



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

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Chamber's Note

Strength in Numbers

The German philosopher Hannah Arendt conceived of power as being born of coordination. While strength she writes “exists as the inherent ability of the one to enact their will, power exists in the cohesiveness of the many.”

As a small non-profit organization, coordination is key for us to truly pack a punch. Thankfully collaboration is part of our fundamental ethos. From our formal structures as a body of members or our Board of Directors, to our chosen modes of collaborating with specific stakeholders, Italcham's ability to deliver value derives largely from its extended list of partnerships which we cultivate on an ongoing basis.

On Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November, the European House of Ambrosetti hosted the **9th Southern Africa Europe CEO Dialogue**. The event is a meeting place of CEOs across the two regions, with a particular focus on South Africa and Italy. Italcham was extremely proud to attend the event. Additionally, the presence of numerous board members, as well as other members, including Finstone, BBM and Italtile, all of whom sponsored the event. We were most proud to have one of our board members, **Pepsi Baiocco of Neon Energy as a panellist** at the event.

Next, Monday 21 November 2022 saw ItalCham **officially announce** a new partnership with the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa (SEIFSA) and the Imbokodo Trust. The purpose of this partnership is empowering young black women and assisting companies to improve their B-BBEE compliance.

Last week, the 94.7 Cycle Exhibition hosted **Panda** and **Van H** at our Italian Pavillion. Additionally the fourth addition of the **Vino in Piazza**, which is a collaboration between the Embassy, the Consulate, ICE and the Chamber, showcased the excellence of imported Italian wines last weekend

Today we convene with several other European Chambers to deliver on the inaugural European Golf Day Cape Town. More exciting initiatives born of collaboration lie around the corner. And while this gives us the power to enrich our stakeholders, we hope that they in turn find it empowering.

Italcham!

UPCOMING EVENT

APEROL[®] SPRITZ

APERILINK

DURBAN
BROUGHT TO YOU BY



AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
&
BUSINESS NETWORKING

1 DECEMBER 2022
18:00
ITALO SA CLUB DURBAN

Tickets

R150 - Members
R250- Non-Members

[BUY TICKETS](#)



*Not for sale to persons under the age of 18





SEIFSA, Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries and Imbokodo Trust join forces to Empower Young Black Woman

Johannesburg, 21 November 2022 – The Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa (SEIFSA) has partnered with the Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries (ItalCham) and the Imbokodo Trust with the aim of empowering young black woman and assisting companies to improve their B-BBEE compliance.

The three organisations have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the aim of exchanging information, including newsletters, reports and market analyses, organising events that provide networking opportunities and introducing potential partners to each other.

SEIFSA CEO Lucio Trentini, ItalCham president Virgilio Da Molo and Imbokodo Trust chairman Theo Sibiya were the signatories of the MOU. Trentini said: “We are confident that our exciting partnership with the ItalCham and Imbokodo Trust will afford SEIFSA’s affiliated membership an opportunity to address the many challenges faced by young black woman in the sector and in the process improve their B-BBEE compliance.”

Da Molo said: “This MOU is very important to us as it will allow us to operate the Imbokodo Trust efficiently and effectively, providing simple solutions to our members and ensuring that the ItalCham contributes meaningfully to the country’s transformation agenda.”

The many synergies between SEIFSA, ItalCham and Imbokodo Trust will contribute to the success of the partnership between the three bodies, all of whom are committed to the highest ethical standards and providing benefits to their membership and beneficiaries.

For the three organisations, the MOU is a pathway to addressing the challenges faced by young black woman in the sector, assisting companies to improve their B-BBEE compliance and in the process contributing to a better South Africa.

In terms of the MOU, SEIFSA has pledged to find beneficiaries for the Imbokodo Trust’s many programmes with strict compliance with B-BBEE legislation, while the Trust has committed itself to contributing donor funding to the SEIFSA Training Centre in the achievement of these goals.

SEIFSA supports companies in South Africa’s metals and engineering sector through lobbying, advocacy and collective bargaining. Its members range from giant steel-making corporations to micro-enterprises employing fewer than 50 people.

ItalCham promotes and facilitates trade between Italy and Southern Africa through market intelligence and tailor-made services and events. It is also a member of the EU Chamber of Southern Africa.

