



3RD BRICS Young Scientist Forum Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Hosted by the
Department of Science and Technology

Date: 25-29 June, 2018

Theme: Building BRICS Youth Leadership through Science,
Technology and Innovation

Venue: Durban, South Africa

1. Background

The decision to establish the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Young Scientist Forum (YSF) was taken at the 2nd BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting in Brazil in March 2015.

The 1st BRICS YSF was held in Bangalore, India in September 2016. At the 4th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Jaipur, India in October 2016, the BRICS countries agreed to hold the BRICS YSF on a rotational basis.

The 2nd BRICS YSF was held in Hangzhou, China from 11 to 15 July 2017, prior to the 7th BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and 5th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting.

South Africa assumed the BRICS rotational Presidency on 1 January 2018 and will host the 10th BRICS Summit in July 2018. In line with the established tradition of previous BRICS Summits, South Africa will host a wide range of BRICS activities leading up to and following the Summit, including the 6th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 8th BRICS STI SOM.

As part of its BRICS STI activities, South Africa will host the 3rd BRICS YSF in line with the decision taken at the BRICS STI Jaipur Ministerial in October 2016.

The main goals of the 3rd BRICS YSF are:

- To provide a platform for talented BRICS young scientists and researchers to exchange perspectives on transformative change and forge sustainable research partnerships, links and networks;
- To promote youth driven creative solutions to the most pressing socio-economic problems in their societies;
- To promote academic and policy exchanges and dialogues amongst the BRICS youth; and
- To promote interactive contact between young scientists and established scientists and researchers from the BRICS member countries.

2. Conference Sub-Themes

The 3rd BRICS YSF under the theme “*Building BRICS Youth Leadership through Science, Technology and Innovation*” will highlight the strategic importance of science, technology and innovation as key drivers of youth entrepreneurship and leadership. The thematic discussions will focus on **energy, water and social science** and specifically address issues related to the following:

- **Energy** – *The Present and Future Energy Imperatives of BRICS Economies*
- **Water** – *The Strategic Importance of Water Resources in the Context of Climate Change*
- **Social Science** – *The Impact and Challenges of Modern ICT Technologies on Youth Identity and Cultural Choices*

3. Eligibility

This call is open to early career researchers who are based in South Africa. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- South Africa citizenship or permanent resident status
- Be under the age of forty (40)
- Be in possession of at least a Master's degree
- Have research interests in the thematic areas listed
- Commit to be present for the duration of the conference
- Submit an abstract that will be the basis for a presentation at the conference

Note: In addition to the abstract, do submit a short motivation (1 page at most). The chosen presenters are asked to not simply focus on their research or thesis but should engage with the topic and answer its requirements. Presentations that provide possible recommendations are preferable and address the BRICS countries. The meeting format is a Forum which is a discussion group, where ideas related to a subject ‘under discussion’ can be raised and evaluated on a (more-or-less) equal and informal basis.

4. Forum Participation and Application

On behalf of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) invites submission of abstracts for oral presentations in one of the sub-themes outlined above. The attached application form should be completed and sent to Edith@assaf.org.za Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614 by **Friday, 11 May, 2018**. There is no registration fee to attend the forum. Further information about the forum will be circulated to successful applicants.

5. Call for Abstracts

Abstract Format and Submission

The abstracts should follow the following format:

- Abstract must not be more than 300 words (excluding Title, Author and Institution) in the attached form

- Abstract must be written in English
- Abstract title must be in boldface, capital letters (lowercase) and centered
- Abstract font must be Century Gothic 11 with A4 set up margins
- Abstract must include the following information:
 - Title, Author(s), Institution(s)
 - Name of first-author should be underlined (Please do not underline co-authors)
 - Institutional affiliations, city, province for all authors
 - The superscript numbering must be in front of each initial and surname of each author
- Where appropriate, the text may be structured using the following headings:
 - Introduction or Objectives
 - Discussion
 - Recommendations
 - Conclusion

General Conference Information

For any further information on the forum please contact:

Ms Edith Shikumo Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614 Email: Edith@assaf.org.za

Application Deadline: 11 May 2018