



NELSON MANDELA LEARNING CENTRE, SHEPPARTON AUSTRALIA FOR LEADERSHIP, WORK AND SOCIETY

Connecting With The World Program

Future Voices Inc supports many alumni projects by facilitating information sharing, develop strategic partnership and capacity to undertake practical outcome including project proposals between business, academia, and the governments.

Future Voices Inc/ Nelson Mandel Learning Centre Project in collaboration with DRC- Australia Parliamentary Friendship group and Centre for Optimism co-hosted the first annual DRC- Australia Summit running 26 March 2021 in Greater of Shepparton City Council.

This summit focussed on enhancing strategic engagement, partnership to discuss the potential of developing cultural and economic advantages between Australia, Democratic Republic Congo, and Australia.

The forum was moderated by Victor Perton, Melbourne-based Centre for Optimism chief executive and former Victorian minister and G20 senior.

Mr Perton said, “Hosting the first session of the summit in Shepparton is a symbol of the invigoration of regional Australia and optimism for growth in business, manufacturing and innovation,”



[Dr Luc Mulimbalimba](#): Luc a Member of Parliament of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chair of the Australia-DRC Parliamentary Friendship Group with [Former Mayor of Shepparton Kim O’Keefe](#) accompanied by [Councillor Geoff Dobson](#) , the economic development team [Austrade’s Dean Freeman](#) , Future Voices- Nelson Mandela Learning Representatives and different ONG and government representatives.

<https://www.sheppnews.com.au/news/shepparton-forum-to-promote-congo-australia-links/>

<https://thecentreforoptimism.wildapricot.org/2021-Australia-Democratic-Republic-of-Congo-Summit>

Outcomes of Summit

- identified common priorities across Australia and Democratic Republic of Congo such as priority programs and projects for taking strong partnerships forward.
- Identifying potential business and academic partnerships between participants from Australia and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Identified Public Private Partnership opportunities especially Australia company are in DRC.
- strengthen and improve cross cultural understanding and inter- country relations.
- helped to facilitate discussions on the wide range of issues facing Parliaments and other legislative bodies.