CALL FOR TVET COLLEGE GRADUATES

As a result of the successful implementation of a structured placement programme in 2016 of Civil Engineering and Building Construction graduates in bricklaying and carpentry for the construction sector, the National Business Initiative (NBI) is scaling-up the placement programme in 2017. For 2017, the structured placement programme will include Hospitality and Tourism TVET College graduates. The NBI has entered into a partnership with the Nedbank Foundation, Harambee and the Institute of Plumbing South Africa to train plumbing graduates in the installation and maintenance of Solar Water Heaters. The NBI is inviting applications from:

- Civil Engineering and Building Construction TVET graduates with NCV Level 4 qualification achieved between 2012 & 2016, in carpentry and roof work, concrete structures, bricklaying, plumbing, roads or electrical systems and construction.

For further information please contact Shavilla Harpal or call 011 544 6000 by 17 February 2017.
**SA TO PURSUE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH UK POST-BREXIT** South Africa will continue to pursue bilateral and regional negotiations with the British government despite its exit from the European Union (EU), the Minister of Trade and Industry (the dti) Rob Davies said on Tuesday. *Tralac, 25 February 2017.*

**NEW BODY TO TACKLE PUBLIC PERCEPTION, COST OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES** The Electric Vehicle Industry Association’s (EVIA’s) first goal is to demonstrate to the South African public that they can use electric vehicles (EVs) with confidence, says South African National Energy Development Institute (Sanedi) cleaner mobility programme GM Carel Snyman. *Irma Venter, Engineering News, 25 January 2017.*

**STAKEHOLDERS CALL FOR RADICAL ACTION TO SAVE WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY** A coalition of stakeholders is calling for all fishing rights in the West Coast Rock Lobster (WCRL) fishery to be suspended until government takes radical remedial action to put the fishery back on a sustainable path. *WWF-SA, 25 January 2017.*

**R400 MILLION WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT OPENS IN CAPE TOWN** A R400 million waste-to-energy conversion plant was officially opened in Athlone, Cape Town, on Wednesday with high hopes of reducing the city’s landfill sites and creating jobs. *Business Tech, 25 January 2017.*

**AFRICA’S MAMMALS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE PACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE** Humans have decimated the world’s mammals over the last several thousand years and continue to do so today. Ghosts of mammoths, bison, horses, and saber-toothed cats haunt the Americas and Eurasia, casualties of expanding Upper Paleolithic populations over the last approximately 100,000 years. *John Rown, BizCommunity, 25 January 2017.*

**MORE BUSINESSES MUST WORK WITH SUPPLIERS TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE – STUDY** Too few businesses are working with their suppliers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to study that praised 29 companies including General Motors, Sky and Sony Corp for taking the lead. *Reuters, 24 January 2017.*

**INVESTORS SET TO HELP SA OUTSOURCING INDUSTRY** Key role-players in the UK’s Business Process Services (BPS) industry with operations in South Africa have agreed to work with the Department of Trade and Industry to enhance the country’s value proposition, the DTI said on Tuesday. *IOL Business Report, 24 January 2017.*

**KZN PREPARES TO HOST AFRICA WEF IN MAY 2017** The City of eThekwini will from May 3 to 5 host the African leg of the World Economic Forum (WEF) with the KwaZulu-Natal province standing to benefit to the value of R155 million and 512 jobs expected to be sustained or created from the event. *IOL Business Report, 24 January 2017.*

**MOKONYANE STRESSES NEED FOR CAREFUL WATER MANAGEMENT AS DROUGHT PERSISTS** It will be three years before South Africa starts to fully recover from the intense drought that has exacerbated its already-dry conditions over the past few years; however, the country will always be a naturally water-scarce country that needs careful water management. *Natasha Odendaal, Engineering News, 24 January 2017.*
AFRICA NEEDS TO MANAGE FOOD, WATER AND ENERGY IN A WAY THAT CONNECTS ALL THREE

There is an increasing global demand for food, water and energy. All three are inter-linked, a fact that has increasingly become the focus of attention for policy makers and governments. *Polity, 24 January 2017.*

THE SMART WAY TO HELP AFRICAN FARMERS TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Agriculture is the most important sector of African economies, from the livelihoods it supports to the future jobs it can generate. The basic recipe for boosting performance is well known: more investment, better access to financial services, improved seeds, and a lot more fertiliser (appropriately applied). *Sophie Mbugua, BizCommunity, 24 January 2017.*

