

Local Rural Development Service Provider invited to Participate in Clinton Global Initiative

The Directors of Scientific Roets, Mr Adriaan Roets and Dr Merida Roets, have recently returned from the exciting Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting held in New York, USA, following a personal invitation from Former President Bill Clinton to Dr Roets to share their experiences in the field of Entrepreneurial Development in Developing Countries. The CGI was created by President Clinton in 2005 as a platform for government, the private sector, philanthropists and NGO's to network and share experiences in the field of international development.

This year the themes of the meeting included Health, Poverty Alleviation, Education and Climate Change. During this meeting, and in the period following each meeting, the participants are challenged to commit their time, resources and experience to these global challenges.

The meeting proved an incredibly exciting and stimulating event. The Roet's were privileged to see, hear and interact with some of the most influential people in the world including: President Clinton, Former President George Bush Snr, Bill Gates, Former Vice-President Al Gore, Bono, Drew Barrymore, Wyclef, Matt Damon, Mayor Bloomberg of New York, Shammon Perez, Lance Armstrong, Presidential Candidate Mc Cann amongst others. The participants are limited to 1000 candidates annually and Dr Roets was one of approximately 24 panelists invited to share their experiences with the delegates. The webcasts of the 2008 event (as well as the webcasts of previous years) can be viewed at www.clintonglobalinitiative.com.

Scientific Roets presented a "wish list" of Kokstad projects (ranging from entrepreneurial training, small business infrastructure, a community park and start-up capital for new entrepreneurs) to potential donors and philanthropists during the CGI Exchange and discussed these in more depth during private meetings at several of the social functions during the event and have been invited to submit proposals to several of these. The creative and inspiring work of other participants at the CGI have left the Directors of Scientific Roets with much more fodder for ideas for the Kokstad environment.

Aside from the information obtained and the networking opportunities, Scientific Roets is pleased to announce that funding of \$ 50 000 (approximately R 500 000) was pledged by philanthropists Barry and Dolly Segal of the Segal Family Foundation (<http://segalfamilyfoundation.org> or <http://segalfamilyfoundation.org/Projects/scientific-roets.asp>) for the training of entrepreneurs for an NQF 4: New Venture Creation Qualification during 2009 and 2010. This training will take place in collaboration with the Kokstad Chamber of Commerce in a bid to foster closer co-operation between start-up entrepreneurs and experienced business owners as part of a structured mentorship programme.