

1ST ANNOUNCEMENT



New Frontiers in Separation Processes & Membranes Development

A Bilateral workshop South Africa - France

Organized by:

**Department of Applied Chemistry - DST/Mintek National Innovation Centre
Institute of Nanotechnology and Water – Water Node, University of Johannesburg
&
The European Institute of Membranes – UNESCO SIMEV Chair, Chemistry School of
Engineering, CNRS, University of Montpellier (France)**

Under the Auspices of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry
and the African Membrane Society

Date: 17-19 July 2019

Venue: School of Tourism and Hospitality conference room
University of Johannesburg

BACKGROUND

Environmental pollution is nowadays a global challenge with diverse and complicated thematic areas. It is caused by toxic chemicals emitted in the environment due to human activities (mining, agriculture, domestic waste ...) or industrial processes. This pollution affects air, water or soil, and results in the destruction of biodiversity as well as the degradation of human health. South Africa is not spared and today faces a number of specific challenges to preserve the quality of air and water. Therefore, there is a need for technology able to monitor, detects and clear all forms of pollution. This need is, even more, pressing for an emerging country like South Africa where rapid, low-cost and easy to use techniques are becoming crucial in urban, peri-urban, rural and remote areas. In this context, separation processes and membrane technologies in particular can help to solve issues through various applications.

For Many years, the European Institute of Membranes (IEM) and the UNESCO SIMEV Chair, hosted by the Chemistry School of Engineering (Montpellier, France), have organized workshops on water-related matters in developing countries, bringing solutions for sustainable clean water in small communities via membrane processes. The DST/Mintek

Nanotechnology Innovation Centre, the Institute of Nanotechnology and Water – Water Node at the University of Johannesburg, and the European Institute of Membranes - UNESCO SIMEV Chair are now joining hands to organise the first workshop on membrane development and separation processes for water and air purification in South Africa.

AIMS

The workshop will provide a platform for various stakeholders from South Africa and France to discuss South African challenges, share knowledge, network, and look at innovation opportunities in water testing, prevention of water pollution, water purification/treatment and recycling of wastewater. It will provide a means for academics, government officials/policy makers, funders, users and industries to scope out areas for new collaborations between the two countries.

THEMES

- South African challenges regarding water & air quality in urban areas & rural communities
- Water & air treatment: relevant science and technologies
- Management and policy issues
- Point of view (needs, constraints, proposals) of the different stakeholders

WHO IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Scientists, engineers and practitioners, government officials/policy makers, municipalities, water utilities, industries, research funders, NGOs and other representatives of civil society

ACTIVITIES

- A three-day workshop with plenary presentations from invited speakers from academia and industry and a poster-session for students
- Open discussion sessions
- 2nd day dedicated to the 18th UNESCO SIMEV Thematic School
- On the third day, visits to labs and topic-relevant sites in South Africa

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: <http://www.unesco-simev.org/en/south-africa-workshop/>

COORDINATORS

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