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UCT to host open lecture on SA's water challenges
Pro Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture to feature Dhesigen Naidoo, CEO of
Water Research Commission, on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at 18h00 in
Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building

The Chief Executive Officer of the Water Research Commission, Dhesigen Naidoo, will speak on "South Africa's water challenges - a cause for despair or an opportunity for leap-frogging?" at a Pro Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at 18h00 in Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building.

Naidoo leads the Water Research Commission, South Africa's dedicated public water research and development agency and the premier national water knowledge hub.

His talk forms part of UCT's focus on National Water Week through its African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI).

The ACDI coordinates cutting-edge research and training on climate change issues and sustainable development from an African perspective. Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark New leads the ACDI.

Naidoo has described South Africa's water challenge as "deep and complex". He said the world's attention on water as a risk to global well-being has become much more pronounced since being raised at premier economic development arenas like the World Economic Forum.

Naidoo said a "think bubble" had surfaced to address the water challenges in the country.

"We must use this think bubble prudently as the choices we make today will determine South Africa's water and development future for the next half a century at the very least," Naidoo said.

"South Africa has opened an important window with the development of the second National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS), an increased investment in water

infrastructure as part of the National Infrastructure Programme, and a legislative review of the water governance environment,” Naidoo said.

After training and practising as a medical scientist, Naidoo joined the South African government in 1996 as part of the National Research and Technology Foresight team.

Naidoo subsequently served in many positions in what were then the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry and Environmental Affairs and Tourism. He was also Deputy Director-General in the Department of Science and Technology before leaving government to serve as Director of Research and Innovation at the University of Pretoria.

He also serves on the boards of various international water-related organisations.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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