

# 80th IMESA Conference 2016

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

### President's welcome



To all our special guests, sponsors, exhibitors, national, provincial and municipal representatives and delegates, a most heartfelt welcome to the 80th IMESA Annual Conference and Exhibition in this charming coastal city of East London, which forms part of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. This annual conference has continued to grow from strength to strength and remains a fixture on the calendar for municipal engineering practitioners.

The theme for this conference, "Siyaphambili – Engineering our Future", should be reflected in the papers prepared and delivered by municipal engineering practitioners. Services delivery to citizens, through engineering infrastructure, remains the core function and reason for the existence of municipalities.

With the current economic climate, affordability of services becomes an important factor in choosing the appropriate solution, intervention or technology. Our choices are sometimes driven by short-term political

imperatives but may have long-term consequences. Our decisions should not become a burden to the future generation (our children and grandchildren). Life-cycle costing, therefore, becomes the determining factor in the choice of infrastructure to be implemented. This is also one of the core principles IMESA advocates through its Asset Management Planning training initiatives.

Other than fulfilling the needs towards continuing professional development, the networking opportunities at the conference between practitioners, services suppliers and all levels of government representatives are unsurpassed and remain the envy of some of our fellow voluntary institutions. The Golf Day, Opening and Excellence Awards Ceremony, Gala Evening, Technical Tours, Tea and Lunch Breaks all provide ample opportunities to engage with fellow municipal engineering practitioners, services providers, suppliers or community representatives. The relaxed

atmosphere resembles more the sight and sound of a large family get-together.

A big thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors, who have been loyal partners in the staging of this annual conference.

I also extend my appreciation towards the local organising committee, IMESA Head Office staff and all volunteers for the arrangements. The standards set are very high and the competitiveness between IMESA branches to produce a memorable conference adds great value to IMESA as a voluntary institution for municipal engineering.

A final thanks to all delegates for attending this conference, which, going on past experience, will provide you with value for the time and money you have invested.

Enjoy!

**Duncan Daries**  
IMESA President

### Local Organising Committee Address

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 80th IMESA Conference and Exhibition in East London.

Our track record of 79 successive conferences bears testimony to the high standards that are set by IMESA. This year is no exception. Our aim is to enable you to learn, and experience many new facets of the technical and managerial fields of municipal engineering and, at the same time, enjoy the pleasant company of friends and colleagues.

The theme of this year's conference is "Siyaphambili – Engineering the Future", an aspect that affects some of the most fundamental facets of human development, such as



economic welfare, health and dignity. This conference will offer delegates the opportunity to debate the challenges facing engineers in the municipal environment. A wide range of topics will be covered during the sessions. In short, the conference and exhibition is a platform to share both ideas and knowledge.

Thanks to the superb facilities offered by the East London International Convention Centre, we trust that your experience here will be memorable.

The conference would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors. We thank them sincerely and trust they will find that the conference and exhibition offers them value

for their money, as they become part of the IMESA family. I also want to thank the local organising committee. They are volunteers, who, in spite of very busy work schedules, found time and made personal sacrifices to participate and make this event a successful one. In the same vein, I also want to express our gratitude for the work done by IMESA Head Office – our professional conference organiser partner.

Please enjoy your stay in East London, participate in all that the conference and exhibition has to offer, and may you go home an enriched person.

Thank you for your support.

**Mark Westerberg**  
Chairman: IMESA Eastern Cape LOC