



The Engineering Professions Association Of Namibia

YOUNG ENGINEERS' CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

EPA Young Engineers' Construction Project 2006 **Bridge Building**



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.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Jeske encouraged students to consider engineering as a career. Some of these pupils 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 pupils, laymen and current engineers alike.

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
- V K E (Namibia) Inc. Consulting Engineers
- Africon Namibia Consulting Engineers
- Lund Consulting Engineers
- Seelenbinder Consulting Engineers
- Penny Pinchers and Timber City
- Democratic Media Holdings.

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.

Whereas the winners of the competition in previous years were sponsored to participate in the SADC regional bridge building competition held annually in South Africa, this was regrettably not possible in this year, due to both insufficient sponsorship and conflicting school examinations schedules.