

Profile on Dr. Hasmukh Gajjar

Dr. Gajjar, a graduate from the University of Cape Town, practiced as a medical doctor for twelve years. In 1987, in partnership with Rasheed Hargey, Hasmukh launched HNR Computers, which became one of the pioneers in black economic empowerment in the Information Technology industry, and was appointed by WordPerfect Corporation as their distribution partner for southern Africa. Through pioneering marketing and customer support, HNR stormed onto the SA market and established itself as the premier software distributor with WordPerfect as its flagship product.

When WordPerfect established its own office in South Africa in 1992, Dr. Gajjar was to head its African operation. He served as its country manager for two years before Novell acquired WordPerfect in the USA. He then served Novell for another two years as its Marketing Director and Groupware Product Manager. During his stint with Novell, Dr. Gajjar became one of the founding members of the Black Information Technology Forum, Western Cape. He was elected Chairman of its first executive, and served as Chairman of the Western Cape until 2001. He was also appointed as the Chairperson of the National BITF in May 1999, a post he held until 2003.

In 1996 Dr. Gajjar and his colleagues started their own venture in Cape Town, Ndizani Technologies. He left Ndizani Technologies in October 1997 when he was appointed as the non-executive chairman of Vodacom Group (Pty) Ltd. He devoted his time at Vodacom on a full time basis and successfully steered the organization into its continued phenomenal growth. Appointed for two years, he left Vodacom in March 2000 after having spent twenty-seven months at Vodacom as its Chairman.

In April 2000 he was appointed as the President of the Black Business Council. During his tenure, the Black Business Council tabled the Black Economic Empowerment Report to Government. This report served as a platform for South Africa's Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment legislation. Dr. Gajjar was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Consilience Technologies (Pty) Ltd in 2000. When the J&J led consortium acquired a 30% stake in Faritec in April 2003, he joined Faritec as Deputy CEO.

Outside of his executive role in Faritec, Dr Gajjar participates in numerous ICT and other related forums having served on the BITF, the SACF and the ICT Charter Working Group. He is currently the Chairperson of the .za Domain Name Authority. He is also Chairman of the Thabo Mbeki Education Trust and continues to participate in transformative issues in the technology sector.