

ON A CLEAR DAY 2021

NBI
National Business Initiative



On A Clear Day: Issue 785, 11 March 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

VIEW THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE'S (NBI'S) RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [here](#).

UK PACT SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCES PROJECT PORTFOLIO OF OVER £3M UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3 million to support SA Government climate change priorities. [British High Commission Pretoria, 9 March 2021](#).

BLSA CEO'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Last week my confidence that government is focused on delivering reforms and building a capable state was boosted on two fronts. [Busi Mavuso, BLSA, 8 March 2021](#).

THE MAKERS ACADEMY AIMS TO EQUIP YOUNG TECHNICALLY TALENTED STUDENTS WITH ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS During February, the **Allan Gray Makers** team in collaboration with the **National Business Initiative (NBI)** delivered an express entrepreneurship programme to the students at Ekurhuleni West College in Tembisa. [Read here](#).

WHY IS ACCESSING ADAPTATION FINANCE IMPORTANT? As an accredited entity of two global climate funds - the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund - South Africa can access grant-based funding through the **South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)** to implement local adaptation projects: [Watch here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

JSE COMES OUT TOPS WITH BEST GENDER BALANCED BOARD IN G20 According to the recently released *Stock Exchanges Gender Equality* analysis report, issued by the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) has the best gender balance on boards of any developing country in the G20. [BizCommunity, 11 March 2021](#).

5 WAYS FOR BUSINESSES TO WALK THE TALK ON GENDER EQUALITY Conversations about what it means to be a sustainable and responsible organization have dominated boardroom discussions over the last decade. [Kate Bravery, WEF, 8 March 2021](#).

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: GENDER BIAS STILL PLAGUES THE WORKPLACE As the world commemorated International Women's Day on Monday, 1st for Women Insurance head Seugnette van Wyngaard said gender bias was still rife in South African workplaces. [Dieketseng Maleke, IOL, 8 March 2021.](#)

AFRICA URGED TO EMBRACE WIND POWER TO CREATE JOBS AND GO GREEN Wind could power Africa's energy demands 250 times over and create jobs lost in the move away from fossil fuels but the continent has only tapped into 0.01% of its potential, wind experts said on Thursday. [Kim Harrisberg, Reuters/Daily Maverick, 5 March 2021.](#)

GENDER INCLUSIVITY TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND WORLD, SAYS SAICE Civil engineering organisation the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) has called for collaboration and working towards gender diversity and inclusivity to create a more sustainable working environment and world. [Schalk Burger, Engineering News, 4 March 2021.](#)

HOW DO COUNTRIES' NEW EMISSIONS-REDUCTION PLANS STACK UP? A new UN report finds that countries' emissions-reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement are falling far short of what's needed to prevent the most dangerous impacts of climate change. [Taryn Fransen and David Waskow, WRI, 28 February 2021.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ARE DOING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here.](#) If you are an NBI member company and would like to be profiled on this website page, please contact: [Gillian Hutchings.](#)

EVERY DAY IS WORLD WATER DAY FOR SUN INTERNATIONAL'S CASINO IN DURBAN World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 and never before has this day been so pertinent. With South Africa and many regions of the world caught in the grip of drought, businesses have had to grapple with the reality of severe water-scarcity. [Getaway, 11 March 2021.](#)

STANDARD BANK REMAINS LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE In its continued drive to sustainable financing, financial services provider Standard Bank has announced that it will, going forward, publish a Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures-aligned report along with its yearly environmental, social and governance report. [Engineering News, 11 March 2021.](#)

MOTUS ACQUIRES STAKE IN TECH FIRM TO FASTTRACK ONLINE VEHICLE SALES MOTUS Holdings has acquired a 49 percent shareholding in Synapt Proprietary, which in turn owns 100 percent of GetWorth, a technology and pre-owned vehicle business that uses its own patented technology. [IOL Business, 10 March 2021.](#)

REIGNITING MINING CAPITAL: ESG INVESTING IN A COVID-RECOVERY WORLD The South African mining industry has rolled into 2021 with confidence and strength achieved during the previous year from commodity prices, which remain supported at high levels. [EXXARO, 9 March 2021.](#)

HOW PRIVATE EQUITY DEALS IN THE MID-MARKET SPACE CAN UNLOCK JOBS Fund managers and institutional investors can stimulate the domestic economy and create inclusive jobs by investing more in mid-market companies. This was a key message emerging during a closed discussion at Sanlam Investments sponsored South African Venture Capital Association (SAVCA) Institutional Investor's Summit, held recently. [Retail Brief Africa, 9 March 2021.](#)

