



# Ecco Chamber

**FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**Who doesn't need a vacation?**

- **Chamber's Note**
- **Webinar Announcement**
- **Property to rent**
- **New Member: SABIA**





# Chamber's Note

## Who does not need a vacation?

The last six months have put immense strain on us all – financially and psychologically. For many, the pandemic has meant job loss or a severe constraint on income. For others it has entailed a dramatic shift in the way work gets done. Such rapid change and its attendant uncertainty has led to an increase in stress, anxiety and depression.

As is well known, one of the worst hit industries has been the tourism sector. A sector which contributes directly to about 3% of GDP (and about 9% indirectly) has been impacted unlike ever before. What was once one of South Africa's shining lights amidst a sluggish economy is now experiencing its own almighty slump, owing to the countrywide lockdown and the closure of international borders. Employing over 700 thousand people in 2017, it is now feared that up to 600-thousand jobs may be lost within the sector during 2020.

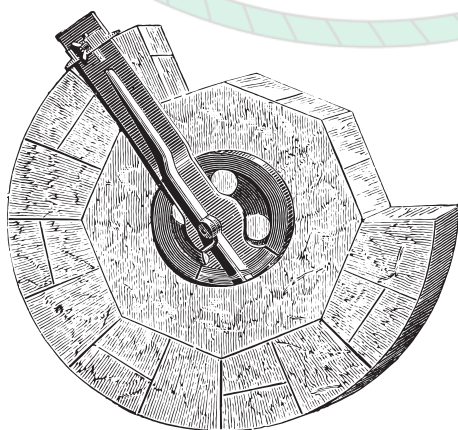
Italy too has been hit hard. Attracting 60-million international tourists per year (6 times that of SA) and accounting for 13% of GDP (directly and indirectly), these numbers are expected to halve during 2020. The Italian Government has committed €2.4-billion for subsidizing low income households to take a 'staycation', in order to stimulate its local tourism sector. Indeed, the problem is being experienced worldwide. Before this year, the tourism sector accounted for 7% of global exports and 330-million jobs. But it has been forecasted that more than half of these jobs may be lost due to international travel restrictions.

On Saturday 15 th of August, President Ramaphosa announced the downscaling of South Africa's lockdown to level 2 restrictions, permitting leisure travel across provincial borders. While international travel restrictions remain in place, the tourism sector will rely on domestic travel to stay afloat. To woo local travellers who are already on a tight budget, destinations may need to adjust their prices. On the consumer side there are two reasons to make use of the lifting on restrictions. The one being to support our beleaguered tourism sector and the other being to let go of the unneeded stress.

*Italcham!*

# THE VIRTUES OF LOCALIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR EUROPEAN COMPANIES

**Webinar**



This webinar focuses on unpacking the challenges and opportunities of the Manufacturing Industries in South Africa, and exploring possible forms of collaboration between Italian and South African entities to establish mutual benefits.

## 26 August 2020

**10:00 - 11:30**

**Speakers:**



**Lerato Mataboge**

Deputy Director -  
General: Export  
Promotion,  
Development and  
Outward  
Investments



**Liz Hart**

Managing Director  
Siyenza Management  
(Pty)



