

Dear Dr Ravi K Reddy

As we celebrate another great idea of REEDS to co-host with LSLSI, the SKILLS2015 event around one of the world's most important social justice issues, sanitation for all, I wish I could have been there to share this event with you. Unfortunately the challenges of leading a University of Technology in the prevailing situation preclude my attendance. However please be assured that the conference as well as the theme bears a strong resonance with us.

21 years after democracy was achieved in South Africa the issue of sanitation and the delivery of water to households remains one of the key challenges of its reconstruction challenges for just and equitable society. This is indeed true for much of the developing world. This has partly to do with the lack of political will and the fact that for many politicians and their families this is not an issue and it has partly to do with the fact that the delivery of sanitation is often left to governments and big companies even though communities at the local level may achieve much. And this is where REEDS comes in – developing skills for local empowerment. I salute your initiatives to make tangible differences in fundamental and basic rights.

On behalf of Durban University of Technology (DUT), its staff and its students, I wish you every success on the 19th and 20th of November 2015 as you gather in Hyderabad around the theme of skills for sanitation.

Ahmed C Bawa

Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Durban University of Technology.

November 2015