

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Energy Economics Symposium 2020

*Energy market reforms: Is liberalisation a natural evolution or a necessary policy change?*



*Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020*

*Abstract submission deadline: 16 October 2020*

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## Overview and Objectives

Energy market reform is an international phenomenon that aims to address important challenges in the sector. Specifically, the South African electricity status quo is characterised by aging infrastructure, frequent outages due to power shortages, investment and policy uncertainty, continuously increasing tariffs, poor regulatory performance and vulnerability to climate change. The petroleum value chain shares many of these characteristics, notably upstream regulatory uncertainty and in the downstream above inflation margin increases, and poor regulatory design.

In theory, a liberalisation of energy markets and a transition to a more competitive market environment is considered the only way forward, particularly for South Africa. More competitive markets in all aspects of the energy sector have the potential to encourage investment and promote efficiency, at least in theory. It has also been official government policy for over 20 years but has never been implemented.

There are signs of a second attempt at electricity supply industry reform with the publication of the 'Roadmap for Eskom in a Reformed Electricity Supply Industry' in 2019. Similar signs are evident in the draft Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill gazetted in 2019. But there are no similar signs in the downstream in regard to liquid fuels price regulation.

This symposium provides a platform to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the liberalisation of energy markets in South Africa, the conditions for successful market reform and impacts on the energy sector, energy transition efforts, various economic sectors, and the economy and society in its entirety. Primarily, this symposium is interested in estimated efficiency gains from market liberalisation in South African energy markets, and if there are gains, what these gains could look like.

The list of topics to be addressed includes, but is not limited to:

- Energy market characteristics
- Regulation and de-regulation
- Pricing structures under different market conditions
- Market conditions and energy transitions
- Integration of electricity markets
- Just energy transition with certain market structures
- Labour participation impact
- The role of youth and women in the new normal
- Local and Regional effects
- Unbundling options for utilities
- Energy markets in the emerging world
- Historical liberalisation of energy markets
- Unbundling of the electricity supply and distribution
- Privatisation of energy assets
- Renewable energy penetration considerations
- Access to energy
- Energy security and dependence
- Revenue models for different market conditions
- Stranded assets approaches and sunk cost management
- Separation of industrial and social policies from energy carrier pricing

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## Call for Academic Papers

We seek high quality, original papers to be presented at our Symposium. Authors wishing to make concurrent session presentations must submit an abstract that briefly describes the topic, research or case study to be presented. All presentations will be a total of 15 minutes (including presentation and Q&A session).

The abstract must be no more than one page in length (maximum 5000 characters) and should include the following sections: 1) Overview or summary of the topic including its background and potential significance; 2) Description of the context, data (to be) used, or illustrative example of the topic; 3) Summary of key insights, results or further questions; 4) Conclusions: Lessons learned, business or market implications, recommendations for further work.

All abstracts should be submitted [here](#).<sup>1</sup> At least one author from an accepted paper must pay the registration fees and attend the conference to present the paper. The lead author submitting the abstract must provide complete contact details - mailing address, phone, e-mail, etc.

## Call for Corporate Presentations

Researchers from institutions wishing to make a presentation on their work must submit a summary describing the purpose of the project to be presented. All presentations will be a total of 15 minutes (including presentation and Q&A session, unless otherwise agreed with the organisers).

All abstracts should be submitted [here](#).<sup>1</sup> At least one author from an accepted paper must pay the registration fees and attend the conference to present the paper. The lead author submitting the abstract must provide complete contact details - mailing address, phone, e-mail, etc.

## Format of the Symposium

Under the current circumstances, the SAAEE 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Energy Economics Symposium will be presented in a virtual manner, combining live sessions and pre-recorded presentations with live discussions and networking opportunities. The exact medium of presentation will be shared in due time with the registered participants.

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<sup>1</sup> (If the link does not work you can copy paste this <https://forms.gle/itu5MMkGbeQAHHY59> in your browser or alternatively submit your abstract by email at [Symposium2020@saaee.org.za](mailto:Symposium2020@saaee.org.za) accompanied by a short CV (one page) of the author(s).

Pre-conference event: Youth and Student Day

*Monday 30 November 2020*

The *Youth and Student Day* is organised as a pre-conference event and is open not only to young professionals and students in energy related topics, but to all registered participants.

More information to follow.

### Key dates and deadlines

Abstracts and Summaries submission deadline:	October 16, 2020
Notification of abstract acceptance:	October 23, 2020
Submission of full papers:	November 16, 2020
Symposium registration fees paid by	November 25, 2020

### Registration Fees

The registration fee structure is listed below. Please note the special offer we are running when choosing to combine your conference registration fees with your individual 2021 SAAEE/IAEE membership fees.

CATEGORY	FEE	PAYMENT DUE
SAAEE Member: Conference Fee Only	R200	25 November
Student SAAEE Member: Conference Fee Only	Free	
Non-Member: Conference Fee Only	R800	25 November
Student Non-Member: Conference Fee Only	R200	25 November
Special: Conference Fee + 2021 SAAEE/IAEE Membership	R2400	25 November
Student Special: Conference Fee + 2021 SAAEE/IAEE Membership	R900	25 November

*Note: SAAEE/IAEE membership only fees for 2021 are R2400 (individual) and R900 (student), respectively. Memberships are valued at over R20,000 with access to leading IAEE journals and discounted rates on conference and workshop events.*

*Note: Corporate memberships allow for 3 x individual SAAEE/IAEE memberships. Please contact SAAEE for more information on fees and special arrangements.*

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#### SAAEE BANKING DETAILS

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***Register [here](#)***

- ***Complete your information and upload your proof of payment.***
- ***If you register more than one individual, complete separate forms for each and indicate who is responsible for payment.***

#### Important notes

The registration fees cover 3-day access to all sessions (plenary and paper presentations) and symposium material.

If an approved paper has more than one author, only the paper presenter may register and pay the corresponding fee, as defined above. A paper presenter cannot present more than one paper.

Withdrawal requests received after October 30 will not be refunded.

Students are especially encouraged to participate and may attend the Symposium at a reduced student registration rate.

#### For more information:

Contact us by email at [Symposium2020@saaee.org.za](mailto:Symposium2020@saaee.org.za) or at [www.saaee.org.za](http://www.saaee.org.za) (Please note that the website is under construction and might have limited information for now).

Or through the SAAEE social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)

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