

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**GERMAN-SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SADC:
JOURNEY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK IN THE 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY**

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Deutsche Industrie- und Handels-
kammer für das südliche Afrika
Southern African-German Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Supported by:



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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika

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CHAMBER PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Mr. Peter van Binsbergen



23.01.2025 - As we reflect on the past year, I want to begin by thanking Jens Papperitz, the outgoing chamber president, for his dedicated leadership. On behalf of the Chamber and our members and partners, thank you, Jens, for your invaluable commitment and leadership over the past years.

I would like to thank the members of the Directorate and Advisory Board for all your support and guidance. A big thank you to the amazing chamber team and management for your hard work and dedication this past year. And, of course, a heartfelt thank you to all our members for your partnership and support.

The past year has been nothing short of eventful, both regionally and globally.

In 2024, we celebrated 30 years of democracy in South Africa – a big milestone.

The journey of freedom and development in South Africa has been closely linked with the growth of the German business community in this country. Many of our members represent companies that have been integral to South Africa's economic fabric for over three decades, a legacy we deeply value and hold in high regard.

This presence continues to grow, reflecting a commitment to working alongside South African

partners to foster a stronger economic environment – something that was clearly demonstrated throughout 2024 ending off with the highlight event of President Steinmeier's visit at the end of last year.

It was a pivotal year for the region, marked by significant political shifts, due to the elections and economic challenges. Southern Africa is clearly undergoing a transformative period, with evolving dynamics that require the need for responsive governance and economic resilience. While the full impact on the business community remains uncertain, we remain optimistic about the potential for growth and new opportunities in the years ahead. We will closely monitor these developments and actively leverage opportunities where possible.

At the recent Directorate strategic meeting, we outlined several key priorities that will shape our focus for the coming year, namely, marketing, events, membership, regional presence, skills development, training and advocacy work. Revenue generation remains a cross-cutting goal tied to all areas. These strategic priorities reflect our commitment to ensuring that the Chamber remains a relevant and vital resource for our members.

Looking ahead, I anticipate that 2025 will bring its own set of opportunities and challenges across various industries. As we prepare for what lies ahead, I invite all our members and partners to collaborate with us to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you to all our partners and members for your continued trust and partnership.

☺ *Here's to a great and exciting year ahead!* ☺

CHAMBER CEO'S WELCOME

Chief Executive Officer, Ms Simone Pohl



2024 – A year of change

2024 – what a year! A year marked by significant changes and transitions.

As I reflect on the past year, I would like to begin by thanking:

- Our members, for your trust and support during this dynamic year. Your active engagement, including participation in our roundtables and various projects and initiatives, has been invaluable.
- The Directorate, Advisory Board, DIHK, Embassy, GTAI, GIZ, the political foundations as well as the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (BMWK) as well as our many partners for your collaboration, support and guidance in advancing our shared vision.
- The incredible Chamber team – your dedication, adaptability and resilience is not overlooked.

The Chamber also experienced substantial and meaningful changes over the past year. With new leadership, valuable additions to our team, and an expanded focus on advocacy and member engagement, we have not only aligned our initiatives with the evolving needs of our stakeholders but have laid a strong foundation for continued growth.

Our engagements with German and Southern African government officials over the past year were invaluable, further reinforcing our shared commitment to collaborating on finding solutions to challenges facing our business community.

Against the backdrop of 30 years of democracy in South Africa, the formation of the Government of National Unity has set a cautiously optimistic tone among our member companies and partners. We anticipate that the positive momentum will carry forward into the year ahead. The subsequent elections across the region have largely reflected similar sentiments, reinforcing a cautious optimism and change within the Southern African business landscape.

We are closely monitoring developments within the G20 and B20, as these platforms are set to foster cross-industry and cross-regional partnerships, open new markets, and create valuable strategic opportunities for the German business community. Furthermore, with South Africa's clear emphasis on 'Economic Diplomacy' and its focus on strategies to enhance economic performance, 2025 has the potential to be a pivotal year for the country—both politically and economically.

We ended the year on a high note with President Steinmeier's visit, highlighting South Africa's importance as a key strategic partner for Germany. Other highlights of the year include hosting successful delegations, projects, trade fairs, webinars, roundtables including discussions with foreign chambers in South Africa and networking events across all our competence centers.

We also were happy to welcome 54 new members across industries, further diversifying our member network and strengthening our collaborative capacity. This of course, remains a focus area for us in 2025.

On a personal note, stepping into this role during a period of significant change has been both enriching and challenging. With experience spanning three continents, the complexities of this region remain incredibly unique.

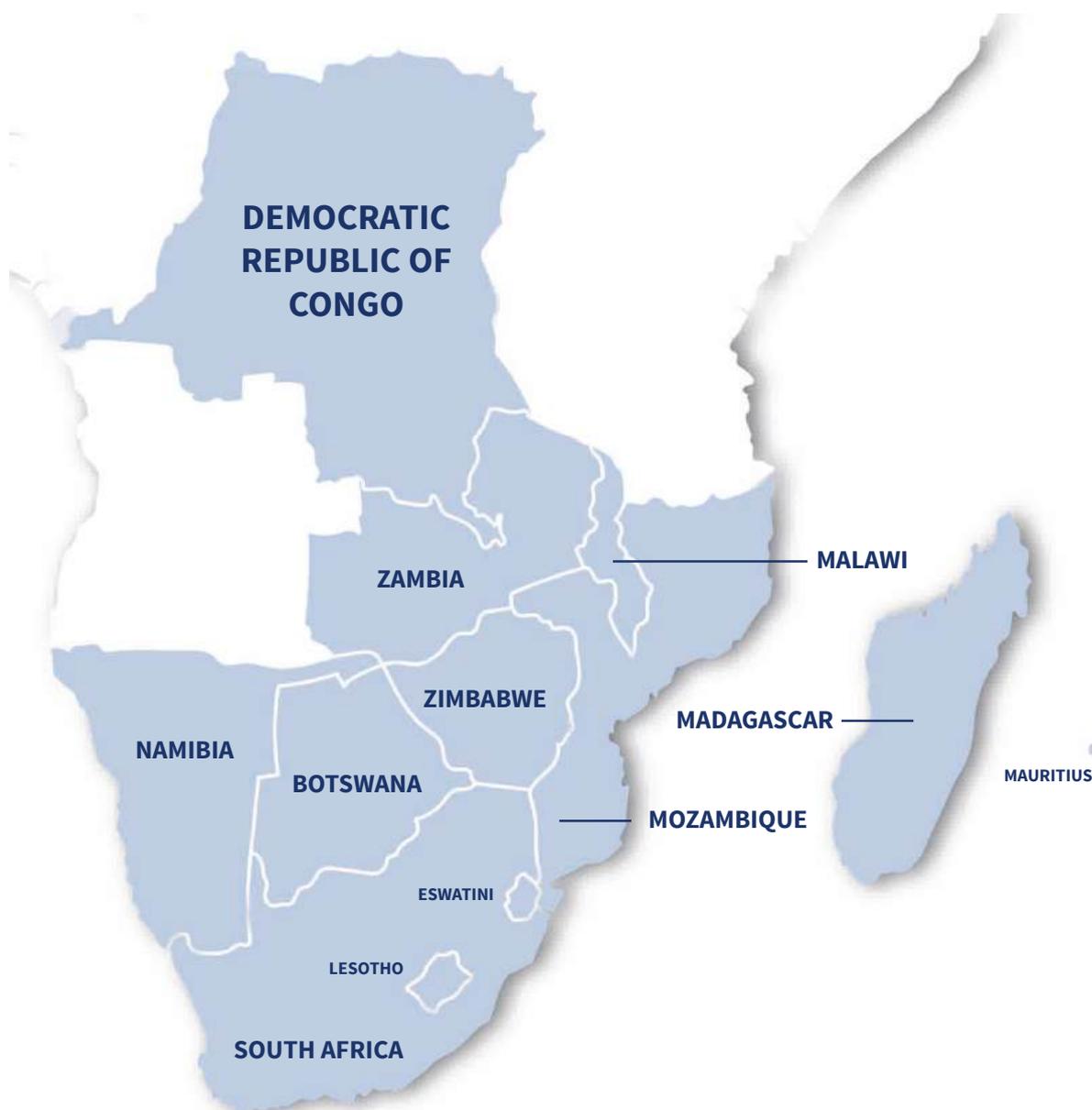
From navigating its rich cultural and linguistic

multifaceted landscape, it remains an ongoing journey of learning.

We are optimistic about the opportunities ahead. Our priorities for the coming year include further intensifying advocacy efforts, strengthening bilateral relations to boost trade and investment, and enhancing member services with tailored projects to meet sector-specific needs.

Thank you for your support and wishing you all a great 2025.

Partner In SADC





German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier Visits South Africa

On December 13, 2024, German-South African relations reached a significant milestone with the visit of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to South Africa. This visit coincided with South Africa's assumption of the G20 presidency, a role of profound global importance. President Steinmeier was joined by a high-ranking business delegation led by Parliamentary State Secretary Michael Kellner, underscoring the mutual commitment to strengthening economic and political ties between the two nations.

The delegation's agenda was both dynamic and impactful, featuring engagements that reinforced the strategic partnership between Germany and South Africa. A comprehensive briefing was held with the AHK Southern Africa, Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), the German Embassy, and DEG to discuss opportunities and challenges within the South African market. This session underscored the shared vision for fostering sustainable economic growth.

Additionally, a business roundtable hosted by the AHK Southern Africa was convened at the BMW IT Hub. This session included Minister Parks Tau, the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC), and representatives from the German business community. It provided a platform for candid discussions on trade and investment, aiming to unlock further economic collaboration. The delegation also toured the BMW IT Hub, which serves as a shining example of South Africa's potential as a Business Process Outsourcing destination within the IT sector. The visit highlighted the country's capability to deliver cutting-edge solutions on a global scale.

The day concluded with a reception hosted by the German Ambassador. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen relationships and explore avenues for future cooperation. President Steinmeier's visit underscored South Africa's importance as a strategic partner for Germany in navigating today's complex global challenges. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to advancing sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

A special thanks is extended to all organisations and individuals whose dedication ensured the success of this day.



AHK Southern Africa CEO Reception: Leadership Transition and Bilateral Business Celebration

On the evening of 17 April 2024, a reception was held at the Johannesburg Country Club that marked both an end and a new beginning for the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Southern Africa). The event was organized to bid farewell to Mr. Matthias Boddenberg, the outgoing CEO who served with distinction and dedication for over two decades, and to warmly welcome Ms. Simone Pohl as the new CEO. This dual-purpose gathering also celebrated the flourishing bilateral business relations between Southern Africa and Germany.

Mr. Boddenberg's two decades at the helm of AHK Southern Africa have been characterized by steadfast leadership, visionary guidance, and an unwavering commitment to fostering strong ties between the two regions. His tenure has left an indelible mark on the Chamber's legacy, and the evening provided an opportunity to honour his remarkable contributions to strengthening economic and business relations between Southern Africa and Germany.

Welcoming the new era of leadership, Ms. Simone Pohl stepped into the role as CEO with a wealth of experience and a clear vision for the future. Her appointment underscores the Chamber's commitment to continuity and growth, promising to build upon the strong foundations laid by her predecessor.

The evening's proceedings were further enriched by the presence of a high-profile German Delegation led by Dr. Martin Wansleben, former CEO of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK). The delegation, which included representatives from key organisations such as the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG), and Senior Experten Service (SES), emphasized the robust partnership between Southern Africa and Germany. Their presence also highlighted the importance of collaboration across the broader AHK network globally.

Dr. Wansleben's participation in the event was particularly noteworthy as he and the delegation were in the region to attend the DIHK 'Regionalkonferenz Afrika,' a conference that brought together leaders from various AHKs and delegations across the continent. His address underscored the paramount importance of continued collaborative efforts in strengthening not only bilateral ties but also the Chamber's global network on the African continent.

The reception served as more than just a farewell or a welcome; it was a celebration of enduring partnerships, mutual growth, and shared aspirations. It highlighted the significant strides made in fostering economic cooperation between Germany and Southern Africa while setting the stage for future successes under Ms. Pohl's leadership.



SOUTHERN AFRICAN-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Directorate and Advisory Board

Directorate 2024/2025



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Mr Peter van Binsbergen
Chief Executive Officer
BMW Group South Africa



DEPUTY PRESIDENT & TREASURER

Mr Kay Schröder
Director
WerthSchröder Inc.



VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Franz-Peter Falke
Managing Shareholder
Falke KGaA



DIRECTOR

Ms Saloshni Pillay
CEO/Chief Country Officer and Head of
Institutional Client Group (ICG) and
Global Emerging Markets (GEM) for SA
Deutsche Bank



DIRECTOR

Ms Mpho Toolo
Managing Director Château Gâteaux and
General Manager Dr. Oetker



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mr Jens Papperitz
Senior Vice President Sales Latin America/
Middle East/Africa
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EX Officio

Ms Simone Pohl
CEO
Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce
and Industry NPC

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Dr Klaus Döring

Mr Fritz Keller

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Mr Leo Röhrig

Mr Molefe Seth Phalatse

ORGANOGRAM

Meet the Team



CEO

Simone Pohl



COO

Gavin Frayne



DEPUTY CEO

Alexa Gerrard



HEAD OF FINANCE & HR

Nam Madokwe

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



Regional Coordinator
Jens Hauser



Western Cape
Anja Tambusso-Ferraz



Kwa-Zulu Natal
Danilla van Jaarsveldt



Zimbabwe
Bernd Doppelfeld



Germany
Walter Engelmann

DEPARTMENTS AND COMPETENCE CENTRES



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Karabo Makenete, Assistant to HoD Finance
Dineo Lephoto, CATS Student



EVENTS, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP
Nikitta Vogl, HoD
Nokwanda Kambuwa, Project Manager
Courtneigh Dunn, Graphic Designer & Digital Marketer



EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & STRATEGIC PROJECTS,
Dambisa Dube



ADMINISTRATION
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Thomas Kallenbach, Senior Project Assistant
Florence Taile, Receptionist



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Vera Massie, Project Manager Water Management
Rishel Dharmapall, Sector Expert - Circular Economy
Philip Schell-Hammer, Project Manager
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Thululela Pupuma, Project Manager



SOURCING
Mareike Brandt, HoD



TRAINING & CSR
Mandla Ngcobo, HoD
Jacques De Villiers, CATS Coordinator
Taurai Gumbo, Lecturer
Omphemetse Ramokhua, Training Office Administrator
Katlego Molekwe, CATS Student



AGRICULTURE & FOOD/ SKILLS EXPERT
Danilla van Jaarsveldt, HoD



INDUSTRY / TRADE FAIRS
Mpho Letsoalo, Project Manager
Knowledge Tenza, Project Manager
Stef Van der Walt, Project Manager



SKILLED WORKERS FOR GERMANY
Karabo Tshabalala, Project Manager

& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING 2024

On Thursday, 20 June 2024 the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Southern Africa) announced the election of its new board of directors and advisory board members during its Annual General Meeting. This change in leadership marked a significant step forward for the organisation, as it continued its mission to strengthen and expand the relationship between Southern Africa and Germany.

The newly elected president of the Chamber was Mr. Peter van Binsbergen, the CEO of BMW Group South Africa. Mr. van Binsbergen took on the role with a clear focus on collaboration, expressing his eagerness to work closely with both the Chamber's staff and its stakeholders to build on the solid foundation laid by previous leaders. He succeeded Mr. Jens Papperitz, Senior Vice President Sales Latin America/Middle East/Africa at B. Braun SE, who had served as President for the past three years. Under Mr. Papperitz's leadership, AHK Southern Africa had seen considerable growth and success, and his contributions were widely recognized and appreciated by the Chamber's members.

As part of the leadership transition, Mr. Kay Schröder, Director of WerthSchröder Inc., was re-elected to continue serving as Deputy President and Treasurer. His ongoing commitment to the organisation ensured continuity and stability in the Chamber's financial and governance matters. Mr. Franz-Peter Falke, Managing Shareholder of Falke KGaA, also continued in his role as Vice President, bringing valuable expertise and strategic insight to the board.

The board welcomed two new members in 2024: Ms. Saloshni Pillay, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Country Officer at Deutsche Bank, and Ms. Mpho Toolo,

Managing Director Château Gâteaux and General Manager Dr. Oetker. Their appointment to the board marked a continued emphasis on diversity, with both individuals bringing a wealth of leadership experience from their respective industries.

The Ex officio member of the board, Ms. Simone Pohl, CEO of AHK Southern Africa, remained a key figure in guiding the direction of the organization, ensuring alignment between the board's strategic goals and the Chamber's day-to-day operations.

Reflecting on the transition, Mr. van Binsbergen expressed his gratitude to the outgoing president, Mr. Papperitz, for his dedicated leadership over the past three years. "I would like to thank Jens for his committed and steadfast leadership. His dedication and vision have had a lasting impact on the Chamber's growth and success," he said. He also extended his congratulations to the newly elected board members, underscoring the exciting prospects ahead for AHK Southern Africa under the new leadership.

The election of the new board signified a moment of renewal and reflection for AHK Southern Africa, as the organization continued to build on its mission of promoting bilateral trade and economic development between Southern Africa and Germany. The new leadership was poised to carry the Chamber forward, ensuring that it remained at the forefront of fostering strong, mutually beneficial partnerships between businesses, governments, and communities in both regions.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ADDRESS

Mr Jens Papperitz



20 June 2024 10:30

Dear Deputy Ambassador Enrico Brandt,
Dear Dr Schmidt, Spokesperson and acting
Head of the Political Department at the German
Embassy,

Dear Members and Friends,

This report is to summarize the highlights of our Chamber's activities during the last calendar year. I am certainly not alone in believing that 2023 was the most challenging year for South Africa in the past three decades since it became a democracy, in many respects even more challenging than the Covid years 2020 and 2021. 2023 was the year of seemingly eternal load-shedding, often 12 hours a day for consecutive weeks. Our economy and our society paid a heavy price for this self-inflicted catastrophe – no economic growth, high unemployment. As a secondary effect we saw a tanking Rand and high imported inflation that depressed economic and consumer sentiment.

