

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2019 SAACI ANNUAL CONGRESS

ISSUE 2 • TUESDAY,  
30 JULY 2019

# And the winners are...

The winners of the SAACI 2019 awards were announced at last night's awards and networking dinner.

The Fellowship award went to Nick Papadopoulos.

The award recognises long service and a special contribution to SAACI. Nick makes an impact on the lives of individuals as a role model and mentor and he is an inspiration to colleagues in the industry.

The Young Achiever award was made to Minister Kganyago.

The award recognises Minister's outstanding contribution to SAACI and his high level of commitment, dedication and influence in the industry. His pioneering spirit on a personal and business level contributes towards new developments in SAACI.

The Members Choice award in the venue category went to Century City Conference Centre and Hotel.

The Members Choice award for the Best Conference and Events Organiser went to Lorin Bowen Business Events and Ultimate Data Sciences was awarded with

the Members Choice award for best supplier.

Tshwane was awarded as the SAACI 2019 Branch of the Year.

For the first time this year the Green Guru award was made to the exhibitor, venue and supplier who truly went the extra mile in making a difference at the congress.

The winner of the Green Guru award for the best exhibitor went to the RISE Project, the Green Guru

venue winner is Southern Sun Elangeni Maharani while the Green Guru award winning supplier is Exquisite Finishes.

"Congratulations to all the winners – you make a difference to SAACI's overall performance," said SAACI's Acting Chairperson Kim Roberts.

"Healthy competition sets SAACI members apart and helps raise the bar in our drive for ever-improved service to the industry," said Roberts.



The 2019 SAACI award winners.

## Switched on for our members

"SAACI will continue to be the leading voice of the business events industry in the region, embracing collaboration and innovation on every level."

This is the word from Acting Chairperson Kim Roberts, who says the association is switched on to serve its members and their businesses.

In an interview with the Daily News, Roberts said SAACI's role is creating an enabling environment to start conversations with the leading voices in the industry about the issues that affect members' businesses.

"Understanding the impact of technology on businesses and brands is one such focus area. The environment in which we operate is completely different to only a few years ago and embracing technology is frankly essential to survive."

She said SAACI congress delegates had heard a lot

about working with consumers. "In SAACI's case, our consumers are our members. Our aim is to engage more with our members through various channels. The more information we get from members, the more we can share and ultimately add real value to businesses.

"SAACI has a solid history and legacy. The secret lies in constantly engaging with our members so that we understand their needs and realities. This is how we will stay relevant and be a conduit for industry growth."

She said together – SAACI and its members – should consistently send a message to the world that the southern African business events industry is world-class.

"SAACI remains focused on learning, growth and collaboration is everything we do."

## A new face for the industry

In yesterday afternoon's congress session titled 'The NEW face of Business Tourism', Chief Convention Bureau Officer Amanda Kotze-Nhlapo gave delegates some insight into the latest international industry trends.

Conducted in the form of an interview by Business Events Africa editor Irene Costa, Kotze-Nhlapo said the industry has become so much more than just a form of tourism. "It is now a key component of the knowledge economy.

"We are not talking about tourism anymore, but about being a game changer in the global economy. While pretty pictures are good, it is now about contributing to economies and making a difference in the lives of people.

"We now call it the business events industry."

Kotze-Nhlapo said the new campaign 'Meet here.

Grow anywhere.' symbolises the new thinking behind business events and that South Africa is also attracting a new type of visitor.

Asked if South Africa is leading or following, she said "we often punch way beyond our weight!"

A recent global study found that there is increased demand for creativity and more innovative event experiences – Kotze-Nhlapo believes that, more often than not, South Africa most definitely delivers on this. Unfortunately, around the world, budget cuts and concerns around safety, security and political uncertainty remain a reality for the industry.

She said the South Africa National Convention Bureau has a number of new initiatives in place, including a national association strategy and a delegate boosting strategy. Funding for the bidding support programme has also been extended for the next three years.

# Leadership forum around the corner

Africa is on the move. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement will make it easier to move goods and services and bring the vision of a connected continent closer to reality.

The travel, hospitality and tourism sector has a unique opportunity to position itself to move people both for business and leisure, from within and beyond the continent.

The second annual gathering of African travel and tourism leaders, the Africa Tourism Leadership Forum 2019, provides an ideal platform for executives, policy-makers, political leaders, entrepreneurs and young people to determine real priorities for economic growth through travel, tourism, hospitality, aviation and tourism infrastructure development.

