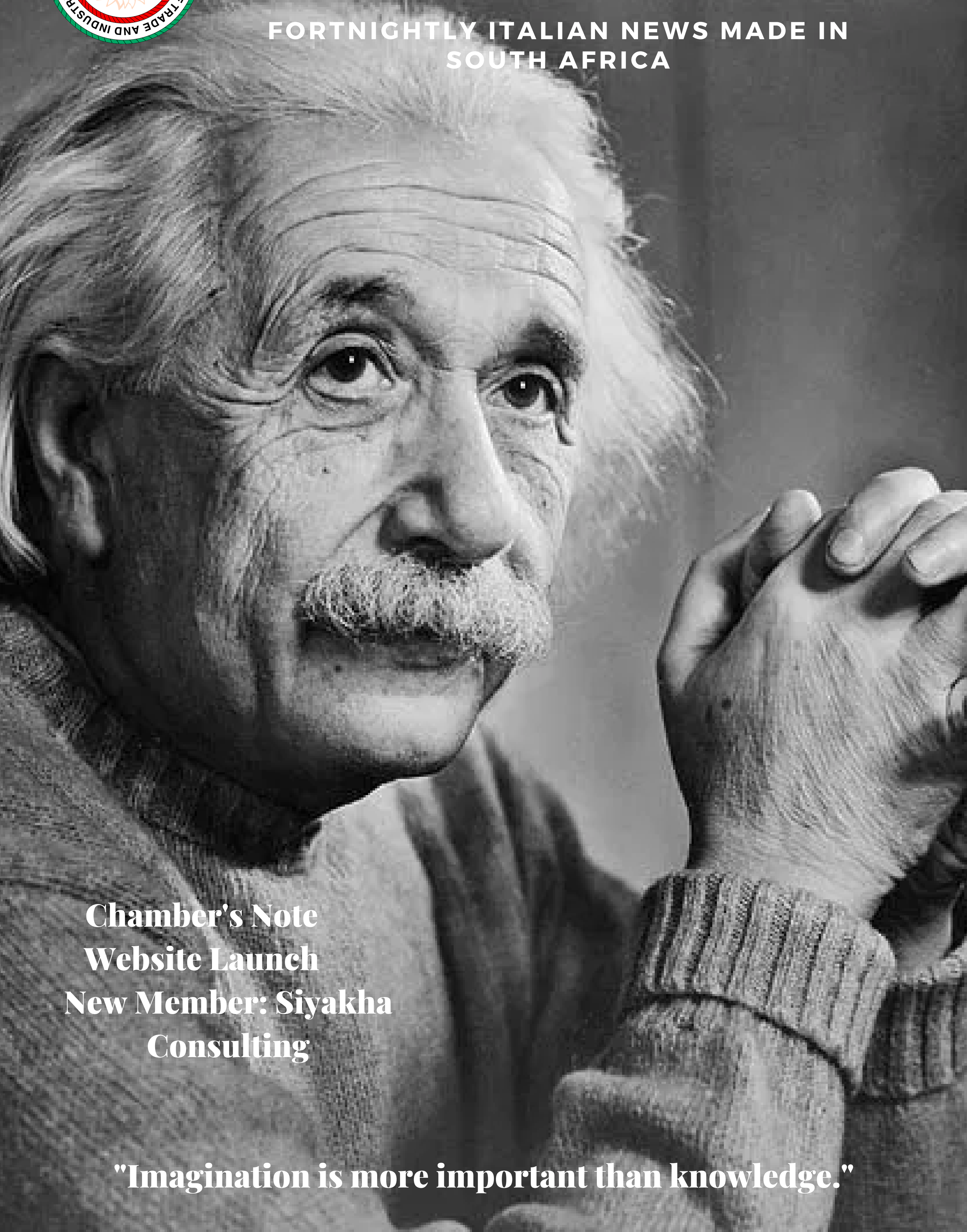




# Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA



**Chamber's Note**  
**Website Launch**  
**New Member: Siyakha**  
**Consulting**

**"Imagination is more important than knowledge."**



# Chamber's Note

## A New Kind of Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is already around us. Text prediction and facial recognition on our smartphones are two of the most familiar forms of machine learning which will only further become part of our everyday lives. The prospect of self-driving cars, systems for fraud prevention and systems for medical diagnosis have excited both scientists and investors about what the future will look like. Italy has a diverse ecosystem of AI technology, with dozens of research institutes and private companies lighting the way through its fourth industrial revolution while Italy's Agency for Digitalization has set up an AI task team.

However, the use of AI will inevitably take on a unique shape on the African continent. Its use for preventing pests and increasing crop yields, for providing medical diagnosis to people without access to hospitals and the use of drones to deliver medical supplies to places without good road infrastructure all spell promise for a continent awaiting its renaissance.

Currently only clusters of AI capabilities exist on the continent, many being based locally in South Africa. Nevertheless, research from Microsoft and EY shows AI pilot projects are widespread across South African companies in the fields of robotics, chatbots and analytics.

One of the major concerns, however is the danger that artificial intelligence will replace jobs typical to the developing world in spaces like call centres and manufacturing. While these concerns are valid, it is emerging that AI has several shortcomings which means that it will fail to live up to some of the grandest promises of its adherents. Therefore, alongside the major opportunities for increased productivity, a gap will be left for people to fill, monitoring, programming and working alongside artificial intelligence.

The Italian Chamber believes that one of the priorities in this moment is human understanding about AI and other features about the fourth industrial revolution (4IR). The ability to differentiate between the hype and the real opportunities is a task still left to human intelligence. This is why the Italian Chamber formed a working group dedicated to 4IR, incorporating industry leaders as well as other business people who want to learn about and create opportunities in this field of the future. If you are interested in joining the Chamber's 4IR working group simply email [desk@italcham.co.za](mailto:desk@italcham.co.za) and we'll make it happen.







**Stand by for our  
new website  
launch!**



**Coming Soon!**





# Welcoming our New Member

# siyakha.

implementation partners

Siyakha is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm that is well placed to focus on transformation in South Africa and beyond, with a team of professionals including policy and legislative experts, BEE consultants, investment specialists, professionals in accounting, finance and law, strategy consultants, HR consultants across all disciplines, development specialists, business coaches, trainers, researchers, and project management professionals.

*Welcome to Italcham!!*