

The LNC Design Project

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THE LEARNING NETWORK CORPORATION

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1 October 1993

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CBM

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THE INFORMATICS REVOLUTION - PROSPERITY FOR ALL

You are cordially invited to the above mentioned one day seminar to be held at the Infoplan Training Centre (map included). To encourage participation by delegates we have chosen an exclusive venue. Therefore the seminar will be held on both the 4th and 5th of November 1993. Please indicate your preferential date on the registration form. The seminar will give participants a Realistic Programme of Reconstruction for Southern Africa.

The gravest challenge facing the new government is meeting the expectations of the impoverished majority of South Africans. Only a novel contract between the state and the private sector in all its dimensions can achieve the prosperity and progress we all want for our region. Informatics is the crucial tool to make such a new contract work.

Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert

Informatics, the merger between computers, consumer electronics, multimedia, publishing and telecommunications will be a global industry worth \$3.5 trillion by the year 2000. It will dwarf any previous human effort.

John Scully
ex CEO Apple Computer

South Africa's future is completely intertwined with the future of its neighbouring countries. There can only be regional prosperity or none at all. To achieve this prosperity is a task of daunting dimensions in a region nearly wrecked by civil strife, poverty, AIDS and economic decline. Politics can only create the platform. It will take the combined effort of administration, business and the instruments of civic society to turn events around.



In seven years time, 200 million people will inhabit Southern Africa (South Africa plus SADC). This is four per cent of the world population. If we apply Scully's forecast to the region and assume that only one percent of the informatics industry will be generated in the region, a new direct business opportunity of R100 billion is knocking at our doors. The eventual spin-offs of informatics in terms of jobs, access to learning for all and general development is a multiple of this figure. If we fail to grasp this opportunity, the gap between our region and the advanced nations will widen, never to be closed again.

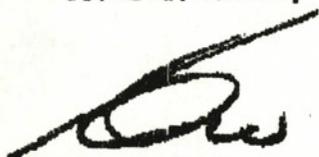
This top-level workshop will present informatics in all its dimension to key decision makers in the public and private sector. The objectives of the workshop are twofold: [1] for the politicians to understand that the present pre-occupation with "power" needs to be transformed into the political "will" to use the most advanced technological tools for achieving agreed socio-economic goals; [2] for the private sector to understand that informatics will fundamentally change the way we do business and the way we solve the structural problems in society and the economy.

Informatics is only a tool. But it is a tool of immense power. The full understanding of the informatics revolution is to create synergy needed between public policy and private initiative.

We look forward to involving you in this exciting concept. Should you wish to attend this seminar, please telephone (011) 487 3013/4 not later than 28 October 1993.

Please complete the attached fax registration form, and fax to (011) 487 1080.

Yours sincerely



ANDRÉ SPIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR :
THE LEARNING NETWORK CORPORATION

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

- 08:30** **REGISTRATION**
- 09:00** **OPENING BY CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY:**
 Dr Van Zyl Slabbert
 Political Consultant
- 09:20** **INFORMATICS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW**
 Bernard Woods O.B.E.
 (ex World Bank)
- 10:00** **T E A**
- 10:20** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "DIGITAL HIGHWAYS - THE ROAD TO GLOBAL PROSPERITY"**
 Jack Taub
 Chairman: America Part II Foundation
- 11:40** **INFORMATICS AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**
 Andile Ngcaba
 Head Department of Information ANC (to be confirmed)
- 12:30** **A DEVELOPMENT SATELLITE FOR AFRICA**
 Keith Dunford/Clive Grove
 TASCOM
- 13:00** **L U N C H**
- 14:00** **LOCAL RESOURCES FOR THE CREATION OF AN INFORMATICS UTILITY**
 Denel
- 14:50** **TOWARDS A LEARNING SOCIETY: THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATION OF INFORMATICS FOR BUSINESS AND SOCIETY**
 Andre Spier
 Executive Director the Learning Network Corporation
- 15:40** **T E A**
- 16:00** **PANEL DISCUSSION**
 - Questions from the floor to panel
 - Interactivity/discussion groups
 - Piet Kleynhans as Facilitator

"The afternoon session is reserved for open discussion between the delegates and the presenters. This is usually lacking in "conferences". The full implications of informatics for the critical areas of education and training, housing, health services and general community development will be explored. In each of these areas the private sector can make substantial contributions. It is essential that these inputs are not charitable contributions, but market related investments in a common future.

South Africa is already a highly taxed country. Further tax burdens, direct or indirect, will impoverish the whole nation. A more imaginative and creative solution is needed. Being highly profitable, digital utilities (or informatics networks) can, for the first time, link the private sector into the delivery of essential public services on a large scale. The task is to turn the fact that seventy per cent of our people need to be brought into the formal economy into a formidable business opportunity. There is no bureaucratic solution for the exploding demand for knowledge, skills, information and essential services and infrastructure. A new relationship between government, business, labour and the communities is needed".