

On A Clear Day: Issue 831, 9 March 2023

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

WHY JOIN THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)? South Africa continues to face major challenges underpinned by the fact that we are one of the most unequal societies in the world, with more than half of our population living in poverty, accompanied by escalating unemployment levels. Additionally, climate change threatens to further exacerbate these pressing economic and social issues. The NBI's purpose is to effect change in South Africa in the areas of Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Institutional Capacity. We believe a thriving society, economy and environment are possible, through the collective action of business, government and civil society. Please contact: Gillian Hutchings - Head: Membership & Communications for further information about our work and how to become an NBI Member Company.

VACANCY: HR OFFICER – HUMAN RESOURCES The National Business Initiative (NBI) is excited to share that we are accepting applications for a Human Resources Officer to join our dynamic Human Resources team, based in Johannesburg. The successful incumbent will provide support to the Human Resources Manager by executing daily tasks, functions, as well as developing and implementing key HR programmes that are aligned with the NBI's goals and objectives. For more information, click <a href="https://executiong.ncbi.nlm.ncbi.n

FOUR CFA SOUTH AFRICA PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO ATTEND THE CFA LONDON EVENT NEXT WEEK On 7 March 2023, the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) announced the four CFA South Africa projects that will be attending the CFA London event next week. These four projects were all part of the CFA's first cohort in South Africa, and they are already achieving great things. Click **here** to find out more.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BEZOS EARTH FUND, AND THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION CONVENE ENERGY TRANSITION ACCELERATOR HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE GROUP The U.S. Department of State, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bezos Earth Fund today held the first meeting of the High-Level Consultative Group (HLCG) providing input on the design of the Energy Transition Accelerator (ETA), a joint initiative to catalyze private capital to accelerate the transition from fossil fuel to clean power in developing countries. The three partners introduced the broad outlines of the ETA in November during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh. **Finanzen. Ch, 24 February 2023.**

INDUSTRY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON DIGITAL GENDER EQUALITY The UN General Assembly was awash in a sea of blue on Wednesday as some 1,800 people gathered to mark International Women's Day, which this year focused on the need for inclusive and transformative technology and digital education. Many attendees wore suits, scarves, or other items of clothing in shades that spanned from periwinkle to indigo, in tribute to women working in tech, a sector that remains overwhelmingly male. **United Nations, 8 March 2023.**

MEET THE WOMEN4CLIMATE TECH CHALLENGE WINNERS AND THEIR PIONEERING PROJECTS This International Women's Day, learn about the winners of the 2020 Women4Climate Tech Challenge and their innovative climate solutions implemented in C40 cities. Launched in 2017 by C40 Cities and the L'Oréal Foundation, Women4Climate emphasises the connection between achieving climate justice and gender equality. Through the mentorship programme, workshops, online courses, and competitions, C40 contributes to the emergence of the next generation of climate leaders by sharing knowledge and experiences, and creating a space where women can thrive. C40 Cities, 8 March 2023.

GENDER PARITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY: THESE FIVE INVESTMENTS WILL QUICKEN THE PACE Progress towards gender parity has seen major setbacks in recent years and the risk of further regression is intensifying. We are living through a time of poly-crisis, economic chasms have opened up with a disproportionate impact on women, people of colour, LGBTQI individuals and individuals with disabilities. According to the **2022 Global Gender Gap Report**, the two largest gaps remain in the realms of economic opportunity and political empowerment. **The World Economic Forum, 8 March 2023.**

WBCSD AIMS TO HELP CFOS ADVANCE THE "S" IN ESG IN NEW CFO NETWORK PRIMER The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) together with Shift has released a primer for CFOs on advancing the "S" in ESG. Social issues are becoming a higher priority on the business agenda. This is, in part, due to growing recognition of inequality as a systemic risk to the resilience of business operations, value chains and business models. New due diligence regulations and reporting standards are solidifying what is expected of companies. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 7 March 2023.

CLOSE GAPS TO DRIVE PROGRESS FOR NEXT GENERATIONS, YOUTH DELEGATES TELL LDC5 Dozens of youth delegates, representing some 226 million young people from 46 least developed countries (LDCs), took centre stage on Tuesday at a United Nations conference under way in Doha, Qatar, to spotlight a range of development issues affecting them and their vulnerable countries. The Fifth Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) is working to ensure young people are at the heart of the plans to realize the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) — which aims at removing structural obstacles to comprehensive growth and sustainable development — by addressing their needs and empowering them in furthering progress. United Nations, 7 March 2023.