And yet again South Africa demonstrated the resilience to weather adverse conditions, adapt and move on. Today, after not even a quarter of more or less stable power supply, we seem to have almost forgotten about this annoying and dangerous period for the country.

In 2023, geopolitical tensions have increased in scale and scope. The world views of our political leaders in Berlin and Pretoria were far less aligned than ever before during the last decade.

And yet – despite all these ongoing political shifts and uncertainties - 2023 was a stable year for the trade relations between our two countries.

The total trade volume came to 22 bn Euro. SA had, for the fifth time since 2001 a surplus in the trade with Germany of 2 bn Euro.

Exports from SA to Germany came to 12 bn Euro (-16% decline due to fewer coal and food exports to Germany) while German exports to SA amounted to 10 bn Euro (small increase of +0.6%).

The German business community remains committed to working closely with our South African partners in creating a better economic and social environment. The Chamber as the representative of German business in South Africa continues to address a number of challenges that are being brought forward by our member companies.

One example is our meeting with Deputy President Mashatile that took place in July of last year, where we managed to put forward important issues such as the framework for foreign direct investment and the ongoing challenges with the South African infrastructure, such as electricity, water, logistics and education.

Another example was Sabine Dall'Omo's and my participation at a roundtable with Finance Minister Enoch Gondongwana in Berlin in December, where we highlighted how much load-shedding had impacted the investor confidence, but also confirmed our long-term commitment to South Africa as an investment destination for German business.

However, one thing I would like to mention again is the status with visa applications. We continued to bring this matter to the attention of the South African Government during every opportunity we had.

Be it during meetings with representatives from the DTIC, or in a more public way by working together with the press. While the situation certainly has not been completely resolved yet, we have seen some improvement over the last year and have also established an even stronger relationship with the DTIC and especially their visa task force.

I can only encourage you to reach out to the

Chamber if you encounter any issues with your visa applications at the Department of Home Affairs. While we cannot promise that the problems will be solved, we can escalate it to the attention of the ministry and increase your chances for the desired outcome.

Let me now report about the activities of the Chamber in 2023, the developments in our competence centres and in our regions.

Competence Centre Events, Marketing & Membership

We are pleased to report a notable increase of 65 new members, which has helped to maintain and strengthen our community, bringing our total membership to 500 at the end of 2023.

The Chamber hosted 54 events with over 3000 participants. These included our Gala Dinner and Long-Standing Awards Ceremony where we celebrated 17 companies for their long-standing commitment of over 50 years of membership.

Regional Offices and Activities

Last year we reported that we had to absorb some changes in our staff in the regional offices, Maputo and Lusaka. Since then, we have found a solution and both offices now have representatives working for us on a consultancy basis. Currently, we have representatives or consultants working for us in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the DRC. The Chamber has also been increasingly active in Namibia as this country receives a lot of positive interest from the German business community. Especially the Energy Sector and the production of Green Hydrogen is of great interest to the German business community. Currently, we are evaluating the strategic importance of certain neighbouring countries to our German business community and how we can increase our activities to benefit our members.

In 2023, the number of delegations visiting our region from Germany increased from 7 in 2022 to 11. Eight of these delegations

also travelled to our neighbouring countries and were not just limited to South Africa. This indicates an increased interest in German market entry into the region. Another highlight was the historic State Visit of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to Zambia in November 2023. In terms of our networks in various countries, we have continued to host Business Round Tables for the German Business Community in Namibia and Botswana. In 2024, we plan on expanding these to Mozambique and Zambia. Our networks remain strong through our activities, such as the webinars and visiting countries during delegation or networking trips.

Competence Centre: Climate & Environment

As hinted at in last year's speech, Green Hydrogen and the Just Energy Transition has become the focal topic of Germany's energy cooperation with Southern Africa - these topics also offer various opportunities for businesses and industry. For instance, the Competence Centre is the implementation hub for the BMWK's/ministry of Economic & climate action's Hydrogen market ramp-up program H2Uppp, and supports the private sector cooperation of the South African-German Energy Partnership.

Furthermore, the Competence Centre successfully addresses the issues and growing opportunities related to water and resource efficiency in industry. In particular the placement of a BMWK funded Sector Expert for Circular Economy has led to the identification of numerous business opportunities.

Competence Centre: Sourcing

The Competence Centre Sourcing focused on supply chain diversification, after a surge in sourcing requests from Germany, and on supporting Southern African companies in entering European markets. We hosted numerous workshops for South African exporters on the German 'Due Diligence Supply Chain Act', collaborating with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), and participated in several export-promotion events with various German Chambers of Commerce.

Competence Centre: Industry & Trade Fairs

The Trade Fairs Business continues to recover well, with the trade fair organisations in Germany posting encouraging news and financial reports. We represent Messe Duesseldorf, Messe Muenchen, Messe Berlin and Messe Cologne within our competence centre.

Compared to 2022, we have seen an 80% increase in visitors to Germany (from 2044 to 3791), and a 40% increase in South African Exhibitors (109 to 156).

The most important trade fairs for in 2023 were ProWein, Anuga.

Another highlight from the Competence Centre Industry was the organisation of a (virtual) delegation trip for six German companies from the Healthcare and Medical Devices Sector in March as part of the BMWK funded Market Entry Program.

Competence Centre: Mining and Mineral Resources

In 2023, the activities of the Competence Centre focused on enhancing the market presence and positioning of German mining technology and services in SADC.

This was achieved through participation in key mining trade fairs such as the Mining Indaba in South Africa and the DRC Mining Week, where we joined the German Pavilions. There was also an increased focus

on the topic of critical raw materials and interest from German companies relating to sourcing. The mining working group, served as a crucial platform for collaboration on key issues. This group grew to around 150 members, indicating increased interest in our activities.

As part of the Foreign Market Entry Programme for SMEs, the Competence Centre hosted a mining business delegation to Namibia and Botswana with eight German companies specializing in 4IR technology for the mining sector.

Representation of Baden-Wuerttemberg

Since 2019, the Chamber is the official Economic Representative of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Southern Africa. Its main goal is to support the cooperation between the state and its sister province, KwaZulu-Natal, and to provide support for companies entering or already active in the region.

The highlight of last year was the support and accompaniment of the visit of Dr Hoffmeister-Kraut, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg to KwaZulu-Natal.

Representation of Thuringia

We organised a very successful working visit of the Minister of Economics, Science and Digital Society, Mr. Wolfgang Tiefensee and the CEO of the State Development Corporation of Thuringia, Mr. Andreas Krey and their business delegation to Namibia and South Africa. Main topics were in the fields of Energy, Hydrogen and Infrastructure. One of the highlights of the delegation trip was the official opening of Thuringia's Investor Weinert Industries AG. Weinert has taken over Electric Telecom Cables, a long-established South African manufacturer of signal and fibre optic cables, CBI, a company with more than 300 employees.

The contract for the Thüringen representation in Southern Africa has been extended until December 2024.

Representation of Bavaria

There was an exchange about the vast opportunities for collaborations in the research and innovation space between the Western Cape and Bavaria, with a particular focus on tech, energy and hydrogen initiatives with the Bavarian Research Alliance.

In addition, the Chamber organized a workshop and a panel discussion during IFAT – the international water technology fair - in July.

Also, for the first time, Bayern International organised a joint Bavarian Pavilion at Africa's largest and most influential tech event during the Africa Tech Festival from 14-16 November 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. Their participation at the Africa Tech Festival / AfricaCom proved to be a great success. We are seeing an increase in interest and are assisting quite a number of companies from Bavaria in the IT/Tech sector setting up branches and create networks in the Western Cape.

When reflecting on important events and developments in 2023, I would like to mention the recruitment of a new chamber CEO that we conducted during the second half of the year. The members of our directorate took the lead in a multi-staged process to find a successor for our highly esteemed long-term CEO Matthias Boddenberg. We looked for a candidate capable of filling

the big shoes of Matthias very quickly AND for a leader with the resilience, enthusiasm and vision to guide our chamber through the next stage of its development. Simone Pohl was our unanimous choice, both due to her vast experience in the chamber network and due to her personality. Simone, it's great to have you on board as our new captain!

This brings me to the end of my report. I would like to express my gratitude to the Federal German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action and to the DIHK for their support, both organisationally and financially.

A special word of thanks to the German Embassy, to Ambassador Andreas Peschke, Deputy Ambassador and Head of Economic and Global Affairs, Enrico Brandt, and Dirk Berg and their team for the support and great cooperation throughout the year. I want to thank all members of the Advisory Board and the Directorate for their support. A big "thank you" also to management and staff of the Chamber for their successful work and commitment!

Last but not least: Thank you to all our members and friends! As this was my last address to you in my role as the president of this chamber, let me conclude by saying: it was my pleasure and privilege to serve you.



EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 2024

THURSDAY, 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2024

During the financial audit, a few areas were identified for further analysis. Committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency and accuracy, we took the necessary time to conduct a thorough review. As a result, the finalisation of the 2023 financial statements was deferred beyond the Annual General Meeting. To provide our stakeholders with a complete and precise financial overview, we scheduled an Extraordinary General Meeting, where the finalised financial statements for 2023 were presented and approved by the members unanimously.

2022 - 2023 Financial Performance			2022 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position			2022 - 2023 Cashflow		
Revenue	2023	2022	Assets	2023	2022	Cash Flow	2023	2022
Membership Fees	2,113,702	1,823,039	Property plant and equipment	6,888,120	6,903,545	Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	9,696,911	(3,268,330)
Projects	1,969,255	12,412,972	Trade receivables	2,004,605	5,755,010	Net cash used in investing activities	(855,372)	(856,830)
Training	2,321,555	3,392,066	Other trade receivables	579,138	648,131	Net cash used in financing activities	0,00	107,854
Delegations	4,677,900	1,701,977	Cash and cash equivalents	20,635,261	11,196,584	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	11,196,584	16,108,133
Other	6,221,145	8,770,427	TOTAL	30,107,124	24,503,270	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20,635,261	11,196,584
TOTAL	17,303,557	28,100,481						
Government subsidies	2023	2022	Liabilities	2023	2022			
DIHK subsidy	10,114,475	6,731,609	Trade payables	2,278,133	1,248,633			
GTAI subsidy	1,339,574	1,230,058	Provisions and Accruals	8,082,154	2,962,006			
Skills Expert, Branch Expert and Mining Programme	3,484,196	2,450,845	Accrued leave pay	523,441	489,982			
TOTAL	14,938,245	10,412,512	Deferred income	1,935,4299	2,372,778			
	2023	2022	TOTAL	12,819,157	7,073,399			
Operating Expenses	33,117,779	37,971,359						
	2023	2022						
(Loss)/Surplus	(141,904)	884,499						

Outlook 2024 – as of 31 October 2024

Revenue	YTD 2024	Government subsidies	YTD 2024	Operating Expenses	YTD 2024
Membership Fees	2,269,389	DIHK subsidy	18,243,227		33,568,519
Projects	2,783,993	GTAI subsidy	1,077,396		YTD 2024
Chamber Functions	1,594,783	Skills Expert, Branch Expert and Mining Programme	1,133,232	(Loss)/Surplus	2,651,512
Delegations	3,612,125	TOTAL	20,453,855		
Training	1,837,811				
Other	3,668,075				
TOTAL	15,766,176				

THE NEW

X3





MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (AHK SOUTHERN AFRICA):

The SAGCC is delighted to warmly welcome a diverse range of esteemed organisations that have joined our dynamic member community. In today's business world, collaboration isn't just beneficial—it's essential. The inclusion of these companies highlights our ongoing commitment to fostering strategic partnerships, driving economic collaboration, and nurturing a thriving business ecosystem. It reflects our shared commitment to unlocking opportunities that deliver mutual value for businesses across Southern Africa and Germany.

Through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and resource-sharing initiatives, we aim to empower our members to navigate the complexities of the business landscape in Southern Africa and Germany.

As of the end of 2024, we are proud to announce that our Southern African-German business community has grown to 539 member companies in total. This milestone underscores the vitality and significance of our network in fostering cross-border business growth and collaboration.

We are excited to introduce the **54** new members that joined our growing Southern African-German business community in 2024:

AeroTech Drones	K-UTEC AG Salt Technologies
Altomundo Trade & Investments (Pty) Ltd	Le Roux Sampson Incorporated t/a SL Law
Aurelian Beneficial Trust	Lisega Africa Services (Pty) Ltd
BAM-SA PTY LTD	Manora SA (Pty) Ltd
Biesterfeld AG	MECS
Bind-X (Pty) Ltd	Melcofin & Co. Ltd.
BMW Financial Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Metronomia Clinical Research GmbH
Brimis Engineering	MTN Group Management Services
bulheller consulting PTY Ltd	Oncobeta Africa (Pty) Ltd
BUWATECHSA	Palamo Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd
Calafrika (Pty) Ltd	Partnaer SA (Pty) Ltd
CARL BECHEM AFRICA (PTY) LTD	Polyglot Africa Pty Ltd
Caturra Africa Pty Ltd	pro-data service GmbH
CONTRACT SA	QP GLOBAL South Africa (Pty) Ltd
De Jure Immigration	REDPRO Global (Pty) Ltd
Digital Fox	screenmakers (Pty) Ltd
Dijalo Property Group	Sense of Taste Chef School
Ditsogo Group Pty Ltd	SET Consulting
DopamineX South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Solar Seven Pty Ltd
Energiequelle South Africa PTY LTD	Stern Ingredients South Africa
Energiequelle South Africa PTY LTD	SUMMERHILL GUEST HOUSE CC
Environdalo Holdings	Talbot Pty LTD
Innovator Enterprise Development Trust	THATEGO HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD
Iroko Africa	Uthingo ESD
Ivodent cc	Vögerl Pty LTD T/A VGL Africa
Kai Connect (Pty) Ltd	Wacker Neuson (Pty) Ltd
Knuth SA (Pty) Ltd	Xpatweb (Pty) Ltd
Kunwaba (Pty) Ltd	

Interested in finding out more about Membership at the AHK Southern Africa?
Email members@germanchamber.co.za for more information.



SIEMENS

Technology to transform the everyday, for everyone.

Our technology empowers customers to transform the industries that form the backbone of economies: industry, transportation, buildings and grids.

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MEDIA SPOTLIGHT SAGCC ADVOCACY

Advocacy, Media and Round Table Meetings

As a turning year in our efforts to empower and connect businesses, our Advocacy, Media, Information Sessions and Round Table Meetings have served as a cornerstone in supporting our members. Through these initiatives, we have aimed to facilitate information transfer, support business growth within the Southern African market, and shed light on the challenges and opportunities that define this dynamic region.

International Chambers Roundtable:

A forum that highlighted the significance of cross-border collaboration and shared best practices among international chambers.

Bavarian Business Roundtable:

A key discussion bringing together Bavarian business leaders and stakeholders to explore synergies and investment opportunities.

Engagement with High-Level Stakeholders:

A meeting with Deputy Director General for Economic Planning, Mr. Bulumko Nelana, the German Ambassador and Deputy Ambassador to South Africa, Eswatini, and Lesotho, alongside the executive management and board members of the AHK Southern Africa.

Roundtable meet and greet with MEC's office, GGDA and representatives of the AHK Southern Africa:

Lebogang Maile, MEC Economic Development (MEC Member of Executive Council), Mpho Nawa, Head of Department: Gauteng Economic Development and MEC office representatives, Saki Zamxaka, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer: Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, Siphon Marala, Group Executive: TIRE, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, Zanele Fakude, Acting Head: Strategic Support, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency



Elevating Our Voice Through Media

Media engagements have played a vital role in amplifying our message and advocating for the interests of our members. Highlights from our media outreach include:

- **Interview with Simone Pohl, CEO for Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI):** This insightful conversation underscored the evolving landscape for German businesses in Southern Africa.
- **Live Media Interview:** AHK Südliches Afrika & Africa.Table Live Briefing: Held on 15 May, this event featured esteemed speakers such as Simone Pohl (CEO, AHK Southern Africa), Jens Papperitz (former President, AHK Southern Africa & Managing Director, B. Braun Melsungen South Africa), Sabine Dall'Omo (Head of Africa, Siemens), Sebastian Sperling (Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Africa), and Genesis Cleveland (Regional Manager, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Subsahara-Africa). The discussion centered on the critical juncture faced by South Africa ahead of its decisive elections.
- **Coverage on High-Level Visits:** ARD 1 German Radio & TV interview with Simone Pohl shed light on the visit of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to South Africa, emphasizing its impact on bilateral relations.



Bloomberg Telephonic Interview:

Simone Pohl shared insights on the German business community's sentiment post-elections and the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU).



Creamer Media Feature:

Selleen Sewpershad, Head of the Competence Centre for Mining & Mineral Resources, and Rishel Dharmapall, Sector Expert for Circular Economy (Southern Africa), were featured in an Engineering News & Mining Weekly special, highlighting German contributions to the Southern African economy.



Update: AfricaMaVal Project - Building eu-Africa Partnerships on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chain:

“The AfricaMaVal initiative is paving the way for sustainable mineral sourcing practices in Africa, fostering collaboration between Europe and Africa, and promoting responsible development that aligns with global ESG standards.”

The CC: MMR was responsible for compiling Country Profiles on the National Regulatory Framework and Good Governance Evaluation for 54 countries in Africa as part of Work Package 7 – Responsible Investment Opportunities. This comprehensive study maps and assesses responsible investment opportunities in Extended Critical Raw Materials (ECRM) value chains. The report was published in August 2024 and is available on the AfricaMaVal Project Website: <https://africamaval.eu/#Aboutafricamaval>

Through these engagements, we have not only strengthened our advocacy efforts but also reinforced our position as a trusted partner for businesses navigating the complexities of the Southern African market.

