



SAASTA will be hosting the 2nd African Science Communication Conference from 18 to 21 February 2009. The theme of this conference is *Shaping Africa's future – Science Communication's contribution to Science, Technology and Innovation, and the development of democracy in Africa.*

	Wednesday, 18 February	Thursday, 19 February	Friday, 20 February	Saturday, 21 February
08h00 – 09h00		Morning coffee (registration desk open)	Morning coffee (registration desk open)	
09h00 – 10h30		Opening Ceremony with special lecture and official opening	2 nd Key note address	
10h30 – 11h00		Morning tea break		
11h00 – 12h30	Conference Set-up	Parallel sessions 1, 2 and 3	Parallel sessions 10, 11 and 12	
12h30 – 13h30		LUNCH		
13h30 – 14h30		1 st Key note address	3 rd Key note address	Tours arranged by GCA
14h30 – 15h30		Parallel sessions 4, 5 and 6	Parallel sessions 13, 14 and 15	
15h30 – 16h00		Afternoon tea break		
16h00 – 17h30	Registration in Gallagher Grill Foyer	Parallel sessions 7, 8 and 9	Parallel sessions 16, 17 and 18	Tour 1 Tour 2 Tour 3
17h30 – 18h00		Depart to Observatory	Early evening snack	
18h00 – 22h00	Official ASCC Welcoming Cocktail Function – Gallagher Grill Foyer	Social function @ Observatory	Closing ceremony with vote of thanks and handing over of conference position statement to DST Director General / AU representative	



Tour 1
National
Zoological
Gardens



Tour 2
Maropeng



Tour 3
Entertainment
and Retail (Gold
Reef City)

Opening Ceremony

Programme director: Beverley Damonse

Welcome – Dr Albert van Jaarsveld Acting President and CEO (NRF)

Special Lecture – Prof Mohamed HA Hassan (TWAS)

Prof Hassan, a native Sudan, obtained his Ph.D. in plasma physics from Oxford University, UK. Hassan presides over the African Academy of Sciences and is Secretary General of the Third World Network of Scientific Organisations (TWAS). In this session, Hassan will highlight the overall importance of communicating science in an attempt to effect the translation of scientific research away from the traditional bench to library process, but into more utilitarian functions such as the influencing of policy, to facilitate economic growth and innovative thought, and to contribute positively to everyday life. Science Communication is increasingly contributing to ensuring that the science community think beyond their silo'd research disciplines and start collaborating on inter- and trans-disciplinary research activities. Strong focus will be given to the role of science on economic development and the democratization of society, and how science communication acts as a catalyst for this process.

Official opening of conference by Hon. DST Deputy Minister Derek Hanekom

1st Key Note Speaker

Plenary session focusing on communicating science for scientific development - Prof Robin Crewe (ASSAf) & Prof Sospeter Muhongo

Prof Robin Crewe, President of the Academy of Science, South Africa, and Prof Sospeter Muhongo, Regional Director of the International Council for Science, will be exploring modern day challenges facing academic research and discuss the role of science communication in addressing these challenges. Issues pertaining to academic accreditation, funding for scientific research, research and academic institutional development, and human capital development will be covered. It is important to consider the role of government, industry partners and civil society organisations' in this process and how engagement across these stakeholders would require the communication of science.

2nd Key Note Session

Research to build nations (heads of research councils) – Prof Olive Shisana & Prof Anthony MbeWu

Prof Shisana, head of the Human Sciences Research Council, and Prof MbeWu, head of the South African Medical Research Council, will here highlight the importance of public engagement in academic and applied research. Issues pertaining to communicating scientific process to research participants while conducting research; communicating scientific research to effect attitudinal and behavioural change; showcasing the contribution of applied research to economic growth; separating out corporate communication from science communication; are all issues that will be covered during this session. The scientific community is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of keeping today's more informed taxpayer abreast of research activities and developments. This, in effect, requires a more informed policy maker when making decisions effecting country governance.

3rd Key Note Session

International Scientific Years – Prof Maartin DeWit & Mr Kevin Govender

International scientific bodies have been involved in global thrust initiatives where focus is given to specific scientific disciplines. These would include initiatives such as International Polar Year (IPY), International Year of Astronomy, International Year of Planet Earth, International Year of Physics, etc. These have proven successful in extending understanding and awareness of scientific phenomena and there were instances where such thrusts were hallmarks of international cooperation in science. The experience gained by scientists and governments in international cooperation set the stage for other international scientific collaboration. As was the case with IPY, international scientific cooperation paved the way for several political accords that gained their momentum from the polar years. This session aims to discuss how this powerful tool can be harnessed more effectively across the African continent.

