

SAIAE News Bulletin

South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers January 2005

From the President's desk

It is a new year again and as the President says, a year that will demand from you to be faster, better and cheaper. He also urged you to make it one of your New Years' resolutions to become involved in institute matters on all levels.

The institute is now forty years old and a history book on the weal and woe of SAIAE will be compiled, and contributions are now awaited.

Also read about the Nkomasi project, where agricultural engineering has put a strong focus on social and environmental matters.

ECSA is in the process of establishing the next Engineering Council. They also ask for nominations for persons to be appointed. A list of nominating bodies is included as well as the application form.

The editorial staff is also up and running and hope that we will continue the excellent co-operation of last year. We are looking forward to an interesting year.

Ed.

SAIAE 2005

It is a new year, with new years' resolutions, old-year unfinished business and today's pressure to be faster, better and cheaper than the competition.

The South African agricultural market is becoming more exposed to external market forces and the available natural resources shrink as a result of multiple users. The agricultural engineer is in the midst of these changes and it is expected of us to find solutions in good time and to establish them economically. 2005 should be a year in which the Institute strives to position each agricultural engineer optimally in the market and also ensure that each active member's level of expertise remains internationally competitive.

It is thus each member's responsibility to become involved on two levels, namely to give and to receive. Each member should be so involved in Institute matters so that he is on the receiving end of opportunities, as well as sharing with and giving to fellow agricultural engineers. No person has ever been honoured for what he has received, but for what he/she has given.

By working on both, success will certainly be achieved. A prosperous 2005!

Louis Lagrange

SAIAE: LIVING HISTORY
40 YEARS
(1964 – 2004)

The South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers has just celebrated its 40th year of existence. To conserve this historic milestone, the history is now being recorded. Anyone who has information, photographs, stories, etc. are requested to send contributions to SAIAE for possible inclusion. The possible framework in which the history will be recorded as indicated.

Contributions can be sent to:

SAIAE-history, P.O. Box 912719, Silverton, 0127 or reindersr@arc.agric.za. If possible, we would like to receive contributions by 18 February 2005.

We look forward to each contribution!

Contents: SAIAE history

Foreword / Acknowledgements
Before the founding / The past history /
The formative years
The founding of SAIAE
SAIAE's objectives
The SAIAE council
SAIAE's constitution
The 24 councils steering over 40 years
Twenty presidents (photo page)
SAIAE's emblem
SAIAE symposiums
SAIAE publications

SAIAE branches
Achievement awards / Citations
SAIAE's secretaries
ECSA and SAIAE
Involvement in universities
Co-operation with other organizations
Fields of work for Agricultural Engineers
The Bruwer report
Corporative actions
Name change
Member numbers
Changes in the Agricultural Engineering field
A futuristic vision for SAIAE

Nomination : SAIAE President and council members

As you know, SAIAE members are in the process of nominating candidates for President and ordinary council members. If you want your candidate nominated, let us have your nomination before 30 January 2005.

THE NKOMAZI MIRACLE

Geurt Bloem

For probably the first time in Africa the hard discipline of engineering had maintained a strong focus on social and environmental issues.

MBB harnessed technology to make the management of the irrigation systems simpler for the local farmers. Although the schemes are essentially communal, systems were designed which allows each farmer to take responsibility for the success, or failure, of his farming enterprise.

The Nkomazi Irrigation Expansion Programme was conceived as a result of the granting of 7 200ha of water rights, the establishment of the R600 million Komati Sugar Mill and the issuing of sugar quotas to small growers. The sugar industry's contribution of training and post-development funding, in the form of the Financial Aid Fund (FAF), completed the necessary ground work.

The then Premier Mathews Phosa had high praise for the development which has brought social, economic, farming and environmental successes to the region.

"This unique programme has helped to spread economic growth and development and wealth across the board in an organised way," said Mr Phosa, who believes the programme supports the Maputo Corridor concept and provides neighbouring countries with a valuable development model.

For probably the first time in Africa the hard discipline of engineering maintained a strong focus on social and environmental issues throughout a project. Community involvement was extensive and ACER (Africa) ensured that the people fully participated in all stages of the decision-making process.

Considerable time and energy were invested in surveying the political and social ground and overcoming initial stumbling blocks which included a highly sensitive political climate, a prolonged and serious drought and false expectations about the overnight creation of wealth from sugar cane. The fact that the seven projects stretched over land under the control of four tribal authorities also provided its challenges.

Project committees were formed in each community who, with input from the consultants, identified the development area, recommended farm sizes, selected the type of irrigation system and decided on the crop to be planted.

Labour intensive construction methods were used to create jobs. Also by subdividing contracts into categories about 60% of the work was awarded to emerging contractors. For more specialised work, joint appointments were made between experienced and emerging contractors. This enabled the emerging contractor to learn from a skilled and established one.

