Dear Colleagues,

The 2016 PRASA-RobMech International Conference will be held from 30 November - 2 December in Stellenbosch. This is a call for participation in a pre-conference workshop entitled "HLT in South Africa: State of the community". The aim of the workshop is to bring together South African researchers and developers of HLT applications and resources to present, demonstrate and discuss both their previous and current projects, as well as projecting what they foresee their focus will be in the next three to five years. There will be an opportunity for researchers to demonstrate their technologies to workshop participants. The workshop will also include an open forum for the discussion of possible cooperative and coordinated development efforts with topics including, but not limited to:

* "grand challenges" for HLT in the South African context;
* challenges of developing HLT for resource-scarce languages;
* data, tools and applications for HLT development;
* language technology integration;
* evaluation of HLT with limited data;
* funding opportunities for the development of language resources and technologies.

The workshop will be held at Stellenbosch University on 30 November from 13:00 - 17:00. All interested parties are hereby invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract for presentation at the workshop. Workshop presentations will be in the form of a 5 minute presentation and 5 minute discussion session and/or a demonstration. No workshop proceedings will be published.

Abstracts should be emailed to: [**Roald.Eiselen@nwu.ac.za**](mailto:Roald.Eiselen@nwu.ac.za) before end-of-business on Wednesday, 3 November 2016. Please indicate whether the submission is for presentation and/or demonstration. Notification of acceptance will follow on 11 November 2016.

Details on the venue will be communicated to all participants closer to the time.

**Invited Speaker**: Prof. Justus Roux (NWU): Introducing the South African Centre for Digital Language Resource

In October this year the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, launched a road map for South Africa's Research Infrastructure (SARIR) at the International Conference on Research Infrastructures that was held in Cape Town. One of the facilities that will receive funding through SARIR is a national centre for digital language resources. The workshop will include an invited talk on the newly established South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR), a national infrastructure for the development and distribution of resources for the South African languages. <http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=156429>

Important Dates:

3 November: Abstracts due

11 November: Notification of acceptance

30 November: HLT in South Africa: State of the community Workshop

Contact details: **Roald.Eiselen@nwu.ac.za**

Kind Regards,

Organising Committee

Roald Eiselen

Febe de Wet

Daniel van Niekerk