



# President's Welcome Message

*A big hello and welcome to everyone out there*

Despite the present economic circumstances and cutbacks that companies are experiencing in the marketing field, we certainly hope that, in true IMESA fashion, our conference has not been too adversely affected and will be a success yet again. We are sadly missing some of our long-standing regular exhibitors and sponsors but we are sure that we will see them in the near future. A huge thank you is extended to the sponsors and exhibitors who are supporting our conference this year. We would not be able to host such a big event without your contributions and we are very grateful for the relationships that we have forged with all of you. We sincerely hope that the content and opportunities here will be beneficial to your companies and the industry as a whole. A grateful welcome to all of those delegates who have been able to make it to this year's conference and to your employers for allowing you to attend.

Our ties with SALGA (South African Local Government Association) are being strengthened and we take this opportunity to thank its representatives for the endorsement of our conference this year. We hope that the initiatives, which our strategic partnership intends to drive, will have a notable impact on our infrastructure and service delivery nationally.

I extend a word of thanks to our local organising committee for their tireless efforts in planning and contributing to the successful outcome of all the conference events. The theme "Innovative Infrastructure Solutions" is very appropriate. Now more than ever, our country needs unique and innovative solutions to the many problems that our municipalities face, be it ageing infrastructure, lack of operating funds, lack of technical staff or environmental issues, such as drought and rising sea levels, and community issues such as access to water and sanitation with our spiralling urban migration numbers. The information disseminated at this conference and the networking opportunities provided will hopefully allow you all to learn and share common experiences and solutions. Also, a special thank you to the IMESA Head Office staff for their continued and dedicated assistance in organising these events, without you it would be almost impossible.

The local organising committee has certainly been innovative with activities this year, adding a mountain bike event for this wonderful city of Port Elizabeth as an alternative to the golf day, and arranging the social evening on the beach under a bridge!

Please make the most of everything on offer and enjoy our 82nd IMESA Conference.



IMESA president Gavin Clunnie

## 2018 President's Address

### 1. Introduction

I cannot believe that two years have passed already; it seems like just yesterday that I became president of this prestigious institute. Again, I must say it has been the highlight of my career and sincerely thank all those who have supported me along this very eventful journey. I am truly grateful.

I trust that I have fulfilled most of the promises in my opening address. I have endeavoured to visit the branches and hopefully inspired future presidents to do the same. I have also undertaken to visit the metros and some of the larger councils in order to promote the vision and goals of the Institute with the aim of increasing its popularity and the numbers attending the conferences as well as taking up membership. It was indeed an honour to serve and hopefully pave the road ahead for my successors with good intentions that will make their journey smoother.

### 2. The Second Year

Unfortunately, I had to miss the IFME Board Meeting in Kansas City, USA, in August 2018. This was the IFME Triennial Congress in conjunction with the APWA's premier Public Works Expo (PWX).

There have been two very informative meetings with SALGA in order to review the Strategic Partnership Agreement and to identify specific initiatives for cooperation between the parties.

An Office Bearers meeting has been held before each of the EXCO meetings in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. All EXCO and Council meetings were well attended and proved to be very successful. This year, we could concentrate more on the affairs of the Institute.

### 3. Head Office

Our extremely competent staff compliment has been operating well under the control of the new office manager who really has settled in as if she had never left. The Head Office operations have become almost self-sufficient, requiring

little input from EXCO or Council. The Office Bearer's meetings may have contributed to this, reiterating the success of these meetings to add continuity and efficiency to the IMESA oversight processes and communication.

The Institute is in the process of auditing all the rules, policies and guidelines in order to produce efficient and workable documents, which will then mesh in with and complement the fine-tuning and updating of the IMESA constitution and by-laws, which is in progress. Major steps forward have been taken in this regard and we look forward to ratifying and applying the refurbished terms in the forthcoming presidential term, thanks largely to the efforts of Jeanine du Preez, Eddie Delpport, Leon Naude and Ingrid Botton.

### 4. IFME Board Meetings

It was certainly an honour to serve on this international body and be allowed the privilege by IMESA to attend three of the meetings. I attended the IFME Board Meeting and the Infrastructure Symposium in Suva, Fiji, in April. Only eight member countries were represented this year, largely due to the very long and difficult travel arrangements for such a short period.



Attendees were Fiji Islands, Australia, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada (and USA) and South Africa



I was honoured to have met His Excellency the President of the Fiji Islands, Major General (retired) Jioji Konusi Konrote (left) and Dr Marlene Kanga President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (second from right).

