WEBINAR

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INNOVATIONS

28 - 29 September 2021

What?

The Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled (SAFOD) and the University of Loughborough plan to hold a series of assistive technology (AT) webinars from September 2021 to build momentum towards the Southern Africa Assistive Technology Expo (SAATE), in September 2022

When is the First Webinar?

From 28 to 29 September 2021.

How About the Other Webinars?

The dates and thematic goals for the other webinars will be announced in due course before the main SAATE in September 2022.

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AT-INFO-MAP

What is the Theme & Aim of the 1st Webinar?

With the central theme focused on "*Assistive Technology Business Innovations*," this webinar seeks to address objective two of SAATE 2022, which is to advance local innovations of appropriate AT solutions, products, and services. The webinar will focus on best practices for sustainable assistive technology business innovations within Southern Africa and beyond.

Who is Attending the 1st Webinar?

The 1st webinar targets a wide range of practical problem solvers of AT, including manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers from Southern Africa and beyond. We expect delegates representing Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), persons with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities who are looking to learn more about AT entrepreneurship; international non-governmental organizations that are engaged in AT provision; other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); key governments officials involved in AT procurement and provision; representatives from professional associations; academic and industry researchers; and the media.
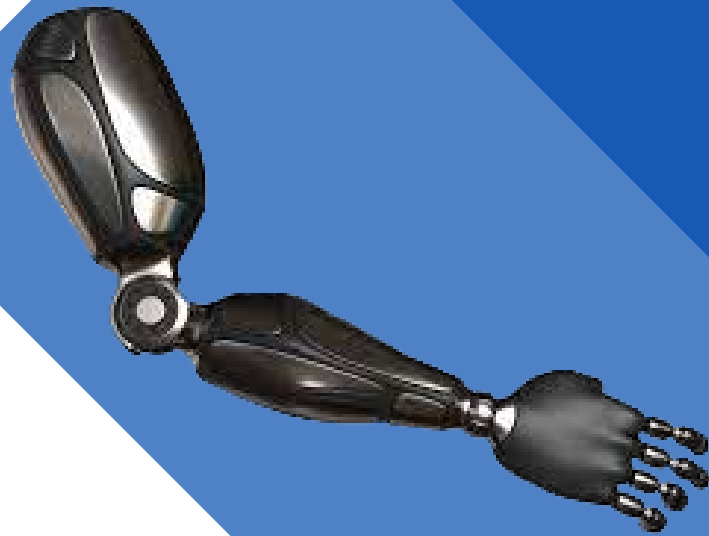
In terms of speakers, SAFOD and Loughborough University are inviting AT practitioners, researchers, small AT entrepreneurs, and well-established AT businesses to present their experiences vis-à-vis challenges and good practices in local manufacturing, supply chain, marketing, and other forms of innovations.

What Will the Delegates Learn & Discuss?

The webinar will feature 30 minutes presentations from different speakers who will be drawn from academia, research institutions, disability organizations, and small and medium-sized AT entrepreneurs. The presentations will be grouped into sessions, which will focus on the role os research & development in enhancing AT business innovations; the application of the novel Business Integrated Industrial Design Innovation (BIID) process can promote AT business innovations.

Other speakers will be sharing challenges and good business practices/innovations that make local social enterprises thrive; the role of assistive technology hubs and/or labs in enhancing entrepreneurial innovations; and SAFOD's roadmap for Southern Africa with regards to assistive technology. Each session will be followed by a plenary session for 45 minutes, to allow for more discussions than just presentations. It is expected that at the end of the event, the delegates will make specific recommendations for strengthening AT entrepreneurial innovations in the region.

What Are Some of the Examples?

Throughout the event, delegates will learn about, for example, a young Motswana woman, Lucia, who will share her experience managing the Signcoach app, a mobile application that teaches the Botswana sign language. Tendekayi will share his inspirations for developing the world's first rechargeable hearing aid battery. A researcher, Tone, will speak about an innovative tool for screening hearing impairments using commercially available tablets, headphones, and dedicated software for gaming. Kim will share lessons from the GSMA's digital AT innovations. More event presentations or activities are documented in the full event schedule.

How to Contact the Organizers?

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Limited Seats!

Book and register now because our seats are limited only to **500** registered delegates. Download the full event schedule and sign up online on our website: **www.webinar.saate.org**

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