Transforming Africa:
Innovating our way towards sustainability

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Call for Applications
Innovators' Expo

27th & 28th February 2024
University of Johannesburg, APK Campus

Are you an innovator contributing to sustainability and technological advancement in Africa?

Do you have innovative solutions, projects or products that demonstrate the potential to transform the African continent?

If so, we invite you to showcase your work at the Transforming Africa Innovators' Expo, a prestigious side event of the Conference "**Transforming Africa: Innovating our way towards Sustainability**".

About the Expo

The Transforming Africa Innovators' Expo is a platform dedicated to **showcasing the remarkable work of innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers** from across the African continent. This event provides an opportunity to highlight your innovations, connect with industry leaders, investors, and potential collaborators, as well as contribute to the discourse on sustainable development in Africa.

Key Themes

We are seeking innovators whose work aligns with the broader themes of the conference: [1] **Green and Just Transitions, [2] Digital Transformation, and [3] Inclusive Innovation**. Some examples of possible innovations are provided below, but these are just an indication, and we would welcome other suggestions within these three themes:

1. **Green and Just Transitions** – examples:
   - Renewable Energy Solutions: Innovations in renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, and hydropower, to transition toward cleaner and more sustainable energy production.
   - Waste Reduction and Recycling Innovations: Initiatives that reduce waste generation, promote recycling, and upcycle materials, contributing to a circular economy and minimizing environmental impact.
   - Sustainable Mobility and Transportation: Innovations in eco-friendly transportation options, such as electric vehicles, bike-sharing programs, and efficient public transit systems, promoting green and equitable mobility.

2. **Digital Transformation** – examples:
   - Digital Healthcare Technologies: Innovations in telemedicine, health monitoring apps, electronic health records, and diagnostic tools to improve healthcare accessibility and delivery.
   - E-Government Solutions: Digital innovations that enhance government services, engage citizens, and promote transparency in governance.
   - Fintech and Financial Inclusion: Applications of digital technology in the financial sector, including mobile banking, peer-to-peer lending platforms, and blockchain-based solutions that expand access to financial services.

3. **Inclusive Innovation** – examples:
   - Accessible Technology for All: Innovations focused on making technology and digital services accessible to people with disabilities, including assistive devices, screen readers, and inclusive design principles.
   - Community-Centered Development Initiatives: Projects that empower communities to participate in decision-making and local development through digital tools, knowledge sharing, and capacity building.
   - Gender-Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Empowerment: Initiatives supporting women and underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship, workforce development, and leadership, with a focus on creating gender-inclusive ecosystems.
   - Informal Sector Innovations – innovations emerging from informal entrepreneurs or addressing the needs of the informal sector.

These examples of innovations provide a sense of the diverse range of projects, products, and solutions that can be showcased at the expo, illustrating their collective impact on green and just transitions, digital transformation and inclusive innovation within the African context.

Why Participate

- ➢ **Showcase** your innovation to a diverse and influential audience.
- ➢ **Network** with fellow innovators, potential investors, and industry experts.
- ➢ **Gain exposure** and recognition in the innovation ecosystem.
- ➢ **Contribute** to the discussion on sustainable development in Africa.

How to Apply

Please submit your expression of interest by the **20th January 2024.** Include the following information:

- ➢ Name of the Innovation/Project/Product.
- ➢ Brief Description (max 250 words).
- ➢ Key Impact and Achievements.
- ➢ Contact Information.
- ➢ Relevant Images or Visuals.

Selection Process

A panel of experts will review all applications and select innovators based on the relevance, impact, and innovation of their projects. Successful applicants will be notified by the **31st January 2024.**

Exhibition Space

Selected innovators will be provided with exhibition space and logistical support to showcase their work during the expo.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of an event that celebrates innovation and sustainability in Africa. **Apply now** and be a driving force in transforming the future of our continent.

For inquiries and to submit your application, please contact trcticonference2024@uj.ac.za

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