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e-skills news

Contents

NATIONAL E-SKILLS SUMMIT & KNOWLEDGE FOR INNOVATION COLLOQUIUM 2018
13 - 15 March 2018
Emnotweni Sun Casino | Mbombela | Mpumalanga

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NEMISA intends to benefit the total SA population by harnessing ICT for equitable prosperity and global competitiveness. It leads in the creation of key e-skills development strategies, solutions and practices within SA.

It is a national catalyst, collaborator, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA – within the context of national goals and within a worldwide evolving information and knowledge-based environment.

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13-15 March 2018
National e-Skills Summit 2018 & Research Colloquium

Digital industrial revolution – for building a resilient digital future

NEMISA, with the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) will be hosting the National e-Skills Summit 2018.

When? The National e-Skills Summit 2018 will run from 14-15 March 2018. As part of the event, there is also a research colloquium on 13 March 2018.

Where? Emnotweni Casino Conference Centre, Mbombela, Mpumalanga.

Overall objective?
* To evaluate progress made in e-skills
* Take stock of all the lessons learned
* Align current initiatives and identify gaps to impact the South African national strategic developmental goals, including the National Integrated ICT Policy and WEF-SA Internet for All
* Develop an updated action plan for the next 24 months

There will be plenary sessions as well as separate tracks. The event will include an exhibition. **This is an important platform to increase awareness of the current practices and development of e-skills capacity in South Africa,**

across the African continent and BRICS. (BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.)

? **What is an e-skill (digital skills)?** An e-skill is more than knowing the basics of how to use a computer (computer literacy). **An e-skill means being able to use technology effectively to add benefit to your life – to actively take part in the world and move ahead.**

About the Digital Re-imagination research colloquium?
The research colloquium is on 13 March 2018. Called 'Digital Re-imagination Colloquium 2018', the research colloquium aims to bring together e-skills practitioners, academics and other stakeholders under the umbrella theme of 'Preparing South Africa for a Digital Future through e-Skills'. Following are examples of the themes to be covered:
* Digital re-imagination
* e-Skills
* Job creation
* Human capacity development
* Economic recovery
* Transformation

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Article continued: 13-15 March 2018, National e-Skills Summit 2018 & Research Colloquium

For further information included in the Call for Papers, go to www.nemisa.co.za/k4i-research.

Part of NEMISA's mandate is to establish an innovative research network focusing on e-skills, with links to public and private university networks locally and internationally. The aim of the network is to provide evidence for decisions on how to innovatively address the opportunities and systemic challenges in achieving e-skills capacity in South Africa. The research colloquium will officially launch the NEMISA Knowledge for Innovation (K4I) initiative.

About NEMISA
NEMISA uses an internationally-recognised South African coordinating platform for addressing the lack of e-skills that limit the deep rural, rural and peri-urban communities. It engages government, education, business, and civil society. It is a national catalytic collaborator for developing capacity in the nation, thus fostering:
- Employment readiness
- Effective e-governance and service delivery
- Business development
- Socio-economic development
- Citizen participation
- Research and innovation

NEMISA has a mandate to develop capacity in South Africa. This is to ensure that South Africans have the necessary e-skills (including broadcasting) to participate in a digital economy that is driven by rapidly-advancing technologies. ☑

NATIONAL E-SKILLS SUMMIT 2018

Who should participate?
- High-level government representation from the leading national departments
- International and national stakeholders with an interest and experience in skills development in Africa
- Higher education institutions, open and distance education institutions, technical education providers and traditional education providers
- African and international researchers in the broad area of e-skills, particularly e-skills for development, participation, social engagement, job creation, and related socio-economic matters
- Representation from business, particularly those with a specific interest in e-skills and capacity development in Africa
- Regional organisations affiliated to the ICT sector
- International institutions that have an interest in developing capacity in emerging markets
- Civil society representatives engaged with developmental programmes
- Government representation of partnering countries

Mpumalanga
TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY

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e-skills interventions   ## Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable e-skills solutions

Eastern Cape partnerships with TVET Colleges to roll-out e-literacy training in rural communities
KZN training with Stats SA in quality assessment framework

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) position partnerships as key to reaching the 17 goals. Across the world, it is recognised that challenges need to be met together if there is going to be real and sustained effect.

South Africa has recognised this and, through NEMISA, has developed a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform that operates across the country. It allows stakeholders to engage with e-skills interventions of mutual benefit – at a national, provincial or local level. (An e-skill is also called a digital skill.)

NEMISA collaborates with relevant organisations around e-skills interventions to maximise the impact, avoid duplication, fill gaps, and maximise the use of infrastructure and resources. (This involves e-skills interventions originating from NEMISA or from partners.) Collaborating with stakeholders also allows for alignment to national priorities and high-level government engagement.