TOYOTA CELEBRATES ITS OUTSTANDING DEALERS FROM 2020 The local automotive retail may currently be going through a challenging period, but that has not deterred Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM) from celebrating some of its star performers from 2020. [Toyota, 8 March 2021.](#)

NEDBANK INTRODUCES CASH WITHDRAWALS WITHOUT A TOUCH OF A BUTTON Nedbank customers can now withdraw money from ATMs without touching the machine using a quick response (QR) code. [IOL Business, 5 March 2021.](#)

ABB URGES GREATER ADOPTION OF HIGH-EFFICIENCY MOTORS AND DRIVES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE – GLOBAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION TO BE REDUCED BY 10% In a new whitepaper published today, ABB reveals potential for significant energy efficiency improvements in industry and infrastructure enabled by the latest and most high-efficiency motors and variable speed drives. [ABB, 2 March 2021.](#)

ALL THE 2021 FORBES WOMAN AFRICA AWARD WINNERS Following a dynamic two-day virtual interaction focused on this year's theme, Africa Reloaded: The Power of The Collective, the 6th annual Forbes Woman Africa Leading Women Summit honoured some of the continent's most impactful women. [BizCommunity, 10 March 2021.](#)

GLOBAL COALITION RELEASES POLICY FRAMEWORK TO ENABLE DATA SHARING FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the International Road Federation (IRF) and the Sustainable Mobility for All Initiative (SuM4All) this week launched a new report that highlights the importance of policy guidance for data sharing between public and private sector stakeholders in the transportation sector. [WBCSD, 9 March 2021.](#)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: SUPPORTING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES BENEFITS ALL The newly passed policy that sets aside 40 percent of public procurement for women-owned businesses is an important development for women-owned businesses in South Africa according to Janeesha Perumal, Area Manager at Business Partners Limited. [IOL Business, 8 March 2021.](#)

THE STATE OF GREEN BUSINESS 2021: POSITIVE IMPACT According to the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, putting the SDGs at the heart of the world's economic strategy could unlock US\$12 trillion in opportunities and 380 million jobs a year by 2030. [S&P Global, 3 March 2021.](#)

LOOKING TO CDP DISCLOSURE IN 2021: SUPPORT AVAILABLE FROM CDP'S ACCREDITED SOLUTIONS PROVIDERS In February, we launched our 2020 Global Supply Chain Report, 'Transparency to Transformation: A Chain Reaction.' Our report showed that demand for transparency and disclosure is higher than ever in supply chains, with over 150 CDP companies requesting 15,637 suppliers to disclose their environmental data. [CDP, 2 March 2021.](#)

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL WATER WEEK (NWW) ANNUALLY IN MARCH WHICH IS ACTUALLY COMMEMORATED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. This year the NWW takes place from 15 to 22 March 2021, against the backdrop of the World Water Day on 22 March; and the theme is: "Valuing water". Read more [here.](#)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SEED AWARDS 2021 OFFERS SUPPORT, VISIBILITY AND FUNDING UP TO €15,000 FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SMES SEED Awards 2021 is on the search for innovative small and growing businesses delivering environmental, social and economic impacts. Deadline 22 March 2021. [SEED, 1 February 2021.](#)

THE WE VALUE NATURE 10-DAY CHALLENGE - 11 to 24 March 2021 There has never been a better time for businesses to assess their impacts and dependencies on nature. Through understanding and considering the risks and opportunities created by nature, businesses can make better decisions that benefit themselves, society and the planet as a whole. [We Value Nature Website.](#)

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

CDP in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. Over the past 20 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their latest **News Article** just published, entitled: "**3 common pitfalls companies make when using scenario analysis – and how to avoid them**", [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 their **Blog Article** entitled: "**Businesses Can (and Should) Help the World "Build Back Better" in the Era of COVID-19**", [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 their latest **Insights Article** entitled: **"Zero-Carbon Transition – Latest signals of change (05.03.21)"**, [here](#).

