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2023 IITPSA PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNERS NAMED



PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

The IITPSA's most prestigious annual event, the President's Awards, offered a rare opportunity for several of our women in IT to gather in one place.

Not only were our Institute's leading #WIIT at the breakfast, but we were also graced by the presence of our sisters in ICT who are active on the continent and globally.

With strength in numbers, we took advantage of the opportunity to shamelessly call out to as many professional women in IT in our country as we could, hoping to secure more volunteers to further the goals of the Women in IT (#WIIT) Chapter.

I am pleased to say our strategy worked, and we have received a flood of interest from many women who are willing to become involved in WIIT activities to empower more girls and women to progress in the ICT sector.

Meanwhile, as the year draws to a close, we invite all members to consider wrapping up 2023 with a new accomplishment – an upgraded membership, re-graded membership or new professional designation from the IITPSA. You may qualify for a Professional Member (PMIITPSA) or Professional CIO (Pr.CIO) designation, which enhances your professional credibility across the ICT sector. Please see the member information on our website for further information.

**Warm regards,
Senele Goba,
President of the IITPSA**



CEO'S COMMUNIQUE

The President's Awards breakfast – our flagship event and a highlight on the South African ICT sector calendar – was a resounding success this month. Our theme for the awards this year was: 'IT Visionaries: Celebrating the ICT Industry's Embrace of the Future', recognising those ICT professionals who are driving ICT innovation and progress in South Africa. We believe the winners are shining examples of ICT pioneers driving digital progress.

We were also encouraged to see how relatively young our cohort of finalists and winners is. To us, this means our country's ICT skills pool is expanding, and that we can expect a growing number of ICT entrepreneurs emerging out of South Africa in future.

Another theme that emerged at the awards ceremony was the impact Generative AI will have on skills and jobs in the ICT sector. The Institute is of the view that the impact will be significant, but that the best way to weather the storm of change is to keep learning, in order to master, harness and manage disruptive new technologies.

One of our key principles is to encourage all members to develop themselves through participation in lifelong learning and continuing professional development. As we face accelerated change, it has become more important than ever to keep learning and growing professionally. Next year, we aim to offer even more opportunities for members to engage and share knowledge, with numerous events where members can also earn CPD points. Please watch our events calendar and social media pages for news of opportunities to further your learning.

**Best regards,
Tony Parry**



IN THE NEWS



2023 IITPSA President's Award winners named

The winners of the prestigious IITPSA President's Awards were named at a ceremony in Johannesburg this week. Mamela Luthuli, Founder and CEO of Take Note IT, has been named South Africa's IT Personality of the year at the Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) President's Awards 2023.

AI expert Prof Mark Nasila, Chief Data and Analytics Officer of FirstRand Risk, was the winner of the Technology Excellence Award; Nomusa Keninda, E-learning Specialist and Founder of the Mpumalanga ICT Club, won the Social Responsibility/Community Award; and 25-year-old entrepreneur Amukelani Michael Mhlongo won the Dynamism in ICT Youth Award.

Prof. Janet Wesson of the Department of Computing Sciences at Nelson Mandela University received the Distinguished Service in ICT Award. Tony Parry, CEO & Professional Member of the IITPSA and Rob-Kerrich Walker, Consultant at BMW, both received a Fellowship of the Institute Award.

[Read more here](#)



Mamela Luthuli, Founder and CEO of Take Note IT won the IT Personality of the Year Award



Nomusa Keninda, E-learning Specialist and Founder of the Mpumalanga ICT Club, won the Social Responsibility Community Award



Prof Mark Nasila, Chief Data and Analytics Officer of FirstRand Risk, was the winner of the Technology Excellence Award



Prof. Janet Wesson of the Department of Computing Sciences at Nelson Mandela University received the Distinguished Service in IT Award



25-year-old entrepreneur Amukelani Michael Mhlongo won the Dynamism in ICT Youth Award



Tony Parry (R), CEO IITPSA and Rob Kerrich-Walker (L) announced as Fellows of the Institute, pictured with Senele Goba, President of the IITPSA



IITPSA women stand tall

Women members of the IITPSA made their presence known recently, with one elected to head up an international IT organisation, another two winning noteworthy awards, and scores of women responding to our call for volunteers to boost the work of the Women in IT Chapter.