REPRESENTATION

FREE STATE OF BAVARIA

Freistaat Bayern
Repräsentanz Südafrika



This year, the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy announced their new Bavarian Representative in South Africa, Mrs Simone Pohl. According to Simone, “South Africa is a vital partner for the Bavarian business community, offering a gateway to African markets, rich resources, and opportunities for sustainable growth and collaboration.”

This year, one of the focus areas of the Bavarian representative office was on expanding the Bavarian business community network in South Africa. In light of this, Simone Pohl hosted a Bavarian Round Table. The roundtable provided a valuable opportunity for an open exchange and focused on better understanding the medium and long-term strategies of companies in South Africa and the region. Discussions revolved around growth plans, adaptation strategies, risk management and capitalising on opportunities in the changing political and economic environment following the formation of the Government of National Unity in South Africa (GNU).

A further focal point for Bavarian companies in 2024 and 2025 is the water sector. South Africa is considered the most advanced economy on the African continent and is the most important trading partner for Bavarian companies in Africa. At the same time, South Africa regularly finds itself in the international headlines because of its ageing infrastructure: in 2018, the world watched as “Day Zero”, the day on which Cape Town run out of water, came dangerously close to reality. Water shedding is currently increasing in South Africa, with the Gauteng economic region being particularly affected. In the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern and Western Cape provinces, severe flooding during the rainy seasons in recent years has caused devastating infrastructure damage. At the same time, South Africa must arm itself against water shortages. This is reflected in metropolitan cities’ detailed plans for the maintenance, rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure, and more efficient use of water resources. Private companies, commercial establishments and the manufacturing sector also need to make their water supplies more self-sufficient.

In this acute situation, Bavarian companies and experts can contribute to improving water supply and preventing further water shortages in South Africa with innovative and efficient solutions for water and wastewater treatment. To gain an insight into the South African water and wastewater market, the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bavarian Representative Office in South Africa this year offered a series of webinars in collaboration with the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and the Water Technology Transfer Network in 2024. This will be continued in 2025. This webinar series serves as preparation for the IFAT Africa 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa from 8. – 10. July 2025. Bavarian companies can express their interest in a stand on the joint Bavarian booth [here](#).

The webinar series kicked off on 26 September 2024 with an introduction to the South African market in the webinar “Water shortages, floods and infrastructure refurbishment – Market opportunities and strategies for Bavarian companies in South Africa”. How to go about market entry was demonstrated by the two Bavarian companies [PPU Umwelttechnik](#) und [Vision Green Solutions](#). Both highlighted the importance of “boots on the ground” for growing their project pipelines. Local teams find projects, follow-up on leads, ensure smooth project implementation, maintain customer relationships and build trusts in the products, services and the brand.

<https://www.bayern-international.de/termine-veranstaltungen/veranstaltungsdetails/ifat-africa-2025-5181>

<https://clearfox.com/>

<https://visiongreensolutions.com/en/>



The Bavarian Round Table attended by Giesecke & Devrient, Linde Engineering/Gas, Rödl & Partner, Vögelr Pty Ltd T/A VGL Africa, Wacker Neuson and Schletter SA

The second webinar of the series took place on 27 November 2024 with the title “No Water, no Production! Expert Round Table on Water Management in Industry”. Three Bavarian companies pitched their technologies, and two South African water engineers demonstrated how the manufacturing industry in South Africa is tackling the topic of water resilience.

You can download the presentations and watch the webinars on demand [here](#)

The third and fourth webinars in the series will focus on the public water and sanitation sector on 19 February 2025 and on management of mine impacted water on 21 May 2025(TBC). Contact [Vera Massie](#) for more information on the webinars, the topic and to receive an invitation to the upcoming events.

The upcoming Bavarian Representatives’ Conference will be held from March 18th to 20th in Munich.



Simone Pohl

Representative of the State of Bavaria in South Africa and
CEO of the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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<https://suedafrika.ahk.de/en/competence-centres/water-management/no-water-no-production-expert-round-table-on-water-management-in-industry>

REPRESENTATION

Baden-Württemberg



The Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry became the official Economic Representative in South Africa and the SADC region of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg on 1 June 2019. The representation is supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg.

The Johannesburg and Durban Offices of SAGCC support the promotion and development of economic cooperation between Baden-Württemberg and southern African companies and organisations as well as strengthening existing economic relationships. We assist with first-hand information, local experience and personal relationships. This creates and expands the best possible business opportunities for companies. Small to medium enterprises (SMEs) from Baden-Württemberg also receive information on market potential, local contacts, events and support offers for successful market entry and expansion into southern Africa.

The focus for future activities is on the following industries: automotive, industry 4.0, chemicals and plastics, health sector, renewable energies, environmental technologies and tourism. An important cross-sector focus will be on vocational training, due diligence as well as supply chain management.

Online Event – Water Management

The Economic Representation organized an online event on the topic Water management in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg on 27 November 2023.

Vera Massie, Sector Expert for Water from the Chamber's Competence Center Climate and Environment provided interested German companies with important market and country information. She reported on the market environment and market opportunities in the sector. The participants from Germany and South Africa were very interested in these topics, as demonstrated by the questions and comments they asked.

4th Africa Summit on 2 October 2024 at the IHK Stuttgart

The Economic Representation was responsible for the partnership for the regional panel 'Southern Africa'. In cooperation with the GTAI and the Africa Business Network, a panel discussion on the topic Cooperation potentials in the sectors circular economy, energy and hydrogen production. The Chamber's Sector Expert: Circular Economy, Mr Rishel Dharmapall moderated the panel.

The panellists included:

- Lionel Dickens, Managing Director, Porex SA, Paarl South Africa
- Dr Ludger Eltrop, Head of Department of Systems Analysis and Renewable Energies, University of Stuttgart
- Christiane Kragh, Managing Director, Off-Grid Europe GmbH, Pfullendorf

Mr Dickens is the local agent for many German companies in the fruit juices and waste for Agri processing sectors. He is also a shareholder in German company. Mr Dickens shared his experience as a South African working with German companies should approach business in this sector.





Baden- Württemberg Representation at the “Deutschlandfest”

On 9 November 2024, the German Embassy hosted the “Germany Meets Mzansi” festival, an inspiring showcase of German culture, innovation and the spirit of cooperation that drives the shared achievements of the two countries. The Chamber was proud to be represented together with the Baden-Württemberg Economic Representative in South Africa and the SADC region as well as Germany Trade and Invest and to make valuable contacts with members, partners and friends of the Chamber. The Baden-Württemberg Economic Representative Office was represented with its own stand. Interested visitors who visited the stand were presented with branded products (mugs, pens, carrier bags, etc.). The younger visitors were not forgotten either. They could sit at the stand and colour in pictures with Baden-Württemberg branded crayons, which they could of course take home with them afterwards. The Baden-Württemberg Economic Representative Office was not the only stand representing Baden-Württemberg at the Deutschlandfest. Other Baden-Württemberg companies with stands at the Deutschlandfest included Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, Kärcher, Festo and AZ Amatruren.

An enriching conversation unfolded between Ms Phumzile Mgcina Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (she attended this event in her capacity as former Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour), H.E. Andreas Peschke, German Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini, and our CEO Simone Pohl, highlighting the diverse businesses represented and the pivotal role the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry plays in strengthening bilateral business relations between Germany and Southern Africa.

The Business Representatives Meeting at Global Connect

The Economic Representation had the opportunity to visit GlobalConnect on Wednesday, 20 November 2024 in Stuttgart, Germany. The Economic Representation met with the Economic Representations of other countries, had discussions with Minister Dr Nicole Hoffemeister-Kraut and engaged in B2B-meetings with companies interested in entering the South African market.

Apart from visiting GlobalConnect, the Economic Representation was also involved in two additional events. At ‘Around the world in 60 minutes’, the Economic Representation presented sustainability opportunities in South Africa in various sectors. At the event „Innovation-simpulse aus den Zukunftsmärkten“, the Economic Representation presented on innovation topics in South Africa.



Danilla van Jaarsveldt

Regional Representative KwaZulu-Natal

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REPRESENTATION

State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen/Thuringia International)



In 2023, bilateral trade between the Free State of Thuringia and the Republic of South Africa experienced a remarkable increase of 27.63%, reaching a total of €223.1 million. Thuringia's exports to South Africa amounted to €135.80 million, while imports from South Africa totaled €87.26 million. The main export products included motor vehicles and parts, rubber and plastic products, machinery, and pharmaceutical products. Conversely, Thuringia's primary imports from South Africa were machinery, motor vehicles and parts, and metals.

We saw yet another action packed year when it comes to Thuringia's activities with and in the Southern African region!

Strengthening Economic Ties

The visit of H.E. Phumelele Stone Sizani, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, to Erfurt was a significant highlight. After an official meeting with Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee, a business round table with Thuringian entrepreneurs and researchers took place. Discussions focused on current investment projects, such as green hydrogen, and the expansion of cooperation between the regions. The Chamber's Cape Town Office emphasized ongoing partnerships and the potential for deepening economic relations.



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On March 20, 2024, "Team Africa" attended LEG Thüringen's annual flagship event, the 16th Thüringer Außenwirtschaftstag (International Foreign Trade Day). Held in Erfurt, this event was organized by Thuringia International, the Thuringian Ministry of Economics, Science & Digital Society, and the Thuringian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Association. With over 300 participants, the event provided an excellent opportunity for networking, making new contacts, and reconnecting with existing ones. The discussions revealed a sustained interest in South Africa and the African continent among Thuringian businesses.





Following the AWT in Erfurt, I finally had the opportunity to visit Dieter Ortmann, CEO of MAXX SOLAR & ENERGIE GmbH & Co. KG (and Honorary Consul for South Africa in Thuringia) and his team. This was high time after so many years of close business relations and friendships. It was inspiring to see how Maxx is growing and expanding in the region!

With team Thuringia International, Dr. Stefan Blechschmidt, and Connie Braun, I had the pleasure of visiting Weinert Fiber Optics GmbH and j-Plasma GmbH in Jena. Both companies are part of Weinert Industries AG, a major Thuringian investor in South Africa's North-West Province. Weinert Fiber Optics GmbH is a leading supplier of high-purity quartz glass, preforms, and rods, as well as optical fibers for special applications in industry, optics, sensor technology, analytics, science, communication, and laser medicine. The company offers a unique product portfolio at every stage of the value chain: from quartz glass to preforms and the fibers drawn from them to fiber-optic cables and complete fiber-optic systems with self-developed optical components. We also enjoyed a very interesting visit to the production facility of j-Plasma GmbH, a company that has been part of Weinert Industries AG since 2022. This ultra-modern company produces high-purity synthetic quartz glass and preforms with a plasma-based external coating, continuing the more than 130-year tradition of optical glass production in Jena.



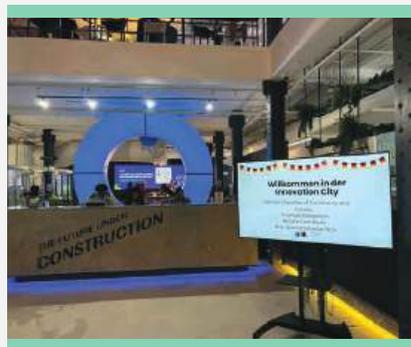
Briefing on South Africa's Tech Sector and site visits - In September, I had the exciting opportunity in Erfurt to brief registered participants for the business delegation trip in November on South Africa's tech sector. During my time in Thuringia, I was happy to also receive updates from Maximator Hydrogen GmbH and Analytik Jena, and discuss their market expansion in Southern Africa.



Business Delegation to the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town

The highlight of 2024 was the Business Delegation to the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town. On November 11th, the business delegations from LEG Thüringen, STIFT - Stiftung für Technologie, Innovation und Forschung Thüringen, Black in Tech Berlin, and AiDiA - Afrodeutscher Startup Pitch Hamburg arrived in Cape Town with great excitement. The day kicked off with a lively briefing, setting the stage for dynamic interactions and new connections.

A visit to UVU Africa was a highlight, featuring vibrant round table discussions with CAPACITI, Injini, UVU Bio, and UVU Accelerate, all focused on empowerment and incubation programs. The day wrapped up with a fantastic networking dinner, attended by the German Consul General, Mrs. Tanja Werheit, and several German investors and VCs, where delegates gained valuable insights into South Africa's investment climate and political landscape.



On day two, the delegations dived into the Africa Tech Festival, exploring vibrant exhibitions and engaging side events. A warm welcome at the Bayern International booth was followed by an insightful joint meeting at GreenCape, where discussions centered on advancements in water, energy, electric mobility, and the circular economy. The day concluded with fruitful networking with Wesgro and DigiYouth Africa, addressing HealthTech, trade with Europe, and digital economy opportunities for youth.



Day three began with an energetic briefing by Wesgro at the Africa Tech Festival booth, followed by inspiring engagements at the University of the Western Cape’s Future Innovation Lab. Delegates were impressed by the Western Cape Colab for Inclusion and Social Innovation and the UWC Innovation Hub, which promote digital inclusion and foster social innovation. The evening ended on a high note with a networking event hosted by the Thuringian investor WEINERT Industries South Africa, blending meaningful conversations with technical insights.

On day four, the delegations visited LaunchLab at Stellenbosch University, where they were wowed by pitches from cutting-edge startups in the HealthTech and BioTech sectors. Presentations by Dr. Stefan Blechschmidt and Mrs. Christiane Kilian provided a deep dive into Thuringia’s economic landscape and startup support. A visit to NewSpace Systems in the afternoon showcased South Africa’s high-tech manufacturing prowess.

The final day was nothing short of amazing, with a visit to Innovation City Cape Town, a buzzing hub for startups and entrepreneurs. The delegation engaged with innovative startups and had inspiring discussions with Founder and Chairperson Stephan Ekbergh. The program concluded with the “Tech Connect Cape Town – Bridging Innovation with Germany” Networking Event at Accso’s stunning rooftop offices in the V&A Waterfront, offering breathtaking views and fostering powerful connections.

This delegation’s visit to Cape Town was a whirlwind of inspiration, collaboration, and new beginnings, highlighting the vibrant tech ecosystem and fostering international partnerships

Looking Ahead

The ongoing efforts to expand economic relations between Thuringia and South Africa are yielding positive results. With continued collaboration and new initiatives, the future looks promising for both regions. We look forward to a continued fruitful and constructive co-operation with the Thuringia International Team in Erfurt!



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CHAMBER OFFICES

Cape Town

The past year has been an exceptionally exciting and dynamic period for the German Chamber's Cape Town Office. We have witnessed a remarkable surge in activities, hosting and participating in numerous events that have drawn significant interest from the local and international business communities. Notably, there has been a substantial increase in the number of German companies, particularly in the tech sector, eager to establish branch offices in our region. This growing interest underscores the Western Cape's reputation as a thriving hub for innovation and business development.



Back to Work Networking Event

An incredible turnout at our Cape Town Back to Work Networking Event this year! The year started off with our popular and vibrant Back to Work Lunch in Cape Town. Hosting 120 esteemed guests marked a momentous occasion for the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Cape Town Office. As we bid farewell to over two decades of dedicated leadership from our esteemed CEO, Matthias Boddenberg, at the Back to Work Networking event, we couldn't help but feel a mix of bittersweet nostalgia. Our incoming CEO, Mrs. Simone Pohl, received a warm welcome, creating the perfect atmosphere for an afternoon brimming with lively discussions and sharing of ideas. A heartfelt thank you to H.E. Andreas Peschke, the German Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini, for his support and insightful speech. Special appreciation to Tanja Werheit, German Consul General in Cape Town, Adv. Roderick Thyssen from the Western Cape Government, Dirk Berg from the German Embassy in Pretoria, the CEO of Wesgro, Mrs. Wrenelle Stander, and the Director Southern Africa of Germany Trade & Invest, Jenny Marie Tala, for joining us.





Wesgro EU Event

Continuing and strengthening the strong partnership and economic ties between the Western Cape and the EU, Wesgro once again hosted some 14 European Chambers, Diplomats, and Corporates at this very vibrant and interactive event. The speakers included Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, former MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities Minister Mireille Wenger, EU Ambassador H.E. Sandra Kramer, and Wesgro CEO Wrenelle Stander. Topics like desperately needed new reforms and urgent upgrades of infrastructure, particularly our ports, were addressed to ensure South Africa remains competitive. The Western Cape recorded absolute record numbers of tourists during the last year and remains the easiest place to do business on the continent. As James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth at the City of Cape Town, said: “Whatever you do... choose Cape Town to do it!” Shout out to an outstanding MC, Gcina Nomsa Dlamini, and to JP van der Merwe for organizing this fantastic event.

Visit at HOPE Cape Town at The Nex

Engaging with HOPE Cape Town at The Nex, by invitation of our former Chamber President, Mr. Jens Papperitz, members of the Chamber, together with the German Consul General Tanja Werheit, visited The Nex - Indawo Yethu to learn not only about new developments on campus but also see the possibilities for companies in respect of workshops and events. The visit also included an engagement with the 30 participants of the “train the trainer” workshop; TVET College lecturers who learn about the newest methods in accompanying the learning process of students and apprentices. This training course is done in cooperation with Bildungswerk der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (bbw-Gruppe) and DEDAT Western Cape.



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BALL OF HOPE

« An evening of magic, excitement, and support for HOPE Cape Town »»



The Ball of HOPE 2024, held on 11th May 2024 at the Westin Cape Town, was once again a great success. Under the motto “The world of cabaret, where everything is possible, and nothing is impossible,” this highlight on Cape Town’s annual event calendar was an evening full of excitement, paired with excellent food, magical entertainment, and dazzling company. This event is more than just a fantastic not-to-be-missed occasion - it is an opportunity to support the important work of HOPE Cape Town!



