

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Training Course On Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy

**Pretoria, South Africa
28 November - 03 December, 2019**

Jointly organised by

Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), South Africa;

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

and

Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and
Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), India

INTRODUCTION

It is widely recognized that **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)** is a key instrument for economic empowerment and capacity building of a country. STI also plays an important role in protecting and expanding strategic interests. Science often becomes a necessity in improving relations between countries and creating linkages among various nations.

To meet development objectives, a country cannot be in isolation from other countries, and must manage its political differences with others and collaborate on matters of mutual interest, such as scientific research, technical cooperation, trade and commerce. Negotiations between countries many times face conflicts and controversies which can be sorted out by thoroughly understanding and discussing the merits and demerits of any proposed collaboration from a scientific angle. Cooperation therefore, plays a much stronger role than that of coercion, which plagued the international relations playing field during the world wars and cold war.

In the age of global knowledge economy, STI Diplomacy has become an important mechanism for South-South and North-South relations in pursuit of scientific collaboration, co-generation of knowledge; and usage of innovative technology for socio-economic benefits. This reality is a clear indication that there is a need for countries in the global south to deepen cooperation and enhance competitive and comparative advantages through Science and Technology (S&T). STI Diplomacy thus, plays a critical role as an enabler and driver of knowledge and technology led economic development across borders.

Experts in S&T can help the diplomatic community and facilitate negotiations on many issues with serious foreign policy implications. On the other hand, acquisition of S&T knowledge, resources and expertise from other influential countries might face enormous problems and bottlenecks; therefore, appropriate dialogue and cooperation are required to sort them out. Diplomats who may not otherwise fully understand the scientific and technological intricacies need help from the scientists in such a scenario.

In order to ensure that STI Diplomacy as well as Research and Development (R&D) contribute positively to foreign policy and vice versa, leading to strong global STI governance through the deployment of STI policy as a mechanism to resolve common developmental challenges, the **Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India** jointly with the **Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Pretoria, South Africa** announces the organization of an intensive **“Training Course on Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy”** in **Pretoria, South Africa** from **28 November to 03 December, 2019** i.e. just preceding the “Science Forum South Africa – 2019” scheduled to be organized by DSI from 04 December 2019.

TRAINING COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Training Course aims:

- To promote the understanding of the relationship between 'STI' and 'Diplomacy' in reference to contemporary global / foreign issues ;
- To explain rudimentary principles of International Relations (IRs) and clearly explain the role of STI diplomacy in international relations and foreign policy ;
- To understand the different proposition on defining STI Diplomacy among the proposed three dimensions of Science Diplomacy namely *Science & Technology in Diplomacy*, *Diplomacy for Science & Technology* and *Science & Technology for Diplomacy*;
- To provide practical measures to address the issues relating to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using STI Diplomacy as an international scientific cooperation tool and policy instrument ;
- To deliberate on the various aspects of STI Diplomacy, trends in global Science and Technology programmes and the growing role of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in STI;
- To build strong South-South cross border networks to foster the next generation of STI diplomats in the global south wherein they will share and disseminate information on STI issues impacting their countries.

TRAINING COURSE CONTENT

The Training Course will deliberate on the following topics:

- South-South Cooperation (SSC) through STI Diplomacy
- The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and STI diplomacy: Disruptive innovation, internet of things (IoT), digital diplomacy, cyber security, big data, artificial intelligence, etc.
- Sustainable Development and achievement of 'Sustainable Development Goals 2030' through the application of 'Science, Technology & Innovation Diplomacy'
- International security - peaceful use of nuclear energy and space science and technology, cyber security, etc.
- Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), related trade issues, tech entrepreneurship and innovators
- Trilateral cooperation or mega science initiatives to be explored by SSC
- Diversification of funding models leading into 4IR
- Mapping of STI Diplomacy strategies already established by other countries

MODES OF DELIVERY

Expert lectures, Case studies and simulation exercises, Group discussions and field visits, Presentation of country status papers by participants.

