30 May 2017

The future of oil and gas in South Africa
to be discussed at UCT workshop

7 June 2017; Snape 3B, Upper Campus, UCT; 17h00-19h00

The University of Cape Town's Chemical Engineering Department has joined forces with the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) to host a webinar/workshop with a focused perspective on the medium- to long-term future of oil and gas in South Africa.

IChemE is a global engineering professional body with more than 44 000 members in 120 countries, and has taken the lead in developing a vision for the sector which aligns with a commitment to a low carbon, sustainable energy future. This workshop forms part of a global discourse, with previous workshops in the UK, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore (with India pending).

UCT's Environmental and Process Systems Engineering Group within Chemical Engineering has mobilised around this agenda, to challenge conventional wisdom about the sector's future, and contrast that with exciting developments in renewable energy and critical investments in South Africa's energy infrastructure.

The event, scheduled to take place on 7 June 2017 at UCT, will engage participants on the following:

- What does a sector transition to a low carbon, sustainable future look like?
- How will trade-offs between security of supply, climate change mitigation and cost play out?
- What are the main technical, institutional and financial challenges which inform the required transitions?
- How do the professions (including engineering) best contribute their skills?
- How will these developments impact other dimensions of economic activity, including all aspects of energy supply and demand?
- What are the specific challenges and opportunities for South Africa and the region?
- How can regional collaboration be strengthened?

This is an ambitious programme for a two-hour workshop. The organisers see this as the start of a conversation, and are keen to encourage as diverse a set of contributions as possible.

According to Prof Harro von Blottnitz, "By running this engagement as a webinar, we hope to capture a wide range of views from stakeholders across the country – to initiate some joint visioning. Whilst there has been robust public and professional discussion about challenges in the electricity (and now water) sectors, there is very little understanding of vulnerability to possible acute disturbances in the transport and fuels sector. And given that our largest import bill and the second largest contribution to our nation's carbon footprint comes from transport, we see much scope for radical thinking about techno-economic transformation in this sector. IChemE is a good resource partner in this discourse because of their global technical capacity and reach".

The workshop will be chaired jointly by Professor Stefaan Simons (Chair: IChemE Energy Centre, and Dean of Engineering at Brunel University in the UK) and Honorary Professor Jim Petrie (IChemE Energy Centre board member).

The workshop will showcase contributions from a range of industry associations, leading experts in sector infrastructure investment, as well as speakers who will talk to the current operational challenges within the sector. But, and most importantly, this forum will provide ample time for open discussion to hear views from the floor, either attendees on the day, or those dialling in via the webinar link.

To register for this event, click on this link: www.icheme.org/sa-oil

ENDS

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