

IPET NEWS Dec 2011

PO Box 1824, Randburg, 2125. Head Office Tel / Fax (011) 787 9706.

E mail engineer@netactive.co.za

Compiled and Edited by V Nel, Pr Tech Eng.

Language Adviser. P McLeod

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"Tackle a Block at a Time".

This is a special short hardcopy version of the Newsletter.

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No 1. Seasons Greetings from the Chairperson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their continued support to the institute and the engineering profession as a whole over the year 2011.

As I look back at some of the worst natural disasters during 2011, things simply refused to do what we expected them to do. We zipped from one crisis to another, without time to grasp or to digest or to consider. The ground gave out beneath our feet intellectually as well as physically. A tsunami demolished not only the coast of Japan but also the well-laid plans of most industrial countries for generating sustainable power in the future.

The February 2011 South Island, New Zealand earthquake occurred as part of the aftershock sequence. One day an earthquake cracked the facade of the National Cathedral in Washington, and the next

No 2 Greetings Continued.

Hurricane Irene threatened to rip parts down. The drought was so severe in Somalia, in the horn of Africa, that some residents had to flee their villages and towns in search of water and food. Bangkok flood defences were breached in the Thonburi district, bringing flood water to the outskirts of the central tourist and business areas. Thus it is a little hard to pretend all was well in 2011.

As responsible engineering technologist members, it is our priority to always be mindful of our role within our community and the environment by protecting them.

This means ensuring we should not undermine the capacity of the natural environment when providing our services, and that we should not contribute to any instability in the communities in which we operate. We must have a long term commitment to protect the environment, and we should consistently promote sustainability in the communities in which we operate.

Each person living on earth has a carbon footprint producing carbon emissions directly or indirectly. This has a combined negative long term effect on the environment and thus on our communities.

There are no quick fixes for climate change. We all have our role to play, especially the engineering technologists who have an important part to play by taking decisions and designing projects which seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the council members for their voluntary services to the institute in 2011.

Be part of the solution. Your small actions will make a big difference. Save tomorrow today.

Have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous green new year in 2012.

Kwezi Chabikuli Pr.Tech.Eng President

No 3. No 3. Supporting Charities.

To support charities at this time of the year the Xmas cards included in the hard copy version of this Newsletter were bought from various charities. This amounts to donations of just more than R 3300.

No 4. Editor's Message.

To *all* our members a happy safe festive season. To our Jewish members we wish them happy holidays over the Chanukah period of 20 to 28th December. To our Muslim members "Kul 'am wa enta bi-khair" ("May every year find you in good health!") – (Thanks to Google for the information). To all our members of other religions we wish you a happy, safe and restful festive season and a good new year. To those with a sense of humour please see the Jokes Column below!

Viv Nel, Editor

"If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsellor, caution your elder brother and hope your guardian genius."
Joseph Addison.

No 5. Editor's Comment.

With the special and short hardcopy version of the December newsletter posted by surface mail fully paid up registered members should find a CPD certificate for the year.

The mail includes a Calendar for 2012.

Invoices for 2012 membership are also included in this mail.

It is not possible for us to E mail these to you so you have to check your post box!

In order for us to publish an up-to-date and good newsletter, members are urged to send your written articles to us (F/a Editor). The newsletter cannot be a success without you contributing your expertise, knowledge and time.

If you have any news that you would like to share with other members, please send us a press release, letter and or snippets of information and high resolution (300dpi) photo's.

Facebook, Twitter, Linkdin and other Social Networks.

From time to time we get suggestions that we should be on one or all of the above social networks. We get invitations to join all sorts of groups and "friends."

Facebook is the flavour of the month but seems to open you up to loads of unwelcome contacts and people wanting to be friends. We do not think it will enhance our professional image and will subject us to a lot of wasted time and unneeded maintenance. It is also not seen as a vehicle for the newsletter at this time.

So to all members (and others) who have asked us to join their group or social circle we will not be doing so at this time.

Ed.

No 6. The IPET Awards Function.