DATE WISE PROGRAMME

The Training Course will be held from 28 November to 03 December 2019 which will be followed by Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) 2019 scheduled to be organized from 04 to 06 December 2019. A tentative programme of the event is given below:

DATE	TRAINING COURSE SCHEDULE	
Wednesday, 27 th November 2019	Arrival of Delegates	
Thursday, 28 th November 2019	Official Inauguration and Ice Breaking Session	Training Sessions - I
Friday, 29 th November 2019	Training Session - II	
Saturday, 30 th November 2019	Training Session - III	Training Session - IV
Sunday, 01 st December 2019	Day excursion, Maropeng and Sterkfontein Caves	
Monday, 02 nd December 2019	Training Session V	
Tuesday, 03 rd December 2019	Training Session - V (contd.)	Concluding Session, dinner and certificate handing
Wednesday, 04– Friday, 06 December 2019	SFSA 2019	

A detailed session-wise schedule with names of the trainers/ speakers will be made available before the event.

VENUE

The Training Course would be organized at St George Hotel and Conference Centre, Pretoria, South Africa.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

NAM S&T CENTRE

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; www.namstct.org) is an inter-governmental organisation with a membership of 47 countries spread over Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set up in 1989 in New Delhi, India. It undertakes a variety of programmes, including organisation of workshops, symposiums and training courses and implementation of collaborative projects. It also offers short-term *Research Fellowships* to scientists from developing countries in association with the Centres of Excellence in various countries. The Centre also brings out technical books and other scientific publications in different subjects of interest to developing countries. The Centre's activities provide opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interactions; familiarizing participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas; identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance; locating technologies for transfer between the members and other developing countries, and dissemination of S&T information etc. In addition, the Centre encourages Academic-R&D-Industry interactions in the developing countries through its NAM S&T-Industry Network.

DSI, SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Science and Innovation seeks to boost socio-economic development in South Africa through research and innovation. To achieve its goals, the Department provides leadership, an enabling environment and resources for science, technology and innovation in support of South Africa's development. Through its Programmes (Administration; Technology Innovation; International Cooperation and Resources; Research Development and Support; and Socio-economic Innovation Partnerships) and several entities that work alongside it, the Department is accomplishing groundbreaking science and enhancing the well-being of all South Africans.

ASSAf

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) aspires to be the apex organisation for science and scholarship in South Africa, recognised and connected both nationally and internationally. Through its membership, which represents the collective voice of the most active scholars in all fields of scholarly enquiry, ASSAf aims to generate evidence-based solutions to national problems. The mission of the Academy is to: recognise scholarly achievement and excellence in the application of scientific thinking for the benefit of society; mobilise members to ensure that they are available to contribute their expertise in the service of society; conduct systematic and evidence-based studies on issues of national importance, producing authoritative reports that have a significant impact on policy-making; promote the development of an indigenous system of South African research publications, increasing their quality, visibility, accessibility and impact; publish science-focused periodicals that will showcase the best of southern African research to a wide national and international audience; develop productive partnerships with national, regional and international organisations with a view to building its capacity in science and its application within the National System of Innovation (NSI); create diversified sources of funding for sustainable functioning and growth of a national academy; and communicate effectively with relevant stakeholders through various media and fora.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The Training Course is designed for scientists & technologists in developing countries working in international policy-making arena; S&T professionals and officials engaged in management of science and technology; policymakers; diplomats; international relations experts/officers in research institutions; representatives from non-governmental organizations and other sectors working at science-diplomacy interface.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The resource persons for the Training Course will comprise eminent experts and professionals in the relevant fields from South Africa and other countries.

CERTIFICATION

Certificates will be awarded to participants upon successful completion of the course.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Experts, researchers and officials desirous of participating in the Training Course are required to submit their nomination form **on the google form platform** by **10 October, 2019**.

LOCAL HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL

Local hospitality in Pretoria, South Africa including the accommodation, meals and local transport will be provided by the hosts, DSI from **27 November 2019 to 04 December 2019**.

SECRETARIAT AND ENQUIRIES

NAM S&T Centre

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