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“World Climate Simulation”: an interactive role-playing aimed at educating society about climate-change through simulation of UN climate negotiations.

Climate Interactive is running simulations of the climate-change conference across the globe. The aim is to enhance knowledge of people on what goes on the negotiations, and how commitments made by nations, impacts the world.

Vanderbijlpark, South Africa – The world will gather in November for the 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany. This year’s gathering will track progress on the commitments to reduce the global temperature rise to below 2°C, above pre-industrial levels, as adopted by nations during COP 21, which was held at Paris in 2015

The Paris Agreement marks the historic progress, which witnessed one hundred and ninety six countries who adopted the 2°C to 1.5°C objective; the carbon emissions neutrality for the second half of this century and the enhancement of climate resilience and adaptation capacities, according to Laurence Tubianan French Ambassador for climate change negotiations, Special representative for COP21ⁱ, further citing that *“the time came when governments were able to set ambitious goals on climate, giving a clear signal to the world that climate action is no longer optional”*.

Climate Interactive think tank, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Lowell Climate Change Initiative (CCI), with support from Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, has developed a climate conference simulator to provide the public, the chance to take part in the United Nations climate negotiations through interactive role-playing.

Exergy Enviro Group will be hosting a World Climate Simulation on the **1st of July 2017** at the Vanderbijlpark Library, Gauteng, South Africa. The public is invited to join the three hour session from 10:00 am till 13:00 pm.

Exergy Enviro Group has been involved in a number of campaigns with the **African Climate Reality Project**. *“This event is part of an ongoing grassroots mobilization in the country, and particularly in the Vaal Triangle, which is a hub of fossil fuel based economy”*, said Innocent Sibeko, Event Organiser and Facilitator of the World Climate Simulator in South Africa.

The significance of this exercise is to enhance public knowledge and understanding, providing them with the exposure on what goes into the negotiations, and to ensure that they are better equipped to make and take part in the key national policy planning and decision making processes.

During the interactive simulator, participants will represent different nations of the world, according to their economies and developmental status. This will demonstrate the complexity of agreeing on common interests, and how civil society voice can be heard. Other interest groups will also be represented, such as the fossil-fuel industry. Trade-off between economic development and a shift toward carbon-neutrality could seem to be in conflict.

What is interesting about this simulation is that it captures the essence of the real-world in simplified format. It also makes use of the C-ROADS (Climate Rapid Overview And Decision Support) platform, which models different scenarios, supplied by participants, in achieving the goals of reducing emission.

The overall objective of the simulation is to instil hope, and demonstrate the benefits of collective bargaining by different actors in society, and proven gains made by business coalitions in setting to become part of the solution. Speaking on the achievements of business coalitions in addressing the impacts of climate change, and their role in the transformation process, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Changeⁱⁱ, highlighted that *“the almost universal set of national climate action plans on which Paris is founded stand witness to the fact that it is in the real world of innovation, investment and infrastructure, of policies, price points and profits that the transformation to a low-carbon, sustainable future for all will be achieved”*.

For more information on the event and registration, please contact Innocent Sibeko on 072 878 4520, or e-mail innocent.sibeko@yahoo.com. You can also visit Climate Interactive on www.climateinteractive.org

ⁱ The Business End of Climate Change – *“How bold corporate action supported by smart policy can keep temperature rise below 2°C”*, 2016, First Edition

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CONTACT:

Innocent Sibeko

Tel: 072 878 4520

e-mail: innocent.sibeko@yahoo.com