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

MAINSTREAM WOMEN DESCRIBE HOW WE ARE EMBRACING EQUITY IN ENERGY TRANSITION Mainstream is marking International Women's Day by demonstrating its commitment to equity – the theme for 2023 – as a central element of delivering a just energy transition. The company's values-led approach to its mission is focused on providing more than equality of opportunity to those in the workplace and the communities in which it operates. Its projects seek to redress compounded

disadvantages that put sections of society at particular risk of being left behind by climate change and the move to green economies. Mainstream Renewable Power, 8 March 2023.

'SHE IS PEPSICO' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO SPOTLIGHT WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING & OPERATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA-WIDE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PepsiCo Beverages North America (PBNA) announced the company's She Is PepsiCo campaign, which aims to celebrate and empower women, showcase their transformative abilities, and help recruit even more into frontline roles. The program honors 28 associates from 20 different cities across the U.S. and Canada who exemplify leadership and dedication to their teams and communities. Each She is PepsiCo honoree will be celebrated with a personalized delivery truck wrap that shows the women in their work setting. PepsiCo, 8 March 2023.

IGNITING A PATH FOR WOMEN TO THRIVE IN STEM CAREERS In countless industries and countries across the world, the most in-demand occupations or specialties did not exist ten or even five years ago, and the pace of change that underpins this is only set to accelerate. This stark fact was highlighted in a **2016 World Economic Forum** report. For many youth in South Africa, the pace of change can be daunting, and persevering amid tough social and economic times has proven to be a great challenge. A key question is what can organisations do to ensure that future generations are ready to assume their roles in a rapidly evolving world? In PwC's newly released publication, *Igniting a path for women to thrive in STEM* careers, we outline four crucial steps that organisations can take to support youth on this journey. **PwC, 8 March 2023.**

DELOITTE GHANA APPOINTS NEW CONSULTING PARTNER Deloitte Ghana is pleased to announce the appointment of Serwa Atiase Dzogbenuku as the new Consulting Partner on 8th March 2023, which also happens to be International Women's Day. "We are excited to have Serwa join our team as a Consulting Partner," said Daniel Kwadwo Owusu, Country Managing Partner of Deloitte Ghana. "Her wealth of experience and expertise in the consulting industry will be invaluable to our clients and our firm, and we look forward to working with her to drive growth and provide innovative solutions to our clients. Her appointment is also a testament to our unwavering commitment to empowering women and elevating women leaders within our firm." **Deloitte, 7 March 2023.**

BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (B-BBEE) LEVEL 1 RATING FOR 7TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR Standard Bank South Africa (SBSA) has been awarded a Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Level 1 Rating, as measured against the amended Financial Sector Code (FSC) in South Africa. The financial institution has maintained Level 1 Rating since 2017 and this year's achievement includes Liberty as a fully owned subsidiary of Standard Bank. As a responsible corporate citizen, Standard Bank is committed to making a positive investment into the lives and livelihoods of South Africa's people, contributing to positive social, economic and the environmental (SEE) impact through our business activities. Our transformation strategy is one way we achieve this, both within the bank and more broadly in society. Standard Bank, 3 March 2023.

BCG LAUNCHES CENTER FOR CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & REGULATION Boston Consulting Group (BCG), one of the world's leading management consulting firms, announced the formation of its global Center for Climate & Sustainability Policy & Regulation to support clients as they navigate and shape the global transition to a net-zero, nature-positive world. Bringing together an international team of experts with deep knowledge of sector- and technology-specific policy and regulation, the virtual Center builds on BCG's extensive experience helping companies, governments, and multilateral organizations accelerate their climate and sustainability journeys. Boston Consulting Group, 2 March 2023.

