



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

March has been a busy month for the NSTF, with two discussion forums taking place, on 18 and 19 March respectively (see news items below). As most of you are aware, one of the key strategic objectives of the NSTF is to influence and catalyse quality delivery of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) policies. NSTF discussion forums aim to provide engagement with government officials and key role players at a senior level, and provide a platform for constructive interaction. Thank you to those who made the time to attend these forums and contributed to our efforts to promote and stimulate discussion on important issues. If you were not able to join us for the discussions, please access the [individual presentations](#), as well as the YouTube videos on the Discussion Forum page of the NSTF website and comment online or send us your comments at enquiries@nstf.co.za.

[Discussion Forum on Nuclear Power, Alternative Energy Sources & the SA Policy Environment: Pretoria, 18 March 2015](#)

The abovementioned discussion forum with the Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prof Robin Grimes, was held with over 40 stakeholders and role players present. If you missed the live discussion, you can listen to the recorded presentation and discussions

[Click here](#) for YouTube videos. Send your comments to enquiries@nstf.co.za

[Discussion Forum on Ethics and Professional Integrity in Science, Engineering & Technology: Gauteng, 19 March 2015](#)

The abovementioned discussion forum, attended by over 50 delegates, shed some light on the following issues:

- *What do ethics have to do with science?*
- *Do our engineers and other professionals have enough professional integrity to avoid disastrous consequences?*
- *Are the following effective? Codes of conduct or ethics; ethics committees and councils; professional associations; training of students; efforts to raise awareness.*

[Click here](#) to view the presentations and watch the YouTube videos and snippets of the talks of the day.

Send your comments to enquiries@nstf.co.za

[2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards](#)
Today's research... tomorrow's innovation

Issue: April 2015



Jansie Niehaus

SETI Policy news

Upcoming SETI events

Community News

Share your organisation's bursary information -
www.sciencebursaries.org.za - S.E.T. for life!

The [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#) allows bursary providers to register and upload the bursaries they are offering, with total control over their bursary information. The site also provides career guidance in SETI-related fields, and regularly profiles young SETI achievers, as well as accomplished senior role models in the field.

Do let us know if you are planning a youth outreach event; we will be more than happy to arrange for one of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners to be present at your event.

Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information.

Nominations closed on 6 March 2015; we are very excited about the 25% increase in participation from last year! Watch out for:

- announcement of the nominees during April 2015 through the NSTF eNewsletter
- announcement of the finalists during May 2015 through the NSTF eNewsletter
- acknowledgement of the finalists during the prestigious Awards Gala Dinner, 9 July 2015 in Gauteng
- announcement and celebration of the winners at the prestigious Awards Gala Dinner with the Patron, the Minister of Science and Technology, on 9 July 2015.
- Coverage of the Awards nationwide through the official media partners namely; Business Report (carried by Pretoria News, The Star, Cape Times and The Mercury) and Mail&Guardian newspapers, the latter includes online profiling, on Friday, 10 July 2015.
- launch of the next round of activities of the NSTF Awards Share 'n Dare programme with the new winners.

[2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards winners](#)

Outstanding contributions to scientific research, technological innovation, management, education, capacity building and science communication were announced in July 2014, at the 16th Annual NSTF Awards Gala Dinner, celebrated in partnership with BHP Billiton since 2011. We are introducing each of the twelve winners to our readers through a series of articles. This month we feature [Professor Donald Cowan](#) (Director: Genomics Research Institute and Director: Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics, University of Pretoria). He won the award for an outstanding contribution to SET through research capacity development over the last 5 to 10 years (sponsored by Eskom). Prof Cowan's research has contributed to the understanding of the diversity and function of micro-organisms in various environments.

Latest activities: NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards [Share 'n Dare outreach programme](#)

This programme profiles NSTF-BHP Billiton award winners as ambassadors and role models of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI). Knowledge-transfer activities aim to clarify the award winners' fields of expertise and highlight career opportunities among students and high-school learners. Other objectives include enhancing public understanding and the knowledge of communities, and participation in campus and community radio talk shows. In March, Prof Jannie Maree of the Water Treatment Group at Tshwane University of Technology and Rand Water Chair in Water Utilisation, spoke to Gauteng learners about water utilisation as a research topic. Prof Arnaud Malan of the University of Cape Town's Department of Mechanical Engineering addressed learners on the development of multi-physics Computational Fluid Dynamics technology for industry. [Click here](#) to read more about these activities.

