



News in Brief

November 2005

SAICE's INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION (by Dirk Reed)

The winners of the EPA Bridge Building competition were to participate in the SAICE International Bridge Building competition held in Johannesburg.

Our flight tickets were sponsored by Air Namibia and the competition was scheduled for 29 July 2005. It was during this period that the South African Airways workers were on strike and all Air Namibia flights were fully booked. The team from DHPS and I were scheduled to fly on "stand by" on Thursday 28 July as per our sponsor. It was nerve racking as we were waiting for seats on the plane. Eventually we all got a booking and arrived safely in Jo'burg the Thursday. That afternoon we visited Gold Reef City.

The competition started early on Friday morning after the rules and building materials were supplied to the teams. Teams from all over South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia participated in the competition. A team consisted of 3 team members.

The rules of the competition did not change very much, except that the depth below deck level of the bridge to be built was stipulated as 85mm. This had an effect on the "Namibian" bridge design as our winning bridge was an "under span" bridge where the depth below allowance was 125mm. This change had a major impact on the load carried, as in the Namibian competition this bridge carried a load of 140kg, and in the South African competition our bridge only carried a load of 35kg. Our bridge was the lightest in the competition and the load mass ratio gave us an 8th place out of 17, where the winning bridge from Zimbabwe carried a load of 175kg!

The competition was a success and the team members enjoyed the "outing". We would like to thank our sponsors for providing the means for these young entrepreneurs to get exposed to the civil engineering field.

EPA GOLF DAY

The annual EPA Golf Day took place on Friday 21 October 2005 and again turned out to be much fun for all those who participated. Altogether 38 players in teams of mostly 4, both golfers and non-golfers, teed off as from 10h30. The Golf Day afforded engineers, architect, quantity surveyors, builders, manufacturers and suppliers a great opportunity to mingle and enjoy a day out in the open. Thanks to some generous sponsorship the best four teams walked away with some super prizes. The evening was concluded with a social braai, which was well attended by players and their partners/families.

EPA Annual General Meeting

On Thursday evening 27 October 2005 the Annual General Meeting of the association was held at the Bauernstube Restaurant in Windhoek. With not as many members in attendance as wished for the meeting nonetheless concluded the business of the day and engaged in interesting discussions. While most council members had agreed to continue serving on the EPA council in their respective positions, only one additional nomination was received, i.e. Mr. G Seydack re-joined council. The following persons make up the EPA council: Mrs. S Tekie (President), Mr. F Jeske (Vice-President), Mr. G Seydack (Honorary Secretary), Mr. J Hennes (NAMIT), Mr. J H Weinert (Electrical) and Mr. E Albrecht (Technical).

EPA WORKSHOPS

Two workshops were presented during the month of November, namely "**Small Scale Treatment Plants for Drinking Water**" (3 & 4 November) and "**Basic Principles and Concepts of Preventative Maintenance**" (15 & 16 November). Identified as priorities for training during the African Engineering Forum in March 2005 the workshops formed part of SADC's rollout programme on capacity building in the water and sanitation sector and were coordinated by SAICE. Unfortunately attendance at both workshops was not as plentiful as hoped for, mainly due to relatively short notice received from SAICE to host the courses, but participants expressed that the workshops proved interesting, informative and beneficial for their line of work.

Season's Greetings

To all EPA members the EPA Council herewith likes to extend *best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year*. May all enjoy well-deserved holidays in the circle of family and friends!

Please take note that the EPA office will be closed from 16 December 2005 to 9 January 2006.