IITPSA Past President Ulandi Exner has officially taken over as the Chair of the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA), succeeding another Past President of the IITPSA, Thabo Mashegoane, as chair. AfICTA notes that Exner is the organisation's first female chairperson.

Adding to the list of accomplishments of women in the IITPSA, Senele Goba was elected President and Pearl Pasi vice President at the IITPSA national AGM, and Josine Overdevest, chair of the Social and Ethics committee, was announced as the winner of the 2023 David O'Leary Award at IFIP's General Assembly in September. It is also worth noting that Moira de Roche, IITPSA past President and Fellow, is Vice-president of IFIP and President of IFIP IP3. Prof. Janet Wesson of the Department of Computing Sciences at Nelson Mandela University, this year's recipient of the IITPSA Distinguished Service Award also received the international IFIP TC13 Pioneer in Human-Computer Interaction Award, and was the only 2023 awardee from Africa.

The Women in IT (WIIT) Chapter (WIIT) put out a call to volunteers with vision and passion to help drive WIIT projects, and was delighted to receive an overwhelming response. WIIT will convene a meeting early next year, to ignite more effort to encourage and support girls and women in the IT sector.



KZN WIIT explore the impact of Gen AI

An IITPSA Women in IT (WIIT) and KZN Chapter breakfast at the Old Mutual Tech Hub in Umhlanga explored the impact of generative AI on cybersecurity, software development and education. Headed by IITPSA President Senele Goba, the panel included Kershnee Ballack – Information Technology Executive, Digital, Data and Analytics at Old Mutual Limited, Naledi Sithole – Managing Director and Founder of inJoin_PTY, and Pindiwe Filtane – Founder and Managing Director, Mbasane – Women in Information Technology.



WCape members celebrate spring in style

The IITPSA Western Cape Chapter hosted an evening networking session to celebrate spring and discuss the impact of AI. The thought-provoking conversation addressed AI: the good, the bad and the ugly, with panellists considering the impact of AI on society, organisations and workforces. Our experts discussed AI and innovation, and automation vs redundancy, ethics and risk.



SIGCyber launches Grade R cybersafety project

A Grade R Cybersafety Project was launched at the Nelson Mandela University this month, sponsored by the IITPSA cybersecurity special interest group (SIGCyber).

The project created a Cybersmart Squad, where cartoon characters based on SA's 'Big Five' animals teach young children how to interact responsibly online to become good digital citizens, notes Prof Kerry-Lynn Thomson, IITPSA SIGCyber Chair and Professor in the School of IT at Nelson Mandela University. Each character has a 'superpower' - Courage, Kindness, Safety, Respect and Honesty - and children are encouraged to use these 'superpowers' both on the 'real playground', as well as in the 'digital playground'. The Cybersmart Squad demonstrates how each of the 'superpowers' can be used to help address various online threats, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyber predators and cyberbullying.



*The Development Team behind the cybersafety project
(L-R) Ms Nomfundo Khumalo, Prof Noluxolo Gcaza, and Prof Kerry-Lynn Thomson (IITPSA SIGCyber Chair).*



The project uses cartoon characters based on the Big Five animals in South Africa, to teach young children how to interact responsibly online to become good digital citizens.



IITPSA partners with AI Expo Africa

The IITPSA partnered with the 6th Edition of AI Expo Africa in Johannesburg this month. AI Expo Africa 2023 united decision makers, investors, buyers, suppliers, innovators, SMMEs and NGOs focused on real world 4IR technologies.



IN THE MEDIA

IITPSA President's Awards make headlines

The annual IITPSA President's Awards remain the industry's most prestigious accolades, and are highlighted in the media.

[See ITWeb media coverage here](#)

SIGCyber warns on festive season risks

The IITPSA's cybersecurity special interest group (SIGCyber) issued a timely and comprehensive roundup of lesser-known cyber risks consumers could face this festive season.

[IT-Online](#)

Ethical approaches needed for AI in Africa

A recent webinar hosted by the IITPSA Artificial Intelligence & Robotics special interest group (SIGAIR) and the IITPSA Social & Ethics Committee, focused on ethics in AI across Africa.

