



science & technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE PROPOSED 2010 SHANGAI EXPO

OVERVIEW:

In July 2007, in response to an invitation extended by the government of the People's Republic of China, the Cabinet Lekgotla took a decision that the Republic of South Africa will participate at the Shanghai World Expo to be held in 2010.

The Expo is schedule to take place in China form 1 May to 31 October 2010 and will involve several countries from the Americas, Europe and Africa.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation, together with participating government departments in South Africa, will be responsible for the overall preparation of the Expo.

The overall theme for the Expo is “**Better Cities: Better Life**” and the South African theme is “**SA: The rise of a modern economy – Ke nako!**” In addition to the South African theme, there are also monthly themes to be coordinated by selected Departments.

In terms of the schedule of the monthly themes, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is expected to play a crucial role during the opening in May and the closing month of October.

In considering participation in the World Expo, South Africa had taken into account factors such as marketing the country abroad and engaging emerging markets in terms of trade. Currently, the DST enjoys good relations with the Ministry of Science and Technology in China and views China as a priority country. This is in part, because of the number of joint research and exchange programmes being conducted between the two countries as well as its growing stature economically and in science and technology matters.

The DST could capitalize on this event as a platform to market its system as a preferred destination for science and technology collaboration and projects. More bilateral activities such as seminars, workshops and possible projects of interest with the People's Republic of China and other countries we have or are looking at enhancing relations with, could be planning during the Expo.

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