

BRICS in Africa. Promoting Development?

Book Launch at Exclusive Books, V&A Waterfront

Date: October 11, 2023

Event Overview

An enlightening book launch was held at Exclusive Books in the V&A Waterfront, featuring a distinguished panel including the book's co-editors Krish Chetty, Dr. Yul Derek Davids, and contributing author Dr. Jaya Josie. The event centred around their new book, which delves into the intricate dynamics of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) nations and their influence on African development.

Participants

- **Krish Chetty:** A Research Manager from the HSRC, specialising in technology and previously involved in the BRICS Research Centre.
- **Dr Yul Derek Davids:** A Research Director from the Human Sciences Research Council, with expertise in Democracy and Governance.
- **Dr Jaya Josie:** Former head of the BRICS Research Centre at the HSRC, now retired but involved in academia and research.

Thematic Areas Covered:

Governance Post-COVID: Ethical governance, anti-corruption.

- **Role of Multilateral Development Banks:** Infrastructure development, role of the BRICS New Development Bank.
- **BRICS and Technology in Africa:** Renewable energy, fintech, technology, and social cohesion.
- **Economic and Developmental Disparities:** Regional alignment, entrepreneurship, infrastructure for peace and security.
- **BRICS in the Health Industry:** Vaccine development, telemedicine.
- **Economic Disparities and Structural Transformation:** Emphasis on inclusive policies, bridging urban-rural gaps, and the role of informal sectors.
- **New Development Bank's Role:** Critical in development finance, especially in renewable energy and infrastructure.
- **Technology and ICT:** Financing of renewable energy, fintech solutions, and the impact of technology on social cohesion.
- **Global Governance and Multilateralism:** BRICS nations' role in global governance reform and promotion of multilateralism.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Implementation issues within South Africa, skill gaps, and the potential for enhanced BRICS cooperation.

Value of the Book

The book represents a comprehensive exploration of the roles and impacts of BRICS nations in shaping African development. It offers:

- **Insightful Analyses:** Provides in-depth understanding of economic, technological, and governance issues within the BRICS context.

- **Policy Recommendations:** Suggests strategies for improving governance, technological advancement, and economic development.

Summary of the Discussion

The book launch held at Exclusive Books in the V&A Waterfront on October 12, 2023, was a significant event that brought together a panel of authors and experts in the field of BRICS nations and their impact on African development. The event was an engaging and enlightening discussion that delved deeply into the themes and insights presented in the book.

The book's genesis was rooted in the BRICS and African Development Conference held at Nelson Mandela University in 2018, focusing on putting Africa's development agenda in the spotlight. This conference was the catalyst for the book, which took five years to come to fruition and incorporates a range of perspectives on the role of BRICS in Africa's development. The panellists discussed the book's thematic areas, which included governance in a post-COVID world, the role of multilateral development banks like the BRICS New Development Bank in infrastructure development, and the interplay between BRICS, technology, and Africa. Other themes such as economic and developmental disparities within BRICS and Africa, as well as the impact of BRICS in the health industry, were also explored.

A significant part of the discussion revolved around the challenges and opportunities presented by the BRICS nations in their relations with Africa. Economic disparities, structural transformation, and the need for inclusive policies were emphasized. The book underscores the importance of the New Development Bank's role in development finance, particularly in renewable energy and infrastructure. It also highlights the critical role of technology and ICT, discussing the financing of renewable energy, fintech solutions, and the relationship between technological advancement and social cohesion.

Global governance and multilateralism were key topics, with the book arguing for BRICS nations to take a leading role in reforming global governance structures. The book promotes the idea of global solidarity through multilateralism and global development to overcome regional conflicts. The discussion also touched upon internal challenges such as implementation issues within South Africa, the lack of skills and capacity, and the potential for improved trade and cooperation among BRICS nations.

Conclusion

The book launch offered valuable insights into the complex interplay between BRICS nations and African development. It stands as a significant contribution to understanding and navigating the challenges and opportunities in this dynamic geopolitical landscape.

YouTube Link:

https://youtu.be/7RxKCO_fWek?si=T5pPGWKj0PAnhQMB

Pictures