BREXIT BRITAIN PLAN BOOSTS SMART GRID AND ELECTRIC CARS

Climate analysts give a cautious thumbs up to industrial strategy they say will support the clean energy transition. *Climate Change News, 23 January 2017.*

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

CDP The CDP in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. Read their press release entitled: “Suppliers report 434 million tonnes of emissions reductions as big buyers flex purchasing muscle”, [here.](#)

UN GLOBAL COMPACT (UNGC) The UN Global Compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. The NBI hosts the Local Network of the UNGC. Read their news update entitled: “Business Leaders World-Wide Agree that Disruptive Technologies Can Drive Corporate Sustainability Efforts”, [here.](#)

UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007, and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilizes business leaders for water stewardship. Read about: “Worsening Water Challenges?”, [here.](#)

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their new report, launched at WEF 2017, entitled: “Sustainability and enterprise risk management”, [here.](#)

WE MEAN BUSINESS (WMB) NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read ‘NBI’s Special Edition 2: We Mean Business Newsletter December 2016’, on the NBI Website.
NBI ANNOUNCES CDP KEY PROCEDURAL CHANGES The NBI has implemented a key methodological change for CDP South Africa reports, along with CDP Global announcing two main high level changes: an administrative fee to be paid by all responding companies and sector-focused questionnaires. Read NBI Notification here.

ACHIEVING DIVERSITY OF SUPPLIERS IS A WIN-WIN There is a business case for black economic empowerment (BEE) that will benefit all stakeholders, the South African Supplier Diversity Council believes. Business Day, 19 January 2017.

9/12: THE DAY SA BUSINESS WOKE UP The watershed political events of a year ago formed the impetus for the private sector to speak its mind. In a year that was truly stranger than fiction, big business found its voice and piled into politically sticky situations it has traditionally shied away from. Lisa Steyn, Mail & Guardian, 22 December 2016.

AN IMPORTANT MOMENT: TCFD LAUNCHES RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT In our feedback to Member Companies, arising from NBI participation in the Business and Climate Summit (London in June 2016) followed by Climate Week New York (September 2016), the NBI has been advising that you watch out for feedback from the Financial Services Board Task Force for Climate Related Financial Disclosure. This project has the potential for changing the game in climate risk disclosure. NBI Quick Brief, December 2016.

TOOLS AND REFERENCES TO MAKE SENSE OF COP22 Despite the political uncertainty introduced by President-Elect Trump’s electioneering statements, such as his stated intention to “End the War on Coal” and to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, nearly 30 additional countries ratified the Paris Agreement in the run up to the COP. In particular, key emitters such as the UK and Australia joined after the US elections had taken place. NBI Quick Brief, December 2016.

UNDERSTANDING SCIENCE BASED TARGETS The National Business Initiative (NBI) has chosen to prioritise Science Based Targets (SBTs) as an important focus area in our on-going campaign with the international coalition, We Mean Business (WMB). NBI Quick Brief, November 2016.

2016 CDP WATER REPORT LAUNCH: 2016 was a significant year for CDP water in South Africa, with 4 South African companies out of a total of 24 companies making CDP’s global A list. Anglo American Platinum, Harmony Gold Mining Company, Kumba Iron Ore, and Royal Bafokeng Platinum all made this growing list of companies on the CDP Water A List. For further details please contact Naseema Elias.

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

BARLOWORLD AND BAYWA EXTEND COLLABORATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA South Africa’s Barloworld Limited and BayWa AG of Munich, Germany, are to establish a new joint venture to further their agriculture and materials handling operations in southern Africa. Crown Publications, 18 January 2017.


CARBON TAX LAGGARDS MAY PAY DEARLY Some mid-size companies not generally viewed as big polluters could end up paying more carbon tax than mining, manufacturing and metals-processing players with larger CO₂ footprints. The alert has been sounded by ERM Southern Africa, part of the global Environmental
Resources Management group, the world’s leading sustainability consultancy. *Africa Science News, 12 January 2017.*

**FIELDS OF BARLEY: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES AND INCREASING LOCAL INPUT**

South African Breweries (SAB) draws much of its success from the expansive barley fields of the Southern and Northern Cape that are flourishing under the care of both commercial and emerging farmers. *Harvest SA, 7 December 2016.*

