

## CTICC hosts AI robot Miss Pepper

The Cape Town International Convention Centre hosted Miss Pepper, a humanoid robot capable of detecting human emotions during the recent BIOMIN World Nutrition Forum 2018. Developed by SoftBank Robotics, "Miss Pepper" who is capable of interacting with humans and can adapt her interaction according to a human's emotions, was unveiled during the three-day international conference.



Members of the organising committee of the Biomin World Nutrition Forum 2018 with "Miss Pepper", the humanoid robot.

According to SoftBank Robotics, the Pepper robot is the "first humanoid robot capable of recognising the principal human emotions and adapting his behaviour to the mood of his interlocutor".

Herbert Kneissl, chief marketing officer at Erber AG, the parent company of Biomin, said robotics, artificial intelligence and big data will become an everyday topic in the livestock industry. "She (Miss Pepper) is able to perceive emotions, and what is a conference like the Biomin World Nutrition Forum without emotions? The digital experts of Biomin additionally trained her to be the little star on the stage - to welcome the audience, break the tensions, but in first line to demonstrate that the future of using humanoid robots has started now.

"By using Miss Pepper we have the intention to create the image overflow from technological developments of other industries to biotechnology and animal nutrition, an overflow that develops already towards a merger, when we see the modern technologies like Farm 4.0, one of the big topics of this conference," said Kneissl.

Miss Pepper is capable of recognising faces, speech, and can hear; she can also identify when someone is experiencing joy, sadness, is surprised and filled with anger. Over and above recognising these emotions, Miss Pepper can also detect tone of voice, smiles, and frowns.

### Facilitating emerging technologies

"At the CTICC, we are committed to facilitating the introduction of emerging technologies such as Miss Pepper to delegates and visitors. The developments we are seeing in artificial intelligence speak directly to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and

the impact this is having, and will continue to have, on both our professional and personal lives."

"It is extremely important for the CTICC to host forward-thinking conferences such as the Biomin World Nutrition Forum 2018. The conference not only considered opportunities and challenges in the 'protein economy' but also the role AI can play in scientific advancements," said Julie-May Ellingson, chief executive officer at the CTICC.

The forum brought together industry professionals who discussed a number of topics including factors influencing the "protein economy", gut health, antibiotic resistance, alternatives to using antibiotics and technologies that could advance the field of nutrition.

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