



05 June 2006

Search Results

—Subscribe —Free daily e-mail

Sector Focus

- ..CATALOGUE
- ..Automotive
- ..Construction
- ..Hydraulics
- ..Energy
- ..Material Handling
- ..Pumps
- ..Steel
- ..Telecoms
- ..Transport
- ..Valves

News

- ..News Today
- ..Breaking News
- ..News This Week
- ..Weekly Features
- ..Editor's Choice
- ..Business Leaders
- ..IT @ Work
- ..Factory Tour

Views

- ..Opinion
- ..Columnists

Essentials

- ..Product List
- ..Project Update
- ..On the Air
- ..Incentives
- ..Careers
- ..Features Library
- ..Tenders
- ..What's On
- ..B2B Enquiries

About Us

- ..Subscription Info
- ..Letters to Editor
- ..Advertising Info
- ..Contact Us
- ..Tip Us Off

Also Online



Scientists work together to understand environmental change

Humankind's impact on the earth's natural ecosystems is changing the environment and, based on current trends, large parts of South Africa will be much drier and/or hotter by 2050.

Taking the earth's pulse by collecting information on the changing state of the environment is a growing focus area worldwide. Locally, the scientific community is making a concerted effort to gather and share information on the environment through the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON).

The organisation is a multi-institutional, government-funded earth-observation network that aims to deliver long-term, reliable data for scientific research and inform policy and decision-making. The SAEON is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and will spend up to R5-million a year after completion of the rollout of six observation nodes in different parts of the country in two years' time.

The project was among the initiatives discussed when the SAEON held its first biennial summit in Tshwane last week. The aim of the summit was to create a blueprint for environmental-observation science in South Africa. Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom, who delivered the keynote address, said that timeous information on changing trends would enable South Africa to mitigate the effects of climate change and other negative developments.

"For a large number of government priorities – for example, climate change, food security, health, land restitution and redistribution, economic development, waste and pollution management, energy supply and environmental security – we rely significantly on environmental science to charter guidelines for sustainable development.

"Our vision includes the integration of natural and social sciences in ways that will be appropriate for developing comprehensive and defensible policies and strategies," Hanekom said.

The DST, in consultation with a variety of stakeholders, recently completed a draft earth-observation strategy for South Africa.

This followed the leading role that the DST played in the establishment of the Group on Earth Observation, an intergovernmental initiative that has started a ten-year implementation plan for a global earth-observation system.

Also speaking at the summit, SAEON advisory board chairperson Prof Albert van Jaarsveld said that the event was an innovative step forward on the road to safeguarding environmental quality for all South Africans, which is one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

Keyword search

Advanced Search

Advanced Search enables the user to execute structured database searches of published material. It facilitates movement beyond simple word searches, and requests can be broken down into component parts – word, edition date, subject, category, author, or a combination of these components.

Log On

Subscriber log on



Breaking News

- First global solid-mineral resources...
- Copper steady on Mexican mine strike...
- SA mining royalties bill "completely..."
- Xstrata says its offer for Falconbri...

Est. 1963
TOOL CENTRE



We at 600SA strive to offer the Southern African market the best equipment available globally.

Click Here
www.denbraven.co.za

Click Here
www.bearings.co.za

opa
MEMBER OF THE ONLINE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



E-mail the article: **Printer friendly:**
 Published: 2006/04/07
 Author: Helene Le Roux
 Portfolio: Senior Staff Writer
 E-mail: newsdesk@engineeringnews.co.za