

MINISTERs MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE CCS CONFERENCE

South Africa is delighted to welcome you to the inaugural Carbon Capture and Storage Conference. This conference is part of the Carbon Capture and Storage Week that includes two specialised courses as well as a number of side events and workshops. This is expected to culminate in the official launch of the newly established South African Centre for Carbon Capture and Storage on Tuesday, 29 September 2009.

South Africa's commitment to the reduction of green house gas emissions is clearly reflected in the Department of Water & Environmental Affairs' Long Term Mitigation Scenarios. Carbon Capture and Storage is one of the technologies that we can use, as a country, to meet our stated goal of curbing and ultimately reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2020-25. This conference, therefore, is part of the knowledge sharing and public outreach activities that have to be embarked upon before any deployment of CCS technologies.

The events planned for this week are likely to be the first in a series of such assemblies that are scheduled to take place over the next few years as we intensify our efforts to build human and technical capacity to undertake carbon capture and storage.

We are accordingly privileged to host a number of respected international experts in carbon capture and storage. We welcome them to our shores. We have no doubt that they will share with us their immense repository of knowledge of this important industry.

This Carbon Capture and Storage Week would not have been possible without the generous support of various sponsors for whom we are eternally grateful. Working together, as we say in our government, I believe, we can do even better to deal with modern day challenges posed by carbon dioxide emissions.

I thank you for your participation and interest in this event. I look forward to engaging further with the outcomes of the conference. This is a legacy we can leave to our children who deserve to habit a planet devoid of the terrible effects of global warming.

Ms E D Peters
Minister of Energy