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PRESS RELEASE

CTexT® celebrates ten years/ CTexT® se tiende bestaansjaar

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CTexT® celebrates ten years

On the 8th of August 2014 the Centre for Text Technology (CTexT®) at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, celebrated their tenth anniversary – a decade's contribution to cutting-edge research and development in the field of text technology. The function was held at the *NWU Sports Village* in Potchefstroom, where CTexT® staff, NWU top management, former employees, partners and supporters of CTexT® enjoyed a warm welcome.

CTexT® is an internationally recognised, innovative research- and development centre for language resources, products and software. CTexT® focuses on the development of applications and resources for easier interaction between people and computers (e.g. spelling and grammar checkers, machine translation systems and data development) and innovative approaches to processing natural languages.

Prof Gerhard van Huyssteen, former head of CTexT®, presented a look back on the centre's development over the past ten years. The presentation illustrated research outputs, resources, technologies, rewards, contracts and funds generated by CTexT®. "CTexT® has established itself as a key player in the research and development of text technology for South African languages, both nationally and internationally. The expertise, high energy and innovative approach at CTexT® promise that the next ten years will be even more exciting."

He also addressed future plans of the centre: "CTexT® is in an excellent position to make a difference to users of different languages in a multilingual country such as South Africa, especially given new legislation that requires government departments to provide information in multiple languages. CTexT® will play a vitally important role to empower people in their own language".

"We are very excited about what we have achieved and we look forward to whatever the future holds," said Dr Roald Eiselen (manager of resource development at CTexT®) during an interview with RSG.

It is clear that CTexT® plays pivotal role in the research and development of language technology, as well as language technology resources and products for national and international use.

For more information on CTexT®, visit their website at http://www.nwu.ac.za/ctext.

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CTexT® se tiende bestaansjaar

Op 8 Augustus 2014 het die Sentrum vir Tekstegnologie (CTexT®) van die Noordwes Universiteit, Potchefstroomkampus, hulle tiende bestaansjaar gevier – ŉ dekade se bydrae tot toonaangewende navorsing en ontwikkeling op die gebied van tekstegnologie. Die funksie het plaasgevind by die *NWU Sports Village* in Potchefstroom, waar CTexT®-personeel, NWU-topbestuur, voormalige CTexT-ers, vennote en ondersteuners van CTexT® hartlik verwelkom is.

CTexT® is ŉ internasionaal-erkende, innoverende navorsings- en ontwikkelingsentrum vir taaltegnologiese hulpbronne, produkte en sagteware. CTexT® fokus op die ontwikkeling van toepassings en hulpbronne (bv. spel- en grammatikatoetsers, masjienvertalingstelsels en data-ontwikkeling) wat makliker interaksie tussen mense en rekenaars, en innoverende benaderings tot die verwerking van taal, bewerkstellig.

Prof. Gerhard van Huyssteen, voormalige hoof van CTexT®, het ŉ voorlegging gedoen oor die sentrum se ontwikkeling oor die afgelope tien jaar. Die voorlegging het die sentrum se navorsingsuitsette, hulpbronne, tegnologieë, toekennings, kontrakte en fondse oor die afgelope tien jaar, geïllustreer. "CTexT® het hom plaaslik en internasionaal gevestig as dié rolspeler in die navorsing en ontwikkeling van tekstegnologie vir die Suid-Afrikaanse tale. Die kundigheid, hoë energievlakke en innoverende ingesteldheid by CTexT® beloof om die volgende tien jaar selfs meer opwindend te maak."

Hy het ook gepraat oor die sentrum se toekomsplanne: "CTexT® is uitstekend geposisioneer om in ŉ veeltalige land soos Suid-Afrika ŉ verskil te kan maak aan die gebruikers van die verskillende tale; waar wetgewing dit nou noodsaaklik maak vir regeringsinstellings om in verskillende tale inligting aan te bied, kan CTexT® ŉ ongelooflike belangrike rol speel om mense te bemagtig in hulle eie tale."

"Ons is baie opgewonde oor wat ons alreeds gedoen het en dit wat in die toekoms vir ons voorlê," het Dr. Roald Eiselen, hulpbronontwikkelingsbestuurder van CTexT®, tydens ŉ onderhoud met RSG gesê.

Dit blyk duidelik dat CTexT® ŉ onmisbare rol speel in die navorsing en ontwikkeling van taaltegnologie, sowel as taaltegnologiese hulpbronne en produkte vir nasionale en internasionale gebruik.

Vir meer inligting oor CTexT® besoek gerus hulle webtuiste http://www.nwu.ac.za/ctext.

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