Organisations are invited to join hands with the NSTF and broaden the reach of the programme by inviting award winners (through the NSTF Office) to relevant outreach programmes. Contact Ms Fulufhelo Gelebe (+27 12 841-3987 or enquiries@nstf.co.za) to make the necessary arrangements.

Remember to share your organisation's bursary information and reach out to SA's youth – www.sciencebursaries.org.za – S.E.T. for life! We also encourage you to refer learners and students to

this portal for career guidance and to be inspired by stories of role models and the experiences of young talent in the field. Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information or to request posting of your bursary information.

SETI Policy News

- [Policy Brief 2/2015: Medical Innovation Bill](#)
The Bill, tabled by the late Inkatha Freedom Party MP Mario Ambrosini in Parliament in February 2014, aims to make provision for innovation in medical treatment and to legalise the use of cannabinoids for medical purposes and beneficial commercial and industrial uses. We provide background to recent developments and useful links to related media reports.
- [SA, Sudan announce joint R&D initiative](#) (*it-online.co.za*)
- [Government commits R18bn to water-infrastructure upgrades in 2015](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Nominations open for National Planning Commission](#) (*closing date: 10 April*)
- [Greenpeace takes Energy Minister to court to enforce update of SA's nuclear liability regulations](#) (*Engineering News*)



Upcoming SETI events

- Eding! International Science Festival (**supported by the Department of Science and Technology/SAASTA**): 20-24 April 2015 at Polokwane Showgrounds and 21-24 July 2015 at North-West University, Mafikeng Campus. Contact Bushy Moabelo at 081 333 4930 for more information.
- [CTBT: Science and Technology 2015 Conference: Vienna, Austria, 22-26 June 2015](#)
- [Manufacturing Indaba: Ekurhuleni, 29-30 June 2015](#)
- [Power-Gen Africa 2015: Cape Town, 15-17 July 2015](#)
- [Geomatics Indaba 2015: Ekurhuleni, 11-13 August 2015](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)



Send us your news

The NSTF invites you to send us information on news, meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SETI community. The deadline for all items is the 20th of every month, for publication in the NSTF eNews that is distributed at the end of the month. Send your contributions to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Community News

Science

- [First-of-its-kind CSIR study sheds light on SA's water quality](#) (*CSIR*)
- [Necsa expands range of radiopharmaceuticals to fight cancer](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Agribusiness CEOs recognise impact of global megatrends across Africa](#) (*cbn.co.za*)
- [Enhancing biopharming for an emerging bioeconomy](#) (*CSIR*)
- [Cape Town mulls feasibility of desalination plant](#) (*BD Live*)
- [World's largest radio telescope nears construction](#) (*skatelescope.org*)
- [SA radar sector marks major milestone](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SKA will drive growth of Africa's human capital](#) (*SouthAfrica.info*)
- [Eskom's woes will not affect SA's SKA efforts - Pandor](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [SA hosts International Conference on Particle Induced X-Ray Emission \(PIXE\)](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)



Innovation

- [Mind the gap: Tackling mismatches to fuel SA's innovative potential](#) (*Africanbrains.net*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Green building on Africa city development agenda](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Public opinion key factor for nuclear industry](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Shell pulling back from shale in SA](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [New study forecasts doubling of renewables capacity by 2025](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Nersa to finalise rules for connecting small-scale solar to grid](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [UN calls on Africa to introduce eco-taxes](#) (*tax-news.com*)
- [Report forecasts dominant role for gas in Africa's power mix](#) (*Engineering News*)

Higher Education

- [SA as continental PhD hub?](#) (*University World News*)

What do you [think of this newsletter](#)?

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SETI role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. We require one month's notice to communicate your news to all stakeholders on our database, and publish it in our newsletter. Contact Wilna Eksteen (details below) for more information.

Disclaimer:

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary. Contact details submitted by individuals for subscription purposes will be treated confidentially.

The **National Science and Technology Forum** (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SETI organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI.

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - SET for life! This exciting web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for learners and students who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences, engineering or technology.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

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For more information, contact the NSTF Secretariat at:

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.co.za

Tel: 27 12 841 3987

Fax: 27 12 841 3025

Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08

NPO registration nr. 92042

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