NEMISA 4IR Data Science Hackathon: 13 March 2020

NEMISA will be hosting a Data Science Innovation Hackathon on 13 March 2020 at the Birchwood Hotel as part of the Digital Skills Summit and Research Colloquium.

Data science is the art and science of extracting meaning out of data. The art of data science is in the way that tools that extract meaning from data are used. The variety of usage represents the variety of focus, mandate and context and therefore reveals different answers.

THE MOTIVATIONS

Data is the new gold; and NEMISA K4I has been collecting data from across South Africa (rural, urban township), which reflects where people, organisations, and government are in terms of their digital behaviours and skills. While the NEMISA K4I team has been able to mine some aspects of the data for the important reports, the wealth of meaning from the data can only be exhausted by looking at it from various aspects using data science tools.

A Data Science Innovation Hackathon will enable various teams with different interests to mine the data and reveal interesting trends that the data provides. These meanings will provide evidence for national policy recommendations.

There is an increasing loss of jobs in the midst of high unemployment in South Africa as a result of the 4th Industrial Revolution. It is, therefore, necessary to recommend policies that are based on evidence (data). If we do not take such an evidence-based approach to innovation, we will be repeating the same mistakes over again. The environment is today rapidly changing and the same needs to apply to our policies.

METHOD

1. Partner with a Data Science organisation
2. Send out a Data Science Call for Teams across South Africa
3. Provide the data on the website
4. Register the teams
5. Prepare the venue