

SESSION 3:

THE SANITATION ECONOMY FOR AFRICA WORKSHOP

Chair: Cheryl Hicks (Toilet Board Coalition) | Venue: Boardroom 4

According to the Toilet Board Coalition (TBC), "... the new Sanitation Economy presents vast potential for global economic growth while addressing one of the most urgent grand challenges of our time, achieving universal access to improved safely-managed sanitation (SDG6). It monetises toilet provision, products and services, biological resources, data and information to provide benefits across the economy and society". The TBC has estimated that the Sanitation Economy will become a US\$62 billion market annually in India alone by 2021 and aims to engage the private sector across the continent to scale up the Sanitation Economy in Africa 2020-2025. The concepts of Green Economy, Circular Economy and Smart Cities are priority management strategies for global businesses. Sanitation is becoming a material business issue for companies across sectors such from agriculture to manufacturing and hospitality.

Could this be the biggest opportunity in a century to transform sanitation systems into a smart, sustainable and revenue generating economy? By accelerating the Sanitation Economy, we can create a robust market-place of new market opportunity that has been virtually untapped, and that we can do this while improving lives of the 2.3 billion currently without toilets and ensuring the capture, safe treatment and use of 3.8 trillion litres of toilet resources which are currently lost/untreated, and by leveraging smart technologies to drive efficiency in sanitation systems, while capturing extensive amounts of data to inform business, policy and health decision making.

The TBC sees the Sanitation Economy as offering new ways of looking at sanitation systems: as a solution provider for sectors and governments facing constraints on essential resources such as water, nutrients, energy and proteins; as a reservoir of information about human health and behaviour; and as a test bed for innovation and new technologies that reinvent the toilet and its ecosystems. It leverages new business models and disruptive technologies together with established technologies and businesses with scale to transform sanitation systems.

Speakers

Jay Bhagwan (WRC)

Cheryl Hicks (Toilet Board Coalition)

Kartik Chandan (Columbia University)

South African Water Partnership Network (SAWPN)

Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (HSWS)

National Business Initiative (NBI)