The IPET Merit Awards are National medals awarded annually to the most deserving engineering students in South Africa who achieve cum laude

standard at the **B. Tech.** exit level. The medals are awarded to students at Universities of Technology offering Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) accredited engineering courses. The overall best student in SA is awarded a 75-mm diameter medal.

The best students, both male and female, at each University of Technology (previously Technikon) receive a 60-mm diameter medal.

All nominees receive an IPET Certificate and one year's free membership of IPET as they are the universities best B. Tech. (Eng.) students and deserve recognition.

These prestigious medals consist of a gold plated bronze discs that are suitably engraved. The certificates are suitably worded and embossed and whenever practical are presented in frames.



Award to overall top B.Tech Graduate in South Africa

The IPET medal was awarded to **Nastasia Ramsamy** for the highest academic achievement in B. Tech Engineering (all disciplines) in South Africa 2010

Nastasia Ramsamy, who graduated in B Tech Chemical Engineering at Durban University of Technology was not able to personally receive the IPET award since she was in the UK at the time. She achieved an average of 86.1% for her B Tech Degree.

Her parents accepted the award in her place. In the photo:

Dr Maggie Chetty, HOD Chemical Engineering
Durban University of Technology
Mrs and Mr Ramsamy
Mr Kwezi Chabikuli, IPET President



Second highest Academic achievement country wide

Christopher T Adonis, also from Durban University of Technology, received the IPET Award for the highest academic achievement in B. Tech Engineering (all disciplines) in South Africa 2010 by a male, He achieved an average of 85.1% for his B Tech Degree in Civil Engineering.

In the Photo Mr Kwezi Chabikuli, IPET President and Mr Christopher Adonis from DUT



Present & Past Presidents.

The President Kwezi Chabikkuli presented the Past President, Des Lange with a Honorary Fellow award at IPET awards evening.

The IPET Presidents Award for 2011

This was presented to MOGAMAT FARIED ALLIE for exceptional service to the Engineering Profession representing Professional Engineering Technologists. Dr T Stidworthy accepted the medal on Farieds behalf as he was ill and could not travel from Cape Town. (No photo available).

No 7 E Mail Woes & Tips for Members.

To the members who do not get our bulk mailed E News, we offer some tips. Just because you get E mails that are sent to you individually from us does not mean that you receive bulk E News mails. Some Companies and Internet Service Providers block E mails when they are addressed to more than a few people such as a small group as they suspect that these E mails are Spam. Some companies block all E-mails unless they are on an approved list held by the company. Members who supplied E mail addresses which end in Spoornet, Transnet, Eskom and Gov (Government) are warned that our E News is often blocked as they suspect the E mails are Spam. This unfortunately also applies to some other firms and consulting companies. Although the worst cases are Eskom, Government, Spoornet and Transnet, Absa and Telkomsa.net also sometimes block our E mails.

Members must sort this out with their IT people at work or their Internet supplier. Your own Computer settings also need to be checked and set especially if you have any filters of any sort in your machine.

It is not something we can do from our end!

E Mails coming from any of the following E Mail addresses should be allowed through.

- jjconsultancy@gmail.com
- jameshellerjhb@gmail.com
- 206on8th@gmail.com
- engineer@netactive.co.za

Those members who cannot get our E News through their given addresses at work must please supply us with a valid personal private E Mail address. To those who do not have E-mail please visit a friend who does have access to the Internet and / or regularly visit an Internet Café and go on line. It is relatively cheap.

Please see our Website where we list invalid and suspect E-mail member's names. This list is updated from time to time.

The Website also contains most of the E news and includes information update forms, which you can use.

The Website addresses are;

www.engineeringchamber.mirrorz.com

and

www.leeasa.mirrorz.com

Your co-operation in this will be beneficial to you and the Association.

No 8. Engineering Snippets.

The following mini articles and notices highlight some of the interesting scientific, engineering and other developments in the world today. Visit our Websites regularly for news. We hope you find them of interest!

Ed.



Eskom.

