



81st IMESA Conference 2017

President's Welcome Address

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the 81st IMESA Conference and Exhibition, which promises to be a spectacular three days of insightful knowledge sharing and networking with like-minded peers at a world-class venue.

On the heels of the success of our previous conference in Gauteng in 2011, last year's amazing conference in East London (Buffalo City), and the present economic climate and financial constraints being imposed on business, we will strive to deliver a conference in true IMESA style.

As the President of the Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa, and the chairman of the local organising committee, I am extremely proud and humbled to be part of this prestigious event, which I believe will not just meet, but exceed our expectations of an event of this calibre. I am also pleased to announce that, for the first time since inception, the conference has been endorsed by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), with which IMESA has had a strategic partnership since 2011. Hence, I would like to thank SALGA for recognising the IMESA Conference as a notable event that serves to inform, enrich and unite its members and affiliates.

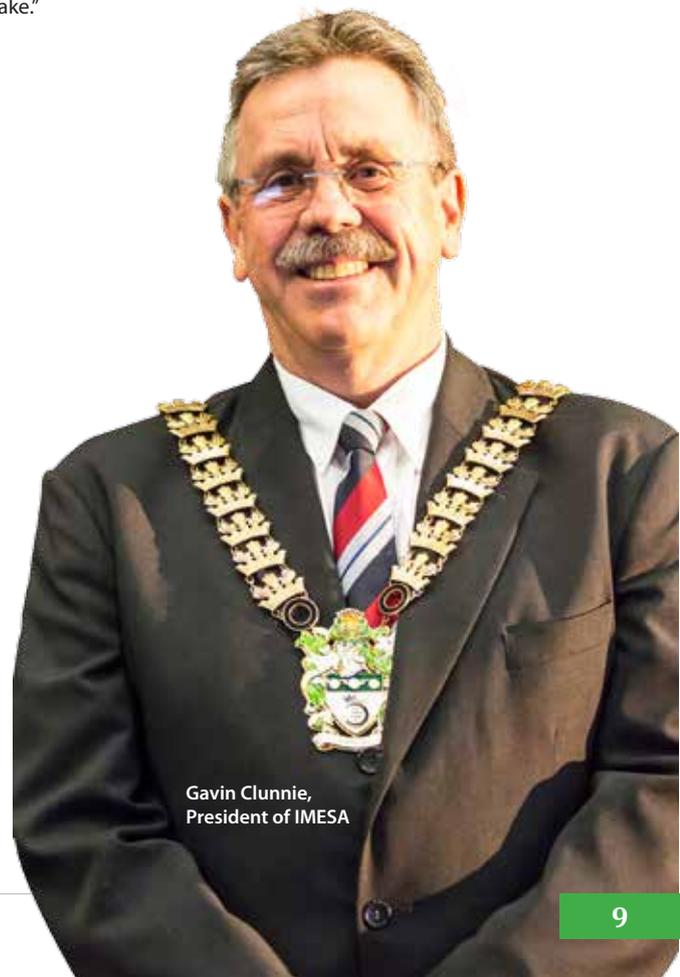
This year's conference theme, "Sustainable Engineering: back to basics for the future" calls into question whether we as engineers have forgotten the basic principles of engineering design as a result of technology in design. Most importantly, with the current state that we find ourselves in as humans, sustainability has never been more urgent across all facets of life. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to work towards solutions that not only institute measures that drive sustainability, but also provide education to our peers about the dire need to do so, and to continue the cycle of sustainability for generations to come. I am confident that the content to be delivered by our peer-reviewed speakers will stimulate relevant dialogue pertaining to this thought-provoking theme! Subject matter covered includes: roads and storm water, water and sanitation, environmental, transport and traffic, finance, political and regulatory.

Events to look forward to at this year's conference include a golf day, highly popular technical tours, and a not-to-be-missed gala dinner. For the companions, the companion tour is their own exciting programme which will not fail to entertain our delegates' other halves! Our Panel discussion on Friday is guaranteed to spark some debate, therefore don't miss the last session on Friday.

Of course, I must highlight the fact that our conference wouldn't be the success that it is today without the support of our generous sponsors and exhibitors. We are grateful for the relationships that we have forged with our sponsors, many of whom have partnered with IMESA at several previous conferences. With an estimated 80 exhibitors, we seek to provide our delegates with a comprehensive experience that covers all bases in the field of engineering.

Our local organising committee has done a great job in terms of conference planning and I would like to thank each and every one of my colleagues for their valuable contribution. Our city, Johannesburg is very close to my heart and I could not have asked for a better venue than the prestigious Emperors Palace, which I assure you, has the facilities and capacity to impress its esteemed guests. Johannesburg has a proud history of engineering accomplishments with a strong tradition of innovative engineering and design since its birth in 1886. As one of the largest and most advanced cities in Africa, engineers have had a significant input which has made the city a vibrant African hub.

I close off with a wish that you will enjoy all that the 2017 IMESA Conference has to offer, and that, after the three days of intellectual stimulation and information processing, you will mull over what you have gleaned and use this newfound knowledge to improve the world around you in a way that you deem fit. In the words of Jane Goodall, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."



Gavin Clunnie,
President of IMESA