Meeting with the Premier of the Western Cape

We had an incredibly vibrant meeting with the Premier of the Western Cape, Mr. Alan Winde, and representatives from the Western Cape Government! During the discussions with our Chamber President and CEO of BMW South Africa, Mr. Peter van Binsbergen, and our CEO, Mrs. Simone Pohl, the excellent cooperation between the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Cape Town Office and Provincial Government was highlighted. Discussions around potential collaborations in key areas were discussed, such as Water & Water Management, Energy & Hydrogen, Tech Sector, and Dual Vocational Training. Together, and with our Chamber's respective Competence Centres in these fields, we can pave the way for a sustainable and innovative future! A big thank you to International Relations in the Department of the Premier for organizing this meeting for us!



Joint Business Networking Event with the French-SA Chamber of Commerce

In August, the French and German Chambers of Commerce jointly organized an inspiring Business Networking Event with the Western Cape Minister of Economic Development, Agriculture, and Tourism, Dr. Ivan Meyer! We received a very optimistic and positive outlook on South Africa's economic development and the GNU - the Government of National Unity. Minister Meyer highlighted that the stock exchange shares are up, investor confidence is up, the general trust in government is up, and he called for everyone to work together to make this country the beacon of hope, the business hub on the continent, and the preferred investment destination. Thank you for the outstanding collaboration to the French South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry! It's been an absolute pleasure working with you! Shoutout to our diplomatic representative, the Consul General of Germany, Mrs. Tanja Werheit, and the Consul General of France, Ms. Sophie Bel, for their uplifting words and ongoing support! Thank you to our generous sponsors who made this event possible: Accso, AGS World Transport, Bisset Boehmke McBlain Attorneys, Bizerba Southern Africa, CS Instruments (Pty) Ltd South Africa, Club Med, DöhlerGroup, InterGest South Africa, Moët Hennessy, Rödl & Partner South Africa, WEINERT Industries South Africa, POREX SA, and MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping.



The Biggest Oat Milk Factory on the Continent... Loading... in Cape Town

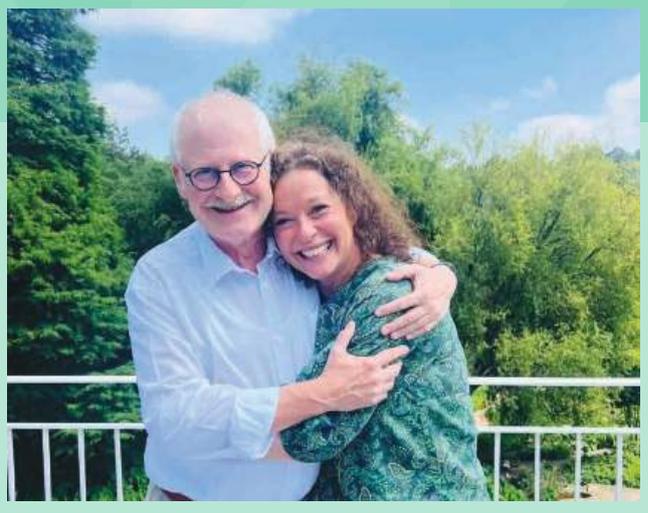
An inspiring journey of two young innovators, Trent and Renato, who transformed their kitchen experiments into a successful business, Dittolabs. Starting with oat milk production in Woodstock and a popular ice cream and waffle house in Gardens, they are now building the largest oat milk facility with A-septic packaging in Africa, right here in the Western Cape. Their venture caught the attention of Michel Weiss, CEO of Counder, who has been instrumental in securing investors. This project exemplifies how private capital investment can bolster local manufacturing, with strong support from the City of Cape Town. Alderman James Vos praised Dittolabs' progress, emphasizing the city's commitment to economic growth and investment facilitation.



Lasec® Group: A Trusted Partner in Medical Technology

Lasec® Group has long been a reliable partner for importing and distributing German medical technology and laboratory equipment. During a recent visit with Michael Sporys of SHP Steriltechnik AG, part of a business delegation from Magdeburg, we explored Lasec's impressive Cape Town headquarters. The facility features advanced product testing and safety inspection capabilities, ensuring top-notch quality across all product lines. The dedicated Lasec team provides exceptional service, technical support, and equipment maintenance throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. A big thank you to Delphine Darling, Mike Furneaux, and the entire Lasec team for their warm welcome and valuable insights!





Farewell to our outgoing CEO, Mr. Matthias Boddenberg

As we bid farewell to our esteemed CEO, Mr. Matthias Boddenberg, at the Back to Work Event, we reflect on a remarkable journey together. Matthias and I both arrived in South Africa in 1990/1991, a time of monumental change with the fall of the Berlin Wall and Nelson Mandela's release from prison. Our collaboration began at the German Chamber in Johannesburg in 1992, witnessing historic moments like the first Democratic Elections in 1994 and welcoming former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1995 to inaugurate our new Chamber offices.

Throughout the years, we've shared countless highlights, faced challenges head-on, and created many unforgettable memories. Working with Matthias has been an absolute pleasure; we truly were a dream team. His outstanding leadership, dedication, passion for South Africa, and compassionate nature have left an indelible mark on all of us. Most importantly, I cherish our friendship.

As Matthias steps down, we don't say goodbye but look forward to staying in touch. As he humorously put it, "I'm not crying, I'm just sweating from my eyes." Thank you, Matthias, for everything. It's been quite a ride!

German Business Delegations to the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town

In November, business delegations from Thuringia, Berlin, and Hamburg visited Cape Town for the Africa Tech Festival. The visit included dynamic briefings, vibrant round table discussions, and networking events with key industry leaders and government representatives. Delegates explored advancements in water, energy, electric mobility, and the circular economy, and engaged with innovative startups at Stellenbosch University and Innovation City Cape Town. The program concluded with the "Tech Connect Cape Town – Bridging Innovation with Germany" Networking Event, fostering international partnerships and highlighting Cape Town's vibrant tech ecosystem.

See full details in the LEG Thuringen report.



Opening event of Plan.Net TechNest SA at Innovation City Cape Town!

Plan.Net Group, headquartered in Munich, Bavaria, one of Germany’s largest independent digital agencies, has just launched its local branch here in Cape Town, dedicated to delivering standout digital experiences for international clients. At the exclusive launch party, creativity met cutting-edge tech as we celebrated the debut of Plan.Net TechNest SA in Cape Town—a momentous event where guests connected with industry leaders and got a sneak peek into the House of Communication’s exciting global expansion strategy.

Plan.Net TechNest SA is a new Plan.Net enterprise, strategically expanding creative services from the Serviceplan Group to Cape Town. They are a digital marketing agency focusing on UX/UI, real-time 3D asset creation, and social media community management services. The launch event was a vibrant celebration of innovation and collaboration, marking a significant milestone in the digital landscape of Cape Town.

Closing remarks

Reflecting on the past year, the German Chamber in the Western Cape has seen remarkable growth and collaboration. We’ve hosted successful events, forged significant partnerships, and attracted increased interest from German companies, especially in the tech sector. These achievements highlight the Western Cape’s dynamic business environment.

We’ve celebrated milestones, fostered partnerships and cooperations with our key partners and stakeholders and remain committed to fostering economic growth and bilateral business relations.

Thank you to our members, partners, and stakeholders for your unwavering support. Here’s to another year of success and collaboration!



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CHAMBER OFFICES

Durban Office: KwaZulu-Natal

The German Chamber's regional office in Durban has been servicing its members and clients within the KwaZulu Natal (KZN) region since March 2012.

KZN offers numerous business opportunities. Major sectors include industrial manufacturing, harbour economy, logistics, renewable energy, food and agriculture, as well as water and energy. The Chamber works continuously to strengthen and extend their networks within the region to provide the best possible support when it comes to bilateral business relations in KZN. This includes networking and information events, service provision, as well as the support of business delegations.

'Discovering Durban' - online event

The International Office of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) organised an online event on KwaZulu-Natal with a focus on Durban in cooperation with the International Office of the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW). The event was aimed at students from all universities in Baden-Württemberg and cooperating companies of the university (dual partners). The event took place on 26 October and included the following speakers:

- Dr Lavern Samuels, Director, International Education and Partnership's (IEP) at Durban University of Technology
- Prof. Dr Thomas Dobbelstein, International Strategic Development, Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University
- Eric Aplelgren, Head of Department, International and Government Relations, eThekweni Municipality
- Danilla van Jaarsveldt, Regional Representative KZN and BW Scout for KZN, AHK Southern Africa

34 students who will complete an exchange programme at the DUT in 2024 attended the event.

Visit by professors from the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) in KwaZulu-Natal

As mentioned above, on 26 October 2023, the Durban Office took part in the online event 'Discovering Durban', which was organised by the International Office of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in cooperation with the International Office of the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW). A follow-up to this meeting was a visit by five DHBW professors to KwaZulu-Natal in March 2024. The Durban Office had the honour of hosting the professors as well as 4 professors from DUT on 7 March 2024 in Ballito. The Durban Office gave a presentation on the activities of the Chamber, the Representative Office, and focussed particularly on projects concerning KwaZulu-Natal. The presentation was followed by a discussion on how the Chamber, DHBW and DUT could work together in the future.



CEO Roundtable – Durban

To introduce the Chamber's new CEO, Ms Simone Pohl to the KZN Members, a CEO Round Table with regional member companies was organised on Tuesday, 23 April 2023.

During the round table discussion, it was discussed what keeps the CEOs of the KZN member companies up at night and what makes them hopeful about working and investing in South Africa. The discussions gave us incredible insights and made for a lively, inspiring exchange on topics such as manufacturing in KZN, the then upcoming elections, the challenges faced by the Harbour and the need for training and upskilling.



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MIT INTERGEST DAS POTENZIAL AFRIKAS ERSCHLIESSEN

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Unternehmensgründung

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Bankkonten,
Finanzverwaltung.

Rechtliches

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Dienstleistungen, M&A,
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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Regional Coordination

This pivotal election year has impacted our activities not only in South Africa but also in Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia. South Africa kicked off the year with the formation of its Government of National Unity (GNU), fostering a renewed sense of optimism in the country. Mozambique followed on October 9, 2024; although FRELIMO won, the election was marred by accusations of fraud and protests. Like South Africa's example, Botswana's late October election delivered unexpected results with a new governing party and President.

In November 2024, Namibia held its general elections, resulting in the election of Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as the country's first female president. The ruling SWAPO party maintained its majority in the National Assembly, although its parliamentary seat count and overall share of votes declined, dropping from 65% in 2019 to 53%. Voting, initially scheduled for November 27, was extended in some areas to November 30 due to logistical issues, leading opposition parties to allege irregularities and pledge to challenge the results in court. Despite these challenges, independent observers have not reported significant issues, and the electoral commission affirmed the elections were free and fair.

Our activities in 2023 / 2024, focused mainly on the markets of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, and Mauritius.

In terms of informational events, the German Chamber continued to (co-)host regular online sessions informing members and the extended network about business opportunities in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Namibia. These events are part of the "Exploring Southern Africa" series, co-organized by the German Chamber, Afrika-Verein, the Austrian Trade Commission, and the Swiss Business Hub Southern Africa. Information on upcoming events can be found on our [Events Page](#).



From June 10th to 14th, 2024, the AHK Southern Africa, in partnership with Africa Verein and iMOVE, embarked on a successful business delegation to Gaborone, Botswana, focusing on the Training and Education Sector. This initiative was proudly supported under the auspices of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) as part of the Foreign Market Entry Programme designed for small and medium-sized German enterprises (SMEs). The delegation's core objective was to foster meaningful interactions between German training and education-focused companies and their counterparts in Botswana, opening new avenues for collaboration and growth. The delegation featured eight German companies.

With a population of approximately 2.6 million, Botswana presents a promising market for German educational exports due to its strategic location in Southern Africa. As a sparsely populated country, Botswana offers unique opportunities for international collaborations aimed at educational advancement.



The Botswanan government is making significant investments in its education sector, seeking to reduce the country's historical dependence on diamond exports while promoting economic diversification and sustainable growth. This commitment aligns with Botswana's ambitious vision of becoming a regional hub for education and training excellence, creating a dynamic environment for foreign educational partnerships and innovations.

The Delegation during a site visit to the Botswana International University of Science and Technology.



The Delegation during the highlight of the week: The Botswana-Germany TVET Symposium: Forum for Future Partnerships and Opportunities attended by Minister of Education, Dr. Letsholathebe



Hon. Dr. Letsholathebe, Minister of Education, engaging with the various members of the delegation during the TVET Symposium.

To offer German companies wanting to enter the southern African markets partly funded consultancy services, the AHK Southern Africa registered as a German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) listed consulting firm within the framework of the [“Beratungsgutscheine Afrika”](#)

(Africa Consulting Vouchers). Through this new funding mechanism, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (BMWK) promotes the use of external advisory service providers, such as the SAGCC, for various consultancy services which enable German companies wanting to enter new markets to obtain needs-oriented advice on potential economic projects in Africa.

https://www.bafa.de/DE/Wirtschaft/Auslandsmarkterschliessung/Beratungsgutscheine_Afrika/beratungsgutscheine_afrika_node.html%3Bjsession-id=D15E6EC9E28B97057BBEFAA796D09C18.1_cid371

REGIONAL OFFICES

Maputo, Mozambique

Mozambique is a strategically positioned country with growing potential for the German economy, both as a market for industrial end products and as a supplier of critical raw materials, aluminum, and foodstuffs. At the time of writing, the results of the elections held on October 9, 2024, in Mozambique, along with subsequent protests by opposition parties, are making international headlines. Opposition members and independent observers have alleged widespread electoral fraud.

The political crisis began with the announcement of the election results on October 24, when the National Electoral Commission declared Daniel Chapo, supported by FRELIMO (the ruling party since 1975), the winner with 70.6% of the vote. Venâncio Mondlane, who ran without a party but was backed by the newly formed PODEMOS party and secured 20.3% of the vote, contested the results, as did other opposition parties, calling for a general strike that has largely paralyzed economic activity. Reports indicate that violent clashes between peaceful demonstrators and security forces have occurred, particularly in the capital, Maputo, as well as in all other provincial capitals. The protests have led to a significant decline in business activity across sectors such as industry, ports, transportation and logistics, services, and gastronomy, along with a sharp drop in tourism. The closure of a key border post with South Africa has also impacted trade and the export of copper and coal from South Africa via the port of Maputo.

SAGCC Activities in 2024

2024 has included several highlights for SAGCC, including the Business Round Table discussion on the topic of Energy, hosted by the German Embassy Mozambique. The discussion provided a platform to explore the latest advancements in renewable energy and engage in insightful talks with industry leaders, project developers, and key stakeholders.

New to the southern African region, German Chamber CEO, Mrs Simone Pohl, and GTAI Director, Mrs Jenny Tala, joined the Director: Regional Offices on a 2-day market insight and networking trip to Maputo. Highlights included a visit of the Maputo harbour with DP World, Eurocam, discussions with the German Embassy and a visit the German company, Gauff.



Round Table on the topic of Energy at the Ambassador's Residence.



Alexa Gerrard, Jenny Tala, Simone Pohl and DP World CEO during a visit of the Maputo Harbour.



Visiting the Gauff premises in Maputo

Another highlight was the German pavilion’s participation in this year’s FACIM. This multi-sector trade fair was organized by the Mozambican Ministry of Industry and Trade, through the Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX), and held at the Ricatla International Trade Fair Centre in the Marracuene district of Maputo province. FACIM, Mozambique’s most important industrial, agricultural, and trade fair, is gaining increasing recognition both nationally and internationally. In 2024, it attracted a total of 2,643 exhibitors, including (according to official figures from the organizer) 2,050 national exhibitors and 643 exhibitors from 25 countries, such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Angola, Portugal, Italy, Germany, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, India, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, South Korea, and Brazil. This year, the trade fair attracted 59,875 visitors.

A total of 12 German companies registered to participate in the German pavilion stand. The exhibitors included:

1. GIZ
2. DHL Global Forwarding Mozambique Lda.
3. hey projects KG
4. Gneuss Kunststofftechnik GmbH
5. KfW
6. Bayer
7. ABC-Trading Lda (Stihl representative)
8. Andritz Hydro GmbH
9. Mühlbauer I.D. Services
10. Mühlbauer Solutions GmbH
11. Acto GmbH
12. UNIDO ITPO



President Nyusi visiting the German Pavilion, guided by German Ambassador to Mozambique, H.E. Ronald Münch, and the AHK Representative, Mr. Holger Hey.



In addition to the exhibiting companies, the German Pavilion was pleased to welcome 12 additional German companies that participated in FACIM through a company delegation organized by UNIDO ITPO, including the Chamber Circle Economy Sector Expert, Mr. Rishel Dharmapall, which proved highly productive and an overall success. Highlights included a visit by the President of Mozambique at the FACIM, numerous opportunities to engage with local private and public companies to discuss potential collaborations, and speaker discussions that highlighted the Mozambican economy, business opportunities, and local business practices. The trip also featured a networking session at the German Ambassador’s residence, as well as several B2B meetings in Maputo and Nampula with the Chambers of Commerce and their member companies, organized as part of the UNIDO ITPO delegation.



Delegation Visit to Bosch Rexroth

Thank you to the embassy for their unwavering support of German business in this country.

Lusaka, Zambia

In Zambia, the start of 2024 was dominated by the country's complex debt crisis. Zambia's debt burden has led to significant financial strains, with Zambia negotiating debt restructuring and relief with various creditors, including international lending institutions and bilateral partners. The government is working on implementing fiscal reforms and enhancing transparency to build investor confidence and attract foreign direct investment, despite the obstacles of high inflation and currency instability.

Further to this, Zambia is grappling with one of its most severe droughts in recent years, a situation that has had a profound impact on the country's energy supply and agricultural sector. This challenging environment however presents specific opportunities for German businesses, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure, renewable energy, and agriculture. The mining and tourism sectors also offer potential for trade.

The SAGCC activities this year were focused on expanding our networks in the Renewable Energies, Mining and Agricultural Sectors. Highlights included a business delegation on the topic of renewable energies to Lusaka in April as well as a business and political delegation on the topic of agriculture, led by Minister Cem Özdemir, in November.

