IMESA prepares for October conference in PE

The countdown has begun! In less than three months IMESA will be hosting the 2013 IMESA Conference at the Boardwalk Hotel & Conference Centre in Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth. This year’s conference theme is “Municipal Engineering: Meeting Peoples’ Needs”.

It will focus on the serious turn-around strategies required at local authority level to ensure that service delivery needs are met. Too many indicators point to failure: increased number of strikes, numerous reported failures of water supplies, sewerage conveyance and treatment systems and poor road maintenance and operations.

From institutional structures and financial management systems, to day-to-day maintenance and operation, local authorities require dramatic and immediate change to improve service delivery quality in South Africa. How will this be achieved?

Papers have been selected on innovation, thought leadership, business value, theme conformance and business interest. Municipal engineers, officials and councilors are invited to attend a special pre-conference workshop on the SALGA/WRC National Municipal Benchmarking Initiative for Water Services. Please visit our website for details and enrolment.”

IMESA’s conference will be hosted from 23 to 25 October 2013 in PE. Once again, this event promises to be a highlight on our annual calendar!

Message from the president

The objective to enhance IMESA’s public communication and marketing has been on the cards for a while. This newsletter is one of the products of such a decision...

In addition, IMESA has already started to be more vocal in the public domain, with the objective of increasingly playing a role in public discourse where local authority matters are at stake. On 23 June, the world celebrated the United Nations Public Service Day.

The day recognizes a competent civil service as one of the foundations of a sound democracy and a successful government, pronouncing civil service nothing less than a human rights issue.

It’s interesting how this day relates to our 2013 conference theme Municipal Engineering: Meeting Peoples’ Needs. As municipal managers we can easily forget that we are here to serve civil society. Our purpose is to bring public service to the masses - without such a service, our rights as human beings may be under threat. We hope that, through our annual conference, and public communication drive, we bring home the critical, unmistakable role that municipal managers play in building a brighter South Africa!

LETS GROW THE SKILLS POOL

As we are all aware, the lack of engineering professionals is a critical challenge for South African municipalities. We therefore encourage members to promote and advocate the IMESA Bursary Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to offer financial assistance to students who would otherwise not be able to afford to continue their studies in the field of Civil Engineering or any other engineering discipline, approved by the Executive Council. The applicant must be registered at a recognised institution and must be able to provide mid-year results for their current year of study together with the application form. The bursary funds cover tuition and prescribed books. Please note that there is a specific application form for dependents of IMESA members. For more information and an application form, please visit our website: www.imesa.org.za or contact our National Office at 031-2663263 or admin@imesa.org.za
EVENT FEEDBACK:
- The Northern Provinces Branch had an informative and interesting branch management meeting in Polokwane, Limpopo Province on Friday 19 July 2013.
- The branch met at the newly built Peter Mokaba Sport Stadium and the day started with a presentation by Mr T Muller from the local Municipality regarding the water supply for Polokwane. He informed the delegation of the challenges they have in providing adequate water for the community.
- The delegation conducted site visits to the sewer treatment plant and Wearne pre-cast concrete plant in town.
- Twenty-four engineers and technicians from the local- and adjacent municipalities, as well as consulting engineers, attended.
- Additionally, a representative of the South African Road Federation attended, aiming to establish a branch in Limpopo and are interested to network with the Northern Province branch.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
- The Northern Province’s next event will be the annual seminar and AGM on 30 August 2013. It promises to be the highlight of the calendar year, and is attended by 100 or more technical people in and around Gauteng.
- Interesting and relevant topics will be presented and members need to book early to avoid disappointment. Details will soon be forwarded to all the members.

CONGRATS TO:
- One of the branch’s past presidents Mr N Pretorius is busy compiling the new Building Regulation Act that will soon be available.
- Well done to Mr H Ndlovu, a current branch management member, for achieving his Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering.

WESTERN CAPE ROUND-UP

IN-HOUSE NEWS
- The KZN Branch re-election took place in June 2013. The election results for the next term are as follows:
  - Randeer Kasserchun - Branch Chairman
  - Mr Jannie Pietersen - Vice Chairperson / Treasurer
- **Members and Portfolios**
  - Mr Balan Govender - Job Creation & Poverty Alleviation
  - Mr Mervin Govender - Training & Skills Development
  - Mr Sbu Mjwara - Marketing & Communication
  - Mrs Bhavna Soni - Water
  - Mr Geoff Tooley - Infrastructure Asset Management
  - Mrwiero Vogelzang - CPD and Bursaries
  - Mr Dave Wilson - Sanitation & Environment
  - Mrs Rita Matthews - Secretary
- The Branch would like to extend their gratitude for the dedication and commitment of the outgoing Chair, Frank Stevens, who has really set an incredible foundation for the Branch to build and expand upon.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE
- The KZN Branch is excited to host the 2014 annual IMESA Conference. The conference will take place at the Durban ICC in October 2014.
- Preliminary work for this conference is in full swing and Branch members have been extremely supportive and excited about the organisation of this major event for Durban.

CONGRATS TO:
- Mr Vishal Krishandutt, an IMESA branch member has been elected as SAICE KZN Branch Chair. The KZN Branch would like to congratulate Vishal on this appointment and look forward to a continuous collaboration between IMESA and SAICE.