



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009 / NUUSBRIEF OKTOBER 2009

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF SAIAE COUNCIL

During the first meeting of the current SAIAE Council the newly elected Council identified a number of strategic areas which the Council would like to focus its activities on in order to benefit the members of SAIAE. The strategic areas, the Council Members responsible for each of the focus areas, and activities planned for the focus areas are summarised below.

A. Establishing Norms and Standards [At van Coller & Timothy Simalenga]

- (i). Establish a technical committee to determine the norms and standards required.
- (ii). Determine extent and applicability of norms and standards.
- (iii). Identify existing norms and standards applicable in South Africa.
- (iv). Develop norms and standards for Agricultural Engineering issues not presently well documented.
- (v). Determine which international norms and standards can be adopted and adapted for South Africa.
- (vi). Make norms and standards available to members through the SAIAE website.

B. Student Training and Support [Jeff Smithers & Peter Lyne]

- (i). Support students by providing incentive/recognition awards made to top students, involving students in branch activities, assisting UKZN with developing vacation work guidelines, and assisting students with placement for vacation work.
- (ii). Increase the number of excellent Agricultural Engineering graduates from UKZN by making available loans to students who meet both merit and financial need criteria, grow and maintain links with bursars, develop support for bursaries from the private sector, establish industry supported salary subventions for educators in order to attract and retain quality lecturing staff.
- (iii). Marketing and student recruitment by establishment of a database of recent employment opportunities, profile career opportunities and remuneration of Agricultural Engineers and support initiatives to recruit pupils to study Agricultural Engineering.
- (iv). Investigate and promote training opportunities for Agricultural Engineering Technicians.
- (v). Support UKZN in articulation options between tertiary education institutions for students not managing with degree studies.

C. Member Support (Internal Marketing) [Neels Bezuidenhout]

- (i). Disseminate information regarding CPD events to members both electronically and by conventional means.
- (ii). Provide the means for members to update their personal information both electronically and by conventional means, which is essential for maintaining the database to be able to communicate efficiently with members.
- (III). Establish a forum where the achievements of members can be communicated to the Institute and from there to other members as well as the possibility of presenting outstanding achievements with appropriate awards.
- (iv). Establish a system for the continuous flow of information between Council Members with regard to deadlines for Council activities.
- (v). Publish a newsletter at least four times per year. The articles for the newsletter should be contributed by Council Members as well as from normal members of the Institute. Members should also be encouraged to supply information of events related to Agricultural Engineering that is taking place in their regions to be included in the newsletter as well as on the webpage.
- (vi). A calendar of events eg branch meetings, for the coming year should be compiled and put on the web page.
- (vii). Establish from members whether the name and logo of the Institute is still relevant and applicable and if not ascertain what will be involved in changing it.
- (viii). To ascertain whether the Institute and its Council Members is giving the members what they expect and want, a vehicle will have to be found which will get a response from as many members as possible.

D. External Marketing [Marius van Rooyen & FP Dafel]

- (i). Establish fields of work and establishment of discipline working groups and thus attract professions working in the discipline to be attracted to SAIAE.
- (ii). Market to both members and non-members (engineers, technicians and technologists) the services which SAIAE provide.
- (iii). Make public aware of SAIAE and the skills and expertise of Agricultural Engineers by publications, radio talks, interaction with key players etc.

E. Representing Agricultural Engineering Profession on other bodies [Felix Reinders]

SAIAE liaise and have contact with a number of other institutions eg ECSA, CIGR, SANCID, SABI and NSTF. This is done to promote and represent the Institute at these forums.

F. Web Page [David Clark]

- (i). Develop the website to serve as a window to the Agricultural Engineering profession in South Africa and the activities of the Institute and its Council.
- (ii). Update the website frequently with information of activities organised by the Institute, but also with information received from members as to activities in their regions.
- (iii). Provide secure online tools for members to update their personal information in the membership database.
- (iv). Provide links to the websites of organisations that have relevance to agricultural engineering.

G. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) [Kevin Hundley]

- (i). Establish a calendar of regular courses for the different regions, which can then be implemented by the different branches.
- (ii). Explore the feasibility of having a multi-day CPD event in the WC.
- (iii). Establish criteria by which courses can be accredited.
- (iv). Receive and maintain records of the attendants to any CPD accredited event.
- (v). Advertise accredited CPD events on the web page.
- (vi). To assist candidate agricultural engineers, establish a forum where present practising agricultural engineers with the necessary experience can serve as mentors to the candidate engineers.