Mr. Cem Özdemir, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany, along with a business delegation, comprising of 15 German businesses, visited Lusaka, Zambia, on the 06th and 7th of November 2024. The delegation was accompanied by the SAGCC's Mpho Letsoalo in Lusaka.

A key moment during the visit was the delegation's invitation to President Hakainde Hichilema's State House, where the President, alongside his Cabinet, including Hon. Reuben Mtolo Phiri, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Peter Chibwe Kapala, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock; Hon. Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance and National Planning; Hon. Paul C.C. Kabuswe, Minister of Mines and Minerals Development; and Hon. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Minister of Education, warmly welcomed the group. President Hichilema expressed Zambia's strong commitment

to partnering with Germany in areas of capital mobilization, critical minerals exploration using advanced technologies, and value addition. Minister Özdemir emphasized Germany's readiness to increase investments across multiple sectors and highlighted the potential for technology transfer that could significantly enhance Zambia's food systems.

Hon. Reuben Mtolo Phiri, Minister of Agriculture, underscored Zambia's ambitions to modernize its agricultural infrastructure, and identified key areas for investment, including irrigation systems, mechanization, and equipment for competitive agricultural production. The Minister emphasized the importance of building resilient systems, particularly in light of Zambia's ongoing power crisis, where solar-powered irrigation and alternative energy sources are becoming increasingly crucial. One pressing issue highlighted during the discussions was the lack of proper cooling infrastructure for fisheries and other perishable products.

The visit included several networking opportunities, enabling the German delegation to meet with key local stakeholders across Zambia's food and agriculture sectors. Notable organizations such as the Zambia Association of Manufacturers, Bayer Zambia, Climate Management Ltd., and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Green Economy and Environment were part of the conversations, sharing insights and exploring new collaboration avenues.

Despite the challenges faced by the agricultural sector in Zambia, the trip left the delegation with a strong sense of optimism. Key opportunities highlighted during the visit include:

1. **Mechanization and Technology Adoption:** The introduction of affordable farming machinery, such as tractors, harvesters, and plows, along with precision farming tools and automated equipment, is poised to help smallholder farmers increase productivity and optimize yields.
2. **Cold Storage and Cooling Solutions:** Investments in cold storage infrastructure, especially solar-powered refrigeration units, can reduce post-harvest losses, improve product quality, and enhance Zambia's competitiveness in regional and international markets. **Improving Export Competitiveness:** By enhancing refrigeration and storage, Zambia can open new markets for fresh produce, diversifying exports beyond maize and tobacco and adding value to existing agricultural products
3. **Sustainable Solutions:** With abundant sunlight, solar-powered systems for irrigation and cooling present sustainable and cost-effective solutions, particularly in rural, off-grid areas. These technologies are essential for boosting agricultural resilience, especially in the face of Zambia's power challenges.

We look forward to continued collaboration between Zambia and Germany, and to exploring new opportunities for growth in the agriculture and food sectors.

Thank you to the embassy in Lusaka for the unwavering support of German business in this country.



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Harare, Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's economic situation in 2024 continues to be marred by significant challenges, especially in terms of currency instability and a deteriorating business environment. The country introduced a new currency, the Zimbabwe Gold (ZIG), in March 2024, backed by 2.5 tons of gold and foreign currency reserves valued at \$300 million USD. This move was a response to the rapid depreciation of the Zimbabwe Dollar (ZWL), which was nearing the hyperinflation levels experienced in 2008. The government and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) aimed to create a stable currency that could gradually replace the widespread use of the US dollar, which still dominated about 85% of all transactions at the time.

However, the ZIG has struggled to gain acceptance. A parallel market for foreign currency has emerged as the RBZ cannot meet the high demand for US dollars. Retailers and wholesalers are forced to source their goods based on parallel market rates, leading to continuous price increases. Although the RBZ has attempted to maintain a stable official exchange rate by injecting millions of US dollars into the market and criminalizing parallel market activities, these measures are widely viewed as short-term fixes. They fail to address deeper issues, such as poor governance and the country's limited production capacity. Consequently, investor confidence remains low, and Zimbabwe's economic fundamentals continue to suffer.

Amid these challenges, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in August 2024 offered a glimmer of hope for regional economic integration and industrialization. Held at the new Parliament building in Mt. Hampden, the summit was attended by 12 heads of state, while Zambia, Lesotho, the Seychelles, and Mauritius were represented at the ministerial or ambassadorial level. Under the theme "Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustained Economic Growth and Development Towards an Industrialized SADC," the summit also

marked Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's assumption of the SADC chairmanship for the next 12 months.

The summit featured the SADC Industrialization Week, which focused on fostering partnerships between investors, policymakers, and industry leaders. Local industries in Zimbabwe were optimistic about the opportunities presented, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and the creative arts. Businesses saw potential for increased exports within the region, which could help strengthen Zimbabwe's position in regional trade. However, the ongoing inflationary pressures within the country threaten to undermine these positive developments.

Since early 2024, the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the German business community, the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) has been engaged in discussions to address the barriers hindering local and foreign investment. The dialogue will be continued and will hopefully contribute to the improvement of the business climate.

Despite the numerous economic challenges, the Chamber has worked hard to maintain German business interest in Zimbabwe. On April 21, a briefing session was held at the Chamber's office, attended by businesspeople from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The event featured key speakers, including the German Ambassador to Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean Ambassador to South Africa. Both the in-person and online attendance was high, reflecting sustained interest in the region's potential for business engagement despite the country's ongoing difficulties.



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Frankfurt, Germany

Events

The result of the National Elections in South Africa on 29th May had a positive impact on the economic ties between Germany and South Africa. Since then the interest of the German economy in South Africa has grown. Consequently the demand of information, events and seminars about Southern Africa has increased. In Germany those events are offered by Chambers of Industry and Commerce, by German Associations or Economic Promotion Agencies. In 2024 the Frankfurt Representative participated in 10 events throughout the country: from Augsburg in the South to Kiel in the North, from Dortmund in the West to Chemnitz in the East. Walter Engelmann reached with his presentations 600 entrepreneurs. More over he had a significant number of individual consultations with German companies which are interested in penetrating the markets in Southern Africa. For those one-to-one meetings the “Beratungs Gutscheine Afrika” of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate are a helpful instrument for assisting German Small and Medium Enterprises.



Trade

How have the trade relations developed? In 2023 trade between Germany and South Africa reached a volume of 21.9 billion euro. German exports totaled 9.8 billion euro while German imports amounted to 12.1 billion euro. Germany is the third largest export country for South Africa. Considering the imports of South Africa Germany as well ranked No. three in 2023. Machines, cars and chemical products are the most important German export products to South Africa. According to the Statistical Data for the months from January to August 2024 Germany has exported goods and services of 6.3 billion euro to South Africa. These figures don't show a change so far, but we are all aware about the time lag between demand, contract negotiations and delivery. The Frankfurt Representative is optimistic that the German exports to South Africa will increase over the entire year 2024.

Outlook

The overall outcome in 2024 is promising for an increasing trade between the two countries in 2025.

Finally Frankfurt Representative Walter Engelmann expresses gratitude to the dedicated teams in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban as well as to the regional offices for their close, fruitful and efficient cooperation.



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wilo

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COMPETENCE CENTRES

Industry and Trade Fairs

A Successful Fact-Finding Mission to Mozambique, Maputo Harbour Technologies and Sustainable Infrastructure

From September 9 to 13, 2024, a German delegation visited Mozambique to explore the maritime economy, with a focus on port technologies and sustainable infrastructure. This mission undertaken by the AHK Southern Africa, in partnership with enviacon international and Afrika Verein, included eight German companies across various sectors, including key stakeholders from various sectors, providing a platform for networking and knowledge exchange.

Some notable site visits included the Maputo Port Development Company and the Maputo Container Terminal, highlighting existing and upcoming projects in the region and allowed for valuable insights into logistics and port operations. The visit to DP World Maputo, a Port Terminal Operator, also provided an overview of their port operations and infrastructure development at the Maputo port, as well as their upcoming projects aimed at expanding and modernising its operations, aimed at increasing shipment volumes amongst other goals. The delegation visited the MozParks industrial zone, the MOZAL aluminium plant, and the Agility Logistics Center, and the discussions were centred on investment opportunities, expanded capacity for distribution hubs, tax incentives, and power connectivity for international companies. In addition, we toured Siemens' comprehensive factory operations, highlighting their longstanding presence in the region. Moreover, delegates engaged in a networking lunch with members of EuroCam Mozambique, as well as attended a reception at the Chamber of Commerce of Mozambique, where they held B2B meetings with key local companies to discuss synergies and collaboration opportunities.



A Successful Fact-Finding Mission to Mozambique, Maputo

The main highlight of the trip was a successful Mozambique-Germany Conference at Southern Sun Hotel in Maputo. featuring prominent speakers and panellists such as Deputy Ambassador at the German Embassy of Mozambique, Dr. Michael Feiner; the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce of Mozambique, Yolanda Fernades; Executive Chairman of the Mozambique Local Content Association, Elthon Chemane; President of the Chamber of Mines, Geert Klok; and the Country Head of Industrial Projects at DHL Global Forwarding, Nilza Maibaze, to name a few. The conference focused on the current state of infrastructure and the effectiveness of supply chain logistics, providing valuable insights into how far Mozambique is in achieving the goal to be regional hub for trade. The discussions highlighted the growth potential of Mozambique becoming a strategic and vital corridor for neighbouring countries and international markets. The panel discussions included the importance of the integration of technology for efficient supply chain management and explored strategies in improving rail and road infrastructure for access to key inland areas, amongst others. This was followed by an evening reception at the ambassador's residence, where we had the opportunity to network with influential business leaders and discuss potential collaborations.

In conclusion, Mozambique is making notable strides toward becoming a key regional trade corridor. Although further development of warehousing, distribution centers, and transport infrastructure is needed, the country is taking significant steps forward. Improvements in rail and road connectivity, alongside the reduction of border delays, are essential for ensuring efficient and timely shipping. The integration of advanced technologies, such as digital customs management tools, will further streamline supply chain processes.

Strategically located along the Indian Ocean coast, Mozambique holds immense potential. With ongoing rehabilitation and expansion projects, the country is well on its way to solidifying its position as a major regional trade corridor.

Durban-Maputo Dynamic

Container terminal operators are planning to double their capacity in the short- to medium-term, with a focus on serving clients from Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. This expansion could position Maputo port to surpass the port of Durban in container volume. A newly developed rail line from Harare to Maputo—taking just four days—along with a direct train from Eswatini for mineral exports, further strengthens regional connectivity. Many South African businesses are increasingly using Maputo for products that require cold storage, particularly for products destined for the Middle East.

The growing trend of shipments being diverted from the port of Durban to the Maputo port underscores the port's strategic advantage. With its proximity to key inland areas in South Africa and fewer logistical challenges, Maputo is emerging as a key competitor to the port of Durban for regional trade.

Successful Gender-based Violence Awareness Programme in South Africa, Namibia and Zambia

Gender-Based Violence Training Matters

The Gender-Based Violence Awareness and Prevention Program was established and is funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), to support local companies in recognizing the importance of preventing violence against women and actively taking steps to combat gender-based violence. This initiative aims to equip organisations with the necessary resources to address this pervasive issue. Therefore, research on the topic has revealed that the economic implications of gender-based violence are often not well understood. Beyond the unquantifiable social consequences, companies incur significant costs due to employee absences and reduced performance resulting from the effects of violence.



Gender-based violence, which predominantly affects women, is a major global social challenge, particularly in developing and emerging countries. According to the United Nations Gender Inequality Index, South Africa, Namibia, and Zambia are among countries with above-average gender-specific disadvantages. Studies show that nearly two-thirds of women experience some form of gender-based violence (physical, sexual, psychological, and/or economic) during their lives. We believe in fostering safe and inclusive workplaces, and this awareness initiative was designed to equip employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to address this critical issue.

The Rollout and Outcome: This program was rolled out in Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia, targeting both private and public organizations. The rollout was facilitated by the Ecuador German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with InductionOne. Participants engaged in a one-month program and completed 25 assessments as part of their certification.

The outcomes of the program were positive. A total of 50 organizations across Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia participated, with the majority of participants earning individual certificates. Additionally, more than one-third of the organizations earned corporate certification. In partnership with the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED), companies within their member base also took part. Notably, the Men's Forum of ABSA Group Limited, as well as the Financial Services and Human Resources departments of BMW Group South Africa, successfully participated and were certified.



2024 German Trade Fair - Review



Drupa exceeds expectations:

Record number of deals signed at drupa 2024. drupa 2024 in Düsseldorf, the world's No. 1 trade fair for printing technologies, drew to a successful close on 7 June after eleven days. It impressively demonstrated the progress of an entire sector and gave proof of the operational excellence of the industry. 1,643 exhibitors from 52 nations presented an outstanding showcase of innovations in the Düsseldorf exhibition halls and thrilled the trade visitors with unforgettable performances. The international share of the visitors was 80%, with attendees coming from 174 countries - a record figure. After Europe, Asia was the most strongly represented region with 22%, followed by America with 12%. Asia as well as Latin America and the MENA region are markets with great growth potential, which was reflected in the significant increase in exhibitors' presence and order books. Many key players, such as Bobst, Canon, Fujifilm, Heidelberg Druckmaschinen, HP, Horizon, Koenig & Bauer, Komori Konica Minolta, Kurz and Landa, reported having signed contracts that significantly exceeded expectations. In some cases, the sales targets set were already achieved in the first few days of the trade fair.

Save the date: Next drupa from 9 to 17 May 2028

For more information visit: <https://www.drupa.com/>

InnoTrans breaks all records - the world's leading trade fair draws a successful balance sheet



InnoTrans, the world's largest trade fair for transport technology, set several records at its 14th edition from 24 to 27 September 2024. It occupied all the exhibition halls and the entire outdoor and track area of the Exhibition Grounds of Messe Berlin and offered the largest exhibition space since InnoTrans was founded in 1996. 'InnoTrans 2024 was a real record-breaking trade fair - both in terms of exhibition space and visitor numbers. Around 170,000 visitors from 133 countries came to the Exhibition Grounds of Messe Berlin this year - so we were once again able to increase the pre-corona level in terms of visitor numbers and internationality. InnoTrans has impressively demonstrated that it is the world's leading trade fair for transport technology and mobility,' says Dirk Hoffmann, Chief Operating Officer of Messe Berlin.

'InnoTrans was once again the event of the global railway industry,' said InnoTrans Director Kerstin Schulz. 'With a firework display of innovations and 226 world premieres, the trade fair attracted visitors from all over the world.' The 2,940 exhibitors from 59 countries presented their latest products and services in the five trade fair segments Railway Technology, Railway Infrastructure, Public Transport, Interiors and Tunnel Construction. The trade fair became even more international this year. Around 600 new exhibitors took part - and with them new countries such as Morocco, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Africa. Exhibitors from all over the world presented 133 vehicles on the 3,500 metres of track. In the Bus Display in the Summer Garden, trade visitors were able to experience eleven buses in live operation on a 500 metre long circuit.

The 15th InnoTrans will take place at the Exhibition Grounds of Messe Berlin from 22 to 25 September 2026.

For more information: www.innotrans.com



ProWein: The leading international trade fair for wines and spirits

The ProWein 2024 trade fair took place in Düsseldorf from 10-12 March. We welcomed wine experts from all over the world from the retail and catering sectors. The focus was on around 5,400 exhibitors from 65 countries. There were also more than 300 masterclasses & events and an entire Hall 5 dedicated to spirits. The Wine Of South Africa Pavilion showcased a number of South African wine brands, giving the world the opportunity to explore, taste and experience South African wines.

Missed ProWein 2024?....no problem, ProWein 2025 will be taking place on the 16th – 18th March 2025 in Dusseldorf, Germany. Secure your ProWein 2025 ticket now!

Register Here: <https://www.prowein.com/>

Highlights of upcoming trade fairs in 2025

We're excited to announce the return of analytica Lab Africa, co-located with IFAT Africa, from 8th to 10th July 2025 at Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.



analytica Lab Africa is the premier trade fair for the analysis, laboratory-technology and biotechnology sectors, bringing together scientists, entrepreneurs and users from around the world.

This dynamic event brings together the entire spectrum of laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology, and diagnostics alongside water, sewage, waste, and recycling solutions. It's a one-stop shop for advancing these crucial sectors!

Welcome to the perfect platform for your international business relations. For more information visit: <https://analytica-africa.com/en/>

Building on the success of the 2023 edition with 172 exhibitors and 5 international country pavilions, IFAT Africa offers valuable opportunities for networking, innovation and solutions.

IFAT Africa 2025, the leading trade fair for water, sewage, refuse, and recycling will take place at Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from July 8–10, 2025. This biennial event is the perfect platform to engage with industry professionals, government representatives, and decision-makers from around the globe.

IFAT Africa is co-located with analytica lab Africa, the leading trade fair for lab technology, analysis, biotechnology and diagnostics.

For more information visit: <https://ifat-africa.com/en/>



Highlights of upcoming trade fairs in 2025

The leading global trade fair, Anuga, the No. 1 for Food & Beverage Business, is presenting itself in Cologne from 4 - 8 October 2025 with a newly designed hall structure.



Thanks to targeted strategic adjustments, the individual trade shows are more clearly segmented and offer an improved orientation across the product sections. Thematically-related topics – such as Anuga Alternatives and Anuga Organic for example - are moving closer together on the fair grounds, which will create synergies. Dealers benefit from shorter routes.

With its ten trade shows, the largest international trade fair for the global food industry provides a complete market overview of the offer of food and beverages available worldwide. The individual trade shows offer products and services in the segments protein alternatives, bread and bakery products, frozen and convenience foods, dairy products, delicatessen and gourmet items, meat and organic products as well as hot and cold beverages.

For more information visit: <https://www.anuga.com/>

K - The international trade fair for innovations in the plastics and rubber industry

K is considered the leading international trade fair in the plastics and rubber industry.

