.

Preparing people for the knowledge economy

The focus will be on the attitudes, education, experience, and abilities required individually and collectively to succeed in the knowledge economy, with a specific focus on achieving gender and racial balance in an optimal functioning system of innovation.

Open science and open innovation for Africa’s development

The focus will be on what the impact will be on Africa’s development if there was a concerted drive to intensify collaboration among all stakeholders in the scientific and innovation enterprise, including through the enhanced dissemination and sharing of research results to maximise impact.

Science transforming society

The focus will be on how science, technology and innovation is changing society, how is it contributing to the improvement of the quality

of living of all citizens and how we ensure ethical considerations are addressed and science-driven development is equitable and sustainable.

A better world

The focus will be on the sustainable solutions science, technology and innovation can provide to global challenges like poverty, inequality, inclusive development and a secure society, with an emphasis on the value of enhanced international collaboration in addressing these shared global challenges.

Innovation shaping the industry of tomorrow

The focus will be on how the exponential pace of progress in science, technology and innovation is disrupting every industry in every country and how the so-called “fourth industrial revolution” will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another.

The programme will include:

- Plenary key note speakers
- 2 Plenary high-level panel discussions
- 28 Parallel sessions (90 minute sessions for vibrant discussions)
- 24 Science talks (30 minutes sessions to engage the audience)
- Exhibitions
- Science-in-the-City (public engagement opportunities)
- Science centres (remote sites replicating the Forum)
- Associated events (events around the Forum leveraging the international gathering of various partners)