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## Conference Announcement & First Call for Papers

**The Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership, in partnership with  
the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative (GRLI) and  
University of Stellenbosch Business School**

**will host the Second International Conference on Responsible Leadership at  
Spier Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa**

**Week of 19 November 2012 (*exact academic conference days to be confirmed*)**

## **Responsible Leadership for Africa and the World**

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The Second International Conference on Responsible Leadership will take place during the week of 19 November 2012 as part of the “Africa Leads” event at Spier Wine Estate in the Western Cape. With this announcement the Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership, in partnership with the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative (GRLI) and University of Stellenbosch Business School would like to invite submissions to this biennial academic conference.

Africa is endowed with remarkable natural, cultural and human resources. It is no exaggeration that the world economy is dependent on these resources for its very existence. However, the continent continues to face the challenge of converting its potential to much-needed economic and political stability, social development and environmental sustainability. Responsible leadership in and for Africa can play a major role in realising the continent’s potential and may also act as guiding light for the rest of the world in demonstrating responsible leadership behaviours and impacts.

Globally the occurrence and impact of major environmental, social and economic tragedies are increasing. There seems to be general consensus that humanity at large need to act fast in minimizing the impacts, such as with climate change, where adaptation now tops the agenda ahead of mitigation. As the crossing of biophysical thresholds that guarantee survival on this planet continues, we are also confronted with increasing inequality and social injustice that undermines social cohesion, our political institutions and the ultimate ideals of democracy and freedom. The breakdown of social cohesion and the threats to democracy and freedom is further exacerbated by an apparent political impotence to deal with global challenges. The ongoing failure of global leaders to agree on the implementation of the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol is one example of closed-system thinking that can only lead to conflict and rising nationalisms. Another is the handling of the global financial crisis and related aftershocks.

Throughout Africa and the world we are only starting to accept and deal with the notion that current economic thinking and design is possibly underpinned by flawed assumptions. Markets are not efficient, economics cannot be decoupled from ethics and politics, and economic “growth as usual” and “business as usual” is not achievable and probably no longer desirable. We need Responsible Leadership for Africa and the World.

During the first International Conference on Responsible Leadership in 2010, attended by 164 delegates from more than 10 countries, there was a strong emphasis on the sharing of frameworks and ideas, around the attributes of responsible leaders, paradigmatic foundations of responsible leadership, and on responsible practices (e.g. in the business sector). Conference discussions and outcomes exposed increased awareness of the need for organisations (e.g. business) to expand their accountability, e.g. from having a narrow wealth-creation function, to also include societal welfare and the health of the planet. Visions of responsible leadership in different contexts and levels were highlighted, as well as a shared awareness of the importance of collective leadership, which spans across multiple organisations and sectors.

With this year's conference we investigate the interplay of leadership and accountability at the collective level within an organisational context, focussing on issues of governance, integrated reporting and strategies for sustainability. We also place the role and future of management education in developing responsible leaders for Africa and the world under the spotlight. One of our streams will investigate the ethical dimension of responsible leadership asking what the role of responsible leadership may be in fostering an ethos of hope and a culture of responsibility. Finally, we once again welcome the engagement of academics and practitioners that wish to contribute to the theory of responsible leadership as a phenomenon at individual, institutional and collective level.

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The theme of the 2012 conference is ***Responsible Leadership for Africa and the World***.

This broad theme invites papers and presentations from academia, practitioners; representing private, public and civil society sectors. Local and international scholars, practitioners and agencies in the field of responsible leadership, corporate citizenship, corporate governance, corporate responsibility and sustainable development are invited to submit contributions preferably to one the following sub-themes:

- Leadership and accountability: Governance, Integrated Reporting and transitioning strategies for Sustainability and Resilience
- Leadership and ethics: fostering an ethos hope and a culture of responsibility
- The theory of responsible leadership: A phenomenon studied at individual, institutional and collective level
- Africa's homegrown leadership and sustainability paradigms
- Responsible management education for Africa and the World

The format of the conference will include full length papers, workshops, panel discussions, poster presentations, case studies and a PhD colloquium.

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## **SCHEDULE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Abstracts of papers (**max. 500 words**) can be submitted to the conference office (CRL2012@up.ac.za). They should be submitted electronically (by e-mail), in RTF/MSWord format as file attachments (not as part of the message).

**30 April, 2012:**      **Deadline for abstracts of 500 words**, to be submitted to CRL2012@up.ac.za

All full paper submissions will go through a double-blind peer review process. Therefore, all author-identifying information should be removed from the paper except for a cover page. We advise all non-native english speakers to have their papers checked by a native speaker before submission. Papers should be no longer than 35 pages (double-spaced) including tables, graphs, references and endnotes. The formatting of the paper has to follow the guidelines of the Journal of Business Ethics.

**4 June, 2012:**      **Notification of acceptance of paper proposals**

**13 August, 2012:**      **Deadline for full paper submission**, to be submitted to CRL2012@up.ac.za

Please check our website (<http://www.up.ac.za/crl>) for up-to-date information on deadlines and procedures.

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## **CONFERENCE OFFICE:**

Any further queries about the academic conference can be addressed to:

E-mail:      CRL2012@up.ac.za  
Tel:            +27 12 420 3134

An announcement will be sent out as soon as the conference website is available.