A Knowledge Sharing Strategy For South African And Chinese Incubators And Businesses:

A Framework For Enhancing Entrepreneurial Capabilities

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Presentation to the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center

Strengths of South African Incubators

Geographic diversity and reach

Government support and funding

Strong entrepreneurial spirit

Potential for international collaboration

Challenges Facing South African Incubators

FRAGMENTED ECOSYSTEM

INADEQUATE FUNDING

SKILLS GAP IN THE INCUBATION SECTOR

SHORT-TERM FOCUS VS. LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Mutual Interest in Collaboration

South African Interest in China:

- Access to advanced technologies and expertise
- Infrastructure development opportunities
- Vast Chinese market access

Chinese Interest in South Africa:

- Strategic gateway to Africa
- Rich natural resources
- Growing consumer market
- Complementary strengths

Barriers to Knowledge Exchange

Language and cultural differences

Trust and transparency issues

Asymmetrical resources and capabilities

Regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles

Lack of awareness and understanding

Value of Physical Proximity

Importance of face-to-face interactions (Guanxi)

Immersive market understanding

Demonstration of commitment

Facilitation of effective communication

Developing SA Incubator Capabilities

Establish a South African Incubator Association

Create a unified data platform

Develop sector-specific expertise, aligned to China

Prioritize capacity building and skill development

Lessons from China's Innovation System

Strong central coordination and investment

Integration of academia, research, and industry

Focus on high-growth sectors

Emphasis on talent development

Establishing Mutually Beneficial Partnerships

Prioritize	Prioritize relationship building (Guanxi)
Secure	Secure high-level government support
Focus on	Focus on sector-specific partnerships
Address	Address cultural and linguistic differences
Foster	Foster long-term relationships

