



SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO WORK FOR IT

The philosopher Henry David Thoreau once said that success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. Had Thoreau not been born more than two centuries ago, you would not be wrong for thinking he was referring to the last month of activities at THENSA, which saw us host two important events on our calendar: The THENSA International Conference 2022 and the HERESA Training Workshop 2022. To say that our staff have had their hands full would be an understatement. As our flagship event of the year, the THENSA International Conference 2022 took place from 16th to 18th March, bringing together the best and brightest minds in Higher Education, Government and Business to discuss and devise 4IR-driven partnerships for our post-pandemic era. For those who were not able to attend, we can confidently say that this was an event that yielded decisive, informed and action-led responses to the challenge of preparing South Africa for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We would like to thank all our esteemed delegates, guests and participants, particularly Members of Government and our Vice-Chancellors and Deputy-Vice Chancellors and. We would like to express our gratitude to the Premier of Gauteng, The Honourable David Makhura, who gave an impassioned speech on the importance of the 4IR in South Africa at a Gala Dinner jointly hosted by THENSA and the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).



"A powerhouse of a line-up". From left to right: Professor Chris Nhlapo (CPUT & THENSA), Dr Vathi Papu-Zamxaka (TUT), Dr JJ Tabane (eNC, Dr Anshu Padayacee (THENSA), Professor Thandwa Mthembu (DUT), Nokuthula "Nokkie" Ndlovu (Technology and Social Entrepreneur and Coach, Professor Sibuy Moyo (DUT). Photo credit: Buntu Nondomo.



"Here's to the 4IR": The Premier of Gauteng, The Honourable David Makhura, addressing the Gala Dinner guests on March 17th. Photo credit: Buntu Nondomo.

This brings us to the HERESA Training Workshop, a hybrid event which took place from 21st to 24th March at The Premier Hotel in Durban. It is not too often that one emerges from a four-day event feeling more energised and inspired than one did at the start. However, this was certainly the case for HERESA's first face-to-face event where our local members and international partners discussed issues emanating from our Appraisal Study and gave presentations around our four thematic areas of

concern: Curricula for the 4IR, Entrepreneurship Education, Competence-Based Learning and Work-Integrated Learning. While all but one of the sessions were recorded for the sake of maintaining the safe space that HERESA promises our members, it would be remiss for us not to mention some of the highlights of the workshop which included a session on Leadership in Higher Education by the incomparable Professor Dina Burger of Cape Peninsula Technology, an illuminating session on Future Skills in Active Learning conducted by Dr Elina Botha and Professor Juha Lahtinen of Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK), an insightful presentation on Work-Integrated Learning from Dr Henri Jacobs from the Central University of Technology (CUT), as well as a talk from Professor Keo Motaung of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) on the necessity of patenting research for student entrepreneurs.



"HERESA Training Workshop". Front to back: Dr Sershen Naidoo (THENSA), Dr Julie Reddy (SAQA), Dr Henri Jacobs (CUT), Professor Takalani Mashau (Univen), Japie Nel (SAQA).



"HERESA Training Workshop". Front to back: Juha Lahtinen (TAMK), Dr Elina Botha (TAMK), Dr Helen McGuirk (MTU).

A sincere thank you to our coordinating partner the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and to Obreal-GLOBAL Observatory in Spain. We would also like to thank all participants, speakers and guests, especially from the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) and the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA). We were extremely heartened by the genuine warmth, enthusiasm and camaraderie on display from our partners and members who managed to forge common ground between rural and urban institutions and the Global South and Global North. We hope that the identified synergies and strategic implementation plans will be channelled to promote higher education reform within our member institutions and hopefully, South Africa and the continent.

UPDATES FROM THENSA

- We are happy to announce that the dates for our SA-Ireland Tourism Workshop have been finalised for the 28th May to 3rd June. We are excited for our tourism cluster to hear from our Irish partners who have been working hard to repair the tourism and hospitality sector.
- We are happy to announce that our Graduate Employability App (GEA) is up and running in our member institutions, with over 100 registrations recorded so far. With greater advertisement from our member institutions, we believe that this statistic can improve exponentially, allowing us to begin Phase 4 and 5 of the app which will involve Real-Time Employability Monitoring Enhancement and the opening of our Online Entrepreneurship Programme to users.

UPDATES FROM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Professor Kanzumba Kusakana was **promoted** to a full professor by the Central University of Technology (CUT) at his inaugural professorial lecture. With over 300 publications in journals, conference proceedings, and book chapters, his research looks at small-scale renewable power generation and optimal energy management.
- The Durban University of Technology (DUT) **became** the first university in Africa to create the technology that will support a large-scale production of biofuels from microalgae grown on wastewater at the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) hybrid workshop last month. The move will also assist in the commercialisation of the renewable energy industry in South Africa.
- The Vaal University of Technology **launched** their "Translanguaging Workshop" last month, an initiative that is geared at capacitating tutors and mentors with the skills and training to use a number of South African vernacular languages in their sessions.
- The Tshwane University of Technology's (TUT) SunChaser4, an energy-efficient, solar-powered vehicle, was **acknowledged** for its innovativeness last month by the National Assembly in Parliament. The car, which can travel from Pretoria to Swakopmund in Namibia, was built by the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.



"We are family!". Left to right: Professor Lourens van Staden (TUT), Professor Chris Nhlapo (CPUT & THENSA), Dr Anshu Padayachee (THENSA), Ms Christelle Venter (THENSA), Professor Henk de Jager (CUT).