

NHN The National HLT Network

The National Human Language Technology Network (NHN) is a collaborative effort which aims to strengthen synergies between HLT researchers and practitioners in South Africa. Currently, the members of the NHN are most of the major South African tertiary institutions and research councils who are actively involved in HLT R&D activities.

The National HLT Network is planning an HLT Day for 2010, where we all will have the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest regarding HLT and showcase some of our projects, ideas, products, etc. Above all, we will all get the opportunity to get to know each other better and find ways to strengthen HLT in South Africa!

Event details

Date	27 January 2010
Place	CSIR Convention Centre, Pretoria
Time	08:00-17:00
Cost	There will be no registration fee, and all refreshments and a lunch will be included!

Preliminary programme

7.45-8.30 – Arrival, registration, tea, coffee

8:30-9.00 – Welcome, keynote address

9.00-10.00 – The NHN 2009 HLT audit

10:00-10:30 – Tea break (Peruse the exhibition space while enjoying a snack)

10:30-12:00 – Speed-paper sessions (4 slides and 4 minutes per speaker + poster of slides in exhibition area – see call for abstracts below)

12.00-12.30 – The Future of NHN

12:30 – 13:30 – LUNCH (Time to mingle, make new friends, browse exhibition area)

13:30- 15:00 – Speed-paper sessions (4 slides and 4 minutes per speaker + poster of slides in exhibition area – see call for abstracts below)

15:00-15:30 – Tea break

15.30-16.30 – Demo session (10 minute demo's of products/prototypes – see call for abstracts below)

16.30-16.45 – Closure

Exhibition space

There will be an exhibition area where organisations, companies, products, projects, etc. can be exhibited. Please indicate on the reply form if you would like to be allocated a space in this area. Power points, lighting and poster boards will be available for each "stand". Please ensure that you bring your own extension cables and adapters, e.g. for two-pin to three-pin plugs.

Travel and accommodation

In order to encourage as many interested people as possible to attend (especially students), limited subsidies for travelling expenses will be available (based on distance from Pretoria, number of participants, etc.). Please note that because of limited funding available, we will not be able to cover all travelling costs of all participants.

Delegates will be responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A list of suitable accommodation in the vicinity of the CSIR is available on request, as is a list of shuttle services to and from the airport.

Please give a preliminary indication on the reply form if you need a travel subsidy, and provide the required details.

Procedures

Complete the attached reply form (one per delegate) and submit to Debbie Sandilands-Thomson at nhn.events@gmail.com.

Deadlines (no late requests can be considered)

Registration	31 October 2009
Indication of need for travel subsidies	31 October 2009
Closing date for abstracts	16 November 2009
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	11 December 2009

Contact persons

Debbie Sandilands-Thomson (Event coordinator)	nhn.events@gmail.com
Aditi Sharma (NHN coordinator)	asharma1@csir.co.za
Karen Calteaux (HLT Research Group, CSIR)	kcalteaux@csir.co.za

Call for sponsorships

National Human Language Technology Network (NHN) Day 2010

Sponsorships are requested to enable the organisers of the event to provide travel subsidies to delegates (especially students) who wish to attend the event.

Sponsors will be given prominent spaces in the exhibition area to promote their organisations/institutions/companies. Your logo will also be included in an event booklet containing the abstracts of all the presentations to be made on the day. Your company's promotional material (brochures, etc.) can also be included as part of the conference pack. Further requirements can be negotiated.

Should you wish to provide a sponsorship for the event, please contact Karen Calteaux at kcalteaux@csir.co.za.

Call for abstracts

National Human Language Technology Network (NHN) Day 2010

You are invited to submit 250 word abstracts for the following sessions:

(1) Speed-paper session

- 4 slides and 4 minutes per speaker + poster of slides (A2 size) in exhibition area.

Sessions:

1. Projects (past, current, future)
2. Technologies
3. Resources
4. Interesting findings
5. Whacky ideas
6. Government initiatives

No limit on the number of papers per person or institute.

(2) Demo session

- 10 minute demo's of products/prototypes + poster of slides (A2 size) in exhibition area. Please provide own equipment.

Please send abstracts to Aditi Sharma at nhn.events@gmail.com. There will only be a light reviewing process, in order to ensure quality and relevance. Abstracts will be printed in an event booklet, but the proceedings of the event will not be published.

Closing date for abstracts
Notification of acceptance

16 November 2009
11 December 2009

Registering as an NHN member

The NHN is an informal, virtual network of all people involved in HLT in South Africa. Over the past three years, the NHN has been sponsored by DST. Membership is free, and benefits include access to the NHN mailing list, invitations to special occasions, updates on HLT-related activities in South Africa, for example, the NHN 2009 HLT Audit, etc.

The following organisations are currently listed as members of the NHN (<http://www.meraka.org.za/nhn/contact-list-1>):

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- North-West University
- University of Limpopo
- University of South Africa
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of the Witwatersrand

If you received this email as an ordinary "To" recipient, it means that you are registered on the NHN mailing list. If you received this email as a "BC" recipient, it means that you are not currently subscribed to the mailing list.

If you and/or your institution/company are interested in joining the NHN, please send your contact details to Aditi Sharma at asharma1@csir.co.za.

We would really like to encourage you to become a member of the HLT Network, in order for us to build a strong HLT community. Please also feel free to send this invitation to other people who might be interested in joining the Network.

NHN The National HLT Network

Reply form – NHN Day 2010

Note: Please complete one form per person, even if there is more than one person travelling from your institution.

Name			
Work tel no.			
Cell no			
Email address			
Details of institution to which you are affiliated			
Position at this institution			
Travel subsidy required	Yes	No	
Travelling from (city)			
No of people travelling from same institution (for purposes of travel subsidy)			
Submitting an abstract?	Speed-session + poster	Yes	No
	Demo	Yes	No
Exhibition space required?	Yes	No	
Please specify your requirements relating to your exhibition space	e.g. power point, table, lighting, etc.		
Special Dietary requirements?	Please specify:		

Please email the completed form to nhn.events@gmail.com for the attention of Debbie Sandilands-Thomson, or fax it to 012 841 4720, **before 31 October 2009**.

Important safety information

Please note that the CSIR will not be held liable for any loss of or damage to equipment brought onto CSIR premises. Please ensure that you take the necessary safety precautions to prevent any loss of or damage to equipment used in the exhibition area. It is recommended that you bring along a Kensington lock to safeguard your equipment and/or ensure that the exhibition stand is manned at all times.