Each time, the event attracts a large number of professionals from production, processing and related sectors such as mechanical engineering, the automotive industry, electronics, medical technology, the packaging industry and the construction industry from all over the world to find out about the latest innovations and make valuable contacts. A wide range of products and services in the fields of machinery, equipment, raw materials and measuring technology will be presented. The latest K in 2022 registered 3,020 exhibitors from 59 countries on 177,516 sqm net exhibition space and 177,486 trade visitors, 71% of whom came from abroad. Since the first exhibition in Düsseldorf in 1952, the letter “K” has embodied the fascination for the world of plastics and rubber. The next trade fair will take place in 2025 at the Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre and will be a global magnet for exhibitors and visitors alike.

Save the date for K 2025 on 8-15 October 2025.

For more information visit: www.k-online.com.



A+A 2025: Trade Fair and Congress

A+A is the world’s largest and most important event when it comes to safety, security and health at work and will next take place in Düsseldorf from 4-7 November 2025.

The trade fair focuses on innovations and presents new products and solutions that help to make the world of work safer, more efficient and healthier. New approaches and technologies that are applied across the industry can ensure better occupational health and safety and occupational safety. A+A is also the largest platform for workwear and corporate fashion.

Together with the International Congress for Occupational Safety and Health, which is organised by the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Sicherheit und Gesundheit bei der Arbeit (Basi) e.V. (Federal Association for Safety and Health at Work) and takes place at the same time, the trade fair covers all aspects of a holistic prevention culture, from occupational health management and personal protection to workplace design and occupational safety management.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE

Mining and Mineral Resources

The Competence Centre for Mining and Mineral Resources (CC: MMR) continues to serve as a crucial link between the German and Southern African mining sectors, enhancing trade relations and cultivating sustainable partnerships. In alignment with Germany's Raw Materials Strategy, the CC: MMR has significantly increased Germany's market presence within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) while also promoting regional economic growth and innovation in the mining industry. As SADC countries advance their mining sectors, they offer numerous opportunities for German companies to invest in sustainable practices and cutting-edge technologies. The importance of on-the-ground engagement cannot be overstated, as these visits foster direct interactions with local stakeholders, provide valuable insights into regional developments, and strengthen partnerships essential for long-term success..

PROMOTION OF GERMAN MINING TECHNOLOGY THROUGH TRADE FAIRS AND EVENT PARTICIPATION

Investing in African Mining Indaba (Cape Town, South Africa):

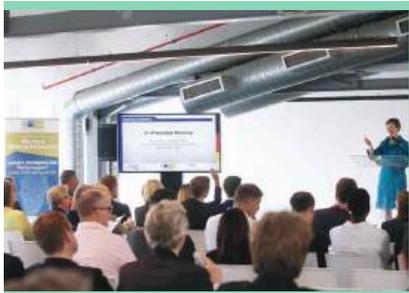
In February, CC: MMR's participation in the 30th Mining Indaba reflected the event's theme, "Embracing the Power of Positive Disruption: A Bold New Future for African Mining." The German Pavilion hosted 25 exhibitors, the largest German Pavilion to date.

As the central contact for mining in Southern Africa, CC: MMR, together with the German Mineral Resources Agency (DERA), organized another successful German Day under the theme "Powering Progress: The Convergence of Mining and Energy."



Over 150 participants gathered to discuss emerging policies, critical minerals, and the integration of mining and energy sectors. This event showcased Germany's dedication to supporting the energy transition through strengthened partnerships with stakeholders across Southern Africa. Dr. Franziska Brantner, Parliamentary State Secretary for BMWK, lent valuable governmental insights, highlighting Germany's commitment to mining collaboration with the SADC region.

German Day at Mining Indaba 2024 - Powering Progress: The Convergence of Mining and Energy



EU-Zambia Business Forum (Kitwe, Zambia):

In April, the EU-Zambia Business Forum brought together key players in Zambia's growing copper industry under the theme, "Growing the Copper Industry through Green Value Chains." Zambia's ambitious goals for sustainable copper production set a transformative agenda, with CC: MMR working alongside EU and German companies to explore investment opportunities in copper and circular economy initiatives. This engagement highlighted CC: MMR's role in supporting German companies in accessing local value chain opportunities and contributing to Zambia's green economy.



Marcus Knupp (Germany Trade & Invest), Sellen Sewpershad (SA - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Ambassador Ms Anne Wagner-Mitchell (German Embassy in Zambia), Jean-Philippe (Bosch) and Victoria Backhaus-Jerling (VDA).



Site visit to Mopani Copper Mine, Zambia.



Site visit to Kipushi Zinc Mine, DR Congo.

DRC Mining Week (Lubumbashi, DR Congo):

CC: MMR's participation in DRC Mining Week in June spotlighted Germany's active role in the DRC's sustainable mining transformation. The interest in attending and participating in the DRC Mining Week has significantly increased among companies. To maintain a strong German presence, the CC: MMR organised an AHK Southern Africa Pavilion featuring a total of 8 exhibitors. The CC: MMR collaborated with Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) with a shared information stand that served as a key point of contact for connecting with German businesses.

Namibia Mining Expo (Windhoek, Namibia):

In August, CC: MMR's presence at the Mining Expo and Conference underscored Namibia's thriving mining sector under the theme, "Green Shoots for Namibia's Mining Industry: A Season of Opportunity and Growth." This theme underlined the new growth and opportunities emerging in the industry, driven by a resurging uranium sub-sector, a new gold mine, growing potential in the oil and gas sector, and strategic investments to increase the life of mines of existing operations in Namibia. With CC: MMR at the forefront, this event reinforced the strategic Germany-Namibia business alliance, with a focus on opportunities to drive sustainable economic expansion.



Ambassador, Dr Thorsten Hutter (German Embassy to the Republic of Namibia) visits the AHK Southern Africa information stand at Namibia Mining Expo.

Electra Mining Africa Expo (Johannesburg, South Africa):

In September, CC: MMR participated in the Electra Mining Africa Expo in Johannesburg, a leading platform for German companies to connect and display their technologies across mining, electrical, automation, manufacturing, and related sectors.

Alongside the expo, CC: MMR hosted an Exclusive Mining Networking Event in partnership with the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA), the Minerals Council South Africa, and the Mandela Mining Precinct, furthering Germany-SADC relations. This gathering of industry leaders emphasized cross-border partnerships and showcased collaboration as a catalyst for accelerated transformation in mining.



Pepperl+Fuchs Group celebrated their 10th Anniversary in Africa at Electra Mining 2024.

AHK Southern Africa - Exclusive Mining Networking Event: Accelerating Transformation in the Mining Industry Through Collaboration.



Mine Entra (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe):

In October, CC: MMR attended the trade fair to engage with stakeholders and gain insights into the country's mining sector. The trade fair featured over 250 exhibitors from local mining companies and showcased advancements in the industry. This year's Mine Entra was held under the theme: "Unearthing Success: The Mining Value Chain, Innovation and Industrialisation Nexus" highlighted the crucial links between mining, innovation and industrialisation from ore to market.



Critical Minerals Africa Conference (Cape Town, South Africa):

In November, the Critical Minerals Africa Conference returned for its second edition in Cape Town, South Africa. As a strategic partner of the summit, which coincided with African Energy Week, CC: MMR was represented by Ms. Selleen Sewpershad, who moderated a session on “Advanced Manufacturing, Circular Economy, and the End-Use of Critical Minerals in Africa”. This session explored Africa’s national and regional value chains, emphasizing the vital role of critical minerals in energy, manufacturing, and processing.



5th German-African Business Summit (Nairobi, Kenya):

In December, the CC: MMR participated in the 5th German-African Business Summit, held from 2-4 December 2024. This year, one of the key topics was raw materials. Represented by Selleen Sewpershad, the CCMR took part in several significant sessions, including the main panel moderated by Dr. Volker Treier, which focused on aligning African countries’ interests with Germany’s need for a secure and sustainable raw material supply. The CC: MMR also joined the Mining & Mineral Resources Business Breakfast, which highlighted Mozambique and the SADC region. This session, organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation - Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in collaboration with the Chamber of Mines of Mozambique and IHK Chemnitz, emphasised Mozambique’s strategic role in Southern Africa’s critical minerals sector. Additionally, the CC: MMR participated in the roundtable on Responsible Raw Materials for a Carbon-Neutral Future, organised by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and BDI - Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V., which focused on supply chains and sourcing raw materials responsibly and sustainably, the role of the Critical Raw Materials Act in fostering win-win partnerships and driving industrialisation and skilled job creation. As the global energy transition accelerates, the focus on raw materials and diversifying supply chains has never been more critical. It was an opportunity for the CC: MMR to highlight new developments and opportunities in Africa.



Exploring Opportunities for German Companies in the South African Battery Value Chain (Johannesburg, South Africa):

The CC: MMR, in collaboration with GIZ under the South African-German Energy Partnership, hosted an exclusive event titled “Exploring Opportunities for German Companies in the South African Battery Value Chain.” This event, of significant interest, aimed to explore mutually beneficial opportunities for German companies and South African project holders.

Speakers included Rashmee Ragaven, Director for Advanced Manufacturing from the Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa, who delivered opening remarks emphasizing the collaborative potential between South Africa and Germany. Kgashane Mohale, Senior Industry Specialist (Project Development Unit) from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), shared insights into South Africa’s strategy for developing its critical minerals and battery value chain. Wolfgang Bernhart, Global Head of Advanced Technology Center (Automotive & Industrials) from Roland Berger, discussed Europe’s demand for battery metals and outlined strategies to enhance supply chain resilience.



In this transformative year, the CC: MMR’s initiatives have deepened Germany-SADC mining collaboration and underscored a future where democracy, innovation, and sustainable growth fuel regional and international prosperity. The future outlook for German-Southern African business, particularly in the mining sector, remains promising.



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WORKING GROUP: MINING



Supporting Transformation and Collaboration in the SADC Mining Sector

The Competence Centre for Mining & Mineral Resources (CCMR) is the facilitator of the working group mining consisting of relevant mining industry stakeholders. This working group aims to be a link between AHK member companies, mining industry bodies, universities, and government representatives to ensure that key decision-makers and industries are aligned to ascertain a sustainable mining industry on one central platform.

The working group mining committee collectively aims to create market transparency, foster collaboration and communication, and support German mining technology in Southern Africa. Four subcommittees meet regularly to discuss key topics and report on progress and industry developments - 4IR, Legal and Compliance, Raw Materials & Mineral Processing, and Skills Development and R&D.

Update: Main committee meetings

The main committee meetings are aimed at planning future working group activities based on the feedback of each subcommittee and discussing industry developments and were held on the following dates:

- 12 March 2024 (Q1)
- 24 July 2024 (Q3)
- 28 November 2024 (Q4)

Update: Subcommittee meetings

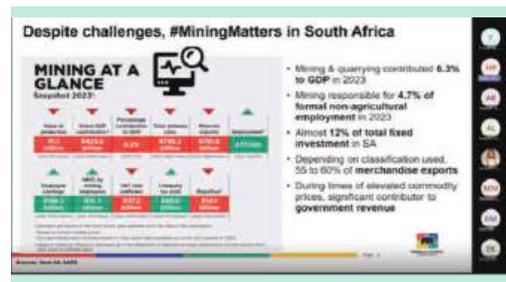
The 4IR subcommittee meeting took place online on 23 April 2024 on the topic of “**4IR Technology Used to Maximise Efficiencies in Mining**”. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shaun Mackenzie (IFM Electronic) and featured:

- Mr. Hans Koopman (Siemens Energy): **Maximising Energy Efficiency in Mining.**
- Mr. Manuel Klein (EKU Power Drives GmbH): **Pioneering Haul Truck Decarbonisation with the EKU Engine Standby Controller.**
- Ms. Patience Moilola (Pepperl+Fuchs): **Maximising Production Efficiencies through Digitalisation Tools.**



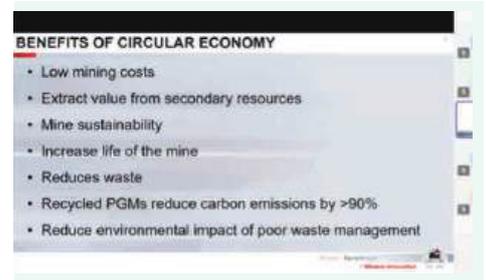
The Legal & Compliance subcommittee meeting took place online on 21 May 2024 on the topic “**Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBEE) in the Mining Sector – Reflecting on the past 30 years**”. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Georg Kahle (Norton Rose Fulbright) and included presentations from:

- Mr. Hugo Pienaar (Minerals Council South Africa): **Transformation in South Africa’s Mining Industry – 30 Years After Democracy.**
- Ms. Amber Kardamilakis (Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa): **Empowerment 30 Years After Democracy – Trends and New Developments.**



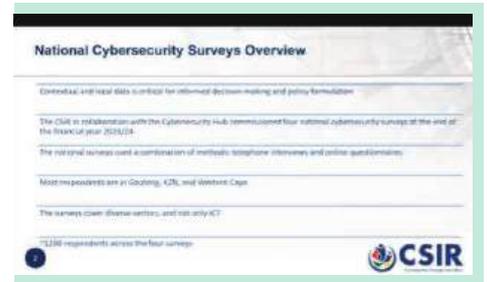
The Raw Materials and Mineral Processing subcommittee meeting took place on 26 September 2024 on the topic of “**Advancing a Circular Economy in Minerals and Metals through Optimised Mineral Processing in Southern Africa**”. The meeting was chaired by Mr. John Knouws (Steinert GmbH) and included presentations from:

- Ms. Getrude Marape (Mintek): **Mineral Processing Opportunities within the Circular Economy.**
- Ms. Helga von Lochem (TOMRA Sorting (Pty) Ltd): **Mining, Sorting, and Circular Economy – Challenges and Opportunities for 21st-Century Mining.**
- Mr. Thomas Coetzee (Memcon (Pty) Ltd): **Innovative Membrane Technology in the Extractive Hydrometallurgy Industry.**



The 2nd Legal & Compliance subcommittee meeting took place online on 24 October 2024 on the topic “**Cybersecurity – Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital Mining Ecosystem**”. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Georg Kahle (Norton Rose Fulbright) and Ms. Lizzy Mokwalase (Thermotech Engineering), presentations included:

- Dr. Namosha Veerasamy (CSIR): **Cybersecurity Survey Findings in South Africa.**
- Nerushka Bowan (L.I.T.T Institute): **Cybersecurity in the Mining Industry – Navigating Emerging Threats, Best Practices, and Compliance.**
- Luca Maraschin (NSDV): **Mineral Right Management System by NSDV.**



Activities outlook

The Working Group Mining will continue to prioritize transparent communication, market development, and active German-SADC cooperation. For details on upcoming Working Group meetings in 2025, please visit our website: <https://suedafrika.ahk.de/en/competence-centres/mining-mineral-resources>

Let’s stay in touch

The CC: MMR team would like to extend their appreciation to all members and stakeholders for their engagement, support and cooperation. We prioritise upholding long-term business relationships and welcome new partnerships.

If you are interested in becoming a member or guest presenter, please reach out to the Working Group Secretariats Ms Selleen Sewpershad and Ms Thululela Pupuma.



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COMPETENCE CENTRES

Sourcing

In 2024, the focus of our competence centre sourcing remained on supporting small and medium sized companies (SMEs) from Southern Africa with entering the German and the European market, as well as with familiarising them with the new due diligence in supply chains regulations in Germany and the European Union. South Africa and other countries within the Southern African region continued to attract interest as valuable sourcing markets, with our Competence Centre Sourcing acting as a key facilitator.

This year, we assisted approximately 100 businesses from our region through various projects, trainings and consultations, helping them navigate their way into European markets. One highlight included a comprehensive webinar series on Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD) co-organised with the Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights. These very well attended sessions were followed by a one-month in-depth training co-organised with the German sequa gGmbH and the Import Promotion Desk (IPD), designed to prepare 30 exporters for compliance with the German Due Diligence Supply Chain Act (LkSG) as well as the upcoming EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. This initiative has set the groundwork for continued support as businesses aim to become preferred suppliers to European markets.



The competence centre also successfully collaborated with German Development Cooperation's (GIZ) Partnering in Business with Germany program, supporting participating SMEs from South Africa with finding business partners in

Germany, delivering a presentation on the European due diligence in supply chains regulations, as well as holding a training on quality demands in the food sector.

We also organized multiple sourcing and export promotion events, such as webinars on “Finding New Suppliers from Southern Africa” in the sectors of food and agriculture, textiles, IT-Outsourcing and electronics together with several IHKs (Chambers of Commerce and Industry within Germany) as well as the Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW), the association of agricultural producers, processors and traders of organic food in Germany. These events proved invaluable in connecting Southern African businesses with potential European buyers, fostering connections that align with responsible and sustainable sourcing practices. With our members, we also organised information sessions on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, as well as on the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The Competence Centre Sourcing was headed by Mrs Mareike Brandt since January 2024, an integrated expert supported by the Agency for Business and Economic Development (AWE) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).”



Mareike Brandt

Head of Competence Centre Sourcing

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COMPETENCE CENTRES

Food and Agriculture

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) has commissioned the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish a “Centre of Excellence for Food and Agriculture” as of 1 October 2021. The focus countries of the competence centre are South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The competence centre is to promote economic and entrepreneurial co-operation in the field of food (processed and unprocessed food) as well as agricultural technology between Germany and the four countries in southern Africa. The BMEL finances the services of the competence centre in order to make them more accessible and cost-effective for German enterprises to enter these markets.

Visit to Agritechnica

The Competence Centre Food and Agriculture had the opportunity to visit Agritechnica, the world’s leading trade fair for agricultural technology in Hanover from 12 to 18 November 2023. The trade fair ended with a record number of over 470,000 visitors from 149 countries. 2,812 exhibitors from 52 countries presented their innovations, products and services in 24 halls at the fully booked exhibition centre in Hanover.

