

The HSRC/NRF Engaged Research Conference



1. Welcome Note

We are delighted to welcome you to the Engaged Research Conference 2025. This year's conference will take place at the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre in Gauteng. This pack provides essential information to help you plan your stay, navigate the venue, and enjoy your time in Johannesburg.

2. Conference Venue

Venue:	Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre
Address:	44 Viewpoint Street, Bartlett, Boksburg, Gauteng, South Africa
Phone:	+27 (0)11 897 0000
Website:	www.birchwoodhotel.co.za
Facilities:	60+ conference and meeting venues; 4-star accommodation; Spa, gym, pool; Free Wi-Fi; Complimentary airport shuttle; Restaurants & coffee shops

3. Accommodation Options (within 15 km)

Not all delegates will be staying at Birchwood. Below is a list of alternative hotels nearby:

Hotel	Distance from Venue	Key Features
Holiday Inn Johannesburg Airport (IHG)	0.7 km	Free shuttle, pool, gym
Peermont Metcourt Hotel (Emperors Palace)	4 km	3-star, restaurants, casino access
Peermont Mondior Hotel (Emperors Palace)	4 km	4-star, business centre, fine dining
InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo	5 km	5-star luxury, spa, opposite arrivals
Protea Hotel by Marriott O.R. Tambo	6 km	4-star, outdoor pool, restaurant
Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre O.R. Tambo	7 km	4-star, gym, spa, shuttle
Southern Sun O.R. Tambo	7 km	4-star, pool, shuttle, fitness centre
Premier Hotel by O.R Tambo	12km	4-star, pool, fitness centre
Garden Court by O.R Tambo	12 Km	4-star, pool, fitness centre, spa

4. Weather During Conference (22–24 October)

Johannesburg in late October enjoys spring weather:

Daytime highs: 22–26 °C

Evenings: 10–15 °C (bring a light jacket)

Occasional afternoon thunderstorms – a small umbrella is recommended

5. Transport & Logistics

Airport:	OR Tambo International Airport (7 km, 10–15 mins by car)
Shuttles:	Free shuttle offered by most nearby hotels
Ride Services:	Uber & Bolt widely available
Parking:	Ample secure parking at Birchwood

6. Dining & Leisure

- East Rand Mall (5 mins drive): restaurants, shops, cinemas
- Emperors Palace: dining, casino, theatre, entertainment
- Nearby restaurants: IL Gusto (Italian), Turn 'n Tender (Steakhouse), The Classic India (Indian cuisine)
- Benoni Lake Golf Course – Scenic golfing experience (12 km).

7. Health & Medical Services

Nearest Hospitals:	Tambo Memorial Hospital, Boksburg (24/7 emergency) Life Glynnwood Hospital Netcare Sunward Park Hospital
Nearest Pharmacies	Dis-chem Pharmacy, East Rand Mall Clicks Pharmacy Boksburg (0118998644)
Police:	10111 (nationwide)
Ambulance/Medical Emergency:	10177

8. Contacts

Conference Secretariats:	
Ms. Akhona Mncadi	+27 (0) 814514095
Ms. Yoliswa Sikhosana	+27 (0) 659256986
Birchwood Hotel Reception:	+27 (0)11 897 0000

9. Quick Tips for Conference Attendees

- South Africa uses Type M power plugs (three round pins).
- Payments are mostly cashless – Visa/MasterCard widely accepted.
- Tap water is safe in hotels, bottled water recommended.