

Prof Corné Schutte

Prof Corné Schutte was born in 1963 as the eldest of three children and spent his childhood on a farm in the Lowveld. He matriculated from Bergvlam High School in Nelspruit in 1981 with seven distinctions. His tertiary studies included BEng (Industrial Engineering) in 1985, BEng (Hons) in Industrial Engineering in 1986, and MEng in Industrial Engineering in 1988, all at the University of Pretoria, Cum Laude.

In 1989 he joined Paradigm Systems Technology in Pretoria and began a career in industry. Initial projects were done for the South African Air Force, but the company also became involved in marketing its products and services internationally. Prof Schutte joined the international marketing team of the company, and became involved in projects in France and the United Kingdom.

As a consequence, his services were also used for a project for the Sabre Group in Texas, USA, with Cathay Pacific as a client in 1997, and later also with BAe Systems in the creation of a joint venture with IFS.

In 1999 he relocated to New Mexico, USA, to join a small software development company in order to develop products for the civil aviation markets. The initial clients were Cathay Pacific and Virgin Atlantic, and this again led to the opportunity to work in various locations around the world, ending in Hong Kong in 2004.

Corné returned to South Africa the end of 2004 and joined Stellenbosch University as a senior lecturer in 2005. He completed his PhD at the University of Stellenbosch in 2010, and was promoted to associate professor in 2010.

Meanwhile he had also become involved in the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE) in 2007, starting to organize the annual conference, ending up as the President of the institute in 2009-2011. He is currently still on the council, and is a director of SAIIE.

At present Corné is a professor and chairman of the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University. During this period, the department had grown significantly from the smallest to now the 3rd largest in the faculty, constantly seeking new opportunities to further the discipline and widening the Industrial Engineering footprint. His current research focuses on innovation, knowledge networks, engineering management and lately also on the status of Industrial Engineering in South Africa.

He is also the current editor of the South African Journal of Industrial Engineering (SAJIE), an ISI accredited journal.

He is married to Rene and has four children: Anthony, a 26-yr old stepson, Christian (9), Kiara (7), a girl in our care, and Lohan (4), a very busy and self-confident toddler. They spend their time as a family in Betty's Bay over weekends and holidays, and in Somerset West during the week.