According to Eskom, messages alerting for impending brownouts, ie Power Alert, accounted for a 500 MW decrease in consumption – now that is using your power!

Google.

Google has abandoned its plans to create renewable energy that is cheaper than coal, according to its official blog. This is due largely to investors' continued apprehension at the Internet giant's spending. The other projects cut, as CEO Larry Page narrows Google's focus, are Google Knol, Google Search Timeline, Google Gear, Google Friend Connect, Google Bookmarks Lists and Google Wave.

The International Air Transport Association.

Iata has called on key players within the aviation industry to unite to ensure fuel supply safety.

It states that stakeholders have the responsibility to come together for fuel safety and environmental issues.

Fuel contamination requires the need for new technologies and processes to ensure safety of fuel supply.

While responsible for only approx 2% of the worlds total green house gas emissions, airlines are under pressure to reduce these emissions.

One way to do this is with the use of biofuels. Airlines are beginning to trial these 'green' fuels but they still remain expensive and are in short supply.

Some Governments in the world are now looking to promote the successful implementation of biofuels on a

commercial scale by providing financial support for feedstock research and refining processes. They are also working reduce the risk currently associated with investing in this sector, and provide incentives to airlines who utilise biofuels.

The implementation of these policies has the potential to slash the cost of these alternative fuels and see the implementation of biofuels sooner rather than later.

A major challenge facing research and development of renewable energy technologies is securing funding for risky new ventures.

Renewable Energy Research.

Solar, wind, biofuels, and other firms have been turning to increasingly innovative financial mechanisms to raise funds from persistently risk-averse lenders. While some of these efforts have borne fruit, many companies have not managed to convince the market that financing their projects is worthwhile.

But some lucky firms and forward-looking ventures have attracted the attention of major oil companies which, armed with multi-billion dollar capital budgets, can provide them with the financial backing required to push their schemes forward.

Some of the Companies are mentioned below.

ExxonMobil and bioenergy firm Synthetic Genomics, Inc (SGI) teamed up in 2009 to research and develop algae-derived biofuels that can substitute for petroleum products in the existing US transportation infrastructure . The oil company has estimated spending \$600 million, provided that certain milestones are met.

Brazil's oil champion Petrobras in partnership with Electrobras, Alubar Energia and Wobbin WindPower are putting into operation a commercial scale wind farm in the Northeastern part of the country.

The wind farm's energy is being delivered ahead of schedule following the completion of the Juriti unit, with the Potigar, Cabuji and Mangue Seco wind units going into operation through August and September. Power was originally intended to hit Brazil's National Interconnected System in the middle of next year.

The 104 MW of power delivered from the 52 wind turbines in the total Mangue Seco wind farm installation cost 424 million reais (\$244 million).

Brazil has been a leader in renewable energy development, taking advantage of its huge hydroelectric potential and leveraging its advantageous growing climate to take a preeminent position in biofuels. Its Latin American competitors, which include Colombia's Ecopetrol, have taken an increasingly aggressive position in renewable fuels development and in pursuing biofuels markets.

Petrobras has joined international firms like BP, which has developed wind power in the US.

Toll Roads.

Southern African Rental and Leasing Association's (SAVRALA) AGM members agree not to register their vehicles for e-tags until tolling concerns have been addressed.

(Food for thought)!

No 9. Engineering Council of South Africa

Your association, along with other ECSA recognized associations, were tasked to find volunteers to serve on the next ECSA Council. Your association published the request and subsequently submitted the names and associated paperwork received to ECSA.

The new Council will consist of a total of 50 persons. This comprises 30 registered persons, 10 professionals of whom 6 must be in the service of the State and 10 members of the public.

ECSA has an independent panel to make the final selections and these will be submitted to the Minister of Public Works who makes the final appointments.

So now we await the outcome, which will probably only be in the first quarter of 2012.