A BRICS PUBLIC AI STRATEGY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION
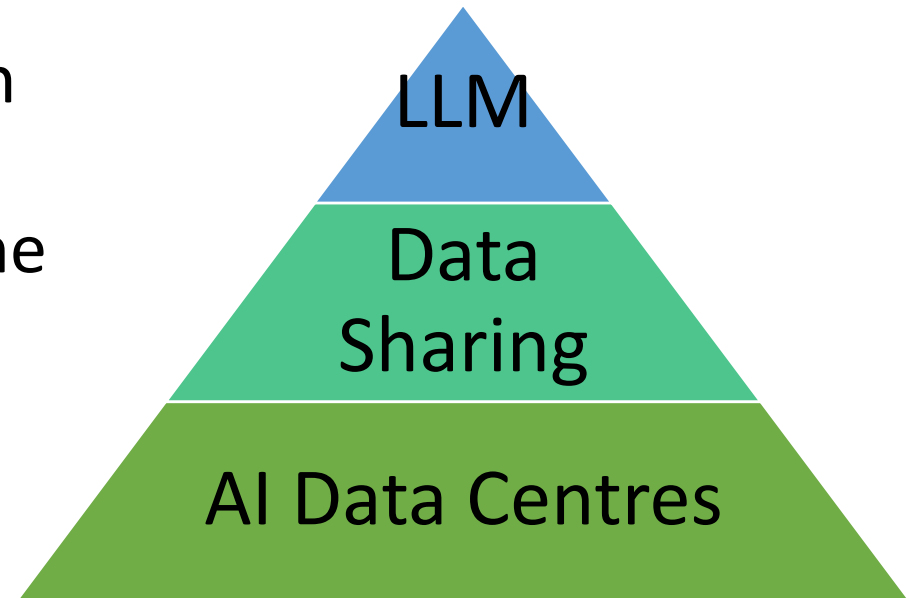
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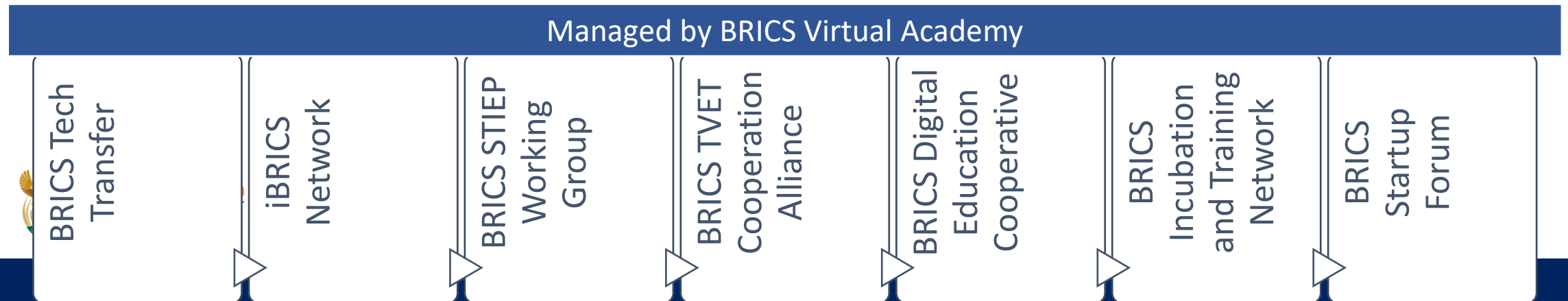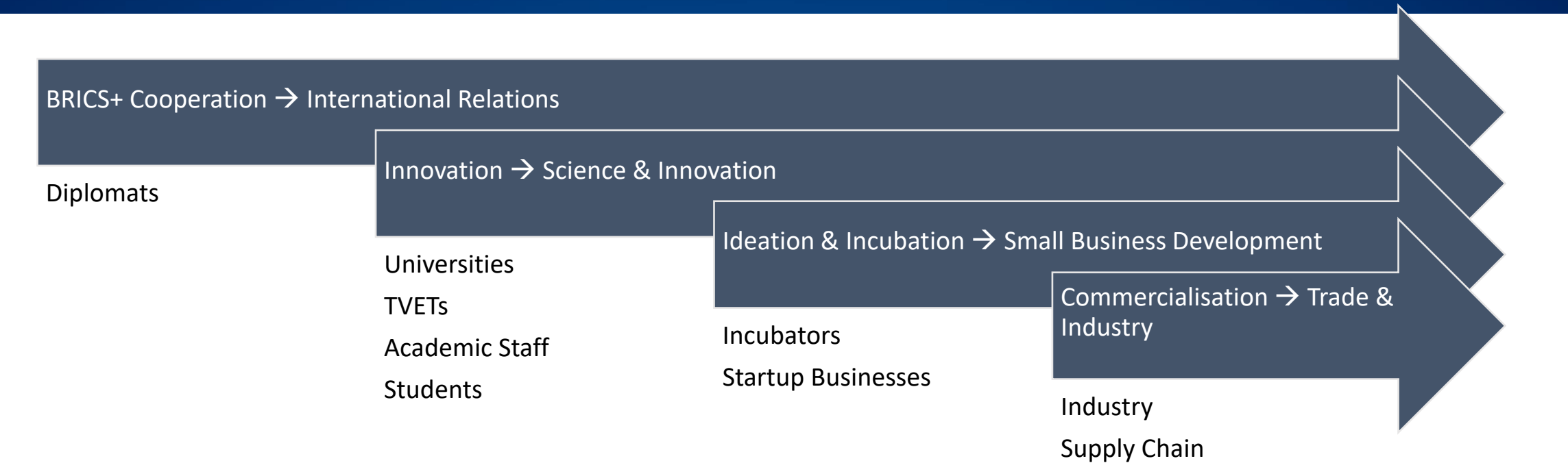
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Recommendation

- Establish a public BRICS AI Strategy focused on Scientific and Educational Cooperation
- Infrastructure to connect all stakeholders in the Innovation Pipeline
  - AI Data Centres,
  - Data Sharing Platform
  - BRICS Innovation Large Language Model (LLM)
- **Initiated and Led by the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre**
- Shared by the BRICS Virtual Academy

AI Strategy Connecting Stakeholders across the Innovation Pipeline

BRICS+ Cooperation → International Relations

Diplomats

Innovation → Science & Innovation

Universities

TVETs

Academic Staff

Students

Ideation & Incubation → Small Business Development

Incubators

Startup Businesses

Commercialisation → Trade & Industry

Industry

Supply Chain

Managed by BRICS Virtual Academy

| BRICS Tech Transfer | iBRICS Network | BRICS STIEP Working Group | BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance | BRICS Digital Education Cooperative | BRICS Incubation and Training Network | BRICS Startup Forum |