Eastern Cape partnerships with TVET Colleges to roll-out e-literacy training in rural communities

South African TVET colleges have an important role to play on many fronts. (TVET stands for Technical Vocational Education and Training.)

In 2017, then-Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande's budget speech vote noted that there is need "to build a vibrant TVET college sector capable of absorbing millions of unemployed youth and providing much-needed skills to the economy". The importance of TVET colleges is also highlighted in the National Development Plan around addressing skills shortages.

Beyond helping with technical skills shortages and youth unemployment, TVET colleges can also work as a stop-gap between school and other post-school education. The challenge around youth unemployment is enormous. According to Statistics South Africa, "In Q1: 2017, 32,4% of youth aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET)."

NEMISA and the provincial e-skills CoLabs have recognised the

> **About TVET colleges**
> As per www.tvetcolleges.co.za, TVET "courses are vocational or occupational by nature meaning that the student receives education and training with a view towards a specific range of jobs, employment or entrepreneurial possibilities".

importance of TVET colleges. These institutions are essential in the rollout of e-skills across the country.

Rollout partnership with King Sabatha Dalindyebo (KSD) TVET College: KSD TVET College has 7 campuses in the OR Tambo District Municipality. The municipality is a designated broadband pilot district in the Eastern Cape. The ICT for Rural Development CoLab, based at Walter Sisulu University, is in the Eastern Cape.

About the initial partnership: The CoLab and the TVET college entered into an initial agreement for the college to run a pilot roll-out of the eSkills4All e-literacy course. This was at their Mthatha campus and for community members on a part-time basis. A number of college staff were trained as course facilitators and the pilot was successfully completed with the 100% pass of 20 unemployed youth (engineering students). Of the 20 learners, 18 were female. The college expressed its satisfaction with the programme and outcomes.

Additional agreement to rollout further e-literacy courses: Subsequently, the CoLab and KSD TVET College signed an additional agreement to rollout

First group of e-literacy training with unemployed youth in the KSD municipal district for the 2017/2018 financial year.

Article continued: Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable e-skills solutions

the course for another 3 groups of 20 learners, all in Mthatha. This is being done in the 2017/2018 financial year.

First group of training with unemployed youth: The first of the new groups were drawn by the college from databases of unemployed students and youth in the KSD municipal district. The training commenced in October and December 2017. All 20 successfully completed the assessment – 13 of these 20 learners were female.

Ongoing training: Training of the second group is now in progress. Going forward into 2018/2019, the plan is to train up more of the KSD TVET College facilitators and to rollout the course for community members (particularly unemployed youth and females) at their other campuses with computer labs.

Developing tools for e-literacy rollout: This partnership between the Eastern Cape CoLab and KSD TVET is an example of the multi-stakeholder collaboration which is essential for NEMISA to steer the nation towards achieving the goals of NDP to have an e-literate society by 2030.

Says Ms Lorna van der Merwe, CoLab Coordinator, "The dedication and commitment of the KSD TVET College to this project, under the coordination of the Business Skills Manager, Mr Sonwabiso Ngwadla, is sincerely appreciated. We have learned valuable lessons and are now in a strong position to invite the other TVET colleges in the province to participate – as we can demonstrate the success at KSD in Mthatha."

Benefits to TVET Colleges: Ms van der Merwe adds, "We believe that the TVET Colleges will play a crucial role in helping the CoLab to bring the digital skills revolution to our rural communities. The partnership is also of benefit to the TVET colleges because, for example, it increases their visibility in communities by attracting learners. By capacitating former graduates and unemployed youth with digital skills, together we can stimulate local economic development for local municipalities and SMMEs and also enable increased placement of young people in learnerships and other work integrated learning programmes."

KZN training with Stats SA in quality assessment framework

The e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab and Durban University of Technology (DUT) has developed a partnership with Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). This focuses on developing statistics knowledge and the use of statistics tools. It is about embedding technology into people's lives. The CoLab is based at DUT in KZN.

Delegates at the 'Stats SA: South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF) training'.

This partnership is an example of how participants in the NEMISA multi-stakeholder collaborative platform can use the platform as a channel to access targeted audiences.

Aim of the course: 'Stats SA: South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF) training' shows how SASQAF provides a flexible structure for assessing statistical products and enabling official certification of statistics.

Dates: The full-day course ran from 16-17 January 2018 at DUT.

Delegates: These included academics and government officials. The training was facilitated by Stats SA.

