

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Future of Jobs Summit™: Next10!

## Unlocking Global Opportunities for South Africa's Youth at Scale

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026, The Maslow Hotel, Sandton

### 1. Executive Summary

South Africa faces a dual challenge – youth unemployment of over 55% and a global economy rapidly reshaped by AI, clean energy, and advanced industries. Yet within this challenge lies an unprecedented opportunity: to build the Next10 industries that will define South Africa's future economy and unlock millions of jobs.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Future of Jobs Summit™ will unite business leaders, government, innovators, and investors to co-create a blueprint for South Africa's *Next10* – the ten industries that will power growth, attract investment, and create scalable employment.

We invite Industry Leaders to partner with us as a Strategic Partner of this national initiative – positioning your brand as a catalyst for economic growth, innovation, and job creation.

### 2. Why Next10™ Matters

Global research shows that 80% of future job creation will come from 10 sectors. For South Africa, these are:

1. Renewable Energy & Green Tech
2. AI & Digital Services
3. AgriTech & Food Security
4. Advanced Manufacturing & Robotics
5. Global Business Services & BPO
6. Tourism & Cultural Economy
7. HealthTech & Biotechnology
8. Automotive, Logistics & Supply Chain Innovation
9. Creative & Sports Industries
10. Space, Mining 2.0 & Advanced Materials

By nurturing these industries, South Africa can create 2.35 million jobs by 2030, attract billions in FDI, and retain critical talent. But this is not all, since a job is just one of many opportunities open to the SA Youth.

## Connecting South Africa's Youth to Global Opportunities

South Africa's greatest resource is not its minerals, land, or coastline. It is its youth — energetic, creative, and resilient. Yet more than half of young South Africans remain unemployed. The tragedy is not a lack of global opportunities; it is the lack of structured bridges that connect our youth to them.

The Future of Jobs Summit™ was created to change this. Our goal is bold but clear: to connect South African youth to global opportunities at scale. That includes jobs, but also internships, scholarships, mentorships, global projects, and even the simplest yet often most powerful spark — a conversation with someone who can open a door.

### Opportunities Travel at the Speed of Connection

We live in an interconnected world where opportunity can travel at the speed of a message. A connection on LinkedIn can lead to mentorship in Silicon Valley. A digital internship can be completed from Soweto for a company in Singapore. A scholarship opportunity can transform a career path.

The problem is not that global opportunities are scarce — they are abundant. The problem is that too many South African Youth are excluded from the networks, skills pipelines, and platforms that make those opportunities accessible.

### Pathways to Connecting Youth to Global Markets

The Future of Jobs Summit™ is focusing on four practical pathways that can scale impact quickly:

1. **LinkedIn as a Global Gateway:** With more than a billion members, LinkedIn is the largest professional networking platform in the world. We must equip our youth to build standout profiles, publish thought pieces, and proactively connect with decision-makers. Mastering this global gateway turns visibility into opportunity.
2. **The Global Internship Bridge:** Through multinational partnerships, we are creating remote internship pipelines. A young coder in Cape Town can contribute to a New York project; a marketing graduate in Durban can support a Berlin start-up. These real-world experiences build confidence, skills, and networks.
3. **The Mentorship Bank:** A single mentor can transform a life. The Future of Jobs Summit™ is building a global “mentorship bank” of leaders committed to guiding South African youth through monthly calls, project reviews, and network introductions. Mentorship creates not only skills but belief.
4. **The Innovation Exchange:** Many of our young people are entrepreneurs. By connecting youth-led start-ups to global accelerators, investors, and markets, we can scale ideas born in South Africa to serve customers worldwide.

### Small Steps, Big Impact

Not every breakthrough comes from a full-time job. Sometimes it is a short-term internship, a single scholarship, or a one-hour mentorship conversation. These small but meaningful connections build momentum, expand networks, and unlock far larger doors.

### Why It Matters for Business and Society

This is not charity. It is investment. Around the world, companies face critical talent shortages. Diversity of thought and fresh innovation are in demand everywhere. South Africa’s youth can fill that gap — if they are connected to the global stage.

For South Africa, the benefits are equally profound. Unlocking youth potential strengthens our economy, stabilises our society, and positions the nation as a leading hub for talent in the future of work.

### A Call to Action

The Future of Jobs Summit™ is inviting leaders worldwide to take part. A corporation can offer internships. A university can provide scholarships. An executive can mentor a student. Even a simple introduction made over Zoom can set in motion a life-changing career. If scaled, these contributions will create global opportunities for South African youth at scale.

### Background

Following the highly successful Inaugural Edition of the Future of Jobs Summit™, which was hosted in partnership with Brand South Africa and addressed by The Presidency of South Africa, the Premier of Gauteng, the Executive Mayor of the City of Joburg, and attended by more than 200 prominent leaders from South Africa’s leading Brands (including SAP, ABSA, FNB, DP World, Adcorp, Discovery, Grant Thornton, Webber Wentzel, JSE, Ackermans, Bidvest, WeBuyCars, Workday, SPAR, Momentum, Old Mutual, Vodacom). The Future of Jobs Summit™ is an **official T20 Side Event (recognized by the Think Tank of South Africa's G20 Presidency)** and fully aligned with South Africa’s Strategic Priority of driving Inclusive Growth



## The 2026 Future of Jobs Summit™

08:00 – 09:00 | Registration & Networking Breakfast

- Arrival, coffee, and interactive “Next10 Industries” digital showcase.

