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Editor's Message

Hello to all members.

Can you believe it...We are already half way through the year...where has the time gone.

This winter edition is filled with interesting information and exciting upcoming events.

As usual please send us any interesting articles that you would like to share with the members. Don't forget to send us your suggestions or comments for both the newsletter and website.

Salona Naidoo

Sue Anya Pillay

Note from the President

Greetings to all Members and interested friends,

The year is moving along at a frighteningly rapid pace. Word out there is that some folk in the engineering geological fraternity have noted a slow-down in workloads, no doubt strongly allied to the world economic situation. However, we will certainly weather this storm as we have in the past, and come through fit and rarin' to take up the challenges of an economy in recovery.

The Council met again on the 07th May. Most pressing on the Agenda was to get comments from Members back to SANS on the various documents that were out for public review:

SANS 1936 "Development of Dolomite Land"

SANS 633 “Profiling and Percussion and Core Borehole Logging in Southern Africa for Engineering Purposes.” and

SANS 634 “Geotechnical Investigations for Township Development.”

Thank you to all who responded before the extended deadline of mid June 2009.

Another issue that was discussed was the request from Robert Anderson who, together with Dr. Allen W. Hatheway had joined the AEG committee for "Geology of the Cities of the World." The objective of this committee is to re-energize the AEG project to update and add to the publication of a number of years ago. They hope to have a number of new papers ready by the AEG national meeting in 2011. It is also suggested to prepare and update addendum to the Johannesburg and Durban papers.

Some members have given good ideas on this, but I believe that we must not be overly ambitious.

Fortunately we have been blessed with an energetic and enthusiastic volunteer, Ms Ashika Sudu, who is going to be our dedicated Co-ordinator for this project, to oversee the inputs of various contributor sub committees and make sure deadlines etc are met. I have no doubt that this will prove hugely successful. Thank you very much Ashika.

We have set dates of 22 July (Tukkies) and 29 July (KwaZulu Natal) for the “Road-show” to give a presentation to the Engineering Geology students. Hopefully we can give interesting and useful information that will help make decisions regarding chosen fields for their careers. We also need to attract more “young blood” to the Institute.

My ongoing thanks to the current Council Members, Newsletter Editors, Regional Representatives (GV Price is welcomed as our “scribe” for the Eastern Cape) and those who provide a liaison role with other Institutions and help with specific tasks. Don’t forget that if you are interested in assisting in any way in SAIEG activities, please contact Robbie Cameron on Robbie@rca.co.za.

In concluding this message, I wish to inform members and friends that I have had to take a short “sabbatical” from Presidential duties to enable me to get back on track with personal, family and work matters that have become somewhat overpowering in the past three months. Phil Paige Green and Tony A’Bear have kindly agreed to hold the fort until about September, by which time tranquillity will have hopefully returned.

Please send any suggestions and interesting ideas to the Editors, to our Secretariat or to the Council – we are counting on you!

Till the next time, keep well and keep warm.

Best wishes.

Margaret Wynne - President

Rob McLea Award:

We are very proud and happy to have been granted a sponsorship of R15 000 from Vela VKE to used for an Annual Award to honour the memory of the late Rob McLea.

Shortly SAIEG will inform members regarding what form this annual citation will take and how it will be awarded.



PHOTOGRAPH'S NEEDED!

We are looking for photographs depicting what engineering and environmental geologists do and get to experience in their profession. The photographs will primarily be used on the top of each of the web site pages. Additional photographs will be placed on a new gallery page.

Please have a quick look through your project photos and send select ones to Richard Puchner (puchner@jaws.co.za). Note that unless stated otherwise, by sending a photograph to SAIEG, the following will be assumed:

- *The photographer grants permission to SAIEG to use the photograph on it's webpage, printed material, or any other form of public display.*
- *Permission has been obtained from the relevant authority or project manager concerned.*

Richard Puchner - Treasurer

Groundwater 2009 Conference – Sale of the Brink Volumes

We have received this bit of nostalgic information from Ms Glaudin Kruger of Kruger and Associates – they will be selling the last copies of Tony (ABA) Brink's 4 volume Engineering Geology books at the upcoming Groundwater 2009 Conference in Somerset West from 16 to 18 November '09. Glaudin informed me that she was involved in the publication/ marketing of the last three of these books.

They will retail for approximately R2 500, but there will possibly be a discount for Conference delegates. Please contact Glaudin on Tel: 028 316 2905 or at

kruger@kruger-associates.com for further information.

