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45th NSTF PLENARY MEETING

*South Africa's participation and leadership role in the Science Sector of UNESCO
and
Recognition of Finalists – 2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards
recognising excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation*

**Friday, 6 June 2014 (note the Registration link further down...)
09h00 for 09h30-16h00
Emperors Palace, Convention Centre
64 Jones Road, Kempton Park, Johannesburg
(next to OR Tambo International Airport)**

UNESCO is known for its work in improving people's lives in developing countries and for addressing **international global challenges**. Where does South Africa stand in relation to UNESCO? SA as both a developed and a developing country, should be fully participating in collaborative UNESCO initiatives, and playing a leadership role where we can. So what is the current state of relations? To what extent is SA making productive use of opportunities for collaboration, and to what extent is it playing a leadership role?

The NSTF hereby invites members, as well as stakeholders and role players of the Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) community to join the discussions on Science, Engineering, Technology, and the Environment, in relation to UNESCO's international programmes.

This [45th NSTF Plenary meeting](#) is in support of the **SA Science Sector of UNESCO**, which decided that a session should be organised with all relevant stakeholders to present opportunities in relation to UNESCO. This meeting is just one high-level platform of many others that the [NSTF](#) hosts, which provides constructive interaction and discussion with government and stakeholders on key priority areas of concern to the SETI community. It is an open forum, not only to members, but to the community at large, providing engagement with government officials and key roleplayers on a senior level.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) chairs the Science Sector of UNESCO in South Africa. The Director General of DST, Dr Phil Mjwara, is also the current Chairman of the international Science Sector of UNESCO, and as such chaired the Science Sector sessions at the 37th UNESCO General Conference in Paris, in November 2013. This is the first time that an African Member State assumes the chairmanship/presidency of any UNESCO Commission. This reflects the confidence the world has in SA, as playing a leading role in global science policy matters. DST will present an overview of the work and role of the International Science Sector of UNESCO. View the [programme](#) for the list of topics that will be presented by experts at the Departments of Environmental and Water Affairs, working on UNESCO.

Yousuf Gabru is the Chair of the National Commission of UNESCO in South Africa. He will give his perspective on UNESCO and the involvement of South Africa. (See below for a brief profile of Mr Gabru)¹

South Africa placed Engineering on the international agenda for Science with UNESCO, and it was accepted at the previous General Conference. The programme is called the UNESCO Engineering Initiative (UEI) and is aimed at building engineering capacity in Africa. The first steps have been taken towards implementation.

The Science Sector of UNESCO includes environmental matters as well as water related matters. Thus delegates from the **Departments of Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs** participated at the General Conference, and will be presenting at this Plenary Meeting.

The five Commissions of UNESCO are: Education, Science, Culture, Communications, Social Development/Social & Human Sciences. The intergovernmental and international scientific programmes of the Science Commission are the following:

1. International Basic Science Programme (IBSP)
2. International Geosciences Programme (IGCP)
3. International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
4. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
5. Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
6. Management of Social Transformations (MOST)

Register online by no later than Monday, 2 June 2014. ***It is essential to book for this event!! Note the registration information below and RSVP now!***

Supporting Documents: Visit the NSTF web site www.nstf.org.za to download the supporting documents for the Plenary and the session with members, which is the AGM. (Non-members are also welcome to attend the AGM and learn more about the NSTF, as the umbrella and most prestigious body of SETI stakeholders.)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards Finalists and their nominator/s** = Attendance, refreshments and lunch are free of charge.

- **Member Organisations** = Attendance, refreshments and lunch are **free of charge** for **NSTF Member organisations** – see the list of member organisations at www.nstf.org.za or enquire from the NSTF office. There is no limit on the number of individuals from each member organization.
- **Non-Member Organisations** = Attendance is open for anyone interested **but** non-members are charged **R1,650.00 (excl VAT) registration fee** which includes attendance, workshop refreshments and lunch. **OR** non-member organisations are **invited** to become members at a nominal annual membership fee and then participate in NSTF events free of charge throughout the year. **Apply for membership online BEFORE the meeting date to attend as a member organisation!**

Please note that if you do not RSVP/Register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for changes or cancellations of programmes.

Other important NSTF business to respond to:

- **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards Gala Dinner**
Announcement of the [2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award](#) winners will take place at the prestigious Gala Event scheduled for **3 July 2014** in Gauteng. The event will be attended by the Minister of Science and Technology who is the Patron of the Awards. You are urged to celebrate our winners by making your [table or seat bookings](#). For more information, contact Makwena Ramaru on e-mail: enquiries@nstf.co.za or call (012) 841-2632/3987.
- **NSTF Programme for 2014**
Activities planned include
 - the [proSET Forum](#) focussing on **Energy for Transport – in search of sustainable modes for the future** – on 27 August, taking the [NSTF Energy discussion of 4 March](#) further, and
 - the annual [Science Councils Symposium](#) focussing on **Beneficiation of SA's Natural Resources**, on 17 September,
 - The second Members Plenary Meeting for the year takes place on 17 October, Gauteng. The topic for discussion will be announced later.
- **Share your organisation's bursary information – www.sciencebursaries.org.za – S.E.T. for life!**
Remember that you can post your bursary information on the [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#), a one-stop shop that provides prospective students with the information they need. [Click here](#) to download a brochure. Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za if you want to place an advertisement.

Kind regards,
Ms Jansie Niehaus (Executive Director) and the NSTF Team
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¹ Yousuf Gabru is a former Deputy speaker in the Western Cape legislature, and former MEC for Education in the WC. A former teacher and ANC education policy specialist, he has recently returned to teaching to give learners the benefit of his knowledge and extensive experience.