

## **East London scoops international NEPAD Council Conference**

Reversing Africa's brain drain will be one of many critical themes to be discussed at the NEPAD Council International Trade and Investment Conference to be held from 25 to 27 May in East London.

With speakers such as Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, chairperson of the NEPAD Steering Committee, the Eastern Cape Premier Nosimo Balindlela, The South African National Minister of Sport, Makhenkesi Stofile, the National Minister of Science and Technology, Mosibudi Mangena, the CEO of South African Tourism, Moeketsi Mosola and the CEO of the South African semi state transport giant Transnet, Maria Ramos, already confirmed, the conference promises to be important for business practitioners, existing and potential investors in Africa and local and international academics and researchers.

According to the conference chairperson and NEPAD Council Vice President international relations, Prof. Lynette Louw, the conference will give a critical assessment of the current trade and investment climate in Africa. High profile international policy makers from government and industry will use their experiences to find practical ways to overcome Africa's investment challenges, of which the brain drain is one.

"The challenge the NEPAD Council is confronted with is how to translate intellectual and scientific resources into everyday strategies that will develop Africa and accelerate growth. To do this we have put together a wide range of conference themes. These include promoting trade between countries in Africa, human resource development and the reversal of Africa's brain drain," says Prof Louw.

One of the other major themes is how to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI's) into Africa. This has received a major boost with the news that several international experts on FDI's have indicated that they will be at the conference.

Amongst the experts are Prof. Aloys Hüttermann of the Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany, and Prof. John-David Kabasa of the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. They have both conducted research in how to attract FDI's into Africa and how to build Africa's capacity to respond optimally to FDI's.

To register for the conference, contact the conference secretary Alida Phielix on e-mail: [Alida.Phielix@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:Alida.Phielix@nmmu.ac.za), tel: +27 41 504 3789 or fax: +27 41 504 9789.

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