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2023 ANNUAL SAPICS CONFERENCE

POST CONFERENCE REVIEW

Looking back at the 45th Annual SAPICS Conference

An aerial photograph of a port area. A multi-lane bridge spans across the water. A red truck is driving on the bridge. To the right of the bridge, there are stacks of colorful shipping containers in shades of red, orange, yellow, and blue. The water is a deep blue-green color.

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change with them to
mitigate risk and drive
sustainable growth.

The SAP logo, consisting of the letters "SAP" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a blue trapezoidal background that tapers to the right.

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FOREWORD

by SAPICS President MJ Schoemaker

Welcome to our 2023 SAPICS Conference ezine in which we are pleased to share some of the highlights of this year's 45th SAPICS Conference, which was a huge success.

Over 700 supply chain professionals from 32 countries across Africa and around the world gathered in Cape Town for this year's conference. The important supply chain themes covered at the conference ranged from artificial intelligence (AI), innovation, supply chain professionalisation and risk management to resilience, skills development, supply chain leadership, and South Africa's logistics crisis.



Held under the theme **"Forward Thinking Supply Chains"**, there was exceptional support from sponsors and attendees. Transnet was the Diamond sponsor of this year's SAPICS Conference. The Gold sponsors were Accenture, Africa Resource Centre (ARC), Lombard Insurance Company, SAP, Savino Del Bene and The Global Fund. The event's Silver sponsors were Bidvest International Logistics, DP World, DSV, First National Bank, Interroll SA, Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Relex Solutions and VillageReach.

Thank you to all our sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, delegates and everyone who helped to make this year's conference a resounding success! Thanks, too, to Upavon Management, for their support and professionalism in organising another world-class SAPICS Conference. This year was a milestone as it was the 25th in person annual SAPICS Conference organised by Upavon.

The delegates who attended this year have commended the high calibre programme and outstanding global and local speakers who shared their insights and expertise.



Supply chain gives life to trade and conducts world economies. Without it, goods and services would not move.

Dr Juanita Maree
SAAFF chief executive officer

If you were at SAPICS 2023, we hope that you will enjoy looking back on some of the powerful presentations and seeing photographs from this year's outstanding conference. If you were not there, this is just a small selection of what you missed. We hope to see you next year.

The 2023 SAPICS Conference featured an exciting collaboration between SAPICS and the South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF), which co-hosted the event. There was also a global public health supply chain track running throughout the conference programme for the first time. Lives depend on strong, resilient health supply chains. Partnerships and collaborations are critical to building these and SAPICS is a perfect platform for these discussions.



In her opening address at the conference, SAAFF chief executive officer Dr Juanita Maree noted that the supply chain gives life to trade and conducts world economies. "Without it, goods and services would not move," she stated. This has never been more evident than in recent years, when global supply chains have been stretched and strained by the COVID-19 pandemic and a host of subsequent chaotic disruptions, from the blockage of the Suez Canal, the container shipping crisis, and the power crisis across Asia and Europe, to riots and unrest in parts of South Africa and issues at the Port of Durban.



It was supply chains and the skilled professionals who manage them – you, our valued SAPICS supply chain community – that kept goods and services moving. Building forward thinking, future proof supply chains will enable us to anticipate disruptions and find processes to manage them. We hope that the 2023 SAPICS Conference offered you insights on how to mitigate the risks and succeed in today's challenging and constantly changing environment.

MJ Schoemaker
SAPICS President

2023 AWARD WINNERS

At the closing dinner that ended the 2023 SAPICS Conference on a festive note, prizes were awarded to these outstanding speakers and exhibitors.



Best Speaker
Dikeledi Sathekge
*Group Head of Planning and Digital Transformation,
Takealot Group, South Africa*



Best Exhibition Booth
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Supply Chain Handling Equipment



Best Double/Multiple Stand
Interroll



Best Written Paper

Lee-Ann Barlett, Mon'e Manez, South Africa



SAPICS DAY 1

Most Innovative Presentation

Dave Hallett, Senior Director SC – Customer Collaboration, Nomkhosi Ncube, Supply Chain Customer Collaboration Manager and Silindile Manyoni, Senior Customer Collaboration Manager, PepsiCo, South Africa




SAPICS DAY 2

SAVING LIVES BY BUILDING SKILLS AND CAPACITY IN HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAINS

Poor supply chains in low to middle income countries are the reason that one third of the world's population lacks access to medicines, Dr Andrew Brown of USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program told delegates at the 2023 SAPICS Conference in Cape Town.