NWK GROEI IN DIE LANDBOUBEDRYF

F.P. Davel (Pr Ing)

NWK Beperk is 'n pionier in die ontwikkeling van die landboubedryf, wat homself in die Noordwes provinsie gevestig het.

Op 4 Mei 1909 is “De Lichtenburg Coöperatiewe Landbouw Maatschappij” gestig. Die legendariese generaal J.H. de la Rey was die eerste om die teenwoordigheidslys by die stigtingsvergadering te teken. Sedertdien het die destydse Koöperasie aansienlik gegroei en telkemale van gedaante verwissel om by die mark aan te pas. NWK is vandag 'n publieke maatskappy en staan bekend as NWK Beperk. Dit is dan ook in 2009 dat NWK sy 100-jarige bestaan vier.

Die Koöperasie is destyds gestig om al die lede se graan te berg en gesamentlik handel te dryf en sodoende billike pryse vir sy lede te bewerkstellig. Vir die graanbemarking is daar verskeie silos opgerig om die graan in massa te kan hanteer. Soos die koöperasie gegroei het, het al hoe meer werksaamhede begin plaasvind binne in die organisasie. Tans spog NWK Beperk met verskeie bedrywe wat bydraes lewer in die landboubedryf, soos: silos, meulens, 'n veevoeraanleg, 'n vloeibare kunsmisaanleg, olie-onttrekking- en verfyningsaanlegte, hondekosse, 'n dagoudkuikenbedryf, besproeiing en vervoer. Die bemarking van landboumasjinerie, onderdele en werkswinkeldienste word deur agt meganisasiebedryfspunte hanteer. Kleinhandelverkope word hanteer onder die LandMark-franchise. Daar word ook eksperimenteel bio-diesel vervaardig.

Met al die bedrywe wat binne NWK aan die gang is, is dit uiters noodsaaklik vir die maatskappy om gedurig aan te pas by die veranderlike markte. Die bedrywe word konstant opgegradeer om die effektiwiteit van prosesse te verbeter. In die tegnologiese era het die gebruik van rekenaars noodsaaklik geraak en hierdie tegnologie word in die aanlegte gebruik om die stelsels te beheer en om prosesdata te verwerk tot handige bestuursinligting. Konstante verbetering vind plaas op toerusting, wat die produksie verbeter en meer energie-effektief is. Nuwe tegnologie word in werking gestel om koste-effektiewe en beter kwaliteit produkte te lewer. Fokus word geplaas om die instandhouding van die bestaande toerusting optimaal uit te voer. Die rol van ingenieurs is van onskatbare waarde by die implementering van al bogenoemde aspekte.

In die laaste tyd is daar verskeie kere onderbrekings in die voorsiening van dienste ondervind. In die situasie is daar pro-aktief opgetree en bystandskragopwekkers is by verskillende punte in werking gestel. By die aanlegte waar water noodsaaklik vir produksie is, is bufferwaterkapasiteit opgerig om die effek van wateronderbrekings te minimaliseer. Die bogenoemde aksies verbeter produksiekontinuiteit en die kwaliteit van dienslewering, selfs in moeilike toestande.

Dit is met trots dat ons as ingenieurs kan vertel van die wye bydrae wat ons in die landboubedryf kan lewer.

SAIAE PRETORIA BRANCH IS ALIVE AND WELL!

A very successful SAIAE Pretoria Branch Meeting was held on the 20 October 2009. Apart that all technical branch meetings are now registered as ECSA-CPD meetings, excellent presentations were made by Moses Marenja, one of our professional registered engineers at the University of Venda and Adriaan van Niekerk, a professional engineer at ARC-Institute for Agricultural Engineering.

Moses gave a very interesting presentation on "Performance Characteristics of a Deep Tilling Rotavator" He is at present busy with his PhD with a study to develop an analytical model that is capable of predicting the torque requirements of a rotavator fitted with commercially available L-shaped blades.

Adriaan van Niekerk's presentation was "Measuring the Effect of Altitude on the Radius of a sprinkler" which demonstrated intensive trials on sprinklers at stations in Stellenbosch and Pretoria and it was clear that the difference in altitude has a definitive effect on the wetted diameter of the sprinklers.

