



THE VALUE OF LISTENING TO OUR YOUTH

Celebrating Youth Day can be a bittersweet occasion in South Africa. While it is important to commemorate those who paved the way for our freedom, there remains much work to be done to ensure access to education is not a luxury reserved for the powerful and privileged. The calls for greater access to Higher Education, reasonable accommodation and the decolonisation of curricula should not be treated as a pipedream. As we remember the Youth of '76 who took a stand against the apartheid regime, let us not repeat the mistakes of older generations who told them to see the glass half full. Let us not use the mammoth task of reforming the Higher Education sector to dismiss the concerns of young people today who face a future of unemployment, underemployment, political instability and climate disasters. A month ago, THENSA took a tourism delegation to Atlantic Technological University (ATU) in Galway, Ireland to discuss the revitalisation of this important sector. A component of that visit involved discussions around the implementation of a Tourism Gateway Platform, which would allow workers in the industry to pursue higher qualifications to bolster their career progression and ensure the retention of talent. These are the kind of initiatives which will go a long way in meeting the critical skills gap in South Africa.

In addition, the work of our HERESA members addresses the need for curricula to be dynamic, relevant and engaged with the realities facing our country, particularly with regards to preparing young people for the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). When we launched Work-Integrated Learning South Africa (WILSA) at our 2022 International Conference in March, the aim was to investigate how we could prepare and train our students at our institutions for the workplace. Our Graduate Employability App (GEA) has also been an excellent resource for graduates looking for a job or considering starting a business. In conclusion, as we celebrate Youth Day, let us take a moment to acknowledge sacrifices that have brought us here and the sacrifices that will bring us to where we need to be as a country alive with potential and possibility.



"Warm welcome": Our tourism delegation being greeted by Ms Cait Noone, Head of the Galway International Hotel School at ATU.



"Everybody loves the sunshine": Our delegation taking a photo outside during a break. ATU had a busy schedule packed for us.

UPDATES FROM THENSA

- We would like to thank all those who made our trip to Atlantic Technological University (ATU) in Galway, Ireland (ATU) possible. Thank you to the Irish Embassy in South Africa for their tireless support of our projects, Ms Cait Noone and all the staff at ATU for their exceptional hospitality, Mr Siphon Ngomane and Dr Kholadi Tlabela from the Department of Tourism, Dr Julie Reddy from SAQA, as well as the esteemed group of delegates from our member institutions. We are also thankful to the staff at The Connaught Hotel who made our stay so comfortable. We look forward to the outcomes of the trip and we trust that we will be able to rehabilitate our local tourism sector.



"The Boss's Table": Dr Joseph Ryan, CEO of THEA, Dr Anshu Padayachee, CEO of THENSA and Dr Vathi Papu-Zamxaka, DVC at TUT at the Gala Dinner at The Hyde Hotel.



"Talking heads": Our delegates conversing over a three-course dinner at The Hyde Hotel in Galway, Ireland.

"The faces of young people are the faces of our past, our present and our future" - Kailash Satyarthi

UPDATES FROM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- The Department of Tourism and Integrated Communication at Vaal University of Technology (VUT) **received** a visit from Tanzania's National College of Tourism (NCT) to discuss benchmarking, best practice and the possibility of future partnerships between the institutions. In addition, NCT were hopeful to develop their courses with the assistance of VUT, as well as have their students enrolled for their Masters and PhD.
- Four basketball players from Walter Sisulu University (WSU) have **been selected** for South Africa's national team. Olebogeng Matabane, Keatlegile Ramorwesi, Sindiswa Mbiza and Giovanni Jaftha will be part of the squad who will participate in the upcoming Confederation of University and College Sports Association (CUCSA) Games.
- The British Council **paid a visit** to the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in connection with the Carbon Literacy for Youth Employability and Job Creation (CL4YEJC) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) project. This network consists of DUT, one of the lead partners, Innovate Durban, another lead partner, Sheffield Hallam University in the UK, Kisii University in Kenya and Ladoke Akintola University of Technology in Nigeria. The aim of the CL4YEJC project is to encourage young Africans to participate in Green Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GIE) ventures, as well as contribute to the creation of jobs.