

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Partnership to promote youth entrepreneurship in SA, Canada, Mexico and the US

MEGAN WAIT
STAFF WRITER

STEEL giant ArcelorMittal's nonprofit arm, the ArcelorMittal Foundation, and entrepreneurial development organisation Ashoka report that they have signed a partnership to support youth entrepreneurship in areas where ArcelorMittal has operations.

ArcelorMittal Foundation MD **Felicidad Cristobal** and Ashoka CEO **Bill Drayton** signed this partnership, which will serve areas such as Canada, Mexico, South Africa and the US, last month.

Through this partnership, the foundation will back Ashoka's Youth Venture programme, which aims at encouraging young people to start and lead their own sustainable social ventures.

The programme will provide the participants

with the tools, financing and support to design and build their own social enterprises.

The participants will develop the leadership, teamwork, entrepreneurship and empathy skills that are essential to their success at school and work, and in life.

Youth Venture will also afford ArcelorMittal employees the opportunity to become involved in this programme, coaching the venture teams, sharing their expertise and appraising the youth teams' plans. "We started our collaboration with Ashoka in Argentina in 2007 and decided to extend this partnership, owing to its great success," states Cristobal.

"Everyone is capable of changing the world, and we fully agree with this idea. We are extremely glad to be collaborating in promoting the development of young talent. It is also important to underline that this programme will give ArcelorMittal employees the chance to be involved in a Foundation project, sharing their expertise with youngsters who dream of a better world."