ERM ACQUIRES LATIN AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND ESG CONSULTANCY, NINT ERM, the world's largest pure play sustainability consultancy, has acquired NINT, a Latin America-based consultancy providing sustainable finance and ESG advisory services with a focus on financial institutions, corporations, and other key organizations in the financial sector ecosystem. **ERM, 2 March 2023.**

R7.5M DONATION SECURED TO REBUILD DURBAN CHILDREN'S HOME Plans are under way to rebuild a Durban children's home destroyed in a fire five years ago. In February 2018 a fire broke out at the Edith Benson Children's Home, which housed 55 babies and children up to the age of five in Sherwood. At a sod-turning event on Tuesday, Child Welfare Durban and District

president Desmond Msomi said the organisation had secured a donor, the Sibaya Community Trust, to fund the R7.5m rebuild. Read more, here.

SHELL COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS PRODUCER NATURE ENERGY Shell Petroleum NV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has completed the acquisition of 100% of the shares of Nature Energy Biogas A/S (Nature Energy). By purchasing the shares in Nature Energy, Shell has acquired the largest producer of renewable natural gas (RNG) in Europe, its portfolio of operating plants, associated feedstock supply and infrastructure, its pipeline of growth projects and its in-house expertise in the design, construction, and operation of innovative and differentiated RNG plant technology. Read more, <u>here.</u>

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE KEY TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE WORLD. HERE'S WHY Small and medium-sized businesses are well known for their agility and innovation. But they are often slow when it comes to adopting environmental, social, and governance practices. These businesses need help to become responsible and sustainable within their communities. **The World Economic Forum, 8 March 2023.**

WHY EQUITY-BASED SOLUTIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE Women's wellbeing in the workplace requires an equity-driven mindset to address differences. Systematic changes are needed to ensure the social and economic value of equity-based solutions. Adopting equity-based solutions is key for employers to keep their competitive female employees from leaving. The World Economic Forum, 8 March 2023.

AS AN URBAN ECONOMIST I HAVE SEEN THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY. SO WHY ARE THERE SO FEW WOMEN IN TOP DEVELOPMENT POSTS? Diversity is about recognising the multitude of characteristics all people hold. It encompasses gender, ethnicity, religion, disability and sexuality. Inclusion relates to the ability to use these traits by enabling everyone to participate. Yet, as a woman of colour who has led organisations in the development sector, I myself have experienced the challenges associated with a lack of diversity. The Conversation, 8 March 2023.

PROCUREMENT TRENDS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE WOMEN IN PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE 2023 Talent management, technology, Environment, Social and Governance (ESG), Enterprise Supplier Development (ESD) and Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) are some of the important procurement topics that will be under the spotlight at the third Women in Procurement (WIP) Conference, which takes place on 23 March 2023 at Times Square in Pretoria. "Skilled procurement personnel are vital to ensuring that procurement is efficient and optimised – and there are many opportunities for women to grow and thrive in this industry," says the WIP conference convenor and organiser Masego Khutsoane. "The WIP conference is a necessity: not just for women, but for society as a whole. Gender parity in the workplace is crucial to ensuring that the imbalances of society and positions of influence are addressed. This event is a step towards addressing this." Bizcommunity, 7 March 2023.

A NEW UN REPORT OFFERS BUSINESSES A TEMPLATE FOR ACHIEVING TRUE SUSTAINABILITY A true "Brundtland moment" — in reference to the landmark 1987 report on sustainable development — is how Global Reporting Initiative co-founder Allen White described the *United Nations' Authentic Sustainability Assessment* report. Released in November 2022, the report is the culmination of more than four years of research, consultation, and advocacy for a new generation of accountability tools. It is, at its simplest, a commitment to bring organizational sustainability assessment into a new era of authenticity. <u>The Conversation, 7 March 2023.</u>

TECH ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPS SOLUTION TO AID GQEBERHA'S WATER CRISIS The city of Gqeberha falls within the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMBM) region and is home to approximately 1.5 million South Africans. Known as the hub of the automotive industry in the country, beautiful beaches and friendly people, the region currently faces a critical water issue which the Department of Water and Sanitation describes as dire. In 2016, severe drought hit the area with many of the dams and reservoirs never recovering despite receiving rainfall. As of the end of August 2022, levels were reported at a

mere 11%. Since the beginning of 2022, there have been various estimates to when exactly the dreaded Day Zero would fall, but interventions by government and the collective efforts of community groups and citizens across the NMBM have been successful in delaying complete depletion. One of those interventions with the capability to affect large scale impact is the smart meter innovation from Rodney's company, Smart Vending. <u>Bizcommunity</u>, 6 March 2023.