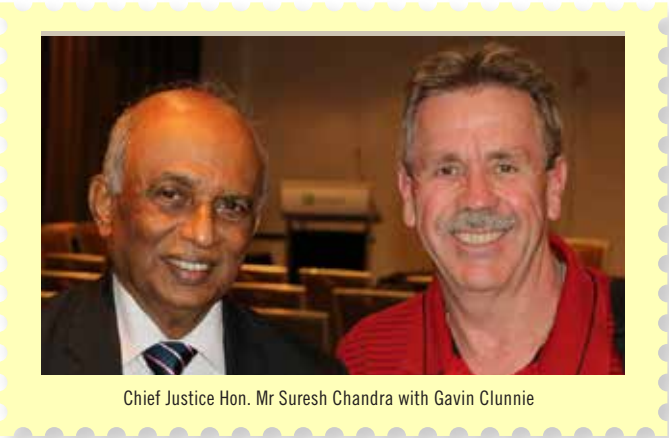
The others in the photo are the Minister of Agriculture and Mr Pratarp Singh, president of the South Pacific Engineers Association and a member of the IFME Board.

I also met the Chief Justice Hon. Mr. Suresh Chandra (below) who delivered an impromptu training session on mediation.

The Symposium delivered some very interesting and diverse papers, subject matter such as:

- TC Winston (Feb 2016) – Impact on Fiji. Response and Recovery and Lessons Learnt.
- Damage, Recovery and Resilience – 2010 and 2011 Canterbury and 2016 Kaikoura Earthquakes. A case study.
- Anti-Corruption and ISO 37000 “Anti-Bribery Management Systems” (ABMS) Standard and Good Governance.
- Global Infrastructure Outlook – Challenges and Opportunities (Including UN Sustainable Development Goals).
- Planning, Management and Maintenance Strategies in Resilient Infrastructure.
- Integrated Infrastructure Asset Management and Financial Management Reporting.
- Infrastructure Financing of Green Investment Projects and Public-Private Partnership.
- Enhancing Infrastructure Sustainability through Technical Standards.

All the papers, presented by internationally renowned experts in their fields, were very inspiring.



Chief Justice Hon. Mr Suresh Chandra with Gavin Clunnie

### 5. Branch visits

I continued with my visits to the branches and attended several meetings including: the Northern Provinces, KZN, Western Cape, Southern Cape Karoo, Eastern Cape and Border. Some of these meetings were their Annual General Meetings. The branches, in general, get very good turnouts and provide exceptional programmes for the meetings as well as technical tours and guest speakers. I believe there should be more emphasis on ensuring that politicians attend these meetings and events as we need to nurture the relationship with the powers that be in our councils.

The **Southern Cape Karoo** AGM and branch function in August was held at Dunes Hotel and Resort in Arniston. There was a good turnout with great presentations. The branch finances are in good shape and members seem enthusiastic about their branch but have big concerns about their councils. Much was discussed about the possibility of hosting the 2020 conference and they are raring to go.

On another visit to Mossel Bay, I was privileged to be able to have a meeting with the executive mayor and his senior councillors and staff.



Mossel Bay executive mayor and his senior councillors and staff

The 2020 conference was discussed with very positive input and dialogue from the council. They are positive that the venue in Mossel Bay will be on track. I have sent a letter of thanks and extended an invitation to the executive mayor for the 2018 conference on behalf of the branch.

In March, the **Kwazulu-Natal** Branch organised its branch meeting and technical tour in Richards Bay. This included a very innovative presentation on alternative water resources, with a site visit to a small modular desalination plant installation at Alkantstrand Beach in Richards Bay.

In June, a second Kwazulu-Natal branch meeting was held at the Westville Country Club where Mike Smart gave a very good presentation with technical explanations of the latest developments and design/operational benefits of PVC-O pipes for engineers to meet demands of urban populations. ▶



Kwazulu-Natal Branch



The **Western Cape** Branch always arranges interesting presentations and technical tours. The meetings and AGM held in September were no exception. The attendance was excellent and the presentations were fascinating.

The **Eastern Cape** AGM in September was held in Port Elizabeth and I was made to feel extremely welcome by the numerous attendees. A large emphasis was placed on the conference and the present economic climate. Our sincere appreciation goes to the branch for hosting the IMESA Conference this year. I am sure you will exceed expectations in spite of tough conditions in the industry.

The **Border** AGM in September was held in Beacon Bay, East London, and I was given a warm welcome. The AGM and full-day seminar was very well attended with the presentations enjoyed by all. The Border Branch funds, after the excellent performance of its conference in 2016, are being put to good use.

**Northern Provinces** held its AGM and mini seminar at the end of August, which was well attended with high-quality presentations. After successfully hosting the 2017 conference, the Northern Provinces Branch is in a good position to support more local initiatives.