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their **Sustain Newsletter** recently published, [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

GENDER PAY GAP REPORT LAUNCH | Friday, 12 March 2021 | 11:00 to 13:00 | What would it mean to pay women fairly for the value of their work? This is a question the National Business Initiative (NBI) has set out to answer together with the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS) at the University of Witwatersrand and with the support of the South African Rewards Association (SARA). [Full details and registration link.](#)

ENVISIONING SOUTH AFRICA'S JUST TRANSITION AND CLIMATE PATHWAYS - REALISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH | Wednesday, 17 March 2021 | 15:00 to 16:30 | In recognition of the key role that South Africa's young people must play in order to achieve a just, inclusive, and economically competitive transition, the NBI and SAIIA (South African Institute of International Affairs) are pleased to host a series of Business-Youth engagements on transition issues and climate pathways for key sectors in South Africa's economy, providing a platform for a strong youth voice in guiding this transition. [Full details and registration link here.](#)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS: GENDER QUALITY & THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN SA | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 10:00 to 12:30 | In celebrating Human Rights Day, the Global Compact Network South Africa in partnership with UN Women and the National Business Initiative (NBI) will discuss human rights challenges and in particular gender inequality and the gender pay gap as a concrete issue where business can drive positive impact. [Click here to view details & to register.](#)

BUILDING CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND ACTION IN THE LEAD UP TO UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, COP26 IN GLASGOW | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 11:00 to 13:00 – Online | Details to follow soon.

VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKSHOPS | 2021

CDP BITESIZE WEBINARS: HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS | March 2021 | Join a series of 30-minute webinars with CDP's gold accredited solutions providers on a range of sustainability topics throughout March. [Sign-up here.](#)

INTEGRATING THE SDGS IN YOUR BUSINESS STRATEGY COURSE | 17 March 2021 | For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: 082 395 7582.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING COURSE | 18 March 2021 | For more information visit: www.ess-sustainability.co.za, e-mail: seakle@ess-sustainability.co.za or phone: 082 395 7582.

ESG IN 2021: THE STATE OF PLAY | 18 March 2021 | 13:00 to 14:00 ET | The world of environmental, social and governance metrics and ratings has entered a new and dynamic phase. Suddenly, nearly every publicly held company — and many privately held firms — are examining their policies and programs through the lens of investors' rising interest in ESG metrics. [GreenBiz Website.](#)

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SA - ONLINE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 22 to 26 March 2021 | This programme is designed for middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector to equip them with a high-level understanding of the role of sustainability in future proofing their organisations. Sustainability rests on a simple premise - the inter-connectedness of all things. It requires re-generative thinking. It is something that must become deeply embedded in the day-to-day operations of an organisation to guide it to a different

future, particularly in a developing world context. Apply [here](#) or email: elspeth.donovan@cisl.cam.ac.uk for more information.

WEBINAR: HOW TO DO TCFD REPORTING | 24 March 2021 | 14:00 to 15:00 GMT | Join them as they dig into the practical considerations of how to do TCFD reporting, providing important insights for all market participants, from corporations to financial institutions. Specialists will share their perspectives on the TCFD reporting journey, offering answers to common questions. [S&P Global Website](#).

GET READY FOR COP26: JOIN THE RACE TO ZERO THROUGH THE SBTi BUSINESS AMBITION FOR 1.5°C | 24 March 2021 | Check time zones | In the run-up to the Biden's Summit on Earth Day and COP26 in November 2021, join the SBTi for a webinar that will provide a detailed overview of why setting the most ambitious Science-based targets matters. The session will cover the SBTi Business Ambition for 1.5°C commitment model for net-zero targets and 1.5°C aligned SBTs, the key criteria and opportunities. [Register here](#).

WBCSD VISION 2050 VIRTUAL LAUNCH EVENT | 25 March 2021 | 09:00 to 10:00 or 17:00 to 18:00 CET | This public virtual event will see the global launch of WBCSD's refreshed Vision 2050, providing business with a holistic narrative and ambitious agenda with the intent to drive change in company strategies and sustainability planning in line with the urgency and roadmap for action illustrated in the final product. [Click here](#).

GREENFIN 21: THE PREMIER ESG ONLINE EVENT ALIGNING THE SUSTAINABILITY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMUNITIES | 13 to 14 April 2021 | Investors are increasingly utilizing ESG data to inform investment decisions, but a lack of standardization and communication with corporations is leading to confusion and limiting the acceleration of corporate sustainability initiatives. [Request an invitation](#).

3RD POWER WEEK AFRICA INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | 20 to 23 April 2021 | Power Week Africa promises valuable insights on a diverse range of topics critical to the African electric power & energy industry today. [Website and details](#).

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