Parallel Session 1, 2 and 3

1

Oral presentations

Challenges, barriers and potential of integrating science communication in policy making

Track # 1 – The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Session chair – Mr Andrea Bandelli
The Netherlands

Ms Penny Haworth

Integrating public awareness of science and the promotion of science in society into a National Research Facility Science Plan
SAIAB, South Africa

Dr Taurai Imbayarwo

The indispensability of tracking scientific output and the critical need for bibliometric databases for Africa
Africa Science Trackers, South Africa

Ms Koreen Ramessar

Combating infectious diseases in Africa: the contribution of plant biotechnology
University of Lleida, Spain

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Oral presentations

Developments in communicating scientific information using various formats

Track # 5 – Research and Development in Science Communication

Session chair – Mr Lorenzo Raynard
South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa

Ms Ina Roos & Retha Claasen-Veldsman

Using competitions and debates to develop science communication skills
South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa

Mr Robert Inglis

Accessible Science of Africa – Unlocking the Potential of African Research. Insights from science communication projects in the fields of Radio Astronomy, Biodiversity Conservation, TB in an HIV and AIDS context and Genetic Ancestry Testing.
Jive Media, South Africa

Ms Pavitray Pillay

“Thinking Green – Acting Green!”
Global change – Green Audit Toolkit for High Schools
African Centre for Climate & Earth System Sciences & The Marine Research Institute – University of Cape Town, South Africa

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Round Table Discussion

Engaging the media in the scientific research

Track # 1 – The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Session chair – Mr David Kramer
Sci-Bono Discovery Centre

Ms Marina Joubert & Christina Scott

A voice for science from the developing world
Southern Science, South Africa

Dr Chandra Mohan Nautiyal

Scientists as Science Communicators: a survey-based report
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, India

Parallel Session 4, 5 and 6

4

Oral presentations

Innovative teaching strategies in formal and informal education settings

Track # 2 – Science, engineering and technology human skills development, education and learning

Session chair – Dr Jabu Nukeri
South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa

Ms Thandi O'Hagan

Evolving a Science Skills Development Programme for Teachers
Sci-Bono Discovery Centre – South Africa

Ms Sarah Abel

Chemistry Outreach in the Eastern Cape: A Science & Communication Initiative between Rhodes University and Bristol University, UK.
Rhodes University, South Africa

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Workshop

The International Year of Astronomy 2009: An opportunity to communicate science

Track # 5 – Research and Development in Science Communication

Mr Kevin Govender

The Essential Astronomy Outreach Workshop: Using Astronomy to communicate science
South African Astronomical Observatory – South Africa

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Workshop

Knowledge transfer models in health research translation

Track # 1 - The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Ms Hendra van Zyl, Elmarie van Wyk, Janus Snyders, Kedibone Aphane & Jansie Niehaus

Using knowledge transfer models to bridge obstacles in the way of effective health research translation for science communication
Medical Research Council – South Africa

Parallel Session 7, 8 and 9

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Oral presentations

Motivating students: the impact of science studies

Track # 2 – Science, engineering and technology human skills development, education and learning

Session chair – Mr Robert Inglis
(Jive Media, South Africa)

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Oral presentations

Research methods for the assessment of communication programs

Track # 5 – Research and Development in Science Communication

Session chair – Ms Christina Scott (Science and Development Network, South Africa)

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Round Table Discussion

The future of science journalism teaching

Track # 3 – Science and the Media

Session chair – Ms Charmeela Bhagawat (FrayIntermedia, South Africa)

Dr Sandra Evans

Teaching the paradigm that biology equals business
Midrand Graduate Institute, South Africa

Ms Tebogo Gule

The Impact of Science Promotion on Human Capital Development
Mintek, South Africa

Ms Tyhra Kumasi

Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Management of Rivers
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Mr Derek Fish

Perceptions of science in visitors to Unizul Science Centre
Unizul Science Centre, South Africa

Ms Vanessa Rouhani

Winter school at SAIAB – three years on
South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, South Africa

Ms Marina Joubert

The future of science journalism teaching in South Africa
Southern Science, South Africa

Prof Gervais Mbarga

New trends in training science journalists in Africa
Université Laval, Québec Canada & University of Yaoundé 2, Cameroon

Parallel Session 10, 11 and 12

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Oral presentations

Evaluating the media in order to improve science communication

Track # 3 – Science and the Media

Session Chair – Mr Diran Onifade
(World Federation of Science Journalists, Nigeria)