Course content: The delegates were exposed to the framework (which abides by international standards in order to successfully publish credible statistics). This training included exercises. Topics included the importance of:
- Data credibility and integrity
- Accessibility
- Coherence
- Timelines
- Interpretability
- Methodological soundness

Certification: Delegates received a Certificate of Attendance in the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework. ☑
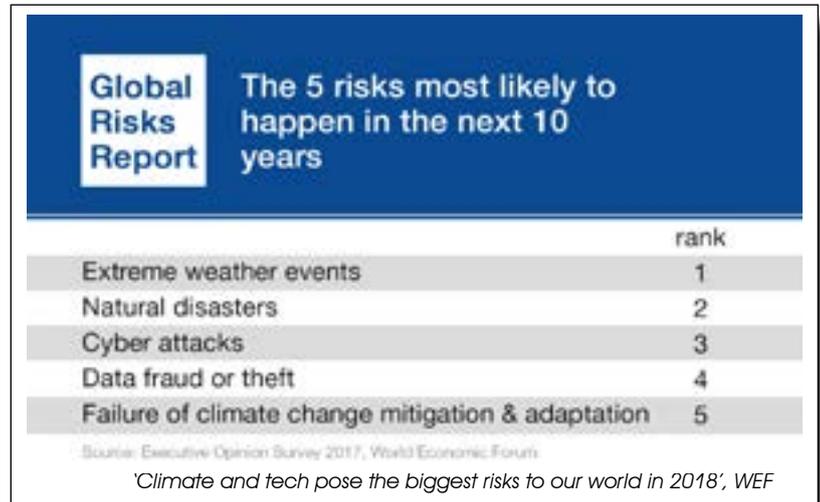
e-skills training

Engaging thought leaders on cyber security

Cyber security training for Eastern Cape ICT thought leaders in the public sector

In the annual World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Global Risks Report 2018', cyber security is ranked number 3 in 'The 5 risks most likely to happen in the next 10 years'.

ITWeb reports that according "to the annual Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS), cyber threats are growing in prominence, with large-scale cyber attacks now ranked third in terms of likelihood, while rising cyber dependency is ranked as the second most significant driver shaping the global risks landscape over the next 10 years."

One doesn't have to read the WEF report to know the importance of cyber security. Cyber attacks have risen dramatically. General news reported on two massive cyber attacks in 2017 – both costing

Global Risks Report	The 5 risks most likely to happen in the next 10 years	
		rank
Extreme weather events		1
Natural disasters		2
Cyber attacks		3
Data fraud or theft		4
Failure of climate change mitigation & adaptation		5

Source: Executive Opinion Survey 2017, World Economic Forum

'Climate and tech pose the biggest risks to our world in 2018', WEF

What is cyber security? Cyber security is technologies, processes and practices designed to protect networks, computers, programmes and data from attack, damage or unauthorised access. Cyber security usually refers to online security.

local and global companies millions. The WannaCry virus infected "infected between 400 000 and a million devices worldwide" (Fin24).

NEMISA and the provincial CoLabs, as collaborators and catalysts, see thought leaders as crucial to spreading the message of the importance of e-skills. Beyond raising awareness, thought leaders are also able to create behaviour change such as developing policies around cyber security.

Cyber security training for Eastern Cape ICT thought leaders in the public sector

The ICT for Rural Development CoLab, based at Walter Sisulu University, is in the Eastern Cape (EC). This EC CoLab is a member of the recently-established Provincial Cyber Security Task Team which reports to the Provincial ICT Working Group. The task team hosted a workshop in November at which Cisco presented on cyber security. Topics included the latest issues, needs, and trends.

Delegates at the 'Stats SA: South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF) training'.

'Introduction to Cyber Security' course: Subsequent to the November 2017 presentation, the CoLab has collaborated with Cisco Academy and Walter Sisulu University to offer the Cisco-accredited 'Introduction to Cyber Security' course in December 2017 in East London.
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Article continued: Engaging thought leaders on cyber security

Delegates: Invitations were extended to the members of the Provincial ICT Working Group, Provincial Government IT Council, Local Government ICT Council, and others. There were 23 delegates, among them ICT managers and senior technicians employed in provincial government and local municipalities throughout the Eastern Cape (such as Matatiele, Alfred Ndzo, Joe Gabi and Mthatha). There were also delegates from 2 technical vocational education and training (TVET) colleges.

Delegate response: All of the delegates felt that the course was very informative and extremely worthwhile. Some commented that they became aware of many more threats to their networks. Others said the course was a timely wake-up call to urgently promote security awareness throughout their organisations.

