

76th IMESA Conference 2012

Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa

President's welcome

It is with much pride that I, as your incoming President, have the honour of welcoming you to the 76th IMESA conference, which is being held here in the beautiful town of George with its magnificent surroundings.

Our conferences seem to reach higher standards year-after-year and are usually held in the larger cities around the country, and the Southern Cape/Karoo Branch is thus to be admired for bravely taking on the task of organising the 2012 conference. The theme of this conference, "Municipal Engineer in a Changing Environment", could hardly be more appropriate given the ongoing challenges and difficulties being faced by municipalities and their technical staff throughout Southern Africa.

IMESA'S conferences are known and admired both nationally and internationally (e.g. by the likes of the

International Federation of Municipal Engineers) for the wealth of knowledge sharing and networking opportunities afforded by municipal technicians, technologists and engineers as well as supporting consultants, contractors, suppliers and sponsors annually.

Having had feedback on the activities of the conference organising committee over the past months and based on the impressive programme that they have prepared, I am convinced that delegates are about to be treated to three very fruitful and rewarding days.

Thank you for attending the conference and please enjoy!

FRANK STEVENS

Pr Eng, Fellow Member IMESA, Fellow Member SAICE



South Cape – Karoo LOC address

It is a privilege for the South Cape – Karoo IMESA branch to host the 76th annual IMESA conference for the third time. The biennial IMESA awards will also be presented at the opening cocktail function, recognising project and engineering excellence and innovation. The presidential address will include the formal announcement of Frank Stevens as the new IMESA president for the next two years.

The conference will offer attendees the unique beauty of the Garden Route, the Klein Karoo and the Greater Karoo. The branch includes the municipal areas of George, Mossel Bay, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, Hessequa, Oudtshoorn, Beaufort West and Prince Albert. Although geographically extensive, the branch members are committed, meetings are well attended and the branch won the first branch-of-the-year award in 2010.

The conference is aimed at affordability, providing delegates with professional papers on relevant engineering topics, introducing and sharing technology with more than exhibitors, allowing attendees to meet, communicate and exchange experience, technical tours showcasing top engineering and award winning projects, while providing social functions that will provide relaxation and enjoyment. The companion's tour includes a varied and unusual programme to encourage attendees to bring their partners to share in the privilege of a visit to the Southern Cape.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Engineering for Change'. Technological advancement is occurring at the greatest rate ever. Emphasis is on continually improving efficiency and output while increasing the life expectancy of products, with less input, and use of natural resources. Natural resources not only include raw materials, but increasingly include labour and most importantly technical skills.

The quality and quantity of resources are dwindling, while a growing population has greater needs and demands. The lack of infrastructure investment in rural areas, together with poverty, has led to ever-increasing migration and urban influx, increasing the burden on already overtaxed metros and municipalities. Municipal entities are increasingly focusing on political output, while politicians don't always grasp that this is directly linked to service delivery output, which requires technical resources and infrastructure orientated budgets. The result is that smaller municipalities are severely lacking in the fastest growing scarce resource – skilled technical resources, while income is reducing due to increasing poverty levels and growing demands for improved services.

'Engineering for Change' is aimed at improving technology to address these shortcomings. Reduced skilled personnel means an increasing need for simplified, automated technology requiring less skilled resources to operate and maintain, while reducing expensive energy and other material input. Dwindling natural resources coupled with escalating demands, require energy and resource efficient innovation, protection and reuse of natural resources, recycling, improved project life expectancy and ensuring sustainability to meet current and future demands.

The South Cape – Karoo IMESA branch wishes to welcome all involved in municipal engineering, as well as those who can assist in improving the municipal engineering environment. Today's innovation creates tomorrow's sustainability, which can be achieved through 'Engineering for Change'.

Lindsay Mooiman

Chairperson: South Cape – Karoo LOC

