



78th IMESA Conference 2014

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

President's welcome



As President of IMESA it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2014 IMESA Conference. The Theme for this conference is "Balancing Service Delivery" which the Local Organising Committee (LOC) has appropriately chosen given the proposed new legislation around infrastructure development. This legislation is going to put more pressure on efficient service delivery across the "Built environment".

IMESA Conferences have become a highlight of the year within the municipal engineering environment and LOC's have a healthy competition in setting new benchmarks in delegate attendance, presentations, sponsors, exhibitors and gala evening events. All indications are that the Durban con-

ference LOC has continued this trend through their hard work for the past year. Amongst these are:

- 120 municipalities are represented through delegate attendance
- 90 exhibitors

Thanks need to be expressed to the Ethikwini municipality for co-hosting this conference.

Please enjoy this great knowledge sharing and networking opportunities that will be available over the next few days. Not least the gala event which if it keeps up with recent past events should blow you away.

**IMESA President
Duncan Daries**

LOC address

KwaZulu-Natal Local Organising Committee (LOC) welcome

As Chairperson of the LOC of the KwaZulu-Natal branch of IMESA, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2014 Conference. This year, we'll be meeting in the landmark International Convention Centre (ICC) in our beautiful city of Durban from 29 - 31st October. I'd like to extend an especially warm greeting to our VIPs: Frank Stevens, current President of IMESA; Past Presidents, our international experts who will be enriching and guiding our conversations and our valued Exhibitors and Sponsors. Lastly, I'd like to welcome and to thank the Staff from Head Office and the Conference Organising Committee, who have done so much to make this event happen and to ensure it is of the standard that you have come to expect over the years.

During the plenary sessions, we'll be tackling the topical theme of "Balancing Service Delivery", looking at a variety of subthemes, including political and legislative perspectives;

ecological and environmental impacts; financial considerations; transport and traffic; water and sanitation and roads and storm water etc. The downgrading of SA's economic outlook and credit-rating in June 2014 by Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor (S&P) was a sobering reminder of the challenges our country faces; and brought to the fore the importance of accelerating the implementation of government's National Development Plan (NDP). Nonetheless, the proposed new legislation around infrastructure development brings with it additional challenges – particularly with regard to the delivery of services across the "Built" environment. Efficient planning is of the essence, if we are to achieve the balance between human, material and financial resources that we need in order to unlock our nation's growth potential. As municipal engineers, we can add a lot of value to the national debate. Come and join the IMESA "thinktank", contribute your ideas and help us to find creative solutions.

Last but certainly not least, the conference committee has arranged an exciting array of networking and leisure events for you to enjoy, including a conference exhibition, technical tours, and a glittering gala evening at the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium. And don't forget to pack your golf bags! This year Golf Day tees off on Tuesday 28th October, at Beachwood Estate Golf Course, linked to the historic Durban Country Club and ranked as one of the top 30 golf courses in the country. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be an exciting, informative and memorable event.

**Jannie Pietersen
Chairperson: IMESA KwaZulu-Natal LOC**