Way forward: The EC CoLab will be engaging with the Provincial Cyber Security Task team to discuss the rollout of essential basic cyber security training for communities, in addition to developing extended learning pathways for the ICT sector in the province. ☑

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e-skills training for SMMEs

e-Skills to support SMMEs for economic development

Developing an ecosystem for the rollout of mobile technology to support SMMEs
Rollout in the Eastern Cape
Further rollout of 'Start Your Business' course in KZN

The government has consistently viewed SMMEs as a critical part of the economy. (SMME stands for small, micro, medium enterprises.) In fact, SMMEs are seen as driving South Africa's economy forward and this is noted in the National Development Plan.

NEMISA and the provincial CoLabs also focus on supporting SMMEs. This is done through e-skills (digital skills) training such as the 'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programmes. To be an effective and competitive part of national and international business, SMMEs need to use digital technologies to grow their business. 'Start Your Business' course is also an example of SMME business training supported by NEMISA and the provincial e-skills CoLabs.

Developing an ecosystem for the rollout of mobile technology to support SMMEs

'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programme is one of the outcomes of a research project conducted during 2015 by the e-Inclusion and Social Innovation CoLab, based at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). The project was in partnership with CiTi, Telkom, and NEMISA. The research project focused on SMMEs in Khayelitsha.

The aim was to explore micro and small entrepreneurs' understanding and use of ICTs for business purposes. A key research finding pointed to the need for skills development around the integration and use of digital technologies (mobile technology specifically) for business purposes.

It used a 'Living Labs' concept where research and engagement is conducted in near real-world conditions and this guides the development and presentation of content. To date, more than 150 SMMEs have been through the programme interventions in Khayelitsha.

With a second year of funding from the Telkom Mediatech Initiative (managed by CiTi), the e-Skills CoLab team tested, refined, and packaged the programme for further rollout.

Aim of the 'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programme
It enables SMMEs, particularly in precarious conditions, to understand:

- Key business activity areas that drive success in business
- Where mobile technology may be of assistance in support of business activities
- Application services in business activity areas
- How mobile technologies, telecommunications services, the internet and world wide web application services come together to support business
- The impact of using applications that are connection dependent
- How to conduct oneself professionally in an online world

Delegates are exposed to, and focus on, the →

Delegates from the Eden District training sessions.

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Article continued: e-Skills to support SMMEs for economic development

development of digital skills (e-skills), and the alignment of such skills with their business activities.

The programme consists of two offerings, namely the 'MobileTech for SME business support', as well as a Train the Trainer programme to train facilitators. Both programmes include online support material. The 'MobileTech for SME business support' is accredited as a UWC short course.

Two programme offerings
- **'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programme:** A 2-day face-to-face training intervention supported by a 3-week coaching period with online material to support participants in integrating the learnings into their businesses. Peer learning is a fundamental principle and contributes to the learning process, establishing networks and partnerships and peer-support post the intervention. Delegates include SMME business owners, particularly those with limited resources. Online material and co-facilitation is supported in isiXhosa.
- **'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business Train the Trainer' programme:** This has been developed to build capacity and provide options for scaling the SMME training to other areas. It's a 2-day intervention aimed at upskilling potential trainers to function as coaches after a Mobile Technology training intervention (as a first step) and then as trainers continuing with the training intervention with the support of the Western Cape e-Skills CoLab. The 'Train the Trainer' programme targets SMMEs who are focused on education and skills building, particularly those that deliver training and educational services to the broader SMME

community. Although this is an inclusive intervention, black and women-owned businesses are considered particularly important as a target audience.

This programme development has gone through a process to create a model and methodology that can be scaled: research, test, develop and refine, scale with intermediaries, and provide coaching to them so they can scale. The e-Skills CoLab is now testing the scaling model.

The e-Inclusion and Social Innovation CoLab extended this programme to other districts in the Western Cape Province, with a key focus on the Eden district. Four training interventions were conducted in this area from October 2017 to January 2018.

Fifty-five SMMEs (from Mossel Bay, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, and Plettenberg Bay) participated in the 2-day training sessions and online course review and assignments. The training was done in collaboration with and support from the Western Cape Economic Develop Partnership, the municipalities of Mossel Bay, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, and Plettenberg Bay, as well as SEDA.

Rollout in the Eastern Cape

The 'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programme was conducted in the Eastern Cape at East London Science Park, Industrial Development Zone (IDZ). It ran from 10-11 October 2017. Important partners included:
- Eastern Cape IT Initiative (ECITI) who brought incubating ICT SMMEs (for example, from East London, Cala, and Butterworth)
- Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) who brought trainers from Vusilela Community College in Cofimvaba
- The Black IT Forum (BITF) who brought SMMEs from throughout the province
- The Chintsa East Community Learning Centre

Delegates: There were 20 delegates – including potential facilitators. These were drawn from throughout the province. They ranged from SMMEs and NPOs to government agencies offering skills development.