Opportunities

Science Cooperation

- Large Language Models are the most effective method to exchange knowledge
- Chinese National System of Innovation highlights how data sharing accelerates cooperation and innovative solutions
- India Stack demonstrates Open Source opportunities for Public Digital Infrastructure
- Untapped resource in academic research

science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HSRC
Human Sciences
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Shared Public BRICS AI Data Centres

Public Data Centre populated with BRICS data, accessed by Innovators

Will accelerate Innovation

Pool Resources and Intellectual Property

Maintain control of economic driver

Informed by *Chetty, Gopal, Yarygina, Kripalani, Yudina, Josie, Anandaram and Wen (2024)*

BRICS Data Sharing Platform

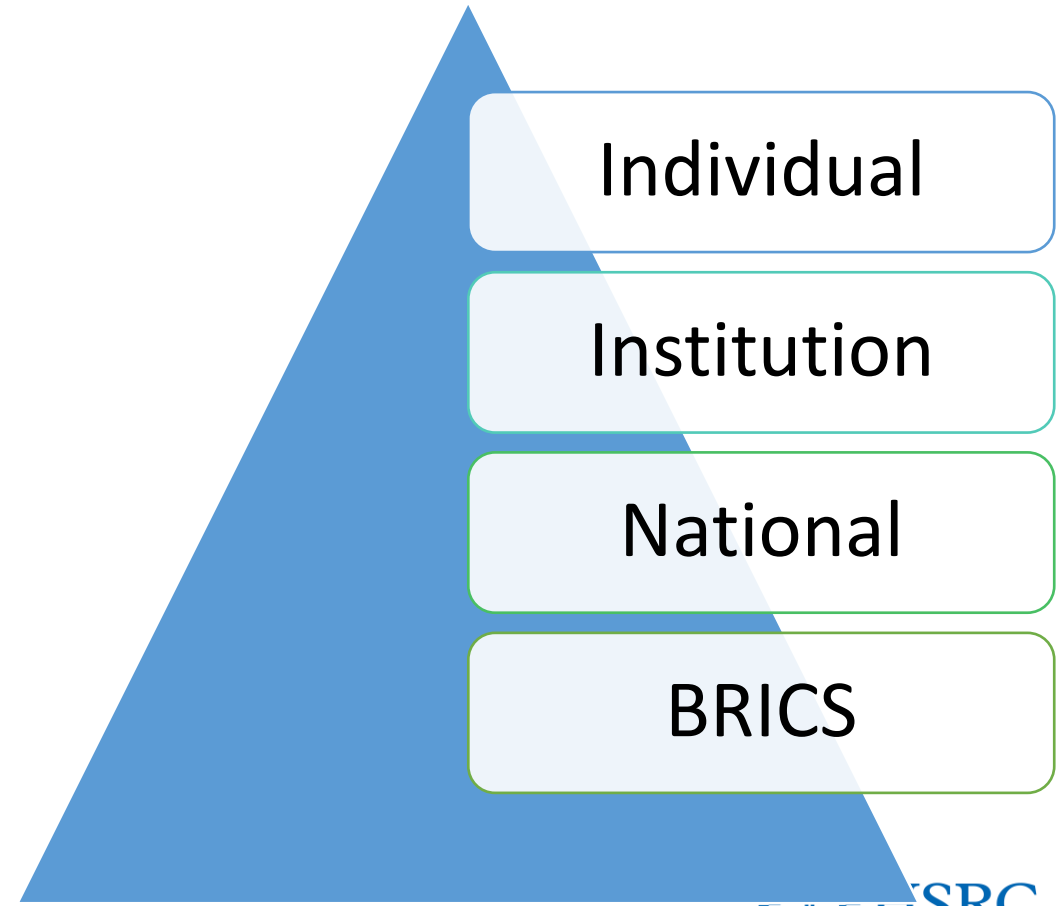Adopt Best Practices from the Chinese National Data Administration agency

Data drives science discovery and innovation

"Opt In Model" – Give Innovators control of their data

Allow all stakeholders in the innovation pipeline to connect and opt in to sharing data

