



The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

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PRESS RELEASE

EPA's Young Engineers' Construction Project: Bridge Building Competition 2010

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 once again culminated the annual *National Science, Technology and Engineering Week* (5 to 9 July 2010) of the Ministry of Education's Directorate of Research, Science and Technology and was held on Friday 9 July 2010 at the University of Namibia in Windhoek.

The EPA President Mr. Ako Al-Jaf officially opened the event, welcoming students and teachers and wishing them all success in the competition. He encouraged students to consider engineering as a career. Some of these scholars are our country's future engineers. Competitions such as this help to stimulate additional interest in those, who may consider engineering as a profession besides promoting the industry as a whole to scholars, laymen and current engineers alike. Mr. Dirk Reed of the City of Windhoek then went ahead to explain to the students the rules and guidelines by which the competition gets judged and wished all the students success in their endeavors.

A total number of 42 teams from all corners of Namibia consisting mainly 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 was 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 205.0g and carried a load of 249.7kg. The winning team, made up of Rico Louw, Charl Muller and Jaco Snyman of Windhoek High School. The team from Edugate Academy in Otjiwarongo took the second place and another team from Tsumeb Gymnasium 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. Dirk Reed of the City of Windhoek, Mr. Günter Leicher of Knight Piesold Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Mr. Kassie Coetzee of Element Consulting Engineers as well as the University of Namibia and staff for the venue and assistance rendered.

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 events possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following firms for their generous sponsorships:

V K E (Namibia) Inc. Consulting Engineers
Lund Consulting Engineers
Pro-Services
Element Consulting Engineers
ACEN
Knight Piesold Consulting Engineers
InWent

Subject to sufficient funding being secured the winning team, accompanied by an adult, is qualified to partake in the international bridge building competition hosted by SAICE from 2-4 September 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa.



1st prize winners: Windhoek High School, participants Rico Louw, Charl Muller and Jaco Snyman (one absent) with judge Mr Gunther Leicher (Vice-president of the EPA), Mr. Ako Al-Jaf (President of the EPA) and Mr. F. Muketi (Board member of the EPA)



2nd Prize winners – Edugate Academy in Otjiwarongo – Alexandre Boshoff and Johan Pretorius with Mr. Gunther Leicher (Vice-President of the EPA), Mr. Ako Al-Jaf (President of the EPA) and Mr. F. Muketi (Board members of the EPA)



3rd Prize winners from Tsumeb Gymnasium consisting of: Izak Grobbelaar; Este van der Merwe and Chrismari de Wit with Mr. Gunther Leicher (Vice President of the EPA) and Mr. Ako Al-Jaf (President of the EPA)