

The Big Energy Debate: Perspective of young professionals

Prepared by the Consulting Engineers of South Africa's Young Professionals Forum (Gauteng North).

Mandate

The purpose of the Young Professionals Forum is to be a medium to channel views and proposed solutions to the relevant individuals and organizations as well as role players in the industry to effect positive change for Young Professionals. Our vision is to be an open, unbiased medium through which Young Professionals in the South African Built Environment and Engineering Industry may freely air their views, opinions and concerns, and to facilitate the formulation of potential solutions.

Draft programme^{1,2}

This draft programme is for the Big Energy Debate, a panel discussion platform that aims to bring Young Professionals in the Energy space to give their views towards the future of the energy landscape of South Africa. This is a preliminary document that aims to give a basic structure for the event.

Thursday, 13 September 2018

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Arrival of Guest (Ushered by EBIT and CESA YPF Committee Members) Research Exhibitions (UP, UJ & WITS Postgraduates)
5:30 – 5:40 p.m.	Welcome by Professor Sunil Maharaj (Dean of Engineering, UP) or Faculty representative
5:40 – 5:50 p.m.	Commencement speech (Vacant)
5:50 – 6:00 p.m.	Opening by Government Special Guest ³
6:00 – 7:10 pm	Presentations by panelists (steered by MC ⁴)
7:10 – 7:45 p.m.	Q&A from the public including comments/remarks
7:45 – 7:55 p.m.	Closing points from panelists
7:55 – 8:05 p.m.	Vote of thanks by CESA YPF Gauteng North Chairperson (Keith Katyora)
8:05 – 8:30 p.m.	Networking

¹ The event is hosted in collaboration with the Engineering Faculty, at the University of Pretoria and the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE).

² This will be a one-day event that will be held at the University of Pretoria's Main campus. A special guests and RSVP list will be collected before the event, due to security and parking passes.

³ Exact speaker will only be confirmed after the acceptance of invitations.

⁴ MC to be announced once invitation accepted

Indicative themes of the panel discussion in support of the interactive dialogue

The panel discussion will address the current state of the energy market and including the future of it thereof. The idea is to unpack an engaging session wherein views and comments are put to the table as to the current state of the energy sector. The overarching theme⁵ also is the future of the sector looking at the emerging new trends from a digital and innovation point of view.

The panel presentation is intended to serve as a starting point for the subsequent interactive discussion.

The following indicative themes and related indicative questions are suggested to promote a comprehensive debate and serve as the frame for the overall joint panel discussion, and to promote a focused and structured interactive dialogue amongst the delegations:

1) Digitization and decentralization as the driving fundamental changes to the energy value chain:

- Globally there is now the emergence of new players which has led to existing roles to be refined, reflecting new ways of generating, trading, transmitting, supplying, distributing or consuming energy. Digital technologies are going to transform energy systems and to make them more reliable, more connected, safer, more efficient and, above all, smarter. The question is, as a nation are we ready?
- What measures need to be considered to align ourselves with the new trends? Is there a need to look at Energy Business Models for the 21st century? How do we become leading Innovators in the energy space on the continent?

2) Accelerating the clean, efficient and smart energy transition:

- How do we as a nation go about this new energy transition? Are the resources available? What are the current problems and possibly solutions within the sector?
- What role can the customers, utilities and municipalities play in sustaining the future sustainability of the energy sector for the benefit of all citizens and the country's economic, social and cultural development?

⁵This is looking at the different new trends from a global point of view, as some of the new technologies are not yet mainstream in the African energy landscape.



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3) *The biggest disruptors facing the sector:*

- What are the biggest disruptors that are occurring in this transition? Are we not overhyping some of these new so-called disruptors such as Blockchain and Internet-of-things?
- What are the theoretical potentials to disrupt the energy sector, specially looking at the trading industry?

4) *The transitioned "New South Africa":*

- What new industry dynamics must the sector look at, sides privatization of Eskom? And what would the new business model look like? What is the future of traditional generation? What is holding back regulation changes?
- How can we drive change on behalf of the consumers and the sector?
- What role do **Young Professionals** need to play as the transition is happening? Do we have the adequate skills to cope and align ourselves with some of the new disruptors?
- What role can government and private sector play? And as future leaders how can we assist the government and private sector?

Venue:

University of Pretoria, Main Campus
Thuto Building 1.1
Lynnwood Road, Hatfield
0002

Time: 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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