Dr Brown, who is the organisation's senior principal technical adviser, moderated a panel discussion on supply chain professionalisation, which, he noted, is not just about training, but also about strengthening the capacity of the systems needed to support the supply chain workforce. Panellist Dominique Zwinkels, executive director of People that Deliver, echoed this. She stressed that the issue

of supply chain professionalisation is about more than a lack of training. "Interventions are needed to ensure standards of skills and competence as well as equity, diversity, opportunities for women and youth engagement. Supply chain management is not seen as a profession. While USD 50 billion is spent annually on medicines, there are too few organisations investing in the workforce," she stated.

 We need to chart out the career path for supply chain practitioners, because I have never heard a teenager say that they want to be a health logistician when they grow up, and this is compromising healthcare.

Panellist Rebecca Alban, health systems manager at VillageReach



In addition to outlining the challenges, the panel discussion also covered good news stories from around Africa. According to Azuka Okeke, chief executive officer at Africa Resource Centre for Excellence in Nigeria, it has been a long journey and there is still a lot to do, but the pieces of the puzzle are falling into place to professionalise supply chains in Africa and attract a pipeline of young talent into the profession.



"In Nigeria, there is now a national supply chain strategy and framework that will improve healthcare skills and outcomes. There are standard titles for different levels of supply chain practitioners. In the states, we have supply chain teams ready to start implementing these. Nigeria's government universities are ready to roll out bachelor's and master's degrees in supply chain management," Okeke reported.

In Malawi, Alban said, a pharmacy assistant training programme was hugely successful and will be repeated. She revealed that the University of Mozambique is working on its first bachelor's degree for health logisticians.

The University of Rwanda had seen high demand for a New Master Programme in Health Supply Chain Management, according to Zwinkels.

She also told SAPICS Conference attendees about the Girls on the Move project, through which young women seeking careers in supply chain management are being offered internship opportunities by participating employers. The pilot project is in Kisumu, Kenya. It is a collaboration between the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and Pamela Steele Associates.

Panellist Douglas Kent, who is the executive vice president, corporate and strategic alliances at the Association for Supply Chain Management, stressed that public-private partnerships are critical to transform healthcare supply chains in developing countries.

“The pieces of the puzzle are falling into place.”

Azuka Okeke, CEO at Africa Resource Centre for Excellence in Nigeria



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR



We are proud of the history of this, the leading event in Africa for Supply Chain Professionals. 45 years is a remarkable achievement and to be a part of the planning and execution is a huge privilege.

We are very proud of this flagship event and of the tremendous platform that it provides supply chain professionals from all over the world to come together to learn, share experiences and network. Community really does matter and the SAPICS Community continues to go from strength to strength.

We look forward to the 46th Annual Conference and to being able to reunite in person. Save the date for 9 - 12 June 2024, Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town.

Jenny Froome
Conference Director





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SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S VULINDLELA REFORMS WILL NOT BE MINOR, ASSURES PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL

This article was written by Creamer Media Senior Deputy Editor Rebecca Campbell and published by Creamer Media's Engineering News.

The South African government's Operation Vulindlela ("opening up") is intended to result in major reforms to key sectors of the economy, Presidency Project Management Office head Rudi Dicks assured delegates at the forty-fifth annual SAPICS Conference, in Cape Town, on Monday. "It's not going to be superficial," he assured.



For Vulindlela, five priority areas had been identified, he reported. They were energy/electricity, water (especially bulk water), telecommunications, the country's visa system, and port and railway efficiencies. Regarding freight rail, there was, he observed, "some significant underperformance". Indeed, that was the situation with many State entities. Even if companies used trucks for their logistics operations, they would have to interact with State-owned entities sooner or later, such as ports, he noted. And South African ports were very inefficient; international surveys (for example, by the World Bank) had established that they were among the least efficient in the world.

Hence the creation of the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC), a joint initiative between government and business.