Data siloes inhibit cooperation and innovation

Data platforms can bridge academia and industry

Individual

Institution

National

BRICS

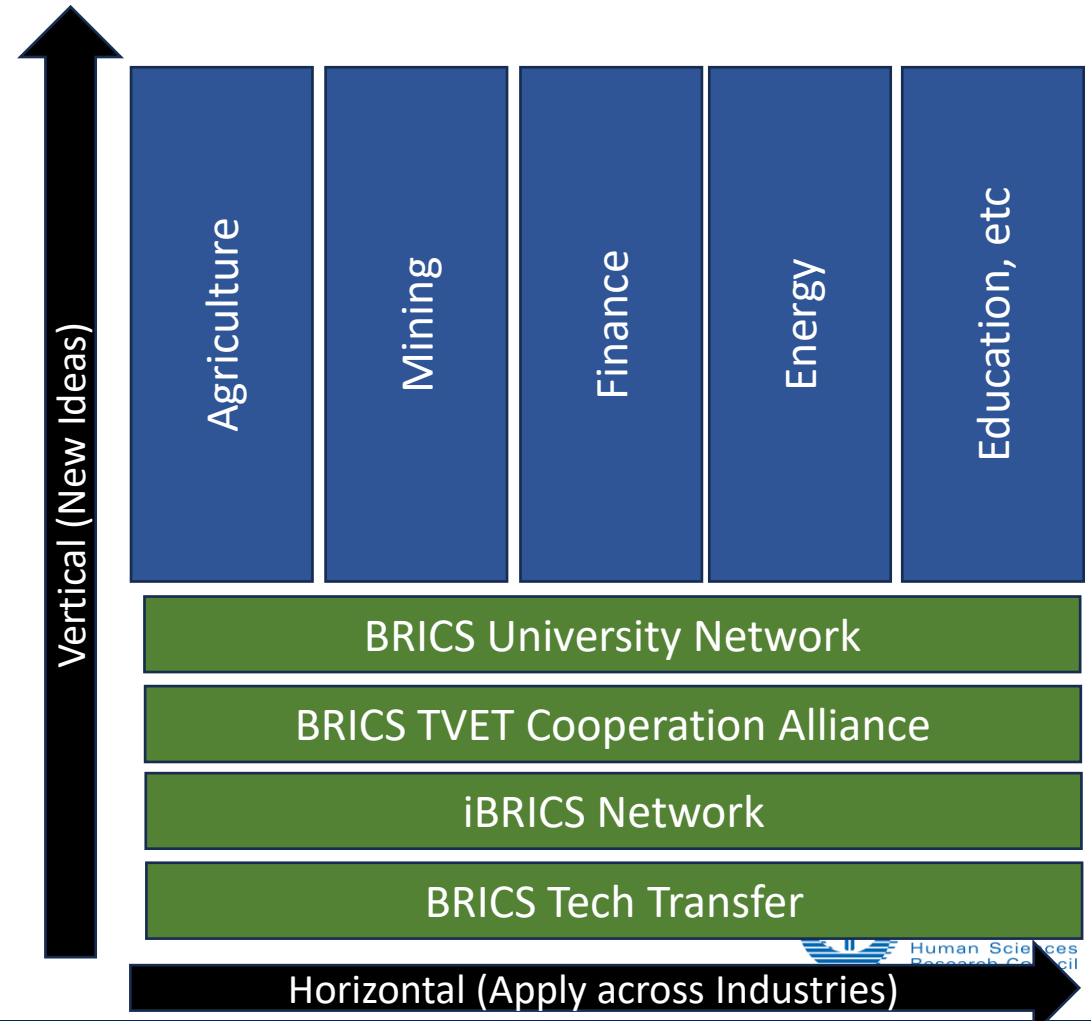# BRICS Shared Large-Language Model

Allows Vertical and Horizontal Knowledge Exploration

Surface STI Best Practices
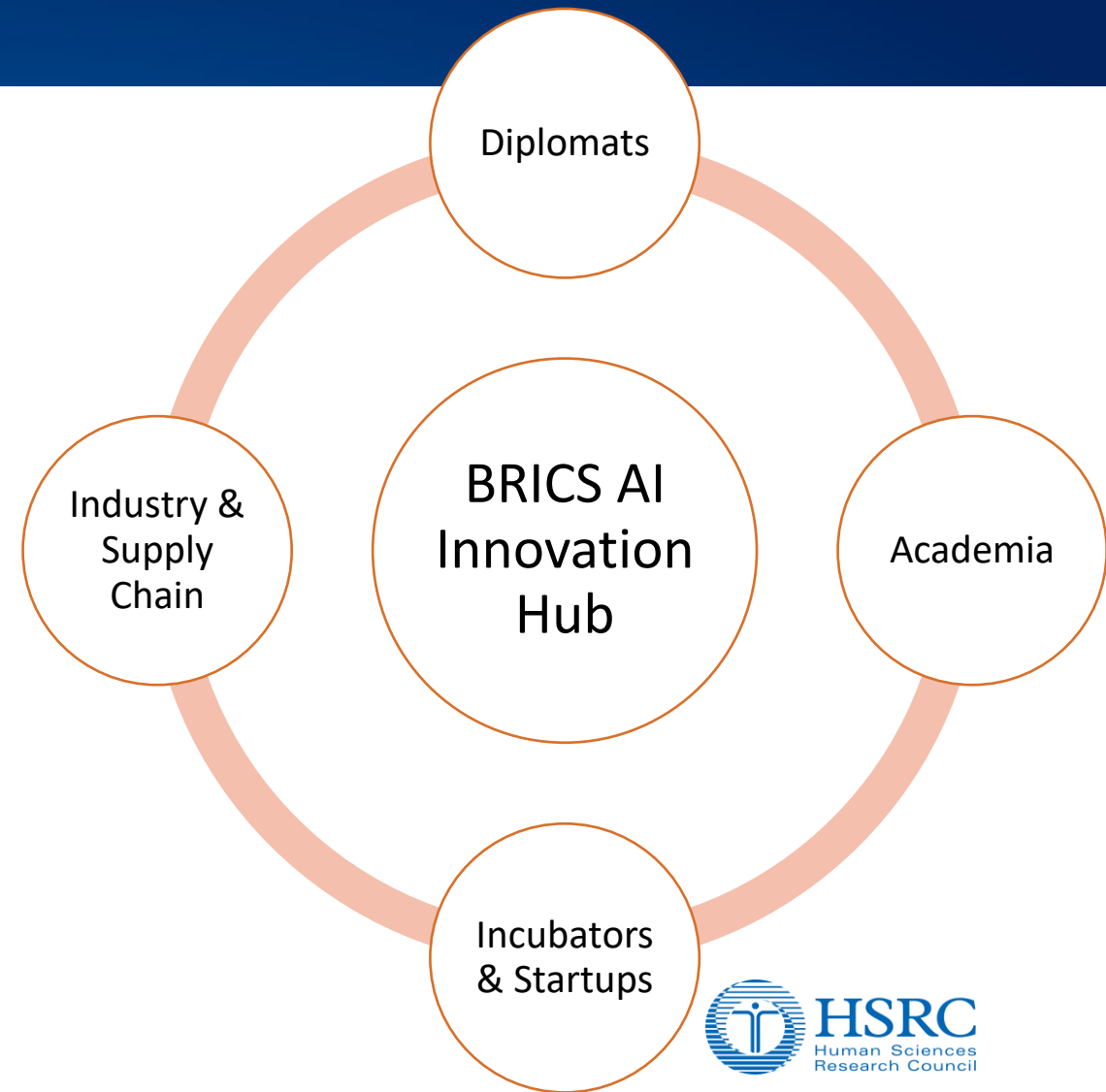
Share innovation opportunities across borders

Integrate uncommercialised research from Academia

Research needed for optimal shared governance

End Goal

- All members of the Innovation Pipeline can explore ideas for innovation and cooperation.
- Foundation for Innovation
- LLM can encourage match-making.
- Knowledge exchange across borders and languages.
- Education Sector can adapt the model for the AI-Tutoring
- Education Sector can adapt curricula to industry priorities

Diplomats

Industry & Supply Chain

BRICS AI Innovation Hub

Academia

Incubators & Startups

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Thank You

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