Continental leaders in the sector will converge at Durban's International Convention Centre from 27 to

29 August to participate in this thought leadership platform to gain insights and share best practice on how to grow the continent's travel and leisure market.

This forum is presented by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government and African Tourism Partners and includes the Youth in Tourism Innovation Summit. The summit aims to empower young entrepreneurs to the market to turn their business ventures into successful enterprises.

Visit [www.tourismleadershipforum.africa](http://www.tourismleadershipforum.africa) to register or phone 081 303 7030 or e-mail [info@africatourismpartners.com](mailto:info@africatourismpartners.com) for more information.

*Africa Tourism Partners is a Pan-African tourism advisory services provider. Based in Johannesburg, they have country offices and partners in Angola, Botswana, China, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Singapore, UK, Scotland, Tanzania, USA and Zimbabwe.*

## Over 100 international conferences confirmed for CTICC

Over 100 international conferences which are expected to bring over 127 000 delegates to Cape Town have been confirmed to take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) up until 2026.

This comes after the announcement by the International Congress and Convention Association that Cape Town was once again the number one meetings destination in Africa in 2018.

"The international conference segment is one of the centre's key focus areas and presents tremendous potential for the CTICC and the city as a whole. Having secured 105 international conferences up until 2026, these events will have a significant impact on the Western Cape and South African economy. With South Africa's economic growth prospects at 1,2% in 2019, securing international events can only positively affect our economy and bolster much needed job creation," says Julie-May Ellingson, CEO of the CTICC.

Most recently, the centre has been awarded nine international conferences:

1. World Economic Forum on Africa 2019
2. World Dairy Summit 2020
3. World Engineering Education Forum, Global Engineering Deans Council Conference & Global Student Forum 2020
4. INSOL International Conference 2020
5. Entrepreneurs Organisation Global Leadership Conference 2020
6. International Symposium on Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Veterinary Medicine 2021
7. International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases 2022
8. World Association of Waterborne Infrastructure – PIANC World Congress 2022
9. International Netball Federation Netball World Cup 2023

# S(c)ene at SAACI 2019





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AFRICA  
Cape Town, 6-8 April 2020

## #IdeasArriveHere

6 - 8 April 2020  
Cape Town International Convention Centre



**6% increase**  
on overall travel professionals at the show



**42% increase**  
on overall countries represented



**3% increase**  
Pre Scheduled appointments



**6,263**  
unique industry professional



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## Six out of 10 planners concerned about food waste

Food waste generated by meetings and events is a major concern for more than six in 10 meeting planners, according to IACC's annual Meeting Room of the Future report 2019.

The report found that 62 per cent of respondents said they will look at how a venue manages its food waste before booking.

The report, released at MPI's World Education Congress, also showed that 44 per cent of respondents believe that ethical operations and sustainable practices will be one of the most important elements for venues by the year 2024.

Cybersecurity is also a key topic, with 27 per cent of respondents stating that cybersecurity will become a greater priority in the next three to five years, with 76 per cent of meeting planners reporting that they are concerned about cybersecurity when implementing new technologies into their events.

The report also revealed an eight per cent increase from 2017 to 85 per cent in 2019 in the number of meetings which are integrating new technology, such as audience participation apps, projection mapping and screen-sharing.

The report also points to the fact that the recent focus on experience creation has continued to grow. Since 2017 the number of meeting planners now responsible for creating memorable meeting experiences has grown by 10 per cent to 85 per cent.

The rise is being attributed to an influx of new generations both attending events and also planning them. Younger generations are providing a driving force for change to meeting formats, breakout sessions and team building activities.

Dietary requirements have remained the number one priority in food and beverage for meeting planners in 2019. Of those surveyed, 88 per cent had full confidence that their venues of choice will accommodate special requests in advance of a meeting or event. However, some believe more can be done by venues when it comes to ensuring serving staff are briefed on food ingredients and potential allergens, labelling all ingredients for buffet spreads but also creating more exciting food for those who have dietary requirements.

IACC's Meeting Room of the Future report brings together insights from more than 250 meeting planners from five different continents.

**SWITCHED ON DURBAN**

LEARNING | GROWTH | COLLABORATION



28-30 JULY 2019  
SOUTHERN SUN  
ELANGEMI MAHARANI

# DAILY NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2019 SAACI ANNUAL CONGRESS.

The SAACI Daily News is published by Junxion Communications and Eye2Design and printed on environmentally friendly paper.

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