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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

SA and France in cross-border water science cooperation

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Recently delegates from South Africa and France gathered for a flagship workshop to exchange and share ideas on Water Science Cooperation for Human Capital Development at the University of Kwazulu-Natal.

Dhesigen Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Water Research Commission (WRC) presented the South African perspective on Water Resources and Human Capital development and France's inputs were presented by Dr. Pierre Lemande, attaché for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in SA focused on French co-operation within the science field.

In a media statement released to the press, the process is regarded as the best practice to share experiences in management and Human Capital Development (HCD) practices for water-related research projects. The exercise also includes exploring opportunities to strengthen the international co-operation in science research to be developed particularly through H2020 and EUREKA.

A third objective was to discuss co-operation between South Africa and France in water research within the COP21 framework.

Meanwhile, the two countries believe that the success of such partnerships is embedded in the area of water research in which researchers from the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD) were seconded to the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) to contribute to ongoing soil water studies, most notably the jointly led WRC funded research project titled Water, Sediment, Nutrient and Organic Carbon Fluxes in Small-scale Agriculture Landscapes.



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This and other related projects are built upon and strengthened during the on-going research at UKZN by investigating a new and important research question on the role of water movements on the global carbon cycle with implications for water scarcity, water quality, food security and climate change.

These research projects highlight the importance of sharing local and international expertise and promoting international co-operation whilst advancing science and human capital development in developing countries.

The H2020 European Research programmes and the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris are opportunities to highlight and enhance the co-operation between France and South Africa in this regard.

Opportunities within H2020 and EUREKA – a key European driven-market programme, were presented by ESASTAP Plus partners.

This dialogue was an official side event to the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference headed “Our Common Future under Climate Change”.

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