



News in Brief

June 2006

EPA's YOUNG ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION 2006

The Bridge Building Competition is an annual event hosted by the EPA to promote engineering as a career. Senior Secondary schools throughout Namibia offering Mathematics and Physical Science are invited to partake in the Bridge Building Competition. This year's event took place on Saturday 17 June 2006 at the Windhoek Technical High School in Academia. The EPA Vice-President Mr. Fritz Jeske officially opened the event, welcoming students and teachers and wishing them all success in the competition.

A record number of fifty teams from all corners of Namibia consisting mostly of three members each participated in this competition. The rules together with the material and tool kits are handed to each team on the day of the competition, the kit consisting of wooden dowels, a hacksaw, a cutter, glue and string. The teams commence planning and building at 9:00 in the morning. Cut-off time is 15:00. A panel of judges weighs and evaluates the bridges on workmanship and ingenuity, before the bridges eventually are being put to the test as to much load they can carry before breaking.

This year's winning bridge weighed 153.8g and carried a load of 98.9kg. The winning team, made up of Charlotte Rechholtz, Oliver Pieters and Felix Fleissner, was from the Deutsche Höhere Privatschule in Windhoek. The team from Walvis Bay High School took the second place and another team from the DHPS in Windhoek took third place. The first three teams received cash money for each team member and a cheque for their school, the prizes amounting to N\$750.00 per team and school for the first prize together with a floating trophy, N\$600.00 for the second prize and N\$450.00 for third prize respectively.

Our congratulations go to all participants in the competition for their enthusiasm and camaraderie, but in particular to the winning teams and respective schools. A special word of thanks goes to the EPA judges, Mr. K Detering, Mr. J Leicher and Mr. F le Roux, as well as Mrs. Retha Landsberg, Mrs. C Langeveldt and Mr. T du Toit of the WTHS for their kind assistance and technical support on the load testing of the bridges.

The Engineering Professions Association is a non-profit organisation that amongst other aims and functions promotes engineering as a career at schools, career exhibitions and projects of this nature. The EPA relies on sponsorships from consulting firms and related businesses to make such event possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following firms for their kind and generous sponsorships:

Windhoek Consulting Engineers
Africon Namibia Consulting Engineers
Seelenbinder Consulting Engineers
Democratic Media Holdings.

V K E (Namibia) Inc. Consulting Engineers
Lund Consulting Engineers
Penny Pinchers and Timber City

The day ended with a small cocktail function to which the participating teams, accompanying teachers, parents, sponsors, guests and members of the EPA were invited.

Qualified to partake in the international bridge building competition hosted by SAICE on 28 July 2006 in Johannesburg the winning team accompanied by an adult will fly to South Africa should the EPA meet the challenge of raising further funds to cover the costs for this trip. Any donations / sponsorships are welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

COASTAL CAREERS EXHIBITION

The EPA was once again represented at a Careers Exhibition held in Walvis Bay on 14 and 15 June 2006. This exhibition was organised by the Life Skills teachers of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay for all the schools at the coast and the Erongo region. Mrs. Chantel Kutz representing the EPA at this event reported that it was well attended and approximately 1500 learners visited the exhibition.

EPA GOLF DAY

The annual EPA Golf Day is scheduled to take place on Windhoek Golf and Country Club. This is one of our events architects, quantity surveyors, builders and suppliers. Invitations will be sent to all EPA members closer to the time, but meanwhile you might



Friday 25 August 2006 at the to bring together engineers, Golfers and non-golfers are most will be sent to all EPA want to diarise the date.