

*For three days in September, the Sandton International Convention Centre will be transformed into a vibrant space within which the spirit and legacy of the historic World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in 2002 will be revived.*

*The **Johannesburg + 2** sustainable development conference will be held on the occasion of the second anniversary of the WSSD. It will provide an opportunity to assess progress that South Africa has made in the implementation of the targets set in Johannesburg two years ago.*

*Scheduled to take place from September 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004, the event incorporates a national sustainable development conference with thematic round tables, a sustainable development best practices exhibition, a learning centre, a media workshop and a workshop on doing business in Africa.*

*Government representatives, businesses, civil society and NGO's, amongst others from throughout the African continent, will attend the event.*

The anniversary will showcase South Africa's sustainable development best practice, mobilise stakeholders and partners behind a common sustainable development vision, engage stakeholders in dialogue on South African sustainable development challenges and raise overall awareness on sustainable development. Within this context the anniversary will maintain the legacy of the Johannesburg Summit and draw attention to South Africa's commitment to maintaining the momentum on delivery of the Johannesburg targets

The sustainable development conference plenary will open on 1 September, setting the tone for the thematic roundtables on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September from perspectives of representatives from government, civil society, the UN, business, academics and the media. The conference discussions are largely informed by the programme of work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as well as South Africa's sustainable development priorities. The themes include water, sanitation, human settlements, energy, agriculture and food security

The means of implementation (governance, finance, corporate responsibility etc) to achieve the targets set in Johannesburg as well as technology will also form an integral part of mapping a way forward.

A series of roundtables will address topical issues in each of the themes. The roundtables will provide a platform for exploration of and dialogue on some of the key policy and implementation challenges facing government, business, labour and civil society in balancing, integrating and trading-off the 3 essential pillars of sustainable development.

*Key questions to be addressed in the roundtables include:*

- *What is the international Sustainable Development Framework and targets for the specific theme?*
- *What is the relevant national policy framework?*
- *What are the policy challenges in balancing the three pillars of sustainable development?*
- *What actions are being taken by all stakeholders to implement the JPOI and the Millennium Development Goals?*
- *What are the key challenges and constraints to the sectoral implementation?*
- *What are the opportunities for collective action?*

The roundtables will be structured in a way that facilitates discussion on the economic, social and environmental elements of the theme. Topical issues will be used to ground the discussion and to tease out the policy trade-offs that are, or need to be made in decision-making.

The Best Practices in Sustainable Development Exhibition, inspired by the Ubuntu Village concept during the WSSD, showcases best practices in sustainable development and is projected to attract approximately 150 exhibitors and 5000 visitors during the four days.

The target exhibitors are African and International companies who are seeking investment, trade and private / public sector partnerships and opportunities with particular emphasis on development within Africa. African and international companies who are involved in initiatives aligned with sustainable development and the

NEPAD objectives and priorities and offer goods, services, products, business solutions and technology.

***A learning center conceptualized as a two-day series of public lectures, debates, case study reflections and an interactive discussion on topical issues in sustainable development teaching and research will form an exciting part of the Conference programme. The four topical issues include:***

- *Defining Sustainable Development within a South African Context which will examine:*
  - *Interpretations and Perceptions of Sustainable Development across sectors in South Africa*
  - *Sectoral differences in the Implementation of Sustainable Development, awareness and training including case studies*
  - *Sustainable development as a global phenomenon and its impact on local tradition and culture.*
  - *Does corporate citizenship incorporate sustainable development principles?*
- *Drivers, Reporting and Indicators for Sustainable Development which examines:*
  - *The values, decision making and processes and sustainable development tools*
  - *The power and responsibility of the South African consumer in achieving Sustainable Development*
  - *Teaching and training sustainable development for tomorrow*

A Media Workshop in the form of an exchange in analysis of the media coverage, and journalism trend of sustainable development issues at a national and international level also forms an integral part of the programme. The workshop also creates an opportunity to gather a sense of key sustainable development news and media material in the pipeline for the next six months.

***Analysis of the media coverage on sustainable development would include issues such as:***

- *The South African media after the WSSD – Has it been news as usual?*
- *What is the role of the media in mobilising society to achieve/implement sustainable development?*
- *The readership and audience demand for sustainable development media coverage.*
- *The media as an instrument and key player in sustainable development – The hegemonic power of media in shaping the mindset in environmental education and sustainable consumption and production.*

According to the Director General in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Crispian Olver, “this important event offers South Africa the opportunity to assess the implementation of the Johannesburg targets, refine our sustainable development vision and framework and mobilise key stakeholders and partners behind this vision. It will also provide a platform to enhance dialogue on progress and challenges in implementation.”

*For more information on the **Johannesburg + 2** Conference on Sustainable Development, scheduled to take place from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 at the Sandton Convention Centre, please visit the website: [www.deat.gov.za](http://www.deat.gov.za)*