# DAIA Summit 2.0

## 16.09.2025

### Key Takeaways from the Parallel Sessions

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# Future Learning – Key Takeaways

## Living Labs for Future Learning

1. **Living Labs**: Innovation spaces tackling real-life challenges through co-creation, multi-stakeholder engagement, and cross-disciplinary integration.

2. **Students**: Gain hands-on experience; credits must be clearly defined; supported in developing entrepreneurial skills.

3. **Teachers**: Act as subject experts and continuous learners; combine pedagogy with business and project management skills.

4. **Administrators**: Ensure resources, facilities, and flexible spaces; invest in training lab staff and enabling adaptive management.

## Digital Competencies Among Teachers

1. **Problem using time**: There is the need of delivery curriculum against teachers' development

2. **Teachers are not comfortable using new technologies** ➔ More teacher's further education

3. **Message to principals:** Don't look at short term results, we need to focus on long term results

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# Future Learning – Key Takeaways

**Scenarios for Future Learning Ecosystems in Africa: HEI-Industry collaboration**

1. **Beyond Skills Gaps**: Collaboration spans certification, upskilling, and community development.

2. **Ethics Matter**: Partnerships must avoid inequities and focus on fair, knowledge-building practices.

3. **Local & Scalable:** Efforts should be rooted in local realities while enabling scalable models and broad stakeholder involvement.

**Future Learning with VR and Metaverse Technologies**

1. **Blended Learning:** Combine theory with hands-on virtual training to strengthen knowledge.

2. **Vast Potential:** Enable cross-border knowledge sharing and creative, transdisciplinary learning.

3. **Inclusive Access:** Technology can support lifelong learning for everyone, beyond formal education.

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# Water – Key Takeaways

**Strengthening training in South Africa's Water Sector: Rand Water Study**

1. **Strengthen communication & engagement:** Broader stakeholder involvement is vital for sustainable water solutions.

2. **Invest in professional upskilling:** Ongoing training and leadership development are needed to meet emerging challenges.

3. **Accelerate digital integration:** Embed digital tools in daily work; build basic competence and strengthen cyber awareness.

**Leveraging water management collaboration**

1. **Leveraging Digital technology/AI/IOT towards solving water challenges is needed urgently**

2. **Strengthening collaborations between the Higher education institutions and government/ municipalities is necessary**

3. **Engagement with the community (including industry) as users of technologies is crucial**

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# Industry – Key Takeaways

**Transformational Leadership for Organizations**

1. **Widespread need for transformational leadership:** South Africa requires leaders who can inspire trust, drive innovation, and lead transformation.

2. **Effective approaches to leadership development:** Structured training and coaching (e.g. deep leadership) effectively prepare future leaders.

3. **The rise of virtual coaching:** Digital and AI-powered tools are emerging as powerful enablers for leadership development.

**Best Practices**

1. **Reimagine teaching methods:** Students need not only access to new tools but also the knowledge and skills to use them effectively.

2. **Adopt a learner-centred approach:** Placing learners at the heart of teaching is critical for driving innovation and successfully applying new methods.

3. **Ensure ecosystem readiness and acceptance:** Broad buy-in across the ecosystem is essential for adopting and sustaining new approaches and technologies.

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# Teaching – Key Takeaways

**Paper Presentations:**

- **Mobilising African youth with digital technology combined with traditional IK**

- **Ubuntu principles in governance**

- **Pillars of a youth-led just transition in Africa**

- **Competencies related to employability: emphasis in general policies but lacking in teacher education policies**

- **Heavy reliance on QA: results in undermining transversal skills**

- **Educational ecosystems: take context into consideration**

- **Navigating challenges compensated by teachers' agency**

- **Vision for the future: respect, resources, recognition, reward, retain**

- **Systemic approach - work together to align work-based skills to curriculum**

- **Local relevant methods focusing on resources over digital tools**

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Panel discussion (40mins)

• **Chairs**: Elizabeth and Marianna

• **Panelists**:
Prof. Jace Pillay, *University of Johannesburg, South Africa*

Prof. Dalien Benecke, *University of Johannesburg, South Africa*

Daryl McLean, *Africa Smart Cities Academy, South Africa*

Prof. Hannele Niemi, *University of Helsinki, Finland*