09:00 – 09:20 | Opening Session

- Welcome: Dr Nik Eberl
- Keynote: “*Why South Africa’s Next10 Industries Matter for the World*”

09:20 – 10:30 | **Session 1: The Global Context**

- Fireside Chat: *The Future of Work & the Next10 Industries*
- Panel: *Where Can South Africa Compete?*

10:30 – 11:00 | Networking Tea Break

11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 2: Deep Dive – The Next10 Industries**

- FutureX Keynotes from trailblazers across industries

12:30 – 13:30 | Networking Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 | **Session 3: The Future Jobs Labs**

- Breakout Labs: Youth Employment, Investor Capital, Policy & Regulation, Technology & Skills.
- Each lab produces 3 recommendations for the Future of Jobs Charter.

15:00 – 15:30 | Networking Tea Break

15:30 – 16:30 | **Session 4: Champions of the Next10™**

- Showcase of Hidden Champions & Innovators.
- Case studies from SA firms breaking into global markets.

16:30 – 17:15 | **Session 5: Co-Creation Roundtable**

- Delegates form working groups by industry.
- Co-create the “Future of Jobs Charter for the Next10”.

17:15 – 17:45 | Closing Keynote

- “*Architecting South Africa’s Global Role*”
- Unveiling of Next10! White Paper Executive Summary.

 **Evening Gala & 2026 Future of Leadership Awards**

18:30 – 19:00 | Gala Arrival & Networking Cocktails

- Live music by SA artists (Creative Economy showcase)
- Red-carpet photo opportunities.

19:00 – 22:00 | **Gala Dinner & 2026 Future of Leadership Awards**

- Welcome Toast: Dr Nik Eberl
- Three-Course Dinner with curated South African cuisine.
- Awards Ceremony (10 Categories + 1 Special Award):
  - Business Leader of the Year
  - Marketing Leader of the Year
  - Social Impact Leader of the Year
  - Future of Work Visionary
  - Leadership Lifetime Achievement
  - Entrepreneurial Leader of the Year
  - Inspirational Leader of the Year
  - Public Sector Leadership
  - Digital Transformation Leader
  - Innovation Leader of the Year
  -  *Special Award: Future of Jobs Champion* (for extraordinary contribution to youth employment & innovation)
- Entertainment: South African music/dance performance celebrating cultural exports.
- Closing Toast & Networking: Celebration of winners and future partnerships.

**Options to attend**

- **The Future of Jobs Summit™** (28 May 2026) – R7,250 pp
- **Future of Jobs Summit Gala Dinner & Awards Evening** (28 May 2026) – R3,750 pp
- **Future of Jobs Summit & Gala Dinner / Awards Combined** (28 May 2026) – R9,750 pp
- **VIP Roundtable** (10 VIP Guests at The Summit & Awards Evening, 28 May 2026) – R85k

## Why Partner with the Future of Jobs Summit™?

As a Strategic Partner, you will:

- **Shape National Impact**
  - Co-create the Next10™ Industry Roadmap, presented to government and business leaders as the official outcomes of the Summit.
  - Align your brand with job creation, innovation, and ESG goals.
- **Access High-Value Networks**
  - Engage with key decision-makers – CEOs, policymakers, investors, and industry champions.
  - Lead closed-door roundtables on your sector priorities.
- **Showcase Leadership**
  - Present case studies, innovations, and initiatives as part of the Summit program.
  - Be featured in the Next10™ Watchlist (media series highlighting key innovators and trailblazers of tomorrow).
- **Unlock Tangible Business Outcomes**
  - Gain access to qualified SMEs and talent pipelines emerging from the Future of Jobs Summit.
  - Build strategic relationships with decision-makers across the Next10™ industries.
- **Co-lead the 4<sup>th</sup> Future of Leadership Awards**
  - Nominate current and emerging Business Leaders and South African Youth Trailblazers for the 2026 Future of Leadership Awards.

## 5. Return on Investment (ROI)

By supporting the Next10™ initiative through the Future of Jobs Summit, you will:

- Gain first-mover advantage in building relationships within future-defining industries.
- Strengthen brand equity as a champion of job creation and innovation.
- Acquire SME and talent pipelines, fuelling business growth.



Participating Institutions



Following the Inaugural Future of Jobs Summit™ which brought together 200 Executive Leaders to co-create the Strategic Innovation MAP™ for enabling South Africa’s Jobs of the Future (see the partners above), the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of The Future of jobs Summit™ will include:

- Policy Makers from the Government of National Unity (GNU)
- Policy Makers from the Gauteng Government of Provincial Unity (GPU)
- Chief Executive Leaders from South Africa’s leading Industries (The CEO Dialogue™)
- Chief Human Resources Officers from South Africa’s leading Employers (The CHRO Council)
- Co-authors of the Future of Leadership Book Series (100 TOP Leadership Voices from SA Inc.)
- Decision Makers from leading Youth Development Initiatives (SA Youth, YES, Harambee, NYDA)

The outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Future of Jobs Summit™ will be **South Africa’s Future Industries Report** which will detail the strategies for growing South Africa’s TOP10 Industries of the Future (for example, see the previous “South Africa’s Brain Gain Report” at <https://thefutureleadership.com/the-brain-gain-report> )

In the Media