Assessment: After the 2-day course, delegates have access to an online system for 3 weeks and submit an assignment demonstrating their ability to apply what they learnt.

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Delegates from the 'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business' training programme in the Eastern Cape.

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Article continued: e-Skills to support SMMEs for economic development

Train the trainer course: On the 12 October 2017, the 'Mobile Technology in Support of SME Business Train the Trainer' programme was conducted. This involved 14 potential facilitators who had been drawn from the first training group.

Delegate response: This has been very enthusiastic. Participants were overwhelmingly impressed at how much they learnt.

Next step: Once facilitators have passed their assessment, the Eastern Cape e-Skills CoLab will be working with partners to plan how to roll-out the course to benefit micro SMMEs in rural areas.

Further rollout of 'Start Your Business' course in KZN

'Start Your Business' delegates in Tugela.

'Start Your Business' delegates in Pomeroy.

The e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab, based at Durban University of Technology (DUT), rolled out a 'Start Your Business' Training in the Ugu and uMzinyathi district. The targeted areas in the district include Pomeroy, Mandawe, and Tugela Ferry. This is a partnership with the e-skills CoLab, DUT and the relevant municipality. It is facilitated by Sivuno Consulting, with training in Zulu.

Course aim: The objective is to provide a structured training programme for marginalised people – those living in rural areas in particular the youth, women, people with disabilities, and the unemployed. The programme equips them with skills and the capacity to start and run their own businesses, with a strong emphasis on creative entrepreneurship.

About the course: The 5-day programme provides an introduction to entrepreneurial fundamentals, an overview of generating creative business ideas, an insight into determine the feasibility of business ideas, and ultimately guides participants to develop a business plan. Digital skills are integrated into the course, for example setting up email accounts and e-learning materials.

November-December rollout: There were three groups. The DUT/NEMISA partnership prioritised Msinga Local Municipality as it is characterised by the highest poverty and unemployment rates in the district.

- **Mandawe in uMdoni Local Municipality under Ugu District Municipality:** Training ran from 20-24 November 2017. Delegates included members of an aquaponics farming co-operative (Africa For Africa Aquaponics) and Local Economic Development (LED) staff.
- **Pomeroy under Msinga Local Municipality under uMzinyathi District:** Training ran from 27 November to 1 December 2017. There was an average daily attendance of 22 delegates. Many more attempted to join the group but could not be accommodated. Delegates ranged from 21 to over 50 years of age. They were made up of emerging entrepreneurs to those in business who needed assistance. The LED representative from uMzinyathi attended some of the sessions and explained that the unit provided free company registration services. There were also representatives from the provincial Treasury Department, who took delegates through the process of registering their companies on the Central Supplier Database.
- **Tugela Ferry under Msinga Local Municipality under uMzinyathi District:** Training rain from 4- 8 December 2017. The group size averaged 18 delegates and delegates ranged in age from early 20s to mid-30s. ☑

The provincial e-skills CoLabs

The provincial e-skills CoLabs are based at universities. Each leads in a specific area in e-skills:
- **e-Inclusion and Social Innovation CoLab**, based at the University of the Western Cape
- **e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab**, based at Durban University of Technology
- **ICT for Rural Development CoLab**, based at Walter Sisulu University
- **Creative New Media Industries** in-house training based at the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) central office, Gauteng
- **Connected Health CoLab**, based at the University of Limpopo
- **Knowledge-based Economy and e-Social Astuteness (e-Literacy) CoLab**, based at the Vaal University of Technology
- **e-Agro-Tourism CoLab**, based at the North-West University

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e-skills training

Embedding technology for improved livelihoods

Social media training in KZN

Using water is essential for our physical wellbeing. However, the tools to allow you to access water easily had to be developed and then became a part of daily life. These tools include anything from taps and other water infrastructure to oversight on dams and water levels.

Information access through technology has also become essential. The National Development Plan foresaw this – where South Africa is to be an information society, with e-skills (digital skills), by 2030. However, as a developing country, South Africa still has to embed the tools (infrastructure) and the knowledge of how to use them (e-skills). This is so that

access to information becomes a normal part of life, enhancing the way we function at work, at home and in the social space.

Highlighting the role of technology and e-skills, facilitating e-skills interventions, and embedding technology and e-skills is part of NEMISA and the provincial CoLabs' purpose. An example of this is the use of social media. WhatsApp has become critical to many areas in business and life. A good example is crime prevention, where WhatsApp is used to create community safety groups. The e-Skills CoLab in KZN focused on embedding these skills.

Social media training in KZN

The e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab, based at Durban University of Technology (DUT), ran 'Social Media: WhatsApp Training' at DUT on 18 November 2017. It was a full-day course. Training was aimed at the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Metro police officials to increase their crime preventions skills by using WhatsApp as a crime monitoring and prevention tool.