#SOPA2023: NORTHERN CAPE PREMIER FLAGS ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AS PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES Delivering his State of the Province Address, Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul said that along with addressing youth unemployment, the province's key priorities include energy and infrastructure development. "The province has developed a renewable energy strategy that focuses on rooftop solar PV installation. The strategy seeks to address the limited participation of small, medium, and micro-scale enterprises in the renewable energy value chain. The objective is to assist the SMMEs in entering into power purchase agreements with the government and private sector to acquire loan funding from banks to procure the PV systems. Fifty-one SMMEs have received the PV Green Card training. The Northern Cape Solar Energy Business Incubator (NOCSOBI) was also established, and we will launch it in April 2023," Saul said. Bizcommunity, 6 March 2023.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS 2023 The Green Entrepreneurship Awards 2023 is open for entry. This year's awards are a collaboration between Seed and the Circular Economy Catalyst, presenting two award categories. The Climate Adaptation Awards by Seed focus on Botswana, Malawi, and Zambia and are funded by the Government of Flanders. The Circular Economy Awards by Circular Economy Catalyst for India and Kenya are supported by the Ikea Foundation. The Green Entrepreneurship Awards are just one of the initiatives launched by Adelphi's Green Entrepreneurship Team in 2023. Seed and the Circular Economy Catalyst, together with other projects, will continue their work of empowering entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs to create climate-positive business models and to scale profitable circular economy business models that promote eco-inclusive jobs, green economic growth, and environmental sustainability. Applications are now open until 23 March 2023. Bizcommunity, 6 March 2023.

THIS INTERACTIVE CHART SHOWS CHANGES IN THE WORLD'S TOP 10 EMITTERS A lot has happened since countries met in Paris in 2015 and agreed on an accord to combat climate change. So far, 196 countries ratified or otherwise joined the Paris Climate Agreement, representing more than 96% of global greenhouse gas emissions. As countries implement their targets and policies and develop more detailed pathways to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it's important to fully understand the global emissions picture and how it changes over time. The World Resources Institute (WRI) *Climate Watch* interactive chart explores GHG emissions by country and economic sector, and shows how top emitters have changed in recent years. World Resources Institute, 2 March 2023.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: GOOGLE BLACK FOUNDERS FUND FOR STARTUPS IN AFRICA Applications have opened for the third cohort *of Google's Black Founders Fund for Startups* in Africa and Europe. The company has committed \$4m to support eligible, Black-founded startups in 2023. Startups operating and headquartered in Africa or having a legal presence on the continent are eligible to apply for the *Black Founders Fund*. Other eligibility criteria for startups that wish to apply are that the business should be benefiting the Black community or that early-stage startups have Black founders or diverse founding teams. The startups should be building for Africa and the global market, have the growth potential to raise more funding, create jobs and generally be making measurable impact. <u>Bizcommunity</u>, 1 March 2023.

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. Since their inception in 2000, CDP has played a transformational role in driving climate disclosure and action from businesses, investors, cities, and governments around the world. Read their latest Press Release, entitled: "IDX and CDP signed MOU to drive corporate environmental reporting", 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 **February 2023 Newsletter**, here.

WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION (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 "Net Zero Transition – The Latest Signals Of Change (03.03.23)", here.

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of almost 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 recently published Insight Article, entitled: "WBCSD at GreenBiz23 Scottsdale, Arizona: February 13-16, 2023" here.

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP | 23 March 2023 via Zoom | 10:00 to 11:30 (SAST) | The National Business Initiative (NBI) invites you to join us for our upcoming CEO Thought Leadership Dialogue: 'Boardroom Dancing' — Catalysing a Transformative Narrative for Corporate Leadership, on Thursday, the 23rd of March 2023. In this important dialogue we will be engaging with Nolitha Fakude: Chair of Anglo American's Management Board in South Africa and President of the Minerals Council, exploring key areas of her leadership journey in various industries that include mining, oil and gas, petrochemicals, financial services, as well as retail and management consulting. Nolitha's visionary leadership has positioned her as an influential corporate activist and inspirational businesswoman, with a passion for leadership development and transformation for women and black people in the workplace. | Website & further details.

