



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) cordially invites you to a webinar on:

Green Skills for a Just Transition: Building South Africa’s Workforce for Tomorrow

Date: 04 June 2026
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 (SAST)
Venue: Zoom
RSVP: [Click here to RSVP](#)

Background

South Africa's transition to a green economy offers an opportunity to address climate change while promoting inclusive economic growth and social development. As industries increasingly adopt sustainable practices, demand is growing for a workforce equipped with green skills across sectors, including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, circular-economy initiatives, and green infrastructure. However, challenges remain in aligning education, training, and workforce development systems with the evolving needs of the green economy.

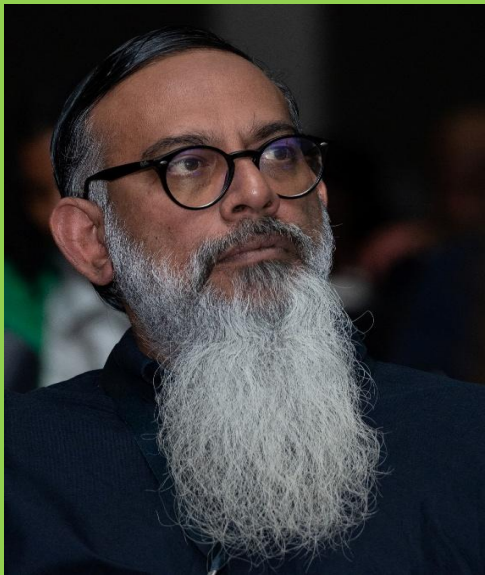
This webinar seeks to explore the challenges and identify practical pathways to strengthen South Africa's human resource development systems to support a just and inclusive green transition.

Programme

Moderator: Professor Rasigan Maharajh, MASSAf, Tshwane University of Technology

10:00-10:10	Opening and setting the scene	Prof Rasigan Maharajh
10:10-10:25	Emerging and future skills demands across green sectors	Dr Nqobile Xaba Open Society Foundation
10:25-10:40	The alignment of education and training systems with green economy priorities	Mr Ivor Baatjies The Canon Collins Trust
10:40-10:55	Policy and institutional frameworks that support a just transition through inclusive and equitable skills development	Prof Mondli Hlatshwayo University of Johannesburg
10:55-11:20	Q and A	All
11:20-11:30	Key Takeaways and Closure	Prof Inglesi-Lotz MASSAf, University of Pretoria

Biographies



Prof Rasigan Maharajh is a distinguished South African academic, activist, and policy strategist. He is currently Professor of Public Affairs at Tshwane University of Technology and was pivotal in shaping post-apartheid science and technology policy as National Coordinator of the Science and Technology Policy Transition Project for the first democratic government of South Africa. He also held leadership roles at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Holding a PhD in Political Economy and Research Policy from Lund University, he is also an alumnus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Harvard University. His research addresses innovation, technological change, and development challenges in the Global South/ World Majority countries. As an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), Rasigan has contributed extensively to the critique of the political economy, international policy dialogues, and academic publications, thereby earning recognition as a leading voice in innovation and development studies.



Dr Nqobile Xaba is a South African researcher, academic, and policy specialist with expertise in energy transitions, sustainable development, and mineral resource governance. She currently serves as Programme Manager for Resources Futures in Africa at the Open Society Foundations, where her work focuses on advancing equitable and sustainable approaches to Africa's energy and industrial future. Dr Xaba has extensive experience in research and higher education, having previously worked with the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Tshwane University of Technology. Her research interests include the just energy transition, critical minerals, climate policy, battery technologies, and sustainable industrialisation in Africa. She holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of the Western Cape, as well as postgraduate qualifications from the North-West University. Dr Xaba has contributed to several policy and research publications focused on Africa's developmental pathways, energy security, and low-carbon futures.



Ivor Baatjes is the executive director of the Canon Collins Trust. Prior to this, he served as director of the Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET), Nelson Mandela University; co-host of the National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in Community Adult and Worker Education; board member of the National Institute for Human and Social Sciences (NIHSS) and Chair of the Education Policy Consortium (EPC). He has worked across all the subsectors of the post-school education and training sector and served on various ministerial and departmental reference groups and task teams. Ivor was senior researcher at the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT) at the University of Johannesburg; director of the Centre for Adult Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). He was the founder and country director of the Paulo Freire Institute. His research interests include the social and solidarity economy and its relationships with community-driven food, health, water and energy systems; adult and community education; higher education; workers' education; and learning in social movements.



Prof Mondli Hlatshwayo is a South African academic, researcher, and activist specialising in labour studies, worker education, migration, and social justice. He serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Johannesburg and is affiliated with the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT). His research focuses on trade unions, precarious work, migrant labour, technological change, public transport, and social movements in South Africa. Prof Hlatshwayo previously worked at Khanya College, where he was involved in worker education and community development initiatives. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and contributed to important debates on labour rights, inequality, and socio-economic transformation. He is also the co-editor of *Just Work? Migrant Workers, Globalization, and Resistance* and *South Africa Confronts the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Era: Challenges, Pathways and Possibilities*. His work combines academic scholarship with community engagement and policy advocacy, reflecting a strong commitment to social justice and the empowerment of working-class communities. Through his teaching, research, and public engagement, Prof Hlatshwayo continues to contribute meaningfully to discussions on labour, education, and inclusive development in South Africa.



Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz is a Professor of Economics at the University of Pretoria and holder of the DSI/NRF SARChI Chair in Just Energy Transition. She is an NRF-rated researcher (C1) and a recipient of several recognitions, including the 2024 SANEA Upliftment through Education Award and multiple University of Pretoria Senior Researcher of the Year awards. Over the past five years, her work has focused on advancing research at the intersection of energy, economics, and policy, with particular attention to energy poverty, climate change, and inclusive transitions. She has published extensively in leading international journals and contributed to policy-oriented research and advisory work in South Africa and beyond. Her work combines econometric analysis with multidisciplinary collaboration, often engaging with policymakers and industry. In parallel, she has supervised a strong cohort of postgraduate students and leads initiatives aimed at developing future-ready skills in the energy field.