In this issue:

- SAIIE News
- SAIIE and other Events
- Articles
- Job Vacancies
- Contact Us
Driving in Pretoria this October was like a pilgrimage – the Jacaranda trees burst out in purple splendour, forming a cathedral across the streets while displaying a most intricately woven colourful carpet. And that in a dry season — they didn’t wait for the rain, they just answered to the purpose for which they were created.

In this time, the sad news reached our Institute that the ‘Father of Industrial Engineering in South Africa’, Professor Khris Adendorff passed away at the age of 83. Our deep-felt sympathy goes to Professor Adendorff’s wife, Riekie, his daughter, Susan Adendorff and grandchildren. May precious memories fill your hearts and ease your pain.

Professor Adendorff was involved in Industrial Engineering since it was first offered as a separate degree at the University of Pretoria in 1961. Professor Adendorff was instrumental in establishing Industrial Engineering as a professional engineering discipline in South Africa. He was a founder member of the South African Institute of Industrial Engineers, now the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE). As member of the Institute he served in all capacities including President and he was an Honorary Fellow of the Institute. He was instrumental in achieving recognition from the precursor of the Engineering Council of South Africa for SAIIE as a voluntary association in 1984, which enabled the IE profession to control the professional registration of Industrial Engineers in South Africa. Read more.

October had its share of interesting events across a broad spectrum, as well as the Institute’s AGM and SGM held in Johannesburg on Monday, 20 October 2014. At this event the SAIIE President and Council requested the SAIIE Members’ approval of the proposed Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) of SAIIE, as is required under the New Companies Act.

Members approved unanimously the adoption of a Memorandum of Incorporation which does away with the practice of holding members accountable for the fulfilment of the mandate of the Institute. This implies that the directors of SAIIE would be accountable for both the fiduciary duties and the execution of the company mandate, in line with current best practice.

Notwithstanding the change in terms of decision making authority and accountability, the following institutional principles, which have applied for the past 25 years, has been incorporated in both the MOI, and the supporting Rules:

- The mandate, purpose and spirit of the constitution of SAIIE will remain unchanged. We have been, and will continue to be an institute that represents the interests of its members, and the interests of our profession to the Engineering Council of South Africa.
- The SAIIE Council will continue to consult its members, using various platforms, in terms of setting the strategic direction in the fulfilment of the mandate of the Institute.
- The SAIIE Council, which is appointed from amongst the members of SAIIE, will continue to act and serve as a guiding body to the Institute.
- The President of the Institute, which is also the Chairman of Council, will serve for two consecutive years, as it is deemed to be the minimum period for making a meaningful contribution in this position.

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) provided feedback titled Innovation – what’s new? following the Forum’s plenary meeting on 17 October, which brought a whole new dimension to the ‘need’ aspect of innovation. It is well known and acknowledged that a critical phase in the innovation cycle is the identification or creation of a need. In this regard, one mostly thinks along tangible lines – Amazon’s Kindle (which satisfied the need in 2007 for an electronic reader to make books more affordable and accessible) or Apple’s iPad (which nobody needed in 2010, but which everyone now has to have). Read more.

The South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) responded to the announcement by Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Nomvula Mokonyane that she will be signing an agreement with her
Cuban counterpart in Havana to pave the way for 37 Cuban engineering specialists to come and fill the existing critical technical gaps in the DWS. Manglin Pillay, CEO of SAICE, states, “Our engineers need to get first choice. We have excellent, experienced engineers both locally, as well as those who are currently working outside of South Africa. Government needs to make strides to attract South African engineers back to South Africa and back into our government sector where they are most needed. If there is a shortage thereafter, then the whole world can join us.” Read more.

The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) submitted the application for Identification of Engineering Work (IDoEW) exemption on behalf of the ECSA to the Competition Commission (CC) in March 2014. IDoEW is engineering work reserved to be done only by persons registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). The CC is currently investigating this application which entails, inter alia, consultations by the CC with any party or persons that may be affected by the identification of work. Persons, parties and stakeholders that may be affected by the identification of work are hereby invited to engage with the CC in respect of this application and its anticipated outcome. All inputs in this regard are to be submitted to the CC by no later than 21 November 2014 at Mbongiseni Ndlovu, Mbongisenin@compcom.co.za, Tel: 012 394 5165 or Tlabo Mabye, Tlabom@compcom.co.za, Tel: 012 394 3403. Enquiries in respect of this notice maybe directed to: Advocate Pieter Fourie (Manager: Legal and Regulations), Tel: 012 346 3985 / 012 424 9818, Pieter@cbe.org.za / kutala@cbe.org.za. Read more.

Nominations for the prestigious 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards are now open. Deadline of the first stage of the process is 5 December 2014. Click here for more information.

Another interesting event organised by the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, is “Visiting the port of Walvis Bay and the Launch of the Namibian Logistics Hub Forum” on 4 and 5 December 2014 at the Port of Walvis Bay and Protea Hotel Pelican Bay. Click here for agenda and to register.

A very relevant article by Sandy McGreggor who joined Allan Gray in October 1991, was posted in Thought Leaders on 29 October 2014. In the article “Allan Gray: What’s wrong with South African economy”, McGreggor writes, “After growing strongly for 10 years, since 2012 the South African economy has been stagnating, which prompts the question: What has gone wrong and how can this be fixed?” He suggests looking back to find a way forward. Read more.

Login to your profile at www.saiie.co.za and click on “Job Vacancies” for more information.

Industries who would like to advertise job vacancies on the SAIIE webpage are asked to register at http://industry.saiie.co.za/. Do not hesitate to contact SAIIE Administration for more information on this.
In conclusion, while mourning the passing of a very special person, the industrial engineering fraternity also celebrates Professor Adendorff’s life. Victor Hugo said, “There is one thing stronger than all the armies of the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.” The idea of Industrial Engineering came and the rest is history! And, while we are still here, let’s emulate the Jacaranda trees, don’t wait for the rain, find the hidden resource, and produce your own splendour — work-wise and other-wise!

Forward towards 2015 – until again!

Contact Us

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