



# **Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts**

## **ASSAf-DST-NRF First Annual South African Young Scientists' Conference**

**Date: 12-13 October 2010**

**Venue: Department of Science and  
Technology Auditorium, Pretoria, South  
Africa**

**Theme: Biodiversity in Focus: Exploring the  
Opportunities for South Africa's  
Future**

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: 6 August 2010**

## **Background**

Science plays a key role in ensuring that all the ideals of a knowledge society are achieved. It is of strategic importance for any country that a pool of talented, knowledgeable, and well-equipped young scientists are recruited, retained, and developed in the science sector. It is also important for a platform to exist within a country for young scientists to share information regarding their areas of interest and research with one another.

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the National Research Foundation (NRF) will host a National Young Scientists Conference within the framework of the Academy of Science for the Developing World (TWAS) and Organization of Women Scientists for the Developing World (OWSDW) National Chapters hosted by ASSAf on **12-13 October 2010** at the **DST Auditorium, Pretoria, South Africa**. The conference is aligned to the 2010 International Year Theme, biodiversity.

## **Submission of Abstracts**

The Organising Committee invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations. Presenters are requested to indicate their preference.

## **Eligibility**

The conference is aimed at young male and female scientists resident in South Africa and the following criteria apply for presenters:

- Be under the age of forty (40) when the abstract is submitted
- Be in possession of at least a Master's degree
- Have a research interest in the International Year theme

Participation of PhD, Post-Doc, and young, early-career researchers and scientists is encouraged.

## **Conference Subthemes**

Abstracts focusing on the following thematic areas are invited:

- Global guidelines and instruments for conserving biodiversity
- Biodiversity and policy in South Africa
- Biodiversity hotspots in South Africa
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Biodiversity and socio-economic development
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity conservation and management

Presenters should clearly indicate under which subthemes they would like to present their work.

## **Abstract Format and Submission**

Presenters are encouraged to follow the instructions clearly:

- Abstract should not be more than 300 words in MS Word
- Abstract font should be Arial 11 with A4 set up margins
- Abstract should include the following information:
  - Title, Author (s), Institution

- Name of Abstract Presenter should be underlined
- Presenters should submit their abstracts electronically to [mutheu@assaf.org.za](mailto:mutheu@assaf.org.za); Tel: 012 349 6607; Fax: 086 576 9517

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: 6 August 2010**

### **Abstract Acceptance**

Abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific panel which reserves the right to accept and allocate poster and oral presentations. All those who submitted abstracts by the due date will be notified by 27 August 2010 whether their paper has been accepted. Authors of accepted abstracts will be required to submit full papers which will be peer-reviewed for publication in the conference proceedings, and requirements for the submission of manuscripts will be provided in the acceptance letter.

### **Oral Presentations**

All oral presentations will be conducted in English.

### **Poster Presentations**

Accepted posters will be displayed outside the DST Auditorium and full details and specifications will be provided in the abstract acceptance letter.

### **General Conference Information**

Young male and female scientists, academic supervisors, senior scientists and biodiversity practitioners are encouraged to register for the conference by completing the attached conference registration form and sending it to [mutheu@assaf.org.za](mailto:mutheu@assaf.org.za). Please note that the conference is limited to 80 participants and the deadline for conference registration is **Friday 24 September 2010**. Conference participants will be required to provide their own transport and accommodation to the conference unless otherwise stated on the formal invitation and abstract acceptance letter. Limited funding is available for participants presenting oral papers.

For any further information on the conference please contact:

Mutheu Dorothy Ngila

Tel: 012 349 6607

Fax: 086 576 9517

Email: [mutheu@assaf.org.za](mailto:mutheu@assaf.org.za)

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