The organiser DLG had placed the global showcase of the international agricultural machinery industry under the guiding theme of ‘Green Productivity’. In the accompanying technical programme, around 400 experts discussed the future of agriculture in more than 300 events, giving the topics of productivity and resource conservation a large international stage.



Workshop: New Markets for the German Agri-Food Industry

The Competence Centre Food and Agriculture Southern Africa and the Competence Centre Food and Agriculture Vietnam organised a joint event: Workshop: New Markets for the German Agri-Food Industry in cooperation with the IHK Köln and the IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein on 16 November 2023. The German Chamber in Egypt also took part in the event. The German- Egyptian Chamber focussed on the export of Egyptian products, while the Competence Centre Food and Agriculture Southern Africa and the Competence Centre Food and Agriculture Vietnam focused on export opportunities for German companies in the respective countries. You can find the programme below:

- Country pitches followed by a panel discussion
- Egypt: Sonja Miekley, Head of DEinternational
- South Africa: Danilla van Jaarsveldt, CC Food and Agriculture
- Vietnam: Björn Koslowski, CC Food and Agriculture
- Import/export of foodstuffs: What to consider in regulations, IHK Cologne: Sandra Vogt, Head of International
- Best practice report: Food export, Haus Rabenhorst O. Lauffs GmbH & Co. KG: Peter Weißhaupt, International Sales Director

PLMA (Private Label Manufacturers Association) – 28 & 29 May 2024 in Amsterdam

The PLMA trade fair for private label manufacturers took place on 28 and 29 May in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Amsterdam's RAI welcomed more than 18 000 visitors from over 125 countries, all keen to meet the world's best private label manufacturers.

Danilla van Jaarsveldt from the Competence Centre Food and Agriculture had the privilege to attend the PLMA trade fair and meet with various German food manufacturers. Germany had a huge pavilion with 213 food manufacturing companies exhibiting at the fair.

PLMA's International World of Private Label Trade Show was a meeting place for retailers, buyers and other visitors who browsed the 43 500 square metres of exhibition space to see what the almost 3000 exhibiting companies from 73 countries had to offer. Apart from meeting new companies, it was also good to catch up with old friends like Dr. Michael Heinemann, CEO of WHG Weißenfelser Handels-Gesellschaft GmbH and Karsten Daum, CEO of German Sweets e. V. as well as buyers from Shoprite Holdings.



Außenwirtschaftsseminar der Agrar- und Ernährungswirtschaft (5th Foreign Trade Seminar of the Agricultural and Food Industry) - 4 June 2024

On 4 June 2024, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), in cooperation with the Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE), hosted the 5th Foreign Trade Seminar for the agricultural and food industry at the BMEL in Bonn.

Danilla van Jaarsveldt represented the Competence Centre for Food and Agriculture at this seminar. The Competence Centre for Food and Agriculture is funded by the BMEL.

The foreign trade seminar offers an intensive exchange of knowledge and experience with experts as well as excellent opportunities for personal networking. The programme consisted of various speakers and 3 country forums. The main speakers at the seminar were:

- Ms Gaby Kirschbaum, Head of Department 4 “Agricultural Markets, Food Industry, Export”, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
- Mr Olivier Kölsch, Managing Director, Federal Association of the German Food Industry
- Dr Thomas Obst, Senior Economist, Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft



South Africa: Opportunities for German confectionery exporters

The Competence Centre Food and Agriculture organised a web conference in cooperation with German Sweets e.V. on Wednesday, 9 October 2024. The topic was Future Market South Africa. The participants gained deep insights into the potential and special features of the South African market.

Patrick John Leslie, CEO of WingsGroup, shared his more than 15 years of experience in importing premium products and explained how strategic partnerships and the efficient retail structures in South Africa can lead to long-term success. At the same time, he pointed out the logistical challenges that need to be overcome.

Danilla Van Jaarsveldt from the German Chamber, an experienced expert in market entry strategies, showed how German exporters can successfully enter the market through close cooperation with major retailers or via established distributors. She shed light on the special structures of the South African retail trade and the opportunities that arise from this.

The web conference Future Market South Africa offered exporters valuable insights and showed that the right strategy can open exciting growth opportunities.



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COMPETENCE CENTRES

Education, Training and CSR

The year 2024 marks 39 years of vocational training activities in South Africa alongside dedicated stakeholders. There is a sense of joy and fulfilment when we reflect on more than 5000 graduates and alumni who hold entry-level, senior, and executive positions in various organisations nationwide. This year, 28 trainees graduated from two dual vocational programmes. Furthermore, as we celebrate our history and contribution to the South African economy through vocational education, we appreciate our Headquarters (Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer or DIHK) support and equally thank all local partners across organisations who incorporated in many ways the dual vocational programmes as part of skills development since 1985.

In the second half of the year, stability within the team was maintained, enabling improved execution of training activities. Considering feedback from business partners, we have identified the need to implement short (12-16 months) industry-specific programmes that aim to develop much-needed skills and a talent pipeline. These developments shape the strategic direction and will form part of discussions in 2025.

In June 2024, the Ministry of Higher Education announced a final decision to decommission selected SETA (Sector Education and Training Authority) Accredited qualifications. The previously anticipated announcement was part of a move towards the QCTO (Quality Council for Trades & Occupations) occupational training model, which ensures that qualifications and execution combine knowledge, practical, and workplace learning. In response, the Competence Centre has started shifting the design and delivery model for the existing programmes.

There is also a continuous focus on corporate social responsibility initiatives that support teaching and learning activities in predominantly disadvantaged communities. In 2024, Mercedes-Benz SA made a sizable financial contribution, enabling us to close six CSR projects that positively impacted 1408 children and learners. With the continuous effective use of donated items, we expect an additional number to benefit beyond 2024.

The Dual Vocational Programmes

On 26 September, together with business partners and family members, we celebrated the graduation of 14 trainees who completed a two-year Industrial Management Assistant (Industriekaufmann/ Industriekauffrau) qualification and another 14 young professionals who completed a three-year Management Assistant for Forwarding and Logistics Services (Kaufmann/Kauffrau für Spedition und Logistikdienstleistung) qualification. An additional seven trainees obtained their qualifications before 31 December 2024. The most recent graduation occurred in 2022, and because these events are not held annually, they serve as significant milestones for all parties engaged in the dual training activities.



Significant progress was made in addressing challenges in the Mechatronics Technician Apprenticeship Programme. Resolution Circle and FESTO successfully completed all technical training. In the first half of 2025, we await the completion of the Trade Test tool design and the accreditation of Trade Test Centres for this qualification. Overall, the Competence Centre concluded the year with 40 trainees participating in the CATS, Mechatronics and Supply Chain Programmes.

Blind SA Training Project

In March 2024, we partnered with Blind SA to train 50 blind and partially sighted learners on the Small Business Financial Management Certificate NQF 4. The project represents a new approach to inclusive training. Furthermore, the project manager has already started discussions with some of our members to consider absorbing learners who will complete training with high scores and the potential to succeed within a demanding corporate environment in April/ May 2025.



Chemicals Operations Programme in KwaZulu-Natal

Establishing a 12-month vocational training project in collaboration with the Durban Chemicals Cluster and the state of Baden-Württemberg (as a German Sponsor) indicates a new direction for businesses to create critical skills pipeline quicker. The project preparation resumed in November 2024 after obtaining a commitment from willing firms, and the programme will resume in March 2025. The new initiative is designed to recruit high-potential youth likely to secure permanent employment in the chemicals manufacturing sector. The execution and success of this project in developing skills for the cluster will be used to influence the approach to similar projects within our network of business partners.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The year's CSR activities focused on social relief and supporting schools, including NPOs, with necessary teaching materials. By October 2024, we had closed six initiatives.

KwaNokusho Primary School in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal, received a donation of science kits, dictionaries, labelled wall posters, world maps, and other items, which impacted over 350 children. Nonkonyana Junior Secondary School (in Flagstaff, Eastern Cape) received a donation of tables and chairs for Grade R children. This initiative positively impacted around 90 children, who started learning from decent desks. Teachers became equally excited about this contribution.



We also partnered with R_Ignite NPC, an organisation that aims to bring hope and change to pupils in the rural areas of Mhashe and King Sabatha Dalindyebo in the Eastern Cape. By donating books, we enabled the setting up of a library at Viedgesville Senior Primary School, which hosts 180 children.



Further donations to support tutoring activities went to Ikamva Youth NPO (for their Ikageng and Mahikeng branches) in the remote areas of the Northwest Province. The variety of textbooks and study guides with questions and solutions positively impacted the learning activities of 648 Grades 8 to 12 learners.



A donation of teaching material was also completed with the PND Centre for Homework and Study, an organisation in the middle of an informal settlement in Kaya Sands, Johannesburg, to support their tutoring classes. The centre takes care of 140 children from the community. Lastly, we delivered learning material to the MES Organisation in Johannesburg, which hosts about 140 children in Fluerhoff, Johannesburg.



AdA International Vocational Trainer Course – Basic Version

The Competence Centre team, including selected external guests, enjoyed the Master Trainer Course on German (AdA) Ausbildung der Ausbilder – International in May 2024. The DIHK sponsored the intervention, which became a significant step towards establishing the training of trainers' capacity in Southern Africa.



The first pilot session was delivered in October in partnership with KHS (Pty) Ltd and Bosch (Pty) Ltd. The experience and feedback have been instrumental in improving the delivery and understanding of the German dual vocational training methods and the role of vocational trainers in executing methodical and impactful training within companies.

International Projects: Senior Expert Service (SES)

The SAGCC facilitated the Senior Expert Service (SES) project for 2024. SES is a German service that deploys senior experts to support various initiatives across many sectors and industries. Enthusiastic experts visited six public TVET colleges in the Western Cape. The project was fully funded by Germany and coordinated closely with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism: Provincial Skills and Partnerships office. The experts offered various services based on unique TVET needs to support vocational training and improving internal processes.

Outlook for 2025

The year 2025 will mark 40 years of vocational training activities in South Africa. This calls for a special celebration that recognises the contribution of German businesses and other vested stakeholders. In response to recent changes to the occupational training model, the Competence Centre is already working on restructuring vocational programmes. The strategic activities will include executing the new Chemical Operations Project in partnership with the Durban Chemicals Cluster and exploring other short industry-driven interventions.

The Skills Expert activities in 2025 will focus on recruiting and upskilling the German language proficiency of candidates in the Hospitality Sector identified as having high potential for the Skills for Germany project. Following the success of the pilot training activity in October 2024, the AdA International Vocational Trainer Course will be extensively rolled out in 2025. Plans are also in place to run this course in the neighbouring Southern African Countries. The team looks forward to another impactful year of vocational training and CSR activities.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE

Climate and Environment

The energy, water and waste nexus

The Competence Centre: [Climate and Environment \(CC:CE\)](#) supports businesses from Germany and Southern Africa, who seek to participate in the dynamic regional sustainable energy, water and waste markets. The CC:CE provides market information, supports companies in market entry and expansion, carries out activities geared towards developing the market, and functions as a platform for sector representation and cooperation. The CC:CE is working together with the private and public sectors to contribute towards stimulating the transition towards a greener and more resource efficient economy. The CC:CE encompasses three portfolios, namely sustainable energy, water and waste. SAGCC experts for these portfolios align their project planning and implementation to offer comprehensive support in the area of climate and environment to members and the private sector at large.

Sustainable Energy Portfolio

The CC:CE Energy Portfolio focused on supporting private sector initiatives in the field of green hydrogen (GH2) and Power-to-X (PtX). In addition to offering market insights and guidance to businesses entering the emerging GH2 sector, the CC:CE provided capacity-building opportunities through a Green Hydrogen Project Developer Training program. It also facilitated the development of new GH2 project concepts through a Business Case Development Lab.



Green Hydrogen Project Developer Training in Johannesburg, October 2023

These services were delivered in collaboration with the [International Hydrogen Ramp-Up Program \(H2Uppp\)](#), for which the CC:CE serves as a service hub for Namibia and South Africa.

In addition to providing direct business support, the CC:CE continued to assist in the facilitation of Business-to-Government dialogues to promote green industry investments and favourable regulations for the electricity and green hydrogen (GH2) markets. For example, the CC:CE played a pivotal role in organising a Leadership Roundtable at the Global African GH2 Summit in Windhoek. This event provided businesses with the opportunity to discuss market formation challenges for PtX products with senior government representatives from Namibia, South Africa, and Germany.



Leadership Roundtable at the Global African GH2 Summit in Windhoek, September 2024



Conference on water and wastewater management in the South African agro-processing sector in Johannesburg on 5 March 2024.



The Water and Waste Portfolios visit the IFAT in Munich from 13-17 May 2024.

Water and Waste Portfolios

Business Delegation to South Africa

A delegation of German technological solution providers for water and wastewater management in the agro-processing sector visited South Africa in March 2024. Together with the [German Water Partnership e.V.](#) as our co-operation partner and supported by our local partners [South African Association for Food Science & Technology \(SAFoST\)](#), [Water Institute of Southern Africa \(WISA\)](#), and [Consulting Engineers South Africa \(CESA\)](#), we facilitated the connection of German companies with potential partners and clients. The project was funded by the Foreign Market Entry Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) [More information.](#)

<https://suedafrika.ahk.de/en/compeence-centres/water-management/german-water-technology-companies-explore-market-opportunities-in-the-south-african-agro-processing-sector>

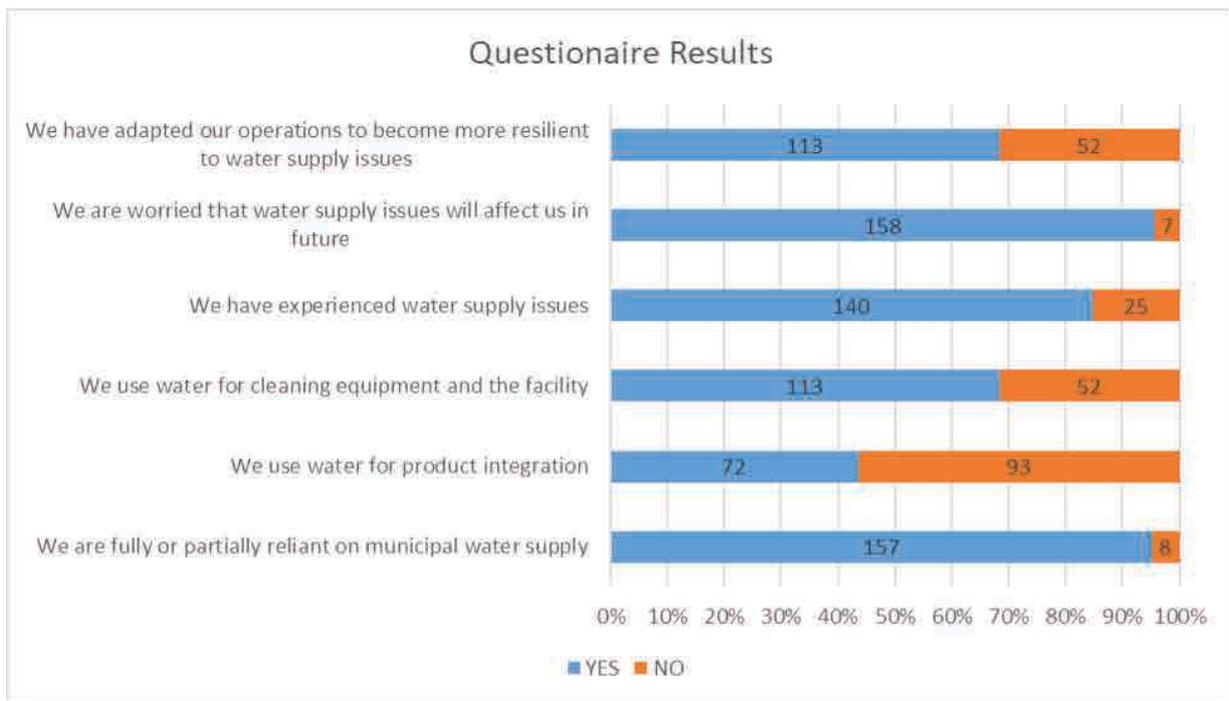
The Water and Waste Portfolios visit the IFAT in Munich

The IFAT is the most important trade fair for water, wastewater, waste, and circular economy and took place from 13-17 May. We accompanied a South African delegation, which was organised by [COMMIT Project Partners GmbH](#), to this event where German and South African participants exchanged their knowledge and expertise on water and circular economy topics.. Vera Massie, the Water Portfolio Manager shared her project experience for stimulating sustainable resource use in industry and her perspective on drought and flood management in urban spaces in panel discussions at the Trade Fair. Our team made it their mission to inform small and medium sized German companies about the various funding mechanisms available to them from the various German Ministries for entering markets abroad and for initiating business relations in southern Africa.

There will be no day Zero in Gauteng!

Many cities in South Africa are currently experiencing interruptions in water supply due to flood damage, vandalism, aging infrastructure, as well as emergency and scheduled maintenance. On 11 July, we held an online information session on the future of Johannesburg's water supply in midst of the most intense maintenance schedule that Rand Water has implemented thus far.

We asked the 165 registries to our event to tell us about their experience with water supply, how it impacts their business and if they are implementing measures to become more resilient. The results showed that most companies in South Africa's metros rely on public water supplies. 43% of respondents use water for product integration, while almost 70% of respondents use water for cleaning systems and equipment. 85% of respondents had experienced water supply interruptions, while 96% feared that prolonged interruptions could harm their business. Almost 70% of those surveyed said that they had adapted their operational processes to counteract the unreliable water supply and become more resilient.



Survey results of a questionnaire to 161 respondents, conducted in June and July 2024.