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

HOW CLIMATE POLICY IS DRIVING CARBON MARKETS | 14 March 2023, via Webcast | In this webcast, EY carbon market professionals and a vice-chair of Paris Agreement Article 6.4 Supervisory Body discuss how global climate policy developments will impact the existing voluntary carbon market (VCM) at the national and intergovernmental levels. They will also discuss how the VCM will interplay with cooperative approaches for emissions reductions introduced by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (Paris-aligned market). Speakers will summarize the status of the Paris-aligned market after COP27 and explore developments expected at COP28. | Website & further details.

UNLOCKING CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT: A CONVERSATION WITH SEN. BRIAN SCHATZ ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TRANSMISSION PERMITTING REFORM ON CAPITOL HILL 14 March 2023 Virtual | Join World Resources Institute on 14 March 2023 for a conversation with Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii, a champion for the clean energy future and committed advocate for climate-smart legislation in the U.S. Senate. The discussion will center around federal transmission permitting reform and the growing need to rapidly deploy clean energy infrastructure. | Further details.

TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION 2023: ACCELERATING TOWARD GREEN AND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY | 14-15 March 2023 | World Bank HQ, Washington, DC and Online | Join World Resources Institute, in collaboration with the World Bank, over two days of in-person events, to engage with high-level policymakers, hear from cutting-edge thinkers and explore solutions for countries and cities around the world. The 20th edition of Transforming Transportation will consider the current economic scenario, post-COVID recovery and COP27 commitments as starting points to reimagine transport to make it more inclusive, safe, sustainable, and efficient for everyone. Guest speakers will address a range of critical topics, including decarbonizing mobility, resilient logistics, climate finance, accelerating innovation and more. | Further details.

CONNECTING GREEN HYDROGEN MENA 2023 | **14-16 March 2023** | **Palazzo Versace Dubai, UAE** | Connecting Green Hydrogen MENA 2023 (CGHM2023) is at the forefront of expediting the development of green hydrogen in the Middle East and North Africa, gathering policymakers, power producers, investors, suppliers, and technical service providers internationally to build business partnerships. | **Website & further details**.

In this webcast, panellists explore how social innovation models like TRANSFORM, which connects corporates with start-ups, can help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving the UN SDGs is ambitious, with aspirations to deliver a more inclusive, low-carbon and equitable economy by 2030. These are all-in agendas requiring deep multi-stakeholder collaboration. Does your organization have an ambition to accelerate progress towards the SDGs? Now is the time to join forces. | Website & further details.

E-CONFERENCE: GREEN HYDROGEN IN AFRICA | **21-23 March 2023, via Webcast** | Some African countries are considering green hydrogen as a potential technology to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, accelerate access to electricity for millions of Africans by expanding the use of renewable energy resources, and meet their global climate commitments. The continent is experimenting with new ways to sustainably harness its existing resources in order to meet the rising demand for energy for economic development and to boost citizens out of poverty while pursuing a net-zero future. | **Website & further details.**

HOW TO INNOVATE TO NET ZERO: CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS 23 March 2023 Virtual In this webcast, a global panel looks at which technologies could help us to reach net zero and what we'll need to develop them. Technology is often presented as the solution to achieve a just transition to net zero. But can we say with any confidence that the world has the right policies and investment strategies in place to help low-carbon and renewable technology scale up the pace required to meet net-zero promises? Website & further details.

BOTSWANA MINING & ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (BME) | 22-23 March 2023 | Gaborone Fairgrounds Botswana | BME is the region's latest international mining, renewables, power & construction expo and gathering of top mining, power & energy executives, representatives of regional executive authorities, investors, banks, industry associations, service companies and equipment producers for two days of networking, knowledge sharing and business matching. The event has separate 2 days conference, with free-to-attend exhibition, hosting the region's leading mining, energy & technology providers. | Website & further details.

GLOBAL HYDROGEN CONFERENCE 2023 | 20 April 2023 | Virtual | Global Hydrogen Conference 2023 is an interactive virtual conference from Global Hydrogen Review, focusing on innovative technology and solutions that will help to accelerate the hydrogen revolution. You can expect a range of presentations from leading companies in the hydrogen sector, and live Q&As with industry experts on key topics. | Website & further details.

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