

NITheCS WEBINAR:

Collaborating on BRICS+ Skills for Sustainable Economic Growth

Prof Japie Greeff (North-West University)

Friday, 23 August 2024 | 14h00 – 15h00 SAST

Attend online or in Seminar Room 1020, Merensky Building, Stellenbosch University

ABSTRACT

In this presentation the work of the BRICS Business Council's Skills Development, Applied Technology and Innovation Working Group will be presented, showing how the different BRICS countries interact and presenting the theoretical model for economic growth through collaborative work and standardisation. At the moment the working group has representatives from 10 universities in South Africa who, through the various projects, are able to collaborate with a huge number of experts from the initial BRICS member countries with the new countries that have joined the trading block having their experts join systematically as well. It is hoped that by presenting the overall approach and the scope of the projects that more experts from South African universities will join in the work to ensure that the South African voice is appropriately represented in the work of the standards committees. The current standards that are being worked on in this phase are, Additive Manufacturing, Industrial Design, Augmented and Virtual Reality, Drone Operation, Robotic Process Automation, Digital Capabilities for Business, Internet of Things, Data Analysis and Visualisation and Blockchain-based Solutions. There is a further list of 20 additional skills being planned after this phase, but the work will be cumulative in nature with new standards bringing about a need for additional skills to be considered. If you have an interest in the concept of skills development and have a vision for how your knowledge can be used to practical effect in any of these fields, then this talk is aimed at you. The invitation will be made for anyone to join us from any university, university of technology or college that has a passion for the youth of our country and believes that through training we can positively impact the economy and future of South Africa.

BIOGRAPHY

Prof Japie Greeff is the Deputy Director of the School of Computer Science and Information Systems at North-West University (NWU). He is also a Subprogram leader in Technology and Capability at the Optentia Research Unit, a member of the Unit for Data Science and Computing, and a NITheCS Associate. Further, he serves as a council member of the Big Data and Artificial Intelligence Professional Working Committee of the International Alliance of Skills Development. He holds a PhD in Electronic Engineering with a focus in engineering education. His main areas of interest lie in artificial intelligence, serious game development, gamification and the creation of technology artefacts that impact people on a human level.



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