The branches should be very proud, and it certainly shows that a little effort can go a long way; well done guys. Thanks to everyone for the friendly welcome I have received and the way in which you have hosted me. Keep up the good work.

A special thanks to all the sponsors throughout the country that so willingly support our branches. Without your input, the branch activities and events for our members would not be so successful. I hope that the future presidents will continue to visit the branches and keep up the personal interaction with the members at branch level.

### 6. VA committees, professional liaison and MoUs

**CESA** – A meeting with the Consulting Engineers of South Africa was held in May this year to discuss the way forward regarding the acceptance and signing of an MOU. The co-hosting of biennial excellence awards by IMESA and CESA has been, and continues to be, the springboard for further interaction between the two parties.

**SABITA** – I was only able to attend one meeting this year at the Royal HaskoningDHV offices in Woodmead, Johannesburg. The next meeting will be in November 2018 and I have volunteered to continue representing IMESA on this council as a means to reduce the incumbent president's load. This was accepted by both parties and I will continue to provide as much support as possible.

One of the big concerns is the financing of new road construction and upgrades, where the estimated costs far exceed the income generated from the fuel levy and, yet again, the man in the street, Mr Public, will bear the brunt of the costs when, in fact, most road damage is caused by industry and the heavy vehicles using the roads.

**South African Forum for Engineering (SAFE)** – This body was formed out of the ECSA Presidents Forum and the SAICE Presidents and CEO Forum, which encompass all willing participating engineering VA's across the full spectrum of this environment. There are currently 48 existing bodies (VA), of which about 20 have currently signed the MOU. Below is an extract of the MOU:

*Our aim is primarily to develop and foster effective synergies between ourselves as a collective forum of interested and affected parties in all matters relating to the engineering profession in South Africa such that we may present a united front in liaising more effectively with all parties, public and private sector, on matters and issues affecting the sustainability of the Engineering Profession in the Country.*

A brief feedback on the VA vs ECSA legal action is that it seems to be running to a typically lengthy legal process of continued extensions and delays

with no immediate outcome. How this will pan out in the future and what resolutions might be reached is unknown.

Just as a reminder, the impact of this is still that council decisions and implication of certain policies may need to be rescinded as they could be deemed to be illegal. Further, all professional registrations could be withdrawn. Let's hope common sense prevails and that the issue might still be resolved.

### 7. ECSA

ECSA hosted a half-day workshop held at Birchwood in Boksburg on 2 August 2018 to explain and roll-out the new VA and CPD Framework. One of the outcomes was that all registered VAs will have to complete new applications and re-register. The VAs will be given more responsibilities regarding the issue of CPD accreditation and allocation of points, and will vet all applications in line with the framework policy and guidelines before issuing CPD accreditation. CPD events will, however, still need to be registered and uploaded to their website by ECSA.

### 8. Finances and investments

Our treasurer, Eddie Delpport, has worked tirelessly to provide a comprehensive and workable financial and investment policy, which talks to the specific requirements that are in the best interests of the Institute with provisions for growth that will make it possible to contribute additional funding for projects, bursaries and training.

Together with Head Office staff, he has also rehashed the standard budget/expenditure spreadsheet for executive committee reporting to be more relevant and easier to understand.

The 2017/2018 annual financial statements have been adjusted to include actual income/expenditure from the previous completed conference for which the surplus will be available in the current financial year.

Because of Central Supplier Database (CSD) issues, IMESA is considering running all operations from one bank account.

### 9. Obituary

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I have to mention that two of our very long-standing members have passed away. They are Mr Ansen Lamprecht and Mr Peter Kleynhans, both members of Northern Provinces Branch for over 30 years. We have sent their families a message of condolences and support.

### 10. A word of thanks

A very special thank you to the team of office bearers, Exco, Council and Head Office staff, who I was fortunate enough to work with personally and who I believe to be the best team ever to represent IMESA. Thank you for all your amazing input and support, especially during difficult times. Without you, IMESA would not be the success it is today. Also, a special thank you for the foundations of success laid down by all those who have held these positions before us.

A further big thank you to my business partner, Mr Deon Pinard, for allowing me to pursue this venture and all his support in keeping the office running in difficult circumstances. I will be back in full swing from November. I know it could not have been easy for him, but he is a stalwart. Thank you, Deon.

Thank you to my family and loved ones for all your support; this is the fuel that keeps me going. Thanks especially to my wife, Rhu, who has stood by me through thick and thin, and has been an inspiration for my term. She has really been a fantastic 'first lady', if I may use that term.

**Thank you and enjoy the conference.**