

## PLANNING AFRICA 2012 CONFERENCE

The South African Planning Institute (SAPI) is proud to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Africa conference from 17 to 19 September 2012 at the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa.

The Conference has grown in stature and relevance. It is now a key knowledge exchange platform for policy makers, development practitioners, planning specialists, and researchers involved in 'space making'. Unlike many conferences these days, Planning Africa is organized by planners and for planners or people with an interest in the planning field.

It is my pleasure to welcome you back if you have participated in the conference previously or to invite you to participate for the first time. Either way you will find that you are part of an important continental and international community where ideas, theories, practice and case studies are shared, debated and fed back into your own work experience. All this is done in a robust yet fun way where excellence, achievement and good practices are celebrated through a variety of events including plenary debates, tours, exhibitions, case studies, parallel focus groups, and social and networking opportunities. The Planning Awards, for instance, have become a feature of Planning Africa and is bound to grow even bigger in 2012.

The 2012 conference theme is "**GROWTH, DEMOCRACY AND INCLUSION: NAVIGATING CONTESTED FUTURES**". The conference this time round will be more focused around the positive power of planning and how to utilize the regulatory tools and instruments at the disposal of Planners to effect necessary spatial and land management transformation. There will be more in-depth plenary level discussion aimed at specific outcomes with a focus on improving effectiveness of practice.

I would like to invite you to consider participating in the conference and submitting an abstract.

**Details relating to the conference themes and requirements for submitting an abstract are available on [www.sapi.org.za](http://www.sapi.org.za)** Also available on the website, are details relating to **sponsorship and the conference exhibition packages**. For further details please contact Karen on 083 3789 883 or at [KarenF@match-hospitality.com](mailto:KarenF@match-hospitality.com)

**Yusuf PATEL**  
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