

Delegates arrive for first Brics meeting

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INTERNATIONAL delegates from across the globe will descend on Durban for the first Brics Indigenous Knowledge Systems Conference, to be held at the Moses Mabhida Stadium today and tomorrow.

Co-hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the conference will host international discussions on the role of indigenous knowledge in addressing the global challenges of food security, environmental governance, climate change, human rights and international trade.

The university's Professor Hassan Kaya said once people and communities felt they were part of the business of the state, they became inspired and ready to protect the state, resources and

the environment in general. The university said the conference was motivated by the realisation that sustainable solutions to developmental challenges should acknowledge indigenous knowledge systems.

It would bring together stakeholders, including traditional leaders, from within and outside the Brics countries and one of its objectives was to mobilise local communities to become more involved in protecting their environments using local knowledge, attitudes and value systems.

A central focus will be the contribution made by South African traditional leaders and healers.

Discussions will centre on:

- The institutionalisation of indigenous knowledge systems in Brics countries.

- Gender and indigenous knowledge systems.

- International trade and finance in the Brics countries within the context of indigenous knowledge systems.

- Information and communications technologies.

- Global security.

- Human rights.

The conference was jointly organised by UKZN's Department of Science and Technology – National Research Foundation Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems; the South African Brics Think Tank; the National Institute of Human and Social Sciences; the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes; the Africa Programme-UN University of Peace; the Municipal Institute Of Learning and the eThekweni Municipality.