While we hope indeed that Day Zero in Gauteng can be avoided, water supply interruptions still occur and impact business activities. Two South African member companies, who use German technologies in their solutions participated as speakers in the webinar. Carl Haycock, CEO at [Talbot](#) highlighted that, businesses can help themselves and gave the following very valuable advice: “Measure, assess, develop your strategy. Start simple and evolve; seek the opportunity, it is not always a cost.” Carsten Orzol from [Memcon](#) brought product recovery from wastewater and utilities recycling to the forefront of our minds. He called on the listeners to “think about going upstream, think about never mix, think about what the low hanging fruit are and where we can add value”. Overall, despite the inconveniences encountered, we should maintain a positive outlook on the ongoing infrastructure maintenance efforts in the Gauteng Province. These activities are essential for preventing the long-term deterioration of our infrastructure.

[\(For more information and to watch the webinar click here\)](#)

<https://suedafrika.ahk.de/en/competence-centres/water-management/there-will-be-no-day-zero-in-gauteng>

Circular Economy (CE)

The 2023 Circularity Gap Report highlights that less than 8% of the global economy is circular. This concept is highly relevant for Southern African countries, which face significant challenges such as resource depletion, waste management issues, and economic inequality. Transitioning to a more circular economy could reduce raw material usage by one-third, driving us closer to improved sustainability to achieve our international climate goals whilst creating meaningful jobs and growing the economy.

How Green Tech Businesses Can Assist

While circularity is increasingly acknowledged as a sustainable way forward, organizations often face practical challenges that impede the adoption of circular solutions. Green technology providers, with advanced solutions and expertise in circular economy practices, can play a crucial role in this transition.

Sector Expert Circular Economy at the SAGCC

In collaboration with the BMWK, the CC:CE has a dedicated expert for the Circular Economy. This sector specialist provides valuable support by sharing market insights, identifying business opportunities, and fostering collaboration between Southern African and German businesses to promote circularity in economic activities. Additionally, the sector expert helps cultivate relationships with industry associations and key stakeholders across the public and private sectors to advance the circular economy in Southern Africa.

Market Intelligence and Innovative Services to Support Businesses

As part of our market intelligence service, the CC:CE compiled freely accessible studies on the energy and water markets in Southern Africa. This information is available from the CC:CE and can also be accessed on the websites of the [‘Energy Solutions Made in Germany’](#) and the [Africa Business Guide](#).



Energy Solutions
Made in Germany



Africa Business
Guide

Outlook

Continuing our cooperation with the ‘Energy Solutions Made in Germany’ initiative, we will further explore opportunities to decarbonize industrial processes in South Africa and Namibia through the use of renewable energy and green hydrogen (GH2). Furthermore, we are going to support the implementation of Public-Private-Partnership projects in Namibia and South Africa. Thus providing hydrogen ventures with co-financing for their early development stage.

In 2025 the water portfolio will focus on continuing to build the relationship, knowledge exchange and technology transfer between German and Southern African companies with a focus on the IFAT Africa, which will take place in Johannesburg in July 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in tapping into the southern African markets for green technologies. You are welcome to make use of our network and services.

The CC:CE team would like to thank all our partners for their support and cooperation. We are looking forward to our continuous collaboration.



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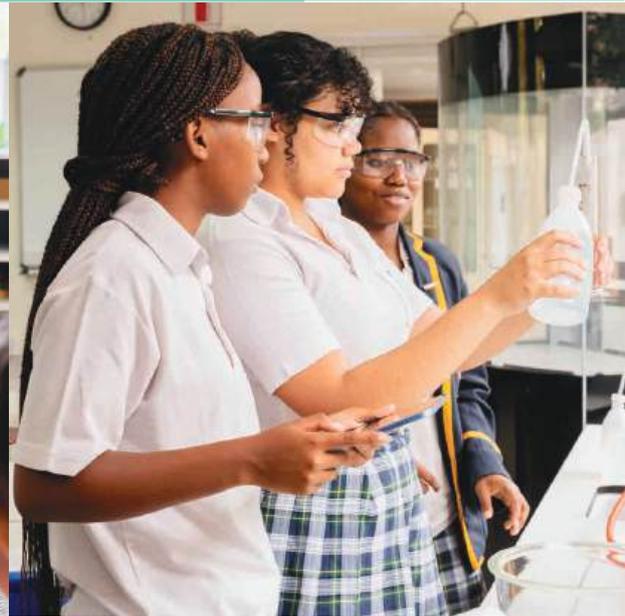
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As the oldest private co-educational school in Johannesburg, the Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg prides itself in its traditional, rich heritage and culture, offering our learners global opportunities through academic excellence and worldwide recognition.

With around 1000 students from 35 different nations, we are very proud of our comprehensive educational tradition, designed to prepare students for the ever-changing demands of the professional world.

Enshrined in our mission statement, the Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg educates young people to become self-confident, independent personalities, with critical thinking skills that encourage personal and social responsibilities. Furthermore, we strive to strengthen the intercultural sensitivities of our learners by cultivating respect for their own culture and appreciation of other cultures.

As a result, community support and development are woven into the fabric of our school's identity. It shapes the way learners perceive themselves and their roles in the broader community, encouraging them to become not just adults, but active, engaged citizens. Whether through outreach programs, volunteering, or collaborative projects, our learners are empowered to make meaningful contributions, which, in turn, nurture their sense of pride and social awareness.

One example of this is the close collaboration the school has with the organizations Guild Cottage and Hearts of Hope, where our learners from Grade 8 onwards actively support underprivileged children and youth. They regularly visit these facilities, assist on-site, and build meaningful friendships. While Guild Cottage provides a safe haven for girls in need of help and support, Hearts of Hope offers a loving home as an orphanage.

Through various fundraising events such as the Market Days and Entrepreneur Days, learners sell homemade goods to raise money to purchase food, hygiene products, and toys. Such events are supported with great enthusiasm by the entire school community.

The school's knitting and crocheting clubs also put a lot of love into creating blankets and clothing items that are donated to children in need.

Another great initiative is the Sunflower Fund and the Santa Shoebox Project, which the school has been supporting for many years. This year the entire DSJ school community got involved with the Santa Shoebox Project and pledged 124 shoeboxes which are distributed to underprivileged children.

We not only support communities outside of the school environment, but also assist and support our own learners who form part of the Isek stream, or Integrated Secondary stream. Our Support Fund and scholarship programmes ensure that financial barriers do not hinder access to education. This gives every child the opportunity to be part of our school community. The parents of our Isek children receive a reduction in school fees that matches their income as closely as possible. In addition, the DSJ actively helps them to participate in school life by always providing additional transport; our Parents Representative Council helps to save money by organising second-hand school uniform and second-hand text book sales; the Support Fund steps in when, for example, a pair of glasses or a hearing aid is urgently needed. The Support Fund provides funding on a permanent basis for breakfast and lunch as part of the 'Feeding Scheme' for learners whose families are experiencing financial strain. Providing healthy, balanced school meals at affordable prices allows all children to focus on their learning and social interactions at school without the distraction of hunger.

The Support Fund is financed exclusively from donations, which in turn are largely generated from within the DSJ school community. A wonderful example of this cohesion and solidarity within the school was the Sundowner Concert, which took place for the first time in April 2024. Under the charismatic direction of the gifted conductor Richard Cock, the DSJ showed what it had to offer in terms of music and dance - in all age groups, from the choirs to the orchestra, the marimbas and the dance groups. The almost 600 guests were treated to a variety of top-class entertainment - all in aid of a good cause: The proceeds from the concert went to the DSJ Support Fund. It was the first, but not the last event of this kind - everyone who was able to attend agreed on that: Preparations for the second edition in March 2025 are already in full swing. If you would like to get involved, please contact: marketing@dsjmail.co.za

As the oldest co-educational school in Johannesburg, the DSJ has built up a broad network of partnerships over many decades. These links span the fields of culture, business, politics and sport and encompass both the German and South African communities, locally and internationally, with particularly strong links to Germany.

Here the German Embassy in Pretoria has played a significant role in supporting our Outreach Tournament, where we invite partner schools from Soweto to a football and netball tournament. It is just a small sports festival for sixth graders, a meeting on the pitch and the court, but it is always a meaningful encounter and a huge appreciation for those schools where some of our learners come from.

As part of the selection process for the Isek stream, we rely on a pre-selection at the schools in Soweto. For almost one year, 50 grade 4 learners are bussed to the DSJ for their 8 am to 12 pm Saturday school. There is no question that we demand a lot from these fourth-graders and, as a rule, only a dozen children are chosen to join our Grade 5 class the following year, as unfortunately not more funding is available. For the first time in 2024, with funding provided by the German Embassy in Pretoria, the learners were given swimming lessons in the Summer months, after their Maths and English lessons. We would like to continue with these lessons, as they are a huge motivation boost for the learners and are hopeful that the funding will continue.

Partnerships also play a central role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which the DSJ is actively pursuing. By working closely with various stakeholders, we are able to realise important projects and initiatives in the environmental, educational and support fields. The commitment of the learners is a significant part of life at the DSJ. They learn to advocate for others and develop a strong sense of social responsibility and empathy. In doing so, they help strengthen the community and gain valuable life experiences.

Through the hard work, dedication and commitment from our dedicated teachers, staff and parents, the DSJ community strives to guide and support our learners to becoming open-minded, responsible, resilient and “out-of-the-box”-thinking happy personalities and to prepare them for the demands of the global world.

For more information or if you wish to explore further possibilities and opportunities, please visit our website: www.dsj.co.za or contact us on: marketing@dsjmail.co.za





FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Back to Work Johannesburg

The Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Southern Africa) hosted its highly anticipated Annual Back-to-Work Networking Event on Friday, 26 January 2024, in Johannesburg. This exclusive member-only gathering brought together over 100 business leaders and partners, providing a valuable platform to network, connect, and collaborate with the AHK Southern Africa.

This event marked a significant milestone as it served as the official introduction of the new CEO of AHK Southern Africa, Simone Pohl. She succeeds Matthias Boddenberg, who announced his retirement after leading the Chamber for more than 22 years. Simone Pohl brings extensive experience, having worked across three continents and led AHKs in America and China.

Matthias Boddenberg opened the event with a comprehensive overview of the Chamber's achievements over the past year and shared an outlook for the year ahead, mindful of the upcoming South African elections on 29 May 2024. He addressed key challenges, including persistent load-shedding, visa processing delays, and emerging concerns such as water supply





issues in Gauteng, limited skilled resources in both Germany and South Africa, and the persistently high unemployment rates.

Despite these ongoing challenges, it was encouraging to see a growing interest from German companies in expanding their presence in the Southern African market, showcasing resilience and confidence in the region's potential.

The event also featured two inspiring guest speakers who highlighted their impactful community initiatives. Sebastian Schaechter from Schaechter GmbH, a partner of Arminia Bielefeld, shared plans to expand soccer-based community programs in the region. These initiatives aim to support youth development, train local coaches, and identify talent, all while fostering a love for soccer.

Andreas Woerster, representing Utho Ngathi Disability Projects, spoke passionately about the organisation's work in supporting persons with disabilities and their families. His presentation underscored the importance of bridging gaps in accessibility and fostering inclusion to ensure holistic development and meaningful participation in society.

Following the formalities, attendees reconnecting with familiar faces and establishing new partnerships. The atmosphere was filled with optimism and excitement as discussions revolved around future plans, innovative collaborations, and shared goals for 2024.

For those interested in getting involved in community projects or learning more about these impactful initiatives, please connect directly: (Sebastian Schaechter: s.schaechter@schaechter-sports.com, Andreas Woerster: andreas.woerster@uthongathi.org.za).



FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS







FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Gala Dinner

The Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAGCC) hosted its Annual Gala Dinner on the evening of October 25, 2024, at the prestigious Wanderers Club in Johannesburg. The event, which attracted over 250 distinguished guests, was a celebration of “30 Years of Democracy: Fortifying German-Southern African Business Relations.” The evening was marked by a spirit of collaboration, captured in the African proverb that resonated throughout the speeches: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

The Gala Dinner featured a lineup of prominent speakers, including H.E. Andreas Peschke, German Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini; Mr. Bulumko Nelana, Deputy Director General of Economic Planning; Mr. Siphon Marala of the Gauteng Growth Development Agency; Mrs. Simone Pohl, CEO of the SAGCC; Mr. Peter van Binsbergen, President of the SAGCC; Mr. Kay Schröder, SAGCC Deputy President; and Marcus Bloom-Pflug and Delron Buckley of Weinert Industries South Africa and Arminia Bielefeld/Schaechter Sports.

During the speeches, the speakers reflected on key topics that underscored the evening’s theme. They highlighted the significant milestones achieved in the bilateral relationship between Germany and South Africa over the past three decades. A central topic was the renewed interest in the Southern African region, with political visits to South Africa on the rise and the German business community’s commitment to fostering sustainable growth. South Africa’s strategic importance within the upcoming G20 in 2025 was emphasized, marking an important moment for addressing global economic challenges and fostering partnerships.

Building on this, Simone Pohl noted the increasing interest from German businesses in the region, with six delegations confirmed for 2025, representing industries ranging from mining and textiles to skills development and the film sector.



This optimism reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhancing economic ties and exploring new opportunities for collaboration.

The SAGCC’s ongoing work in skills development was highlighted. Since 1985, the Chamber has collaborated with businesses, training institutions, and the public sector to create opportunities for South African youth. To date, approximately 4,000 individuals have successfully launched their careers through these initiatives. A recent milestone celebrated the graduation of 28 young professionals trained in Industrial Management Assistance and Logistics Services—a testament to the Chamber’s dedication to shaping the future workforce.

The evening’s entertainment was provided by the MIAGI Jazz Quintet, whose captivating performance delighted the audience. MIAGI, which stands for “Music is a Great Investment,” has gained international acclaim, with its orchestra recently returning from a highly successful European tour that included performances at prestigious venues such as the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg.

The SAGCC expressed its gratitude to its sponsors, whose support made the event possible. The AHK Southern Africa Platinum Sponsors included BMW Group, Bosch, and Siemens. Gold Sponsors were Daimler Truck Southern Africa and Wilo and Silver Sponsor was Schauenburg. The Gala Dinner’s main partner was the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, and the Gold Partners included Dr. Oetker, KSB, Melitta/Caturra Africa, Arminia Bielefeld/Schaechter Sports, and WEINERT Industries South Africa. Table sponsors included LAPP, Rödl & Partner, Bayer, and Mercedes-Benz South Africa.



The SAGCC Annual Gala Dinner 2024 was not only a celebration of 30 years of democracy but also a reaffirmation of the enduring partnership between Germany and South Africa. It was an evening of reflection, collaboration, and optimism, setting the stage for continued success in the years to come.

FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS







FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

5th Annual European Chambers' Golf Day 2024

Johannesburg, October 8th, 2024 – The Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry proudly collaborated with eight other European Chambers (Belgian, British, French, Irish, Italian, Nordic, Portuguese and Spanish) to host the 5th edition of this event at the prestigious Randpark Ridge Golf Club.

The primary objective of the Golf Day is to bring together high-profile executives, CEOs, and representatives from diverse sectors and industries. This exclusive event provided a unique platform for participants to forge connections with stakeholders from various chambers, business organisations, investment associations, and local government representatives, including embassies and the EU delegation.

A total of 190 players took to the renowned fields of Randpark Ridge Golf Club. As the sun set on a day filled with camaraderie and friendly competition, 230 dinner guests gathered for the Prize Giving Evening, transforming the event into a memorable celebration of business and sport.

Thank you to all our players and sponsors for their incredible support. This event was made possible with the backing of 22 dedicated sponsors. A special thanks goes to our German Chamber Players and Sponsors, whose generous contributions played a key role in making this event a resounding success.

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ThermoTech Engineering
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Weinert Industries South Africa (Pty) Ltd





FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas in July

The AHK Southern Africa's Johannesburg office played host to the highly anticipated second edition of our Business Networking Event: Christmas in July. This unique gathering, held on 30 July 2024, combined festive cheer with professional networking.

For businesses looking to engage in a distinctive networking experience, the Christmas in July event offered the perfect platform. With the festive ambiance inspired by German traditions, attendees were treated to an evening of meaningful connections, collaboration, and delectable German cuisine.

The event also served as a valuable meet-and-greet opportunity for our new members who joined the chamber between January and July. This year, we were thrilled to welcome 29 new members from various industries, enriching the diversity and expertise within our community. We welcomed over 130 guests, including seasoned professionals, industry leaders, and budding entrepreneurs. Our four event partners played a significant role in making the evening a grand success:

- Lufthansa Group
- Munich Airport
- ELO Digital Office

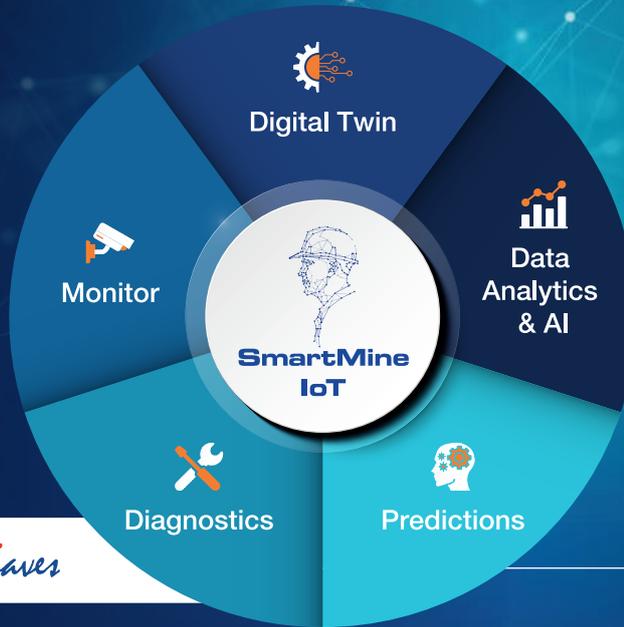
Christmas in July was more than just a networking event; it was a celebration of collaboration, cultural exchange, and the vibrant spirit of our business community.

We look forward to hosting even more successful editions of this event in the years to come, continuing to strengthen the ties within our community and providing unparalleled opportunities for growth and connection.





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