

SAIEG

South African Institute for Engineering & Environmental Geologists

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September 2016

SAIEG PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

Finally, Spring is on its way with a vengeance (34°C as I write this) and I apologise for the delay in this communique – however, it was intentional as I was waiting for the 35th IGC to be wrapped up to be able to report back on it as well.

It appears that most of our members are getting increasingly busy as the year progresses, which is a good sign. Hopefully this trend will continue in line with the (somewhat suspect) growth figures for South Africa released in the past week or so.

SAIEG was privileged to host the Executive Committee and Council meetings of IAEG prior to the IGC, and thanks to the meticulous arrangements made by Louis, everything flowed smoothly and the international delegates all seemed to have had a great time, both business-wise as well as socially. A number of international AEG members were also present at the IGC and a small reception for them and the local AEG members was also held, with a good opportunity to get to know our international colleagues a little better.

This will be the last communique from me this year and I will be ending my term as President in December, placing SAIEG in the capable hands of Louis for the next two years.

35th IGC

After nearly 8 years of organization, the 35th IGC has now come and gone. Despite a few minor hiccups, it all seems to have gone off well with positive feedback from most delegates that I spoke to. About 4 500 delegates from 119 countries registered for the conference with a total of about 6 000 oral and poster presentations being made. There were about 40 parallel sessions per day for the 5 days as well as plenary presentations, special lectures, exhibitions and a number of IAEG commission meetings. Unfortunately, it was so busy that it was not possible to attend each session or meeting that one would like to have.

There were about 80 presentations made in the “Engineering geology” session as well as at least another 20 on landslides, karst problems, and other such “disasters” in the “Natural hazards” sessions. The two sessions were held in adjacent rooms at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, so it was possible to “jump” between sessions without taking too much time. The engineering geology sessions were attended by between about 25 and 50 delegates most of the time from every continent and were ably chaired by the international IAEG delegates as well as a number of SAIEG members. I would like to thank them all for helping out at relatively short notice.

With so many diverse geological subjects being covered and the large attendance of both international and local geologists involved in almost every geological field imaginable, this was indeed a most interesting and busy conference and I am sure that the 20 or so SAIEG members who attended all benefitted greatly from the experience.

The extended abstracts presented as papers or posters will be available on the IGC website shortly for members (those of you who did not attend may be able to access them through colleagues who did attend) but I would urge those who submitted abstracts to develop these into full-length papers (the hard work has been done) and submit them to the IAEG Bulletin or some other appropriate journal. We need to be documenting our ideas and findings as far as possible for future generations.

For those interested, SAIEG had an App developed for IGC currently usable on Android phones, which covers the walking tour of building stones in Cape Town. You can download this onto your phone at any time from:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.release.igc.navtest>

The next IGC will be held in Delhi, India in 2020 and it the conference it was announced that the 2024 IGC will be held in South Korea.

Admin

As you are (or should by now be) aware, Yolandé van den Berg of Selah Productions has taken over responsibility of SAIEG administration and we welcome her back into the fold. She has already been busy organising the first “Profiling and logging” course and will be closely involved with all SAIEG admin and functions. She can be contacted on info@selahproductions.co.za for any information or queries.

Membership applications

Members

Kent Gravelet Blondin



Candidate members

David Gina Sifiso

Penlan Naidoo

Affiliate members

Clement Rikhotso

Student members

None

Members have a two-week period to object to the election of any of these members.

Upcoming Events

14-16 September - Soil profiling and core logging course. Ambrosia Hall.

29 September - 2 hour lecture on Geotechnical Investigations, at Bytes Conference Centre, in Midrand – for more information contact Yolande at +27 82 323 3910.

4 November 2016: Tony Brink Memorial lecture – Dr Gary Jones.

Next council meeting:

The next Council meeting will be held on 4 November 2016.

Regards

Phil Paige-Green

President