The NLCC was focused on short-term interventions. In parallel, however, was a larger, medium-term reform roadmap for the sector. "It's very similar to the roadmap for

[State-owned national electricity utility] Eskom," he noted. "We're not really privatizing. We're asking for greater private sector involvement in the rail sector." Short- to medium-term interventions for rail

included improving operational performance, establishing a transport economic regulator, and ensuring the stability of the network. Regarding the improvement of operational performance, this included combatting theft and vandalism, and creating a “level playing field” for all participants (which would include separating infrastructure from operations).

The situation of the country's railways was very serious, he pointed out. It could only be addressed on a “corridor by corridor” basis. (Major South African export commodities, such as iron-ore and coal, were concentrated in different parts of the country and transported to different ports along separate railway lines). These “corridors” were the coal corridor, the iron-ore corridor, the container corridor and “other corridors”.

“Private investment should be facilitated, but access to private infrastructure may then be required,” he said.

“No free lunch, right?”



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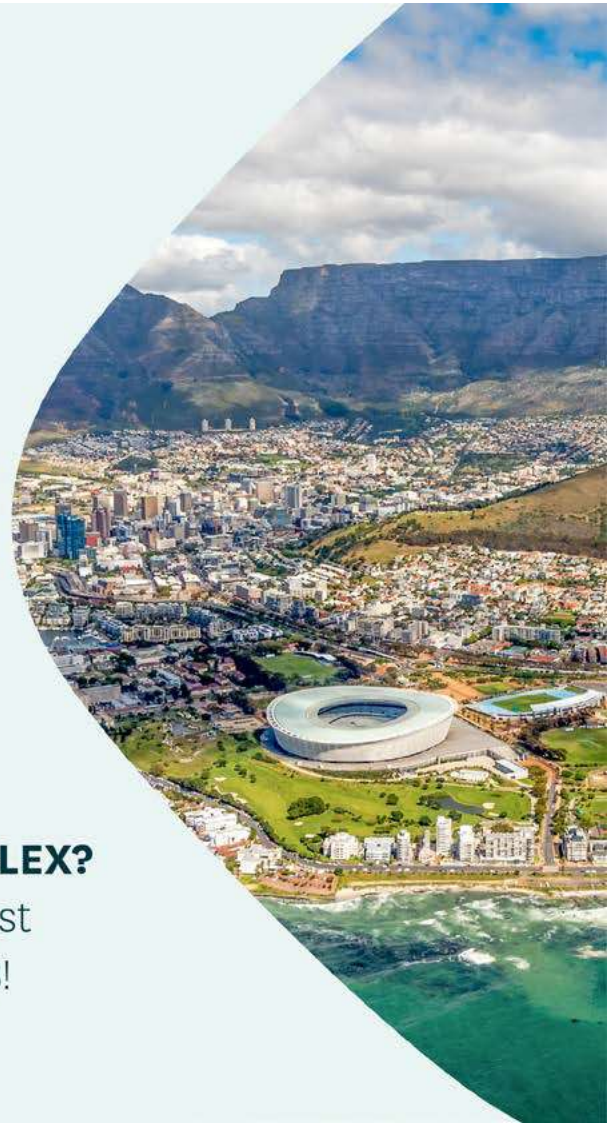
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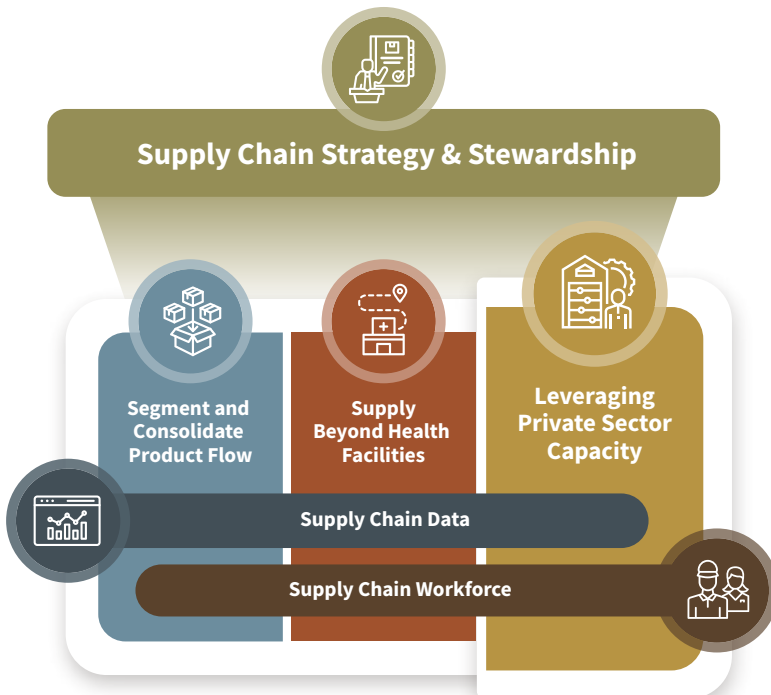
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WOMEN IN SUPPLY CHAIN LEADERSHIP

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



The “*Women in Supply Chain Leadership*” panel discussion at the 2023 SAPICS Conference was rated by delegates as one of the most popular sessions this year.

Our panellists were MJ Schoemaker, SAPICS president and director of ProscE2E; Kirsten Nel, Janssen head of sales at Johnson & Johnson South Africa; Azuka Okeke, CEO of Africa Resource Centre for Excellence in Nigeria; Lebo Letsoalo, supply chain coach, CEO of Sinpoint and founder of AWISCA (African Women in Supply Chain Association); and Lisa Veneziano, who is chairperson of the ASCM in the USA.

Dr Pretty Mubaiwa moderated this compelling discussion which explored the under representation of women in leadership roles in global health and supply chain management, examined gender trends, and offered practical solutions to improve gender equity in the supply chain workforce.



The feedback from delegates after the discussion included:

“It was incredibly inspiring and exciting.”

“Phenomenal!”

“A great and inspiring session - thank you!”



THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING AND BEING MENTORED



[Listen to the podcast now](#)



We were delighted to have Scott Luton, the founder and CEO of Supply Chain Now (SCN) at the 2023 SAPICS Conference. SCN is an award-winning global digital content platform. The Supply Chain Now podcast has hit podcast leadership charts in over 60 countries.

Scott Luton was a guest interviewer this year. He took to the SAPICS stage to chat to **Stela Jaqueta** and **Karen Pretorius** about the importance of mentoring and being mentored as part of one's personal development.

Mozambique based Stela is an up and coming young podcaster. She founded **Your African Supply Chain Podcast**. Karen is a supply chain consultant, the founder of **KPI Cubed Supply Chain Consulting and Training**, and a SAPICS director. As a mentor, she shared Stela's journey and helped to guide and support her as she launched her podcast and discovered her passion.



Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used successfully in a range of practical applications in the supply chain. These include demand forecasting, risk, inventory and quality management, and transport and distribution optimisation. It is making roads safer. In healthcare, it is enhancing the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and helping to ensure that lifesaving medicines are available where and when they are needed. AI will not replace people, but some people will be replaced by people using AI.

These were some of the key messages delivered at the 2023 SAPICS Conference by experts who shared their insights in a compelling panel discussion on the practical use of AI in supply chains.

AI IS IMPROVING SUPPLY CHAINS BUT HUMAN SKILLS ARE STILL CRITICAL

By focusing demand based on many inputs, AI is enabling better informed decisions about pricing, and shaping how organisations respond to their competitors in the marketplace. Using AI to have near real-time decisions, supply chain managers can optimise supply chains, ensuring better product availability, lower costs and lower inventory.

The "coolest" AI applications, according to the panellists, include tracking and improving driver behaviour in real time to make roads safer, and enhancing medical diagnoses and treatments by optimising medical coding. Panellist Farayi Kambarami, who is the head of Central Planning and Data at Woolworths, cautioned, however, that large language models, like ChatGPT, have a problem with hallucination.



Dr Iain Barton, the founder of Health 4 Development South Africa, Janet Sawari, founder of TAIR Labs, Kosta Kontos, founder and managing director of Kontos Databases, Retief Gerber, CEO and co-founder at Spatialedge, Farayi Kambarami, head of Central Planning and Data at Woolworths, and Cobus Rossouw, head of Road Freight Systems globally and technology business partner for sub-Saharan Africa at DP World, discussed AI's applications and benefits.

The AI chatbot has fabricated information entirely, including fake court cases that are the subject of one high profile legal wrangle. He advised SAPICS delegates not to use ChatGPT for anything related to facts.

Panellist Janet Sawari, founder of AI research and innovation lab, TAIR Labs, said she was excited about computer vision models being used to improve driver behaviour in real time. "These tools give us the ability to track if someone has road rage, if they're speeding, if they're falling asleep, or if they are fatigued. The vehicle could be sent a signal or even stopped. That's something I think is really interesting and is highly scalable and practical for the supply chain and logistics space."

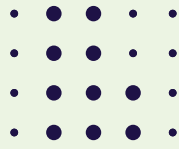
Kosta Kontos, the founder and managing director of Kontos Databases, told SAPICS delegates how AI is being used to capture vast numbers of ICD-10 codes, along with the diagnoses and treatments used. This data is being shared by specialists around the world.

“ We are now seeing machine learning being used on data at scale to link ICD-10 codes with medicines and mortality to get a sense of what's actually working and what isn't. That is incredible. ”

"I think that one of the exciting applications of AI is the use of automated robots that are autonomous and intelligent for picking in warehouses. This is improving pick accuracy in the distribution centres," said Kambarami. He noted that there is a question around whether AI should be used in the same application in countries like South Africa, with its high unemployment rate.

Retief Gerber, the CEO and co-founder of Spatialedge, reported that in a project with the Western Cape Government, AI had reduced road traffic fatalities by 30%. The project was aimed at assisting the traffic department to deploy their resources, including ambulances. AI was used to predict where accidents were going to happen.

While the panellists agreed that AI has the potential to enhance supply chains and other business areas, they stressed that organisations should not get distracted by the hype around AI. Businesses need a clear plan of what they want to do with the technology, what problems they want to solve, what they should be automating and modelling, they stressed. Good quality data, not AI, is the differentiator that will give organisations a competitive advantage. While AI models will propose decisions, humans will still make the call on these, and the skillset of the organisation is critical. AI is a promising new technology, but it is not taking over all processes and all decision making, they said. "We are nowhere near the singularity or Terminator's Skynet," concluded Gerber.



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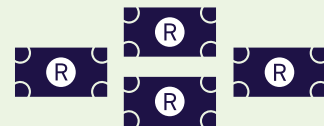


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FEELING THE HEAT: SUPPLY CHAINS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The critical and complex interconnectedness of climate change and supply chains – particularly healthcare supply chains – was in the spotlight at the 2023 SAPICS Conference.

Rising temperatures, more extreme weather, rising sea levels and increases in carbon dioxide levels are all affecting human health and therefore impacting healthcare supply chains, explained Edward Wilson, director of health logistics at JSI and PFSCM (Partnership for Supply Chain Management). “The shifting disease burdens caused by climate change are altering the supply and demand dynamics in healthcare supply chains, while climate-related disasters disrupt supply chains. At the same time, healthcare’s climate footprint is 4.4% of global net greenhouse gas emissions.

This means that if the health sector were a country, it would be the fifth-largest emitter in the world,” he stated.

Wilson told SAPICS Conference delegates that 71% of the emissions from healthcare are linked to the supply chain, including the



Supply chains and climate change are inextricably linked. Supply chains – including those needed to distribute lifesaving medicines – are being disrupted by extreme, unpredictable weather conditions associated with climate change. Events linked to climate change not only disrupt healthcare supply chains but are also triggering diseases and humanitarian crises. While supply chains are threatened by climate change, they are also contributing to it because they produce vast amounts of greenhouse gases and waste.

production, transport and disposal of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. “We who are operating in the health sector need to understand and appreciate that we are also making a contribution to climate change through the work that we're doing and think about how we can mitigate that impact,” he stressed.

To help SAPICS Conference attendees do this, Wilson's co-presenter Deborah Dull shared her insights on what supply chain activities cause emissions. Dull is the vice president and global supply chain sustainability leader at Genpact.

Corporate supply chains and consumers using the commodities that they produce are responsible for some 90% of carbon emissions - known as Scope 3 emissions, she said. Dull used the key supply chain steps to produce tea as an example, outlining the emissions from growing, processing, packaging, distributing and using tea. Growing tea accounts for 15 percent of the carbon emissions; processing tea produces eight percent; packaging results in 18 percent of the emissions; and distributing the tea 13 percent. Using tea produces 46 percent of the emissions.

“The materials in supply chains, the energy and fuel are what is causing the most emissions – usually in that order,”

Dull expanded. She advised SAPICS delegates to consider “finance-grade” climate data for each product line and each product type. “Use this ‘emissions per unit’ similarly to a cost per unit analysis and scenario planning. Apply problem solving approaches to decouple emissions from business growth. Maybe a change in packaging could help reduce transportation requirements and transportation costs; perhaps it could reduce the amount of waste that needs to be processed at the end.

“Compare internal business units to identify risks or hot spots. Look at what your suppliers are doing and figure out how you can work with them,” Dull advised. “Collaboration across the supply chain and working with your upstream and downstream partners will enable you to have a bigger impact. Think about how you can incentivise each other to adopt more carbon-friendly practices. Benchmark across competitors and other industries to find ways to act and reduce emissions.”



Wilson said that increasing supply chain resilience will help to manage the risk of disruptions caused by climate change and reduce supply chains' impact on climate change.

"Supply planning, capacity strengthening, and network design and optimisation must take into account shifting disease burdens, and increasingly frequent and severe climate-related disasters," he told SAPICS Conference delegates.

The strategies recommended by Wilson to build supply chain resilience included vulnerability and risk assessments to reinforce operations before climate emergencies strike; moving production closer to demand and, in the pharmaceutical industry, expanding active ingredient production capabilities and partnering with manufacturers. He also stressed the importance of building circular economy practices throughout the supply chain.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

In addition to learning and networking, the SAPICS Conference organisers and delegates also found time during the conference to give back to those less fortunate.

A "Rise Against Hunger" meal packaging event that was sponsored by Savino del Bene saw delegates don hair nets and gloves to pack meals for disadvantaged communities. A total of 6 000 meals were packaged. Thank you to our sponsor and everyone who took part in this heartwarming event.





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A SNAPSHOT OF SAPICS PRESIDENTS - PAST AND PRESENT

We were honoured to have five of our SAPICS presidents, past and present, together at the 45th Annual SAPICS Conference this year.

Ken Titmuss (1999 & 2000),
Tracy Cheetham (2003 - 2006),
Ken Titmuss (2006 - 2008),
Liezl Smith (2011 - 2013),
Cobus Rossouw (2013 - 2016),
MJ Schoemaker (2021 - current)



Clockwise from left to right: Tracy Cheetham, Liezl Smith, MJ Schoemaker, Ken Titmuss, Cobus Rossouw

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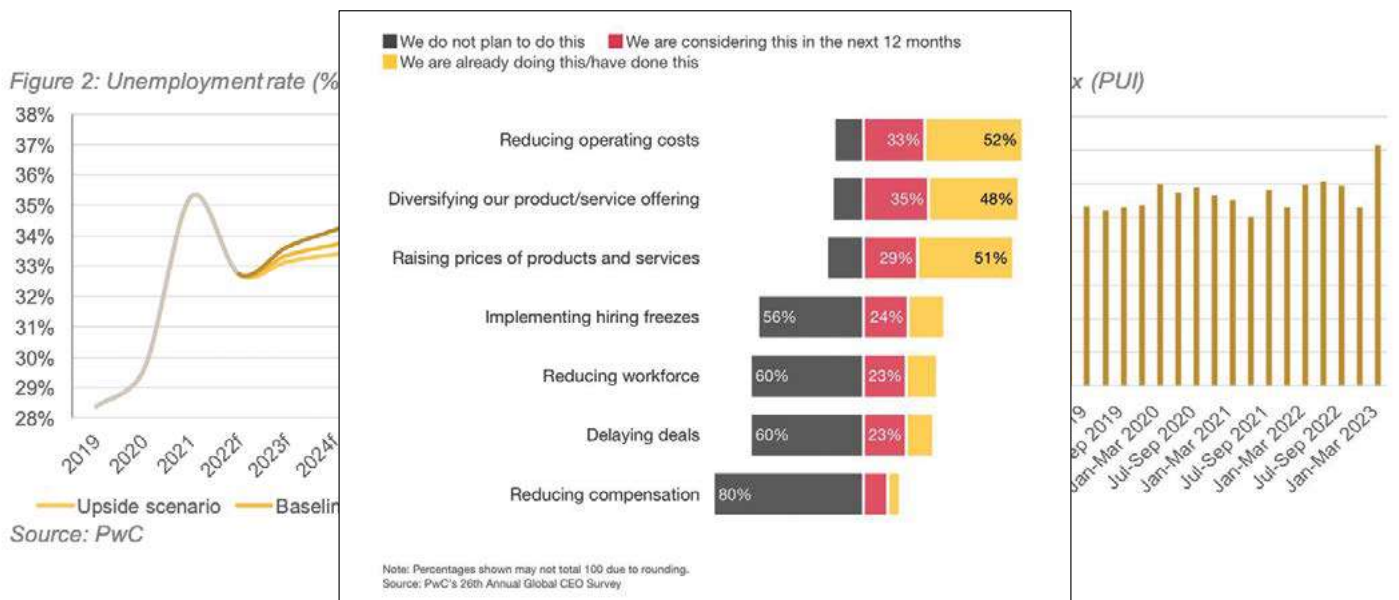
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THE VINEYARD HOTEL, NEWLANDS, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

SAPICS and ASCM hosted an Executive Summit on the 9th June as part of the build up to the 45th Annual Conference. Further discussions took place in an interactive discussion at the SAPICS Conference.

Herewith some take out elements from that discussion:

Strategy in Turbulent Times: South African Context



SAPICS Executive Summit - Summary

	Talent and Workforce	Supply Chain Risk and Resilience	Sustainability
Key Gaps Identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues caused by high degree of unskilled labour Issues caused by high degree of unemployed skilled labour (youth) Lack of required entrepreneurial skills 	<p>Why is South Africa not an industrial and manufacturing powerhouse?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Politics Education Regulatory <p>Lack of Focus on key products and activities within businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Sustainability education Ethical issues around corruption Identification of key products / materials with negative environmental impacts Infrastructure and regulatory issues preventing further greening of the supply chain
Proposed Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on upskilling the "skilled" labour for EQ and soft skills Focus on exposure to supply chain management industry Increase entry level competencies for unskilled labour force With digitization, refocus of skills to prepare for different work requirements Retraining and Cross-Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalization of products and activities within businesses More frequent Additional metrics may be needed – e.g. Frequency of Orders placed.. Given high rate of change Challenge previously 'static' aspects of the supply chain – E.g. MOQ, Lead times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Life Cycle Management – Engrain as a way of life Incorporate overarching sustainability strategy vs isolated initiatives Supplier prequalification on sustainability aspects Improvement opportunities in infrastructure and regulatory environment



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LOOKING BACK

ON THE 45th ANNUAL SAPICS CONFERENCE

MJ Schoemaker, President of the SAPICS Board

As I reflect on the 45th SAPICS conference held at Century City in Cape Town, I am inspired by the energy of the community which is taking huge strides to move the dial in a turbulent environment. SAPICS strives to **ELEVATE, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER** supply chain professionals and this conference was a powerful platform to do this. Supply Chain professionals were celebrated across various streams.

The collaboration with SAAFF (South African Association of Freight Forwarders) and the insights they contributed to allowed for transparency across the progress being made to improve key corridors that drives the economy of South Africa. It was exciting to see the work being done between the private sector and government to ensure skilled resources are being made available to uplift our transportation networks across the country. The African Continental Free Trade Area was also a key element to allow for understanding of the implications and opportunities.



SUSTAINABILITY was a key theme and the challenges around implementation as well as balancing profit over being green was discussed in depth

The Executive Summit and workshop around **STRATEGY IN TIMES OF DISRUPTION** was highly successful and resulted in a list of tools across risk, workforce and sustainability. The Africa Café consolidated the importance of managing strategy during times of disruption by sharing the insights of the summit.

The **HEALTHCARE** stream was filled with innovation and sharing of learnings from across the globe. The partnership with the private sector and the use of digital capabilities is bringing the medicine and care closer to the patients to save lives.

WOMENS' LEADERSHIP was a key area and we are honoured to have had such great women who are working in supply chain management around the world, sharing insights and advice on diversity and inclusion. Unconscious Bias across gender was a key point and the message was to increase awareness

The **ROLE OF AI** was a common thread and there was crucial information shared on how to make use of and manage the data. It was exciting to have a **FINANCE, INSURANCE AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT** stream which is often underestimated.

The **RISE AGAINST HUNGER** food packaging event was highly successful with many of the attendees being able to contribute towards a good cause.

The sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, workshops and site visits allowed for a wealth of learning, networking and insights.



We are looking forward to the 46th SAPICS Conference in 2024!

SAVE THE DATE **9-12 JUNE 2024**

Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town

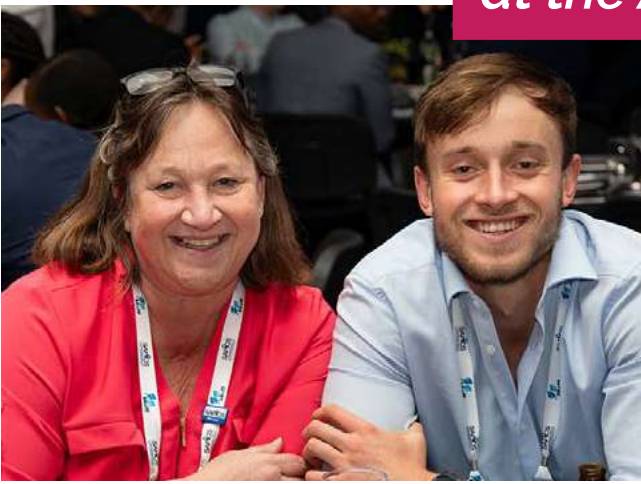
For more information and bookings contact: info@upavon.co.za





SEEN AND HEARD

at the Annual SAPICS Conference



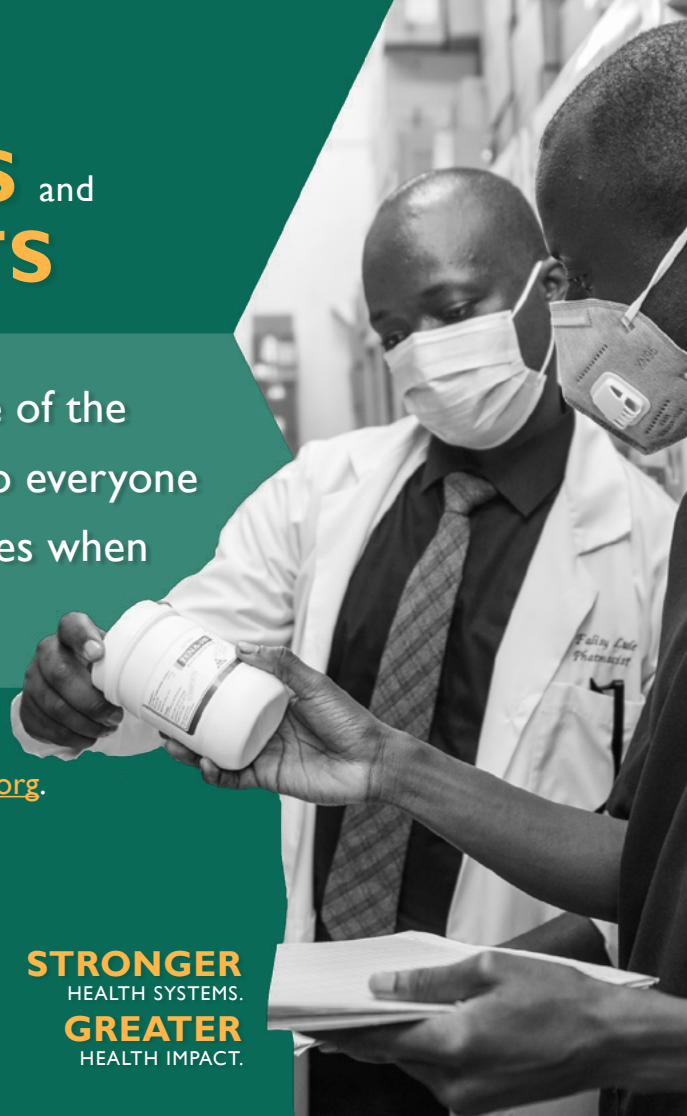
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