(ECSA) Registration Figures (Oct 2011)

Professional Engineers	15077
Professional Engineering Technologists	3962
Professional Certificated Engineers	1067
Professional Engineering Technicians	2499
Registered Engineering Technicians	850
Registered Engineering Technicians (Master)	413
Registered Lifting Machinery Inspectors	877
Registered Lift Inspectors	160
Medical Equipment Maintainers	5
Candidate Engineers	6439
Candidate Engineering Technologists	2411
Candidate Engineering Technicians	3668
Total	37710

Editors comment.

The engineer category has passed the 15000 mark for the first time since the previous high of 15000 in 1998. The professional technician category has shown steady growth approaching 2500 and the professional technologists are approaching the 400 mark. Excellent growth in the number of candidate technicians has also occurred with a growth from 542 in 2010 to 3668 in 2011, which represents a growth of 44% in 15 months! The various registration committees are in for a big increase in applications in the next few years.

The figures appear to continue to show the trend that the majority applicants are in the Engineers category, followed by, Technologists, Technicians and Certificated.

It is still debateable that there should be a much larger grouping in the non-Engineer category for the benefit of the country as a whole as this appears to be where the most shortage of skills is occurring.

No 10. NSTF News.

The **National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)**, established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SETI organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery. The **NSTF Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI and therefore affording an opportunity for recognition and celebration of all practicing scientists, engineers and technologists across the system of innovation. The 'Brilliants Programme' of the NSTF hosts certain achievers in Science and Mathematics in the School System at an Awards Gala Dinner, and recognises and rewards them in various ways.

Read [more](#) about the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF).

For more information, contact the NSTF Secretariat at:

E-mail: nstf@scientia.co.za

Web: www.nstf.org.za / www.nstfawards.org.za

Tel: 27 12 841 3987

Fax: 27 12 841 3025

No 11. Post Office News.

Witspos which handles all the mail to and from COET has a new Culler-Facer-Canceller machine. The first of four that the Post Office has bought from Toshiba Japan. The machine takes raw posted mail, removes large and thick letters, turns them the right way up and cancels the postage, before sorting according to revenue type. The technology used is a World first, conceived by the Post Office. It uses image pattern recognition against a database of stamps etc.

Together with the new eLand Postal Addressing and Postcode system , it is expected that this will improve efficiency.

Source SA Post Office.



No 12. The Joke Column. Warning / Disclaimer.

Sensitive readers are warned that the following may erroneously be taken to contain sex, violence, strong language, gender, race, ethics etc. Readers are warned not to read or have any of the following read to them. Recommended readers age is limited to 120 and 121 years of age. A further requirement is you must have a sense of humour.

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice,

or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all... and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2011, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make South Africa great (not to imply that SA is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "Africa" in the World), and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith, or sexual orientation of the wishee.

This wish is limited to the customary and usual good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first. "Holiday" is not intended to, nor shall it be considered, limited to the usual Judeo-Christian celebrations or observances, or to such activities of any organized or ad hoc religious community, group, individual or belief (or lack thereof).

DISCLAIMER: By accepting this greeting, you are accepting at least and not limited to the following terms: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher at any time, for any reason or for no reason at all. This greeting is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. This greeting implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for the wishee, him/herself or others, or responsibility for the consequences which may arise from the implementation or non-implementation of same. Terms and conditions apply.

This greeting is void where prohibited by law.

We know about the December ghosts of Xmas Past, Present and Future.

What do ghosts do at the January sales?

They go bargain haunting!

With end of the year exam times finished here are some answers from students who should have got more than the Zero they were given!

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?

* His last battle

Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

* At the bottom of the page

Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?

* Liquid

Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?

* Marriage

Q5. What is the main reason for failure?

* Exams

Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast?

* Lunch & dinner

Q7. What looks like half an apple?

* The other half

Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become?

* It will simply become wet

Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping ?

* No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?

* You will never find an elephant that has only one hand..

Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have ?

* Very large hands

Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?

* No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q13. How can u drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?

*Concrete floors are very hard to crack.

No 13. Unsubscribe.

As a member of IPET you should want to receive the E News. If however you do not want to receive the IPET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with ""IPET unsubscribe"" in the text to engineer@netactive.co.za

Number 14. E. & O. E.

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