At the meeting, Mr PPH Snyman was also elected as the new chairperson of the SAIAE-Pretoria Branch. Appreciations and thanks to the outgoing chairperson, Mr FP Dafel. We thank him for a number of years as Chairperson of SAIAE Pretoria Branch.

Diarise now your next SAIAE Pretoria Meeting that will take place on the 9 February 2010.

NUWE SAILI PRETORIA TAK VOORSITTER

Tydens 'n takvergadering van SAILI-Pretoria Tak op 20 Oktober is Mnr Piet Snyman as nuwe takvoorsitter verkies.

Piet Snyman is gebore en getoë in die Vrystaat en het die voorreg gehad om sy jare as kind op 'n plaas te kon deurbring. Hy het 'n graad in Bedryfs-ingenieurswese aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, en 'n MBA aan die PU vir CHO te Potchefstroom verwerf. Hy het met sy 2 jaar nasionale diensplig in die Suid Afrikaanse Weermag saam met Krygkor (Denél) op projekte in die artillery afdeling gewerk.

Sy loopbaan het egter as Produksie Superintendent by die Suurstof aanleg te Sasol 2 begin. Dié afdeling het op daardie stadium uit 6 suurstof treine bestaan waarvan elke trein 330 000m³ lug per uur hanteer het. In sy laaste jare by Sasol te Secunda het hy as 'n Senior Koste ingenieur by Sasol Tegnologie in die projek afdeling gewerk wat behels het die beraming, beplanning en koste/tyd kontroliering van projekte ter waarde van etlike Miljoen Rand.

Vandaar is hy na die Departement van Landbou waar hy as bestuurs adviseur van Mnr Frans Hugo (Hoof Direkteur vir Landbou Ingenieurswese) gewerk het. In die tydperk was hy betrokke by die totstandkoming van 'n projekbestuurstelsel vir die Departement van Landbou, asook die suksesvolle oordrag van Landbou ingenieurswese na die LNR. Tans is hy in beheer van die administrasie en bestuur van projekte by die LNR- Instituut van Landbou ingenieurswese.

Piet Snyman is tans ook ondervoorsitter van SAPCI ("South African Project Control Institute") waarvan laasgenomde ge-affilieer is met "ACEI" ("Association of Advancement in Cost Engineering").

Ons wens hom alle voorspoed toe met sy nuwe rol as Voorsitter van die SAILI Pretoria-Tak.

URGENT REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS:

(i) To be able to keep the member database up to date and correct – which will aid in the dissemination of information to members – each member is requested to please email their name, contact telephone number (office and cell) and correct e-mail address to Luther Siebert at mls@iafrica.com. (Any other information, e.g., ID number, postal address, present employer, etc will appreciated.) To those who have already submitted the above a word of thanks.

(ii) All members are invited to send news items, agricultural activities in their regions and other relevant information to the e-mail address above.

(iii) To be able to produce a newsletter of interest to the members, a request is made to all members to please submit articles about their present field of work or interest of between 1000 – 1500 words for publication. Please send such articles to the above e-mail address.

DRINGENDE VERSOEK AAN ALLE LEDE:

(i) Om die databasis van die lede korrek en op datum te hou, word lede versoek om asb hulle naam, kontak foon-nommer (beide kantoor en selnummer) en korrekte email-adres te e-pos na Luther Siebert by mls@iafrica.com. Bogenoemde inligting sal verseker dat die verspreiding van inligting korrek plaasvind en die lede bereik. (Enige bykomende inligting bv ID-nommer, pos adres, huidige werkgewer, ens sal waardeer word.) Lede wat reeds bogenoemde inligting deur-gestuur het word bedank vir hulle samewerking.

(ii) Alle lede word vriendelik versoek om enige nuusgebeure, gebeurtenisse mbt die landbou en ander inligting deur te stuur na bogenoemde e-pos adres vir verdere verspreiding.

(iii) Om instaat te wees om 'n nuusbrieff saam te stel wat die aktiwiteite van SAILI se lede weer-gee, word n vriendelike versoek aan alle lede gerig om artikels in te stuur waarin die lid se huidige werks aktiwiteite of belangstellingsvelde uitgebeeld word. Stuur asb sodanige artikels na bogenoemde e-pos adres.