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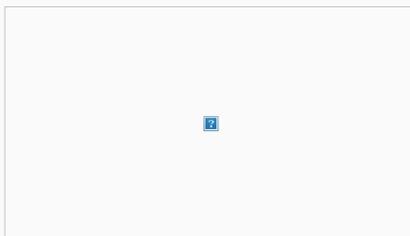
In an extraordinary move, the United State of America has thrown its support behind the waiver of intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines. This action will result in poorer countries being able to manufacture their own vaccines and speed up vaccination drives, which will ultimately ensure the survival of many people. We have activists from South Africa, India and all over the globe, and some lawmakers in the US, to thank for this development.

The pandemic has highlighted the fact that the actions of nations have become more intertwined in our interconnected world, illustrating that *building back better* is a collective and global effort.

The year is proving a challenge for all sectors of society, including business. Budgets and priorities have had to shift to projects that are adaptive and agile. Corporate profitability has declined and non-essential spending has been scaled back in some cases, including in CSI and grantmaking. However, there are beacons of hope, with some companies experiencing profound changes and igniting new purpose in their organisations and employees. Other companies are relooking how to leverage technology to empower half of the world's population – women – while others are zoning in on the nexus between social and environmental sustainability. We hope you will join us as we explore these topics at this year's [Trialogue Business in Society Virtual Conference](#), which takes place on the mornings of 22, 23 and 24 June.

We look forward to seeing you in June – but until then, stay safe and enjoy this issue of the Sustainable Times.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE: REGISTER NOW FOR THE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021



The Trialogue Business in Society Conference is going virtual for a second time this year. The interactive virtual platform we have chosen has an exciting range of functionalities, allowing delegates to 'speed network', chat and share ideas during the sessions, interact with exhibitors, and win prizes. South

Africa-based delegates who register early for the full conference will receive a swag box full of enticing goodies to enjoy during and well after the event. Delegates will have access to recordings of all conference sessions, available on demand for 12 months after the event.

- Book for the full three days of the conference, at a cost of R1500, or pay R500 per day.
- Three to five delegates from the same organisation will receive a 30% discount, while six or more will receive a 40% discount.

Visit the conference page for more [here](#).

UPCOMING WEBINAR: CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

While we certainly didn't need any reminders about the importance of preserving our most vital resource and ensuring accessibility to dignified sanitation, this past year has further underscored the urgency of these issues. The Trialogue CSI webinar on 27 May, from 09:30 to 10:30 (SAST), will unpack corporate responsibility in ensuring broad and equitable access to, and preservation of, clean water and sanitation. Hear from Rand Water and other corporates about what they are doing to affect change in this space, and be inspired to reflect on how best you can leverage your resources to do the same.



Register [here](#).

CSI IMPACT: MTN AWARDS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Non-profit organisations (NPOs) encapsulate a broad range of interests and provide support to some of the most vulnerable in our society. It is important for NPOs to measure the outcomes of their work to ensure that maximum impact is achieved. The MTN Foundation, in partnership with Trialogue, launched The MTN Awards for Social Change to encourage and reward good monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practice in the non-profit sector in 2019. These awards recognise and reward non-profits that are able to provide evidence of the positive difference they are making.



Download a form and enter [here](#).

GET INVOLVED: PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY HANDBOOK 2021

Share your company's CSI initiatives, lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic, and insights into development in the Trialogue Business in Society Handbook 2021. In this edition of the Handbook, we explore what the private sector can do to augment government's recovery efforts and help non-profit organisations to accelerate real change in South Africa.



Contact info@trialogue.co.za to book your spot.

TRIALOGUE KNOWLEDGE HUB: MATHS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

In responding to the coronavirus crisis Investec wanted to ensure that their flagship maths and science learning programme, Promaths, continued. Under normal circumstances, learners would be attending classes at centres across the country, but physical distancing has prevented this. The company extended Mobi-Tuta, a mobile platform previously introduced in partnership with Tuta-Me to assist learners in township and rural schools, to accommodate the Promaths Online offering. Promaths Online was an introduction of virtual classroom-based lessons that are designed to give any Promaths learner with a simple smartphone access to maths and science lessons.



Read more [here](#).

WEBINAR SUMMARY: MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR INTEGRATED THINKING



On 22 April 2021, responsible business consultancy Trialogue and the Chartered Governance Institute of Southern Africa held a webinar that explored unlocking the potential of integrated thinking, going beyond compliance, and applying IT holistically within an organisation. The imperative to adopt an integrated thinking approach in business is gaining momentum, but does your company really know what that means? The concept of integrated thinking is

poorly understood – the terminology alone can be confusing – and many companies imagine that integrated reporting equates to IT, which is not the case.

Read more [here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: REVIEW OF THE SEA HARVEST'S INTEGRATED THINKING

The Sea Harvest Group is a leading seafood, aquaculture, agri-processing and branded fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) business with a global footprint. In 2020, Sea Harvest won the Fledgling/Altix category prize of the CGISA/USE Integrated Reporting Awards. Trialogue was the sponsor of this award and offered a prize of an Integrated Thinking assessment. Sea Harvest welcomed the additional expert insight that would enable them to identify gaps in reporting, as well as gaps in the business itself, with respect to Integrated Thinking.



Read more [here](#).

CSI SPOTLIGHT: EVALUATION OF DISCOVERY'S ENTERPRISE AND SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



"The Trialogue team's methodology, input and insights were highly valuable to us during our monitoring and evaluation process. Our requirements were met immediately and the outcome of the process resulted in a detailed report with suitable recommendations, most of which we are in the process of implementing." Shelley Roberts, Senior Transformation Specialist, Discovery

Small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) account for the majority of enterprises and a significant proportion of employment in both developed and developing economies. These businesses however encounter numerous challenges that inhibit their growth, including a lack of access to finance, limited human resource capacity, and weak technological capability. To help grow this sector, the South African government has promoted enterprise and supplier development (ESD) which now forms an integral part of South Africa's national policy to create a more inclusive economy.

Read more [here](#).

RESEARCH REPORTS: SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS AND COMMUNITY TRUSTS

Intellidex, financial services and capital markets research and consulting house, recently released reports on social impact bonds (SIBs) and community trusts. The three reports in the Intellidex Social Impact Bond report series look in-depth at the first two SIBs in South Africa and find that whilst set up and ongoing implementation is costly, both of the SIBs demonstrated effective policy innovations and were effective in meeting their outcomes targets, even if these targets were not ambitious enough. The Communities in Transition report examines the extent to which the potential of community trusts is being realised in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). It finds that the REIPPPP community trusts are not as effective as they could be for a number of reasons including a compliance mindset, insufficient participatory processes, lack of trustee skills and lack of collaboration, and goes on to make a series of recommendations.

Read more on the Social Impact Bond report series [here](#) and the Communities in Transition report [here](#).