



A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

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Business Holds the Key to Innovative Climate Change Solutions

This was the important message to come out of the National Business Initiative (NBI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) recent launch event of the Low-Carbon Technology Partnerships initiative (LCTPi). The key to unlock this opportunity lies in collaborative partnerships which connect large-scale innovative technological solutions with business requirements.

The LCTPi aims to accelerate low-carbon technology development as a set of scalable business solutions. The objective is to catalyse action through collaboration and co-ordinated efforts which accelerate low-carbon technology development and scale up the deployment of these solutions so that global temperatures may be limited to below the crucial 2°C warming mark.

As a joint public and private partnership, the LCTPi is born out of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Action Plan 2020 which is a brain child of the organisation's president, Peter Bakker. Mr Bakker joined the National Business Initiative's CEO, Joanne Yawitch and a series of delegates representing a diverse range of South African businesses and other stakeholders at the launch event. The launch event held in Johannesburg was the first of a global series followed by India, Japan, Brazil and China in the build-up to COP21.

The LCTPi has nine focus areas which have been formulated in response to key carbon intensive sectors which include: Renewables (including smart grids), Carbon Capture and Storage, Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Materials: Cement Sustainability Initiative, Low Carbon Freight Transport, Advanced Biofuels, Climate Smart Agriculture, Forests & Forest Products as Carbon Sinks and Materials: Chemicals.

In order to implement these solutions at scale requires the removal of social, market, technological and financial barriers to deployment. This initiative aligns perfectly with the NBI's ethos of co-operative engagement between business and government in facilitating a transition to a low carbon economy. To explain how South Africa is doing this, the keynote address of the day was given by Dr Phil Mjwara: Director-General, Department of Science and Technology who provided the South African Government perspective. Central to Dr Mjwara's address was the message that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has made the transition to low carbon technologies their target focus through a range of programmes and initiatives that will be deployed at scale, including Carbon Capture and Storage, large-scale renewable innovations, progress in second generation biofuels development and energy resource mapping. Dr

Mjwara concluded that a sustainable future requires decoupling economic growth from negative ecological impacts so we can shift to a low-carbon growth path.

Specific LCTPi solutions were selected for the South African context so that solutions were matched to business interests, these included Renewables: A Focus on Off-Grid Electricity Generation and Mini-Grids, Carbon Capture and Storage, Climate Smart Agriculture: Reaching Maximum Potential, Smart Grids: Learning from Early Technology Deployments, Mobility: Sustainable Mobility and Emissions Reductions, Freight: De-carbonizing the Supply Chain. Delegates chose break-away sessions to attend from across the above specified solution areas. Each group gave feedback on the main barriers to deployment at scale regionally that had been identified in the individual sessions. To read the full report click [here](#) and to access the presentations from the day, click [here](#).

The post [COP21](#) plan is to develop action plans that remove barriers to implementation at scale with business and R&D partners. The goal is to improve the practicality and impact of the proposed action plans through the Action2020 Climate Dialogues.

The LCTPi therefore acts as a platform, gathering all key stakeholders from across the board to engage in the dialogue needed to create agreement on the concrete actions required to accelerate low-carbon technology innovation to be deployed and implemented at scale. Joanne Yawitch stated in her closing remarks that crucial to this succeeding is for competition to be removed as a barrier and to focus on linkages instead.

Peter Bakker concluded the day explaining that he is confident that a successful outcome will be achieved at COP21 and that he will be back in South Africa next year in the implementation phase of the LCTPi. The LCTPi launch and the technology solutions presented are just the start, to change the world, we need action implemented now. And that is what this initiative plans to do.

For more information, please contact [Gillian Hutchings](#) or [Steve Nicholls](#).

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