Thanks To Our Sponsors

An event like this would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. On Behalf of IMESA, I would like to express our sincere thanks to our Platinum Sponsor (PPC Cement), our Gold Sponsors (Aurecon, Royal HaskoningDHV, Vela VKE part of SMEC Group, WorleyParsons), our Silver Sponsors (DPI Plastics and Incebon, Osborn, PDNA) and Bronze Sponsors (BKS - now AECOM, Colas, Southern Mapping and WEC Consulting).
It is an honour and pleasure to be addressing you one year into (or half-way through) my term of office as President of this magnificent institute.

I look forward to participating in what promises to be a successful and fruitful conference being held here in the beautiful city of Nelson Mandela Bay.

Frank Stevens
“MEETING PEOPLE’S NEEDS”

These three words – the 2013 conference theme well chosen by the Eastern Cape Branch, encompass the very core of what’s expected of the Municipal Engineer in the past, presently and in the future years.

Please permit me to read an extract from a paper on the challenges of Municipal Engineering which I read recently:

“We have many top level men in the engineering profession who are spending their entire time on organisation, control and administration. Vacancies have to be filled with people who are not as experienced as their predecessors – an ill state of affairs”.

The author was J. van Zyl the then Town Engineer of Orkney writing in the 1964 Annual Journal of IMESA (50 years ago!).

We still face similar challenges today and it is at conferences such as this that problem-sharing and networking is of such immense value and it is thanks to the passion of our members that will continue to serve our communities.
I’ll highlight some of IMESA’s many activities (and achievements) which ensure that the Institute remains relevant and meets the expectations of its members:

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

My appreciation goes out to this dedicated group of people made-up of the Deputy President, two Vice Presidents, EXCO members (who meet quarterly) and Council members who join EXCO twice annually.

Directorships within EXCO include disciplines such as:

- Computer Applications
- Project Management
- Town Planning
- Infrastructure Asset Management
- Job Creation
- Training and Skills
- Marketing and communication
- CPD and Bursaries
- Road and Transport
- Water, Sanitation and Environment
- By-Laws and Ethics
- Strategic Liaison
- Conferences
OVERHEAD WALKWAY

NELSON MANDELA BAY
BRANCHES

The nine branches run by efficient Branch Chairpersons and Branch Committees (supported by Branch Secretaries) continue to carry out the “coal-face” activities of the organisation.

HEAD OFFICE

The staff compliment at IMESA House has now grown to six and this team of ladies continue to give IMESA its vital administrative support.

I must mention my appreciation to the immediate past President, Jannie Pietersen, for ensuring the smooth running of Head Office.
Our membership continues to grow and is fast approaching the 1,200 mark (compared to the approximately 150 in 1964).

I'm always delighted to sign up to ten certificates welcoming new members weekly – many of whom are young newly qualified engineers, technicians and technologists.
Over the past year, IMESA continued to offer Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) training at venues such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and East London.

Some 377 delegates were trained via a variety of four-day, two-day and one-day courses. Subjects included asset management and maintenance, management, risk management and project management.
Working closely with COGTA, IMESA (voluntary association) has through IMESA (Pty) Ltd – of which it is the sole shareholder – been able to roll-out its IMESA Infrastructure Management System (IIMS) to assist especially struggling municipalities to generate GRAP 17 registers and to improve long-term municipal asset management systems.

Some eight local authorities are already on the system with a further five to be included by the end of 2013.

To date these efforts have been directed mainly towards the Free State.
REACHING OUT TO SADC COUNTRIES

I feel strongly that IMESA must meet its obligation of interacting with our Southern African neighbours.

Contact has been made with municipal engineers in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique.

A number of these countries have indicated a keenness to become involved and to open IMESA branches. Zimbabwe, which is represented at this conference, will probably be the first to take this exciting step.

TIES WITH SISTER VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS

IMESA has endeavoured to grow its involvement and collaboration with VA’s and plans are afoot for an MOU to be signed by SAICE and ourselves.

IFME
( THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS)

Networking and the exchange of international experience are some of the benefits derived from IMESA’s membership of IFME. As a Board Member I have over the past year had the pleasure of attending two IFME Board Meetings in New Zealand and Charlotte (USA). I will be presenting a paper on IMESA’s activities in Iceland at the end of this year.
IN CONCLUSION

“Municipal Engineers Must Have And Must Express Their Opinion & Remain Relevant”

This was the continual war-cry of IMESA past President Dr Chart van der Walt during his term of office and I’m proud to say that IMESA is taken seriously at government level by bodies such as National Treasury, SALGA, MISA, COGTA and ECSA and our assistance is being sought more and more.

I recently represented IMESA at a national skills development meeting in Pretoria together with National Treasury, SALGA, CESA and MISA and strong reference was made repeatedly to the fact that South Africa has to professionalize its municipalities and that technical departments have to be headed by registered technical people. The importance of IMESA’s role in the process was emphasized repeatedly.

I believe that thanks to having a membership and management team such as yourselves, IMESA is certainly able to continue to carry out the tasks demanded from us.

I thank you.