African Indigenous Knowledge Systems Incorporating Cultural Heritage and Arts

01, 02, 03 March 2017
Indaba Hotel, Fourways, Johannesburg

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African Indigenous Knowledge Systems Incorporating Cultural Heritage and Arts is designed to showcase the role of African Knowledge in modern society. The conference will demonstrate to the delegates that African Indigenous Knowledge Systems is not obsolete or something for the past, but it is as relevant today as ever before. The conference will dispel many unfortunate myths and misconceptions that African Indigenous Knowledge Systems were shrouded in spiritualism, secrecy and thus labelled barbaric and irrelevant. Unlike a number of knowledge systems that have their foundation in depleting, destroying or altering natural resources in order to advance the cause of humanity. African Knowledge systems aimed to create a natural balance to ensure sustainability. To ensure this happens, knowledge was passed down from one generation to another often in the form of rituals, initiations and observations. Scholars of AIKS argues that language is not only a tool of communication, but a carrier of culture, heritage and tradition. Similarly, the conference will unpack the role of Language in preserving and developing peoples personality and identity, thereby looking at the case of the Otiherero people in Namibia with specific focus on: Language as a custodian of culture, how we could use language to express the knowledge found within indigenous knowledge systems and how language structures store Indigenous Knowledge. At an epoch where Africa seems to be in disarray when it comes to political and governance management, comparatively, the gathering will compare Modern Governance systems vs. African Governance case studies from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, will be explored. The event will examine the economic relevance of the National Heritage Resources Act and its impact on development (and thus economic development). The conference will clarify on the role of women in AIKS. Throughout the continent, women were not only the object and consumers of knowledge but also the creators. Their activities created technologies that ranged from cloth production to wall decoration (and in some cases they were actually the architects and builders of homes). Economically they were not only sustaining their homes, but were also traders, investors and in some cases bank owners. In closing, the gathering will showcase to the delegates the profound role of Choral Music Heritage through the life and work of Michael Mosoeu Moerane and also explore opportunities and challenges for African Indigenous Games in fostering social cohesion and integration.

**Speakers**

- **Professor Susan Bouillon**
  Chairperson & B.Member South African Heritage Resources Authority
  Extraordinary Professor: North West University

- **Professor Mogege Mosimege**
  Education and Skills Development Programme
  Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

- **Professor Ndwangwa Noyoo**
  Associate Professor
  University of Johannesburg

- **Professor John Makgale**
  Senior Lecturer
  University of Botswana

- **Dr. Aretha Oluwakemi Asakitkpi**
  Monash University

- **Professor Jekura Kavari**
  HOD: Languages and Literature Studies
  University of Namibia

**Benefits for Attending**

- Be equipped with an understanding of National Heritage Resources Act and the impact on development (and thus economic development)
- Learn about the 'Opportunities and Challenges for African Indigenous Games' - The history of Indigenous Games in South Africa and other African Countries
- Role of Language in preserving and developing a peoples personality and identity
- Arts, culture and Heritage: Unpacking the Role of women in the AIKS.
- Lobby for the further strengthening and implementation of AIKS policies by African states Promoting, tolerating and protecting Cultural and Linguistic diversity in African countries.
- Reviewing AIKS developments in the SADC and Africa for the past ten years Recognizing the role of AIKS in the preservation of natural resources in Africa
- Modern Governance Vs African Governance

**Who should attend**

- Academic scientists
- Members of Houses of Assembly
- Non-Governmental Organisations staff
- Researchers
- Members of provincial legislatures
- Parliamentary Committee of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology members
- College and university lecturers
- Traditional healers
- Traditional Leaders
- National House of Traditional Leaders of South Africa
- Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa
- Department of Higher Education and Training Staff
- Department of Arts and Culture personnel
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research personnel
- Department of Science and Technology staff
- Department of Trade and Industry personnel
- National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office staff
- Regional Culture and Language Associations
- UN Economic Commission for Africa: African Centre for Gender and Development
- SADC Secretariat
- New Partnership for Africa's Development officials
- Economic Community of West African States Secretariat
- East African Community Secretariat
- Chiefs' Councils in the SADC member states
- Southern African NGO Network officials.
- African Union Secretariat Officials

**Conference Overview**

African Indigenous Knowledge Systems Incorporating Cultural Heritage and Arts will take place on 01, 02, 03 March 2017 at Indaba Hotel, Fourways, Jhb.
Day One: 01 March 2017

08h20: Opening Remarks
08h30: Cultural Heritage and Economics
  - National Heritage Resources Act and the impact on development (and thus economic development)

Professor Susan Bouillon
Chairperson and Board Member
South African Heritage Resources Authority
Extraordinary Professor at North West University

10H45: Mid Morning Tea

11H00: Opportunities and Challenges for African Indigenous Games
  - The history of Indigenous Games in South Africa and other African Countries
  - Indigenous Games and their place and role in the school curriculum
  - Some examples of integration of indigenous games in the Mathematics curriculum at Primary and Secondary School level
  - The role of indigenous knowledge holders (community elders) in the understanding of indigenous games

Day Two: 02 March 2017

08h00: Morning Tea and Registration
08h20: Opening Remarks
08h30: The role of Language in preserving and developing a people’s personality and identity
  Language as custodian of IKS: a case of Otjiherero
  - How do we use language to express the knowledge found within indigenous knowledge systems?
  - How language structures store Indigenous Knowledge;
  - How language expresses abstract knowledge;
  - The notion of ‘cut’ in Otjiherero;

Prof. Jekura Kavari
HOD: Languages and Literature Studies
University of Namibia

10H45: Mid Morning Tea

Day Three: 03 March 2017

08h00: Morning Tea and Registration
08h20: Opening Remarks
08h30: Handing over proceedings to Tour Guide and his team
09h00: Handing over proceedings to Tour Guide and his team
13h00: Lunch Break and Networking

16h00: End of The Conference & departure

Cultural And Heritage
Tour To The Cradle of Human Kind