About the course: Topics included:
- Setting up WhatsApp and understanding its basic functionalities $\longrightarrow$

Social media WhatsApp training in KZN.

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Article continued: Embedding technology for improved livelihoods

- Searching, security, and privacy
- How to work with groups
- WhatsApp for crime prevention

Delegates: There were 30 delegates, comprising representatives from the Community Police Forum (CPF). Delegates came from Zululand and surrounding areas. Some had never been exposed to WhatsApp and others

did not even have phones.

Partners: This is a partnership between the e-Skills CoLab, DUT, SAPS, and the community.

Delegate response: The delegates were pleased with the idea of using WhatsApp as a crime prevention tool and took a user guide to assist them beyond the training.
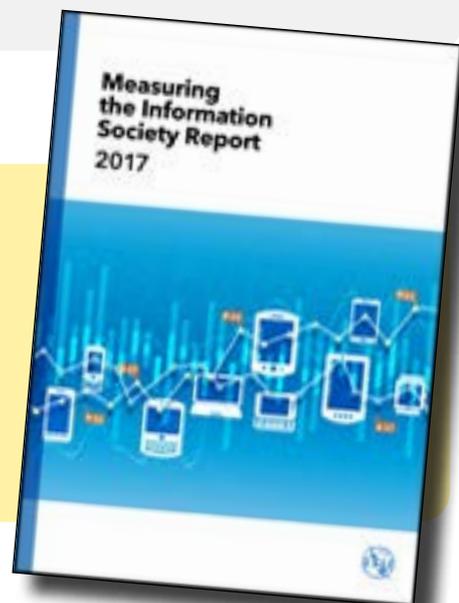
Media update
Dr Surendra Thakur is CoLab Director of the e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab, based at Durban University of Technology. Following are a list of media items where he promotes e-skills.
- Parents, don't let your offspring use Facebook's Messenger Kids – ever – Cape Argus, 22 December 2017
- Smartphone technology has connected world but compromised privacy – Cape Times, 29 December 2017
- When self-logging turns into being monitored – Cape Argus, 28 December 2017
- Monitoring your every move in a hi-tech way – Pretoria News, 28 December 2017
- Highs, lows of wearable monitors – The Mercury, 29 December 2017
- Wearable technology helps reinforce good behaviour – Cape Times, 3 January 2018
- When grudge payment morphs to nudge – a theory that earned a Nobel Prize – Daily News, 4 January 2018
- Why exposing your children to Facebook Messenger Kids is a bad idea – Cape Talk, 6 January 2018
- High five for matrics who finally got their place in sun – Cape Argus, 10 January 2018
- Let's all refrain from trivia education – Pretoria News, 13 January 2018
- My personal assistant is digital – Business Report, 22 January 2018
- Voices 360 is an online public and event platform that facilitates opinion and knowledge exchange, incorporating all points of view.
    - The quantified self – 12 December 2017
    - Safety Check, the new Facebook Messenger Kids is not safe – 20 December 2017
    - When grudge payments morph to nudge – a theory that earned a Nobel Prize – 2 January 2018
    - When "contacts leak" matric results – 8 January 2018

News and e-skills updates
- **The ITU, an ICT agency of the United Nations, published 'Measuring the Information Society Report' (MISR)** on 15 November 2017. The findings are reported according to the latest ICT Development Index (IDI). The IDI combines 11 indicators to monitor and compare ICT developments between 176 countries. ICT access, use and skills are the three-dimension frameworks used. South Africa went down four places from 88th last year to number 92 in 2017.

Measuring the Information Society Report 2017

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About NEMISA

Unite around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

NEMISA is a globally-recognised collaborative model that allows stakeholders to sustainably meet South Africa's e-skilling objectives.

NEMISA is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practices and implementation, to benefit the total population.

Alignment to government policy: The above objectives are aligned to the new broadband policy, South Africa Connect, and the National Development Plan 2030, among other national and international goals.