Membership information

The feedback of membership information is good and it is important that we receive everyone's information back. This request was posted to everyone on the 15th December 2004 and if you need a new form, you can send an e-mail to reindersr@arc.agric.za to get one.

Thank you for your co-operation

Process for establishing the next Engineering Council (ECSA) and obtaining nominations for persons to be appointed

The term of office of the present Council (ECSA) expires in August 2005. Part of the process of appointing a new Council is the identification of Nominating Bodies who may be invited to submit nominations of persons to be appointed to the Council. It is important to note that it is the merits of nominees that are really important in formulating recommendations for appointment to Council, and not the attributes of nominating associations and bodies. Furthermore no association or body can be assured that its nominee(s) will be appointed to the Council. Once appointed, members of the Council serve in their personal capacity and not as mandated representative of any association or body.

Nominating Bodies consists of six very broadly defined groups of organizations that can be seen as having a sound knowledge of the circumstances under which engineering projects and products are delivered by persons registered under the Act and relating in particular to having a sound understanding of the effects on the members of society who are the end users of these projects and products.

- a) Statutory Bodies and corporations who are major employers of registered persons or who use the services of registered persons;
- b) Private sector business associations whose members employ registered persons or use the services of registered persons;

- c) Bodies representing institutions of higher education;
- d) Statutory Bodies concerned with standards in engineering education, training, competence and professional practices;
- e) Umbrella Organizations representing persons that can be regarded as users of engineering products or services.

A list of Nominating Bodies identified is included. Organizations whose names do not appear on the list are welcome to submit a motivated application for placement on the list. An application form is also included.

An open invitation to bodies wishing to be considered for inclusion as a nominating body will also be published on ECSA's Corporate Website (www.ecsa.co.za) **Applications for inclusion must reach Rina Marais by not later than 11 February 2005 – (rina@ecsa.co.za) – fax 011 622-9295.**

Council and Committee Members are requested to peruse the list and to request organizations whose names do not appear on the list to apply for inclusion on the list.

**APPLICATION FORM
FOR PLACEMENT ON NOMINATOR'S LIST:
NOMINATING BODIES**

Name of Organisation:		Acronym:
Contact person:		
Title:	Initials:	Surname:
Designation of contact person (President, CEO, etc.):		
Postal Address:		Physical Address:
Tel No:		Fax No:
Cell No:		Website:
E-mail:		
Profile and Motivation		

Should you wish to submit more detailed documentation, attach documents to e-mail or fax.

**Please return to Rina Marais by no later than 11 February 2005 at
Fax: 011 622 9295 E-mail: rina@ecsa.co.za**

ACRONYM	NOMINATING BODIES
AMEU	Association of Municipal Electricity Undertakings (SA)
CoM	Chamber of Mines
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CTCP	Committee of Technical College Principals
CTP	Committee of Technikon Principals
DBSA	Development Bank of South Africa
ESKOM	Electricity Supply Commission
FEDSET	Federation of Scientific Engineering and Technological Societies and Allied Professions
SAASTA	South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (formally FEST)
ISCOR	Iron and Steel Corporation
LEASA	Lift Engineering Association of South Africa
MBSA	Master Builders South Africa
MQA	Mining Qualifications Authority
NHBRC	National Home Builders Registration Council
NSTF	National Science and Technology Forum
PROCSA	Property Owners Council of SA
RCA	Refractories Contractors Association
SAACE	South African Association of Consulting Engineers
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SABS	South African Buro of Standards
SACOB	South African Chamber of Business
SAFA	South African Flameproof Association
SAFCEC	South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
SANCO	South African National Civic Organizations
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency Ltd
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
SAUVCA	South African University Vice-Chancellors' Association
SEIFSA	Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa
SENTECH	SENTECH
STE	Society of Telkom Engineers
TECHWAF	Techwaf
TELKOM	Telkom SA Ltd
TRANSNET	Transnet Ltd
SETAS	
CETA	Construction Education and Training Authority
CHIETA	Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority
DIDTETA	Diplomacy, Intelligence, Defense and Trade Education and Training Authority
ESETA	Energy Sector Education and Training Authority
ETDP SETA	Education, Training & Development Practices Sector Education & Tr. Authority
FIETA	Forest Industries Education and Training Authority

FOODBEV SETA	Food & Beverages Manufacturing Industry Sector Education & Tr. Authority
ISETT SETA	Information Systems, Electronics & Telecommunications Technologies SETA
LGWSETA	Local Government, Water and related Services Sector Education & Tr. Authority
MERSETA	Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education & Tr. Authority
TETA	Transport Education and Training Authority
TEXTILES SETA	Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather Sector Education & Training Authority