Dr Olufemi Bolarin

Content-pattern of agricultural information published by Nigeria Newspaper between 1996 and 2005
University Of Ilorin, Nigeria

Mr Danstan Kaunda

Communicating science: the challenges in science and medical journalism in developing African countries
Freelance Journalist, Zambia

Mr Sekoja Phakisi

Infusion of Science and Technology from Ground Up: 12 Year Empowerment Experience Accumulated in Lesotho (1996 - 2008)
Appropriate Technology Services, Lesotho

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Oral presentations

Students' perceptions of science

Track # 5 – Research and Development in Science Communication

Session chair – Mr Lorenzo Raynard
(South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa)

Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

Accepting evolution
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Mr Surjit Singh Dabas

How do students perceive about biotechnology and ethics?
NISTADS, India

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Round Table Discussion

Facilitating public engagement

Track # 4 – International benchmark activities in science communication

Session Chair – Ms Ina Roos
(South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa)

Ms Marina Joubert & Mbongiseni Buthelezi

Facilitating Public Engagement with Research
Southern Science, South Africa

Mr Thulani Cele

Science Agenda: Contextualising Science Communications in our environment
Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies/ OXFAM GB, South Africa

Ms Charmeela Bhagawat

Two years of the Reporting Science Conference
FrayIntermedia, South Africa

Parallel Session 13, 14 and 15

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Oral presentations

Informal science education initiatives

Track # 2 – Science, engineering and technology human skills development, education and learning

Session Chair – Mr Kevin Govender
(South African Astronomical Observatory, South Africa)

Mr David Kramer

Get SET, Go! - Experiential Learning in science centres
Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, South Africa

Penny Haworth

SAIAB's bright sparks development programme as a model for science advancement
South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, South Africa

Surjit Singh Dabas

Tweaking the young minds: An interactive way to teach science
NISTADS, India

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Round Table Discussion

Science Communication through Storytelling

Track # 1 – The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Session chair – Prof Gervais Mbarga
(Université Laval, Québec Canada & University of Yaoundé 2, Cameroon)

Mr Robert Inglis

Science Communication through storytelling. Roundtable discussion on the use of stories as an effective medium for science communication
Jive Media, South Africa

Dr Pradeep K. Srivastava

Nanotechnology and medical science: challenges ahead
Central Drug Research Institute, India

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Workshop

Making science popular

Track # 1 – The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

Popular science writing: Dinosaurs of Africa
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Nonhlanhla P. Khumalo

Seminar on a new South African book: "Genes for Teens"
Red Cross Children's Hospital, University of Cape Town, South Africa

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Oral presentations

Bridging the gap between science and the public – case studies

Track # 1 – The translation of science for: a) policy; b) economically viable products or initiatives; c) the facilitation of trans- and inter-disciplinary research; and d) and informed society through the mass media

Session chair – Ms Retha Claasen-Veldsman
(South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa)

Ms Debra Railoun

The Translation of Research – Public Engagement
Medical Research Council, South Africa

Ms Sally Upfold, Colin Dyer & Philip Croft

Communication in crisis – the South African Sirex Control Programme as a case study in Communication and Collaboration
Institute for Commercial Forestry Research, South Africa

Dr Chandra Mohan Nautiyal

A logic-based approach to a rumour-triggered chaos in Sitapur, India
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, India

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Oral presentations

Partnering for scientific development

Track # 5 – Research and Development in Science Communication

Session chair – Dr Manjusha Joseph
(South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, South Africa)

Ms Hester du Plessis

Mapping the scientific consciousness – research partnership
National Institute of Design, India & University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Mr Nurudean N. Ssempe

Science and Technology for improved livelihood
Agency for Science and Technology Advancement in Uganda, Uganda

Mr Ofer Gon

Fish identification course for DEAT law enforcement officers: communicating scientific principles and methods where none existed
South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, South Africa

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Oral presentations

Educator's benefiting from scientific research

Track # 2 – Science, engineering and technology human skills development, education and learning

Session chair – Dr Anitha Ramsuran
(Innovation Fund, South Africa)

Mr Collece Chisita

Technology driven innovation: knowledge management for technopreneurial skills development in institutions of Higher learning in Harare
Harare Polytechnic, Zimbabwe

Ms Kedibone Aphane

Assessing the success of the Expert to Student knowledge transfer model within South African tertiary institutions
Medical Research Council, South Africa

Prof Marguerite Maher

E-portfolios in preservice teacher education as a means of enhancing Science communication
Charles Darwin University, Australia



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