**PRIORITIZING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO ACCELERATE GROWTH IN AFRICA**

ABB supported a number of pledges signed by world leaders at COP21 in Paris, including a commitment to scale up renewable energy and help emerging economies transition their markets for energy efficient products. At COP22, ABB showed how this commitment translates into solutions and services that enable access to electricity and improve lives. *Engineering News, 7 December 2016.*

**TIGER BRANDS: PLANNING A POWER SURGE**

Since becoming Tiger Brands’ CEO just six months ago Lawrence MacDougall has wasted no time getting to grips with putting the food sector also-ran back on a growth track. *Financial Mail, 2 December 2016.*

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**NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINION AND SURVEYS**

**2017 CDP SUPPLY CHAIN REPORT LAUNCHED: ‘The Missing Link: Harnessing the power of purchasing for a sustainable future’** which was launched online yesterday.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SDP) OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ITCILO) FOR 2017.** ITCILO is the training arm of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations agency entrusted with promoting social justice, including internationally recognized human rights and labour standards. We offer a range of learning modalities, mostly professional training courses and Masters programmes (in association with the University of Turin, the University of Barcelona and SciencesPo, Paris). For more information on the content and the specific objectives of the courses offered in each of these areas of expertise, click on the following links: Procurement management, Programme and Project Cycle Management, Green Jobs, Multinational Enterprises and Global Supply Chains / Enterprise Development. The complete brochure of SDP on short professional courses for the year 2017 as well as on the upcoming Masters programmes is available here.

**RETHINKING ENERGY 2017: ACCELERATING THE GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSFORMATION** Renewable energy is a fundamental and growing part of the global energy transformation. Increasingly, renewables have become the first choice for expanding, upgrading and modernising power systems around the world. Download REthinking Energy 2017 here.

**UNGC EXECUTIVE UPDATE: ANNUAL LETTER TO UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT PARTICIPANTS** Read here.

**COMMENTS REQUESTED ON THE NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY, INTEGRATED ENERGY PLAN (IEP) AND INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP)** Click here for further information.
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SWITCH AFRICA GREEN – SEED AWARDS 2017 SEED has opened the Call for Applications for the 2017 SWITCH Africa Green (SAG) – SEED Awards. The SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development is an annual awards scheme designed to find the most promising, innovative and locally led start-up eco-inclusive enterprises in countries with developing and emerging economies. The deadline for applications is 8 March 2017. Further information.

WWF’S WATER RISK FILTER In November 2016 the NBI hosted a Thought Leadership Series (TLS) event with WWF and CDP on the Water Risk Filter, focussing on how to access and make use of this tool, as well as to understand its application by companies. NBI Quick Brief, December 2016.

LAUNCH - TRIALOGUE CSI HANDBOOK: Keynote Speech By: Ms Nozipho January-Bardill, Chairperson: Global Compact Network South Africa Click here to access.

DOING BUSINESS WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS’ - A NEW GUIDE. Doing Business With Respect for Human Rights’ is the comprehensive guide you need if you want to understand what it means to do business with respect for human rights. Click here.

NBI EVENTS 2017

ACCELERATING YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY - HARNESSING THE COLLECTIVE ACTION OF SMALL AND EMERGING CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY Wednesday, 15 February 2017, The Peter Clogg Auditorium, Group Five, Waterfall Business Estate, Midrand. There is growing realisation of the vital role of small and emerging contractors in developing a pipeline of skilled youth for the construction sector. The National Business Initiative is hosting a Thought Leadership and Dialogue Discussion on the role and contribution of sub-contractors in accelerating youth employability for the construction industry. Discussions will draw on the reflections and lessons learnt from the implementation of a structured workplace-based learning programme, purposefully designed for the construction industry. Please contact Shavilla Harpal.

SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS 2017

2017 MINING INDABA 6 to 9 February 2017 in Cape Town. Investing in African Mining Indaba is the world’s largest Mining Investment Conference and the World’s largest Mining Event in Africa. WEBSITE.

2017 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 14 February 2017 at GIBS, Illovo, Johannesburg. This highly anticipated annual event is an ideal opportunity for you to gain exclusive insights from business leaders, economists, analysts, government, strategists, entrepreneurs, experts and investors on the major developing trends and influences in the economy as well as impact on businesses in South Africa. GIBS.

AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 21 to 22 February 2017 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg. The 2017 Africa Energy Indaba Conference will discuss debate and seek solutions to enable adequate energy generation across the continent. Registration Form.

INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED GRI SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING STANDARDS COURSE followed by the Workshop on GRI Disclosures (Performance Indicators) based on the new Standards 21 to 23 February
2017 at the Glenhove Conference Centre, Melrose, Johannesburg. Participants receive a GRI certificate. For more information visit www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone 082 395 7582.

INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED GRI WORKSHOP ON THE TRANSITION FROM G4 TO THE NEW GRI SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING STANDARDS 24 February 2017 (morning session) at the Glenhove Conference Centre, Melrose, Johannesburg. Participants receive a GRI certificate. For more information visit www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone 082 395 7582.

OPEN EDUCATION GLOBAL CONFERENCE 8 to 10 March 2017 at The Cape Town International Conference Centre, Western Cape. This is the largest international conference dedicated to the impacts and practice of open education worldwide. The conference attracts faculty, teachers, administrators, policy makers, companies and educational professionals from around the globe. The theme of the 2017 Open Education Global Conference is Open for Participation. We will discuss pressing needs in education at all levels and examine how open approaches in education can increase access, equity and opportunities. Website.

CAMBRIDGE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME 12 to 15 March 2017, Diemersfontein, Wellington, Western Cape. The resilience and wellbeing of the people and societies that organisations impact, are becoming increasingly material to their success. Sustainability is no longer simply a bolt-on to a ‘business-as-usual’ approach, but is something that must become deeply embedded in the day-to-day operations of all organisations. This seminar is designed for all middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector to equip them with a high-level understanding of what is required. For more information as well as the application form, please have a look at the website, or contact Magda De Kok on magda.dekok@cisl.cam.ac.uk.

ENERGY REVOLUTION AFRICA 16 to 18 May 2017 Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa. Everything you want and need to know about renewable energy and the future of energy development and growth in Africa comes under the spotlight at Energy Revolution Africa 2017. This co-located event to African Utility Week will be hosted for the first time in Africa.
2017 CARBON TRUST PUBLIC SECTOR CONFERENCE 21 February 2017 London, United Kingdom. Join 250+ public sector colleagues at the Carbon Trust Public Sector Conference 2017 to discuss ideas, share best practice and learn about how different public sector organisations are reducing their carbon, water and waste emissions and leading the response to climate change amongst the communities and businesses that they serve and support. Read more & register.

A CARBON TRUST WEBINAR: SETTING SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS 23 February 2017 On-Line. A webinar discussion on Science-based targets, why they are important and the benefits companies can experience by setting them. Register.

INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY & REGIONAL BUSINESS SUPPORT INITIATIVES FOR SMALL Businesses 23 February 2017 Nottingham, United Kingdom. Receive free energy efficiency training from a Carbon Trust expert and explore some of the East Midlands regional initiatives that provide support and funding to develop and grow your business. Details here.

POWERING AFRICA 9 to 10 March 2017 Washington DC, USA. The annual Powering Africa: Summit returns to Washington DC this March, providing a platform for Africa’s energy sector stakeholders and developers to engage multilaterals, global investors and technology providers. The meeting will present backbone energy and infrastructure projects to proactive partners.

2017 WBCSD LIAISON DELEGATE MEETING 27 to 30 March 2017 Montreux, Switzerland. Save the Date.

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION (ICESDP’17) 2 to 4 April 2017, Barcelona, Spain. ICESDP’17 aims to become the leading annual conference in fields related to environmental sustainability, development and protection. WEBSITE.

2017 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA 3 to 5 May 2017 in KwaZulu-Natal at the Durban ICC, South Africa. WEF Africa comes four months after the conclusion of the 47th WEF annual meeting held in the Davos last week, where world leaders and business leaders gathered to address problems facing the global community. Further information.

TELL US WHAT YOUR INTEREST AREAS ARE

In order to refine our communications with you, please subscribe to the following interest areas. We will then notify you of NBI publications and events relating to the relevant topic.

The NBI’s two main focus areas are: Social Transformation and Economic Transition.
“On a Clear Day” seeks to notify subscribers of interesting articles, papers and news freely available from the internet. The National Business Initiative (NBI) encourages debate on sustainability issues and does not necessarily endorse any particular viewpoint. We welcome any feedback you might have. Please direct comments and queries to JustineA@nbi.org.za. Click here to unsubscribe.