



Towards a Just Transition: the role of Industrial policy

Policymakers, government officials and researchers grappling with the impact of the climate crisis on the economy and society will gather in Pretoria next week to explore how industrial policy can support and drive structural transformation towards a just transition. The keynote address will be given by Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Barbara Creecy.

This conference comes at a critical time for researchers to explore how South Africa's industrial policy is being reshaped by the climate crisis. There is rising pressure for the country to reduce emissions and accelerate its transition to a low-carbon economy, which is impacting on government policy. This pressure has been exacerbated by the EU's decision last month to both extend the range of products being covered by a carbon tax at its borders as well as reduce the timeline for countries – such as South Africa – to adapt.

South Africa's coal value chain has historically been central in its industrial policy approach. A move away from coal will profoundly impact on the structure of the South African economy and this conference provides an opportunity for discussion on the various dimensions of green industrialisation and green industrial policy in the South African context.

This Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) annual forum is being held in partnership with the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) at the University of Johannesburg and UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT), and in association with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic). It will be held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual participation. The in-person event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria on 1 and 2 August.

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The TIPS Forum is held annually and has become an important space that the organisation has created since its establishment 25 years ago. It has become a platform for researchers and policymakers to present research and engage in dialogue with the aim of influencing policy outcomes. The focus of this year's forum is "Towards a Just Transition: The Role of Industrial Policy".

TIPS senior economist Baba Gqubule explains that the Forum will consider the role of Industrial Policy in pursuing a just transition. The broad objective of the Forum is to unpack the complexities of possible strategic pathways towards low carbon emission targets within the South African political settlement, and within the broader geopolitical context.

Issued by: TIPS

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The full programme can be found on the TIPS website: www.tips.org.za. To register for the conference_click on: <https://bit.ly/3yWRlzt>