

2015 SAICE INTERNATIONAL PANEL (SIP) REPORT FOR COUNCIL ON 14 APRIL 2015

In 2015, SIP continued its effort to forge relationships with the representative engineering institution in each of the Southern African Federation of Engineering Organisations (SAFEEO) member countries. At the same time SIP has maintained excellent collaboration with our international partners, namely ASCE, ICE, IStructE, and Institution of Engineers India (IEI).

The key SIP objectives continue to be focused on the aspects below.

- Promoting member interests and benefits internationally.
- Promoting internationally accepted norms in terms of conduct, integrity, ethics, engineering standards, and care for our people and our environment.
- Encouraging and facilitating on-going learning and professional development for engineering professionals internationally.
- Developing, promoting, facilitating and lobbying for the acceptance of best practice policies relating to foreign investment, donor involvement and influence in Africa.
- Developing the business opportunities of the SAICE bookshop and Education and Training (E&T) courses internationally.
- Co-ordinate international affairs – developing networks, sponsorships and projects.
- Code of conduct for International affairs (Protocol).
- Assessing membership benefits, needs and interests with relation to SIP activities.
- Managing the SIP budget based on the proposition of value for money and commercial return to SAICE.

The SIP continued in 2015 with Kribbs Moodley in the chair and Martin van Veelen fulfilling the role of vice chair.

The other committee members are Peter Kleynhans, Malcolm Pautz, Hylton Macdonald, and Tony Smith.

This year we have added representation from our two international joint divisions, namely ICE-SA and JSD.

So far this year SIP convened one committee meeting on 3 February 2015. The next is scheduled for 21 April 2015. The agenda items typically address SIP, SAFEEO and FAEO budgetary and operational matters, planning of international trips, cooperation agreements with sister organisations and identification of business opportunities.

SIP significantly underspent on the 2014 budget essentially because several of the planned international trips to the SAFEEO member countries were cancelled in order to save costs.

For the 2015 budget, SIP have again endeavoured to curtail international travel, limiting ourselves to trips which have a direct benefit to SAICE and our membership. Each trip made requires a motivation report. The framework of which contains includes:

- Cost of the trip
- Member benefit

- Commercial investment and the return on that investment
- Substance and value of the trip

The planned trips for 2015 are:

- SAFEO General Assembly - Thursday 30 April 2015 - Livingstone, Zambia.
- SAFEO Executive Committee (Secretariat) – October 2015 - Zimbabwe
- WFEO World Engineers' Convention – September 2015 - Japan
- IE (India) – 30th International Engineering Congress - December 2015

SIP has participated in the following international events in 2014 and to date in 2015:

- **SAFEO General Meeting:** Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2014 well represented by a delegation from SAFEO, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria, ECSA, WFEO, FAEO, CAFEO and EAFEO.

The meeting agreed on several positive deliverables, namely the development of a strategic plan and implementation budget. Decisions were also taken to the convening of the next SAFEO General Assembly in April / May 2015 in Zambia.

- **UNESCO DST ECSA Africa Engineering Week:** University of Johannesburg Doornfontein Campus on 1 to 4 September 2014. The opening address was by The Minister of Science & Technology, Naledi Pandor. UNESCO together with its strategic partners hosted the first ever Africa Engineering Week in Johannesburg, South Africa. The inaugural event was hosted with the aim of educating the youth and general public about the engineering profession, through strategic outreach activities such as, educational workshops, public awareness events, mentoring and university events. The purpose of these events were to showcase engineers as key players in the solutions to important continental challenges such as sustainable housing, the provision of clean drinking water and issues around climate change, whilst increasing the visibility of engineering and its role in sustainable development as a whole.
- **WECSI (World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure):** Abuja, Nigeria on 2 to 7 November 2014. NSE invited the SAICE Vice President, Malcolm Pautz, to be the keynote speaker on the topic titled "The Nigerian 2014 Infrastructure Score Card".
- **WFEO World Engineers' Convention:** Paris in December 2014 attended by Martin van Veelen and Manglin Pillay. Meetings were arranged with SAFEO, ASCE, IEI, ICE and the SA Embassy. Our CEO focused on the possible business and networking opportunities. The discussions revolved around e-business, bookshop and courses in the member countries;
- **Presidential visit to ICE / IStructE / ICE Publishing / Engineering Council UK / Royal Academy of Engineering:** United Kingdom in January 2015 attended by Malcolm Pautz and Manglin Pillay. Meetings were arranged to discuss the working relationships with the two joint division as well as possible business and networking opportunities.

In 2013 SIP drafted cooperation agreements between SAICE and each representative institution in the SAFEO member countries. The objective of the collaboration is to promote the practice of engineering and enhance cooperation in the following areas:

- training and development including mentorship;
- professional engineering publications and marketing;
- engineering opportunities such as mutually beneficial projects and events; and
- membership operations.

To date we have signed these agreements with Botswana, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. In addition we have also concluded similar agreements with the Korean Society of Civil Engineers, Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers, Institution of Engineers Tanzania and the Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineers.

Also in 2013, the [SIP](#) was instrumental in the drafting and finalisation of the SAFEEO Agreement of Co-Operation and Protocol. The primary objective of this agreement is to promote and extend the exchange of technical, scientific and professional knowledge to better service the interests and welfare of engineering practitioners in member countries. Over the course of 2013 and 2014 we have successfully signed this agreement with Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland and more recently Lesotho and South Africa. This is a significant achievement, especially agreeing with ECSA to become the South African member representative.

Martin van Veelen has completed his second year as President of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO). The FAEO has now been firmly established and is fully functional in Sub-Saharan Africa. Of the five regional bodies, only the Northern African Federation of Engineering Organisations has not been established. The other four are fully functional.

FAEO's achievements so far are:

- FAEO constitution accepted by all members;
- The Southern African Federation of Engineering Organisations (SAFEEO), West African Federation of Engineering Organizations (WAFEEO), East African Federation of Engineering Organizations (EAFEEO) and Central African Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEEO) are well organized and meeting regularly;
- There is good interaction between Engineering Bodies in Africa;
- The FAEO has a functional Secretariat; and
- FAEO has become visible as an active organisation and is accepted as the organisation representing the Engineering Profession in Africa.

Martin van Veelen attended the WFEO Extended Executive meeting in Paris during April 2014. This trip was partly funded by [SