Fostering Cleantech Innovation Ecosystems: GCIP in South Africa

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Focus of discussion

- Background
- National Drivers
- Importance of an Innovation Ecosystem
- Successful Approach of GCIP
COP17 - Durban
- The SA Cleantech competition in 2011 had great success
- Challenges identified:
  - Regulatory environment and institutional capacity
  - Limited access to finance
  - Shortage of entrepreneurial skills
  - Limited R&D support
  - Lack of public awareness
- The programme has been running for 2 years
  - Working with emerging cleantech startups
  - In support of governments efforts to support a transition to a Green Economy
  - In SA – 180 applications received since inception with 52 enterprises progressing through the programme
National Drivers
This has translated into stronger institutions and mechanisms that:

• Encourage investment in green technology innovation across the various stages of development, from R&D to commercialisation.
• Provide financial instruments.
• Provide greater business support to emerging and established green enterprises.
• Build skills and capacity to foster innovation and facilitate a greater uptake of green technologies.
Technology Categories

The categories highlight the Green economy focus areas:

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Waste Beneficiation
- Water Efficiency
- Green Buildings
BUILDING AN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM

Cleantech Open
Participants & Alumni
Volunteers
Judges & Mentors

Government
Venture Capital
Institutes & National Labs
Foundations
Service Providers
Universities
Private Sector
Utilities
**Approach & Benefits**

- **Training**
  - National Academies, National Webinars and Regional Training
  - Mock Judging

- **Mentoring**
  - Local and international mentors (generalists and specialists)

- **Access to Capital**
  - Relationship with Strategic Investors

- **Showcasing**
  - National Gala Event & Global Forum in Silicon Valley
  - Press exposure

- **Cash Award**
  - National Winner, Two Runners –up and best Woman-Led business & Youth
Thank You

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