



In partnership with



Announcing the 11th International education business Partnership Network Conference (IPN2012) in Durban, South Africa and a call for entries to the IPN Global Best Awards

Rising youth unemployment, gender stereotyping and low take-up of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects are just some of the challenges facing countries across the world. With both Europe and America facing economic uncertainty challenges such as unemployment and job creation are no longer confined to the developing world. The International education business Partnership Network ([The IPN](#)) Conference to be held in Durban from 25 to 28 September 2012 will bring together the first and third worlds to address the all important transition from *learning to earning* which is crucial to global economic prosperity.

The conference is being hosted in South Africa for the first time, by [MiET](#), a member of the IPN and a leading African NGO with a substantial history of engaging with the realities of education on the African continent. Local and international delegates from education, communities, NGOs and business will engage around strategies to create innovative, sustainable and effective partnerships that aim to approach common issues within the context of finding ways for business and education to work together.

IPN2012, will offer delegates the opportunity to learn about, and from, creative, sustainable, effective and innovative partnerships from across the world around the following themes:-

- partnerships which demonstrate capacity building, leadership and innovation
- partnerships for the development of enterprise and entrepreneurial skills
- partnerships that inspire young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
- partnerships that support health, well being and learning
- partnerships that play key roles in building employability skills across the globe for the 21st century.

The Global Best Awards have been an integral part of IPN conferences for the last 20 years. The IPN presents these awards in collaboration with the Conference Board of Canada in recognition of outstanding and effective business, education and community partnerships that demonstrate significant impact on the communities in which they operate. The IPN is now accepting submissions from partnerships that can demonstrate excellence in one or more of the conference themes (as shown above). For information on how to enter your partnership for a Global Best Award visit www.iebpn.org.

Closing date for entries is 1 March 2012 and the categories will follow the themes of the conference. Awards will be presented at a gala dinner on Thursday 27 September 2012.

IPN2012 is all about the transition from "*learning to earning*". A theme which is of as much relevance in South Africa as it is in the rest of the world. The Global Best Awards enable the IPN to showcase how common global issues are being addressed in different parts of the world, in South Africa it is hoped that the Global Best Awards will raise awareness of the potential scope of education business partnership and act as a catalyst for growing this type of activity in South Africa

The IPN's strategic mission is to encourage, facilitate, support and recognize excellence in partnerships at both regional and international levels and to enable the sharing of local perspectives in the global context.

South Africa, like most of the rest of the world, faces economic uncertainty and addressing issues like youth unemployment and education will be key to a more stable and prosperous economic future. Developing a highly skilled and flexible future workforce, addressing skills shortages, enterprise and entrepreneurial skills as well as creating an understanding career opportunities is critical. Education, business and community partnerships across the world have a crucial role to play in this by providing education, resources and support that prepares students to meet the needs of the workplace, bringing the world of work into the classroom to make learning more relevant and exciting and by creating working environments that are conducive and accessible to youth.

The themes of the conference reflect issues and challenges facing countries across the world, and one of those which is significant in the future economic prosperity of countries world wide is attracting young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The IPN is delighted to announce that [Benjamin Alvin Drew](#), Astronaut will be a keynote speaker at IPN2012. Alvin has flown in space twice on STS118 and STS133 and had the honor of being the 200th person to walk in space in February 2011. Like all NASA astronauts, engineers and scientists Alvin spends a lot of time talking to young people and inspiring the youth of today to become the scientists of tomorrow. The IPN is delighted to be able to welcome Alvin to South Africa to inspire and excite at IPN2012....!

IPN2012 offers delegates from around the world the opportunity to hear from successful partnerships, share experiences and learn from each other in the beautiful surroundings of Durban, South Africa.

To be part of this exciting conference that looks at how 'tomorrow can be realized today' log onto the IPN website www.iebpn.org or the MIET website www.miet.co.za for further information.

Ends.