The 17th ICSMGE Conference – 05 to 09 October at Alexandria, Egypt and incorporating the International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (02 to 06 October 2009)

Some of our members are going to attend and be actively involved in this dynamic, interactive theoretical and practical get-together of bright minds.

We will love to have feedback after the event.

Site Investigations Code of Practice

The draft SAICE Geotechnical Division / SAIEG Code of Practice for Site Investigations has been out for some time; the compilers are keen to have as much comment as possible so please send any comments or suggestions for improvement to the authors via Nico Vermeulen on vermeulen@jaws.co.za or nico@jaws.co.za. The deadline for your inputs is the end of July 2009.

Students – You Get Something For FREE!

Something for nothing?! Please remember that attendance is free for all students attending SAIEG lectures and talks.

Report Back : Evening Lecture: “The Use of Ground Geophysics to Compliment Engineering Problems & Projects in South Africa – Case Studies and Applications

A SAIEG evening lecture was held at SAICE House on 20 May 2009. The lecture was entitled, “The use of ground geophysics to compliment engineering problems & projects in South Africa – case studies and applications; and was presented by Alten du Plessis and Darek Leskiewicz of Global Geophysical and Open Ground Resources cc.

Alten and Darek presented case studies of work they’ve carried out in South Africa to illustrate when particular geophysical techniques should be used. They also highlighted the limitations and the advantages of each technique as well as indicated how some techniques may be used to compliment one another.

The lecture was informative and well attended by the SAIEG fraternity.

All in all, an evening well spent.

Membership

If anyone has not received their SAIEG membership certificate, please send a query to Greg Heath ...gheath@geoscience.org.za

Upcoming Events

IAEG 2010

Another reminder about IAEG 2010 – there will be plenty of these over the next 12 months or so to make sure that no-one “accidentally” forgets about it. We would like a strong contingent from South Africa (most of you probably have relatives in New Zealand anyway).

Check the website – <http://www.iaeg2010.com/>

The conference themes and sub-themes have been reviewed and now cover a much wider range of topics (many more relevant to SA), so have a look at them (call for abstracts) and submit an abstract. The final date for abstract submissions is 17th July 2009 so there is still ample time to think of a topic (you don't have to submit the paper until 15th January so no excuses allowed) and get your abstract in. I have heard a few presentations on the planning of this conference and can assure you that it will be a get-together of note.

Phil-Paige Green – Vice President

7th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG

See www.iaeg2009.com

15th Regional Conference for Africa on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

The Geotechnical Engineers of Mocambique have been awarded the 15th ARC which is being planned for June 2011. This is another excellent opportunity for South African engineering geologists to publish the results of some of their work for local engineers. Details will be released as the programme develops, but I am on the local scientific committee in order to ensure that engineering geologists are represented and papers with a specific engineering geology content are refereed by suitable referees. I will be calling on a number of our members to assist with this job as and when necessary, so please make yourselves available for this. This will probably only happen in the second half of 2010.

Phil-Paige Green – Vice President

PROBLEM SOILS COURSE FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ENGINEERS

This is an abbreviated and modified version of the Problem Soils Conference held in November 2008 specifically for students and young engineers (older engineers are also welcome!). The course will be presented in Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town by:

- Peter Day on expansive soils,
- Ken Schwartz on collapsible soils,
- Dr Gary Jones on soft clays,
- Dr Fritz Wagener on dolomite and
- Dr Phil Paige-Green on dispersive soils.

The dates are:

Durban 6 August (University of Kwazulu-Natal)

Pretoria 13 August (University of Pretoria)

Cape Town 21 August (Graduate Business School, Waterfront)

The event will aim to be a first-time introduction to these problem soils and practical examples on dealing with them will be presented. Graduate engineers will be admitted at a charge of R500 per person and students completely free of charge. Students must register via their universities. For more details and registration information please refer to:

Hennie Barnard

Aurecon

Tel: (012) 427 2765

Email: Hennie.barnard@af.aurecongroup.com

Fax: 086 600 5151

SLOPE STABILTY COURSE

SAIEG, together with the University of Pretoria, is planning to hold a Slope Stability Course to be run over 2 or 3 days. It will include a theoretical background to slope stability specifically for engineering geologists as well as basic analysis exercises, in order for the geologist to understand how the results will be used. Understanding how the data will be used by the design engineer will make its acquisition more meaningful and will generally result in better quality information being obtained. More details will follow shortly.