Welcoming our New Member



The Reciprocal Wine Company is South Africa's oldest specialist fine wine and spirits merchant. Importer and distributor of many of the world's most famous wines from France, Italy, Spain, Hungary, New Zealand and many more.



Reciprocal focuses mainly on family-owned properties where multi-generational experience and institutional memory ensures the commitment to a long-term vision. Accordingly, the company has become the go-to source for South African wine lovers who seek a variety of high quality, international wines, spirits, and wine accessories. Reciprocal also supplies Steelrax wine racks and Riedel Glassware.

Contact Details:

Phone: +27 11 482 9178

Email: orders@reciprocal.co.za



Welcome to Italcham!!



Member News

**Tech-Driven Growth
from the Core**

Singular Group and **Polimi Graduate School of Management** have partnered to inspire, inform and train managers and executives who wish to lead or implement growth projects outside of the “business core”.

We understand, from many years of experience, that the task of shaping a growth or change strategy is a complex matter. It often takes many resources and hours of executive support to identify the sweet spot of profitable growth and change in the long-term. While a complex matter, the task of building a growth strategy has some simple foundational and recurring patterns. While you will have no trouble understanding the component parts (e.g. customer experience, automation of processes, organizational and cultural change), what most firms struggle with is **how you implement them and integrate them practically**.

The goal of our course is to teach these fundamental concepts **practically** to you or your management team and **build a tech enabled growth mindset in your organization**. The course is intentionally taught by an even **mix of professors and practitioners**. **Top executives, entrepreneur and experts** will also play a prominent role as **guest speakers** in the delivery of the course.

The course is delivered **virtually and in English, however spots are limited**.

The aim of the course, carried out in partnership with POLIMI Graduate School of Management, is to **train managers and professionals who want to lead digital change and successfully implement new transformation and innovation projects**.

In a rapidly growing world, it is crucial to **redesign the business** to respond in an agile and flexible way to the changing and emerging needs of consumers, to maintain a **competitive advantage**.

The course starts in **January 2023**, allows participants to identify **the best business opportunities, anticipate consumer needs and create new markets**, thanks to **100% online, interactive and engaging teaching**.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN.

FIND OUT MORE

Renewables in South Africa



SOUTHERN
AFRICA EUROPE
CEO DIALOGUE

Challenges and Opportunities For Private Companies

Panelists:

Pepsi Baiocco

Boitumelo Kiepile

Ezio Vernetti

South Africa is still a developing country with possibilities of massive opportunities in renewable energy for both the private sector and consumers.

Renewables are key to addressing the high energy poverty that debilitates the economy and other socioeconomic issues in the country.

We have the most unequal society in the world. Many of our rural areas still do not have access to electricity which undermines their human dignity, and those who do have access, cannot afford it. The so-called working population struggles with energy affordability leaving only a small percentage who can afford the **ever-increasing costs of power**.

Electricity is critical to meeting the basic social needs, driving economic growth, and fueling human development, and thus providing a path out of poverty and into prosperity.

S.A is highly dependent on non-renewable energy sources like coal and other fossil fuels. We are the world's 14th largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Our **CO2** emissions are principally due to heavy reliance on coal. Coal power stations constitute 84% of S. A's energy whilst only 16% is on mixed energy sources.

"There is a need to reduce the carbon domestic emissions and this implementation is consistent with the Paris Agreement's ambitious goals and it represents our country's best effort to combat climate change. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe in South Africa": said **Pepsi Baiocco**

Private sector can take advantage of opportunities within the renewables sector from a demand and supply side.

Large and extensive energy users can benefit from lower and predictable prices, whilst IPPs can deliver projects within a shorter time period.

The current challenges are in grid connectivity and availability; wheeling arrangements are still at an early stage of adoption and proving bankability and risk sharing are factors still being explored.

In the near future as the private PPA sector grows, a more standardized approach will emerge and conclusion of direct private PPAs via wheeling will be seamless.

"This can be supported by the implementation of the electricity regulations amendments in relation to the creation of the independent transmission operator and the development of a wholesale spot market": said **Boitumelo Kiepile**