

# Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa conference in March

The Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA) will hold its first annual conference on 13-15 March 2014 at the Birchwood Conference Centre in the East Rand.

The association, celebrating its 10th anniversary will also hold its AGM at the event, which will culminate in a gala dinner, at which University of the Witwatersrand Vice-Chancellor, Adam Habib will be the keynote speaker.



## Featuring

The conference will feature a number of local and international speakers from the world of non-fiction and academic publishing. "We thought our 10-year milestone would be an opportune moment to pause and reflect on the meaning of authors' rights, and how these can be protected and promoted," explains its director, Kundayi Masanzu.

"Authors need to be acknowledged for the role they play in knowledge creation, as well as for the relevance of their contributions to the national discourse about readership and learning. They also need incentives to produce more works.

"Authors' work needs to be promoted and their skills need to be expanded. This conference will set the tone for engaging on these issues and, in the process, will assist in defining the meaning of authors' rights and the role authors can play within the creative industries."

The conference will provide the ideal opportunity for members and delegates to celebrate the country's 20 years of democracy by examining the opportunities and challenges facing non-fiction and academic writing in post-apartheid South Africa.

Among the topics will be the rapid advances in digital publishing and the increasing move towards open and free access to published works. Technology is changing the way authors engage with their readers and can be used to help learners access educational materials in the digital age - but what about the author's right to fair remuneration?

## IP among panel discussions

The protection of authors' intellectual property will be examined in depth by a panel comprising Geidy Lung (World Intellectual Property Organisation, Geneva), Barbara Hayes (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, UK), and Naomi Haasbroek (Libraries and Information Association of South Africa).

Mbulelo Mzamane (former director of the Centre for African Literary Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal) will chair a panel discussion on policies and practices relating to indigenous languages in education in the 20 years since democracy, focusing on how best to incorporate indigenous languages within the school curriculum.

Open-access systems will be debated by a panel chaired by the University of Pretoria's Beth le Roux, with panellists including Susan Veldsman (Academy of Science for South Africa), Keyan Tomaselli (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Andrew Joseph (Unisa Press: Journals Division).

Professor Andries Oliphant will preside over a session looking at how the creative industries, including authors, can pull together as a cultural lobby and influence government policies. Unpicking this issue in depth will be the Arterial Network's André le Roux, as well as international panellists Lung and Hayes.

The association is inviting authors of academic and non-fiction material - regardless of whether their works have appeared in print - to register to attend the three-day conference. For more information, go to [www.anfasa.org.za/conference.asp](http://www.anfasa.org.za/conference.asp). Registration is R1000 for paid-up ANFASA members (Grant-in-Aid is also available) and R1500 for non-members. Registration closes on 28 February 2013.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>