Phil-Paige Green – Vice President

SAIEG

South African Institute for Engineering & Environmental Geologists
www.saleg.co.za



Presents a three day course on

**GEOTECHNICAL CORE LOGGING,
SOIL PROFILING AND CHIP LOGGING**

**SAICE House,
Block 19, Thornhill Office Park, Vorna Valley, Johannesburg**

**Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th &
Friday 7th August 2009**

*3 ECSA CPD points will be allocated to delegates attending all three days.
Delegates only attending parts of the course will be allocated 1 ECSA CPD
point per day attended. Course Reference SAIMM (to follow).*

THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED FOR:

- Young or learner geotechnical engineers and engineering geologists
- Soil laboratory or geotechnical technologists
- Foreign geotechnical practitioners who need an introduction to the widely used South African methodology
- Mine geologists working in the geotechnical field

DAY 1 – CORE LOGGING

Wednesday 5th August 2009 full day

The course content provides:

- Theoretical background
- Drilling methodology
- What should be recorded on the driller's log
- Common problems encountered
- Core logging methodology
- What should appear on the typical profile sheet
- Core photography
- Safety and environmental issues

The afternoon will comprise of a practical session in the field under the tutelage of practising professionals.

DAY 2 AND MORNING OF DAY 3 - SOIL PROFILING

Thursday 6th all day and morning of Friday 7th August 2009

The course content provides:

- Theoretical background
- Introduction to the origin of soils including the modes of weathering, the value of Weibert's N value, typical components of a soil profile, basic problem soil types
- Soil profiling methodology
- Equipment required
- Sampling of soils
- What should appear on the typical profile sheet
- Safety and environmental issues

The afternoon and the following morning will comprise of a practical session in the field under the tutelage of practising professionals. Two different sites, covering both cohesive and non-cohesive soils, will be visited and a practical session will be held at each.

AFTERNOON OF DAY 3 – CHIP LOGGING

Friday 7th August 2009 afternoon only

It is preferable that delegates attending the Chip Logging course should have attended both the core logging and soil profiling courses or at least be reasonably experienced practitioners.

The course content provides:

- Theoretical background
- What should be recorded on the driller's log
- Chip logging methodology
- Equipment required
- What should appear on the typical profile sheet
- Safety and environmental issues

A short practical session will be held after the theoretical introduction.

REGISTRATION FOR THE COURSE

Please find the registration form attached. The registration fee for this course includes:

- Tea & coffee breaks
- Lunches (*except for delegates only attending Chip Logging course*)
- Transport to/from field sites
- Course materials

Full time student registrations will be sponsored by:



WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Appropriate clothing including sturdy field shoes and a hat
- Geological pick
- Tape measure; 3m or 5m retractable tape
- Water bottle
- Hand lens

COURSE TIMES

- Registration opens at 07:00
- The courses commence at 08:00
- The Chip Logging course commences at 13:30 for 14:00

Please send your completed registration form to Yolandé Oosthuizen register@rca.co.za or fax it to 011 728 1675 / 086 653 7108.

Calendar of Events

	Event	Location
July 22 & 29, 2009	Student Road Show	Pretoria University & University of KwaZulu Natal
Sep9 – 11, 2009	Geological Engineering Problems in Major Construction Projects in Combination with the 7 th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG	Chengdu, Sichuan China
Sept20 – 23, 2009	Heavy Minerals Conference	Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensburg
Sep 21 – 26, 2009	AEG's 2009 Annual Meeting	South Lake Tahoe, California
Sep 24 – 26, 2009	Environmental and Geological Science and Engineering Conference – various lectures	Brasov, Romania
Sep 27 – Oct 1, 2009	Dam Safety	Hollywood, Florida
Oct 5 – 9, 2009	XVII International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	Alexandria, Egypt
Nov 10, 2009	ICGSE 2009 – International Conference on Geological Sciences and Engineering	Rio da Janeiro, Brazil
Sep 5 -10, 2010	The 11 th international Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG2010): “Geologically Active”	Auckland, New Zealand

Publications

Title	Author	Publication Date	Price (including postage)
The Natural Road Construction Materials of South Africa	Weinert, H.H	1980	R30,00
Cities of South Africa	AEG Symposium	1981	50,00
Guidelines for Urban Engineering Geological Investigations	SAIEG / SAICE	1997	R75,00
A Practical Guide to Soil Improvement	SAIEG / SAICE	1999	R75,00
Proceedings 9 th IAEG Congress (with extended abstracts) – Engineering Geology for Developed Countries, Durban, 2002 (Compact Disc Format)	Editors: Van Rooy, J.L and Jermy, C.A	2002	R120,00
SAIEG ties			R50,00
'97 Conference Proceedings			R100,00

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, or if you have any suggestions or ideas. Until next time.....

General

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