,Read the report backs:

[JoziGist](#)



NOTICE BOARD



Please note: IITPSA Year-end Closure

The IITPSA National office staff will cease working remotely and the physical offices will be closed for the holidays from 15h00 on **20 December 2023**. Remote working will recommence at 08h00 on 03 January 2024, with the physical offices reopening at 08h00 on **Thursday 04 January 2024**. During 2024, the IITPSA Staff will continue to work remotely on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with in-office days being Tuesdays and Thursdays (08h00 to 16h30 unless otherwise advised).



SPOTLIGHT ON



Corporate/Institutional Members of the IITPSA

Corporates (Companies) and Institutions may become members of the Institute, signifying their support of IITPSA and their adherence to the Code of Conduct. One such member is Eduvos, an award-winning private higher education provider in South Africa.

[Read more](#)



ETHICS CORNER



Cyberspace during wartime: The fifth common space

Kudzayi Chipidza discusses how information systems and cyberspace have become a battlefield during wartime. He highlights the need for internationally adopted cyber war crime legislation.

Contribution by: Kudzayi Chipidza is a technology enthusiast running a digital creative studio start-up company. He sits on the IITPSA Board of Directors and is a member of the IITPSA Social & Ethics Committee. He has attained the Professional Member designation of the IITPSA. Kudzayi holds a Bachelor's Degree in Technology Management and Master's Degree in Business Administration.

[Read more](#)



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



25 January, 2024

IITPSA Western Cape Chapter AGM

The 2023/ 2024 Annual General Meeting of members of the Western Cape Chapter of IITPSA NPC (Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa) – a Non-Profit Company in terms of the Companies Act 71 of 2008, registration number 1958/001036/08, will be held at Cape Town Hotel School, Mouille Point, Granger Bay at 17:00 for 17:30 on Thursday 25th of January 2024. To confirm your attendance, click on the button below to register.

[Register here](#)

Follow us on social media or check our events calendar online, to see upcoming events.

[Upcoming events](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS / REMINDERS

Catch up on events you missed!

Follow IITPSA's YouTube channel to review other online events you may have missed, such as this recent IITPSA Cybersecurity Special Interest Group (SIGCyber) online event where Bryan Baxter, Chief Revenue Officer of Wolfpack Information Risk, outlined emerging cyber security trends and how businesses can become more proactive in mitigating risk.

[SIGCyber webinar](#)

A Practical Approach to Performance Testing

An IITPSA SIGIST event, was presented by Leela Putten, Co-Founder at Qualiblaze Consulting, Specialist IT Consultant, Educator and Conference Speaker.

[Review this event](#)

Responsible AI in Africa

An IITPSA SIGAIR and Social & Ethics Committee Event, unpacked the question of how to unlock Africa's full AI potential and drive prosperity for all. This webinar was presented by: Dr Fredah Banda, Software Engineering Consultant, AI & ML practitioner, Data Scientist and Public Speaker and Josine Overdeest, chair of the IITPSA Social and Ethics Committee and MD of Flying Cows of Jozi.

[Watch the webinar here](#)

Get social with the IITPSA

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Member Self Service is Live!

Did you know that you can now easily access the IITPSA member self-service platform, where you can apply for membership and re-grades, apply for a designation or critical skills, pay your membership fees, and record your CPD activities?

Member Self Service



Anti-Virus Products

AVG is a leading developer of Security Software with over 120 million home and business users around the world.

Anti-Virus



ITWeb Publications - Brainstorm

ITWeb Brainstorm is available free of charge to Fellows (FIITPSA), and to paid up Professional CIOs (Pr.CIO) and Professional Members (PMIITPSA) of the Institute.

To subscribe, please contact the IITPSA National Office.

ITWeb Publications



Career Opportunities

IITPSA has partnered with CareerJunction, SA's #1 Quality Candidate provider, to offer a job search/advertising service on its site. Go to www.iitpsa.org.za and click on 'Careers' in the 'Activities' menu to see it in action, or simply click on the link below.

[Career Opportunities](#)

EARN CPD POINTS

IITPSA members will accrue 1 CPD point for every Tabling Tech or other IITPSA webinar they attend

Follow us on social media, and check our interactive events calendar [here](#) to stay up to date with new events and special delegate discounts!