Multi-stakeholder collaborative platform: NEMISA provides a formal multi-stakeholder collaborative platform that aligns all stakeholders (business, government, civil society and education) with a common vision. This common vision ensures that e-skills initiatives are coordinated within a national framework, reducing duplication and increasing impact.
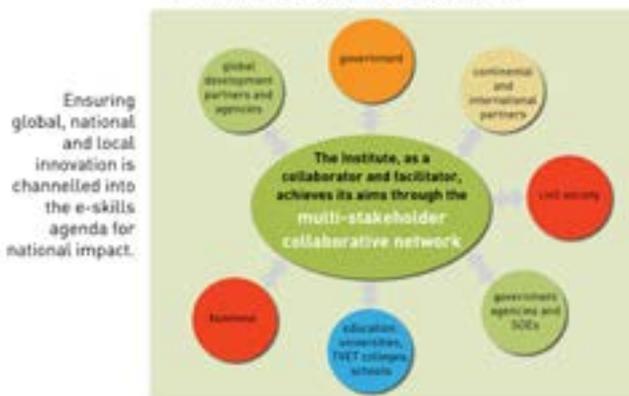

Five focus areas: NEMISA primarily focuses on five components.
- Knowledge for innovation (research)
- e-Astuteness (teaching and learning)
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Innovation
- Aggregation (monitoring and evaluation framework)

Providing national, provincial and community level access:
Through collaborative partnerships, NEMISA is organised on a national

Join NEMISA's network
As a national catalyst for the development of e-skills in South Africa, NEMISA calls on e-skills stakeholders to become involved in the integrated approach to e-skills development through our multi-stakeholder collaborative network.

Contacting NEMISA
For more information, contact *info@nemisa.co.za*.

level, a provincial level and a local community level. NEMISA's central office coordinates nationally and globally.

The e-skills knowledge production and coordination CoLabs (e-skills CoLabs): These are situated at universities, with one in each province. There are currently 7 e-skills CoLabs:
- **e-Inclusion and Social Innovation CoLab**, based at the University of the Western Cape
- **e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery CoLab**, based at Durban University of Technology
- **ICT for Rural Development CoLab**, based at Walter Sisulu University
- **Creative New Media Industries CoLab**, based at the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA)
- **Connected Health CoLab**, based at the University of Limpopo
- **e-Literacy and e-Business (knowledge economy and e-social astuteness) CoLab**, based at the Vaal University of Technology
- **e-Agro-Tourism CoLab**, based at the North-West University

There will ultimately be nine e-skills CoLabs correlating to the nine South African provinces.

The e-skills CoLabs provide knowledge spaces for collaboration at a provincial level.

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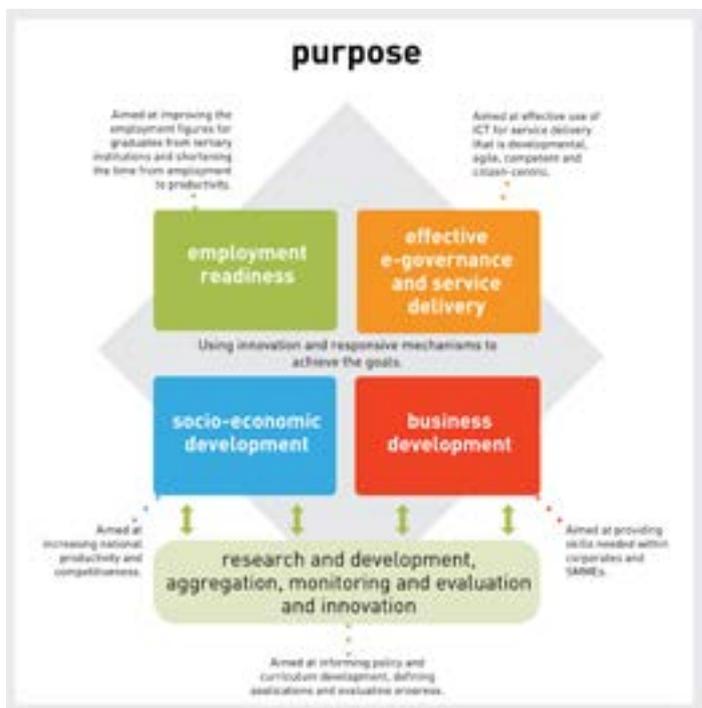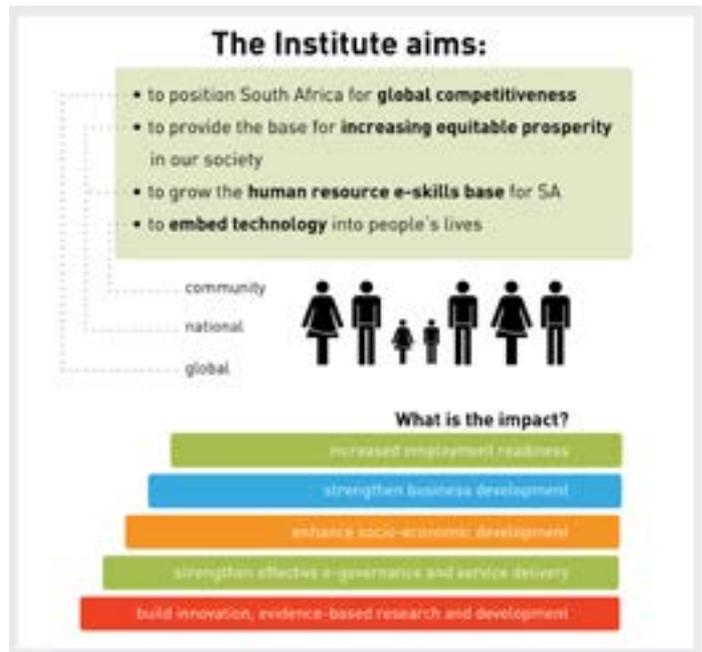**Article continued: About NEMISA**