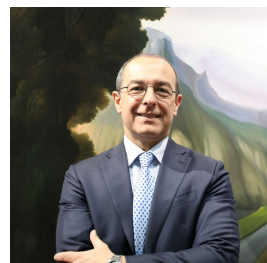
**Pamina Bohrer**

Secretary General  
Italian-South  
African Chamber of  
Trade and  
Industries



**Martin Sanne**

Executive for  
Manufacturing  
CSIR



**Paolo Cuculi**

Ambassador  
Embassy of  
Italy: Pretoria



Embassy of Italy  
Pretoria

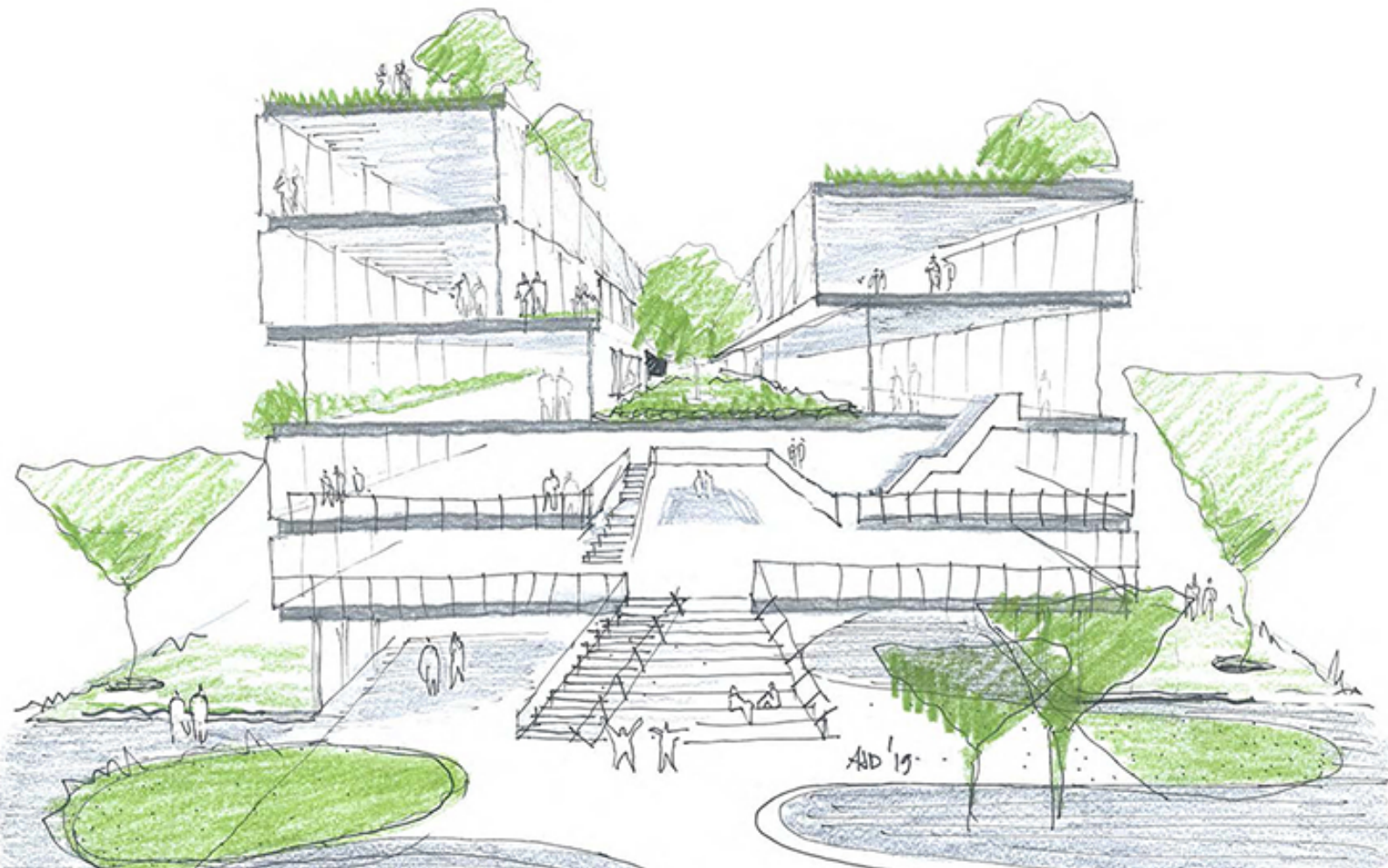


**[Click here to register!](#)**

# Office space available to **RENT**

**R2,500 (monthly) including cleaning services,  
parking, water & lights**

**Size of the Space: 5m x 7m.**



For more information contact: [itaid@infodoor.co.za](mailto:itaid@infodoor.co.za)

**84 Atholl Street, Highlands North**



# Welcoming our New Member



The South Africa biogas sector is represented by SABIA, a Non Profit Organization, that leads the industry discussions with relevant governmental departments and institutions, international organisations, NGO's and other industry associations to promote the sector, lobby for relevant legislative change, policy development and assisting members in gaining exposure. SABIA currently represents more than 50 members and actively keeps its members up to date on the industry through webinars and a monthly newsletter which is shared with more than 1500 stakeholders

*Welcome to Italcham!!*