



YOU | **irfa**
Institute of
Retirement Funds Africa

HAVE THE POWER

RETIREMENT ECOSYSTEM 2019

EXPANDED CONCEPT DOCUMENT
IRFA CONFERENCE 2019

28 - 30 July 2019

Where: Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban

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THE OVERARCHING THEME

THE RETIREMENT ECOSYSTEM: YOU HAVE THE POWER

An optimal ecosystem monitors, evaluates and self-corrects; and it is resilient and dynamic. The retirement funding ecosystem is a complex interconnected network. All stakeholders of this diverse complex system are integral to it and have an impact. Each component has the power to influence this ecosystem positively or negatively.

In this year's conference we will be exploring the existing pensions ecosystem and highlight the components as well as the interrelationship between its integral parts. We will also be examining roles within this system in order to understand the impact and power of individual actions.

The conference aims to identify and highlight trends and practices that equip participants to positively influence the system for the ultimate benefit of improved retirement outcomes.

You have the power!

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SOME THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CRAFTING MESSAGES AND TOPICS

The theme follows a logical succession in conference themes over the past four years, bringing the focus from industry trends and stakeholder collaboration and outreach into the scope of individual influence over retirement outcomes and most importantly the **sybiotic** nature of this influence:

- “Navigating the Future/2016” - examining key trends and influencers in the industry”
- “Partnering for Change/2017” - collaborative relationships and partnerships
- “Reaching out for Financial Security and Freedom/2018” - from navigation to outreach

Encyclopaedia Britannica defines an ecosystem as the complex system of living organisms, their physical environment, and all their interrelationships in a particular unit of space.

Other definitions include:-

- A system, or a group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.
- Any system or network of interconnecting and interacting parts, as in a business environment.

The transfer and conversion of energy is vital to the functioning of any ecosystem, both in driving it, as well as regenerating it when necessary.

Energy moves our ecosystem. The cycle of energy is based on the actions of the constituent parts and these actions create our ecosystem.

Applying these concepts to **the retirement community, let's look at the definitions of symbiosis**

- Interdependent
- Synergetic
- Co-operative
- Reciprocal
- Associated
- Mutually beneficial

Hence there are several core concepts from which messaging, scripting and theming can be applied.

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KEY MESSAGES

Ecosystem

The retirement landscape is a system, with all parts and stakeholders interdependent on one another.

Symbiosis

These actions can be reciprocal or associated, impacting either negatively or positively on the retirement ecosystem as a whole.

Energy

The power of the individual or constituent group to generate this energy.

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SOME USABLE QUOTES

On Ecosystems

"A business ecosystem is just like the natural ecosystem; firstly, needs to be understood, then, needs to be well planned, and also needs to be thoughtfully renewed as well."

Pearl Zhu, Digital Maturity: Take a Journey of a Thousand Miles from Functioning to Delight

"Where the quality of life goes down for the environment, the quality of life goes down for humans." - George Holland

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."
- John Muir

On Energy

"The energy of the mind is the essence of life" - Aristotle

"Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only be changed from one form of energy to another"

- Albert Einstein

On Symbiosis

"We come into relationships often very much identified with our needs. I need this, I need security, I need refuge, I need friendship. And all of relationships are symbiotic in that sense. We come together because we fulfil each others' needs at some level or other."

- Ram Dass

On the Power of the Individual

"You have a lot more power than you are giving yourself credit for. Please embrace it."

- Queen Tourmaline

"Do not wait for the green light. You are the green light."

- Dr. Jacinta Mpalenykana, PhD, MBA

THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE USED AS GUIDE WHEN CONCEPTUALISING

- Conference topics and speakers
- Promotional material
- Master of Ceremonies speeches and facilitation at conference
- Scripts
- Press and media releases