Smart community knowledge production centre (smart centre): These allow for interaction and coordination at a local community level. NEMISA's smart centre network is currently being developed across the country.

NEMISA's national research network is a multi-stakeholder collaborative network that focuses on knowledge for innovation (research).

NDP Priority Areas supported by NeSPA 2013
Pillar 1: Unite around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality
Pillar 2: Active citizenry
Pillar 3: Inclusive economy
Pillar 4: Build capabilities
Pillar 5: A capable developmental state
Pillar 6: Leadership throughout society to work together to solve problems

Wide-ranging opportunities for business: NEMISA's positioning and organisational model provides numerous opportunities for businesses to engage effectively within the e-skills space:

- There is high-level government engagement. This is integral to developing the e-skills agenda and ensuring that national and provincial policies, as well as all stakeholder decisions, reflect a common goal.
- Business corporate social investment (CSI) has an elevated impact that is aligned with national priorities. The elevated impact and the high-level government engagement allow businesses to position their individual CSI initiatives prominently to their stakeholder base, including the media.
- Businesses are given the opportunity to showcase their talents nationally, provincially and locally.
- Because of the inclusive national priority alignment within the NEMISA's multi-stakeholder collaborative network, businesses are able to position their work within a local context and a developing country framework.
- The link that NEMISA has with universities through its CoLabs and research network means that business can also align new approaches using the benefits of an academic environment and a research function.

The Institute aims:
- to position South Africa for **global competitiveness**
- to provide the base for **increasing equitable prosperity** in our society
- to grow the **human resource e-skills base** for SA
- to **embed technology** into people's lives

community
national
global

What is the impact?
increased employment readiness
strengthen business development
enhance socio-economic development
strengthen effective e-governance and service delivery
build innovation, evidence-based research and development

purpose

employment readiness

effective e-governance and service delivery

socio-economic development

business development

research and development, aggregation, monitoring and evaluation and innovation

- Most importantly, NEMISA provides an environment where CSI is part of a model where stakeholders work together – 'doing with' and not 'doing for'. ☑

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Taxonomy for e-skills

An e-skills taxonomy is more than just definitions. The e-skills agenda requires a shift in thinking with outcomes such as changes in policy. The terms used are part of creating the environment for this shift. Following are definitions for some of the words that form part of the e-skills taxonomy.

e-Astuteness	The capacity to continuously appropriate the technology into personal work, education, business, social and family contexts for both personal and collective benefit. e-Astuteness is defined as a knowledgeable capacity, based on personal and interpersonal skills, that involves: • Understanding people and situations • Building alignment and alliances • An acute understanding of strategic direction • Applying strategic behaviour e-Astuteness allows individuals to take personal advantage of ICT in social or economic situations, through the appropriate e-skills. (Building social connections is an example of a social situation and obtaining a job or starting a business is an example of an economic situation.) e-Astuteness does not necessarily depend on formal education or high levels of literacy.
e-Literacy (digital literacy)	e-Literacy (digital literacy) is the ability of individuals to use digital tools and facilities to perform tasks, to solve problems, to communicate, to manage information, to collaborate, to create and share content and to build knowledge, in all areas of everyday life and for work.
e-Skills	The ability to use and develop ICTs within the context of an emerging South African information society and global knowledge economy, and associated competencies that enable individuals to actively participate in a world in which ICT is a requirement for advancement in government, business, education and society in general.
e-Social astuteness	e-Social Astuteness is defined as the use of ICT and e-skills for more astute ways of people interacting with others, which include: • Social interactions • A level of awareness and understanding of diverse social situations • The various alternatives open to them for response e-Astuteness focuses on individual benefit whereas e-social astuteness focuses on interacting with others for group benefit.

What is an e-skill?

An e-skill means being able to use technology so you can actively participate in the world and move ahead.

Official South African definition (from the National e-Skills Plan of Action)
The ability to use and develop ICTs within the context of an emerging South African information society and global knowledge economy, and associated competencies that enable individuals to actively participate in the world in which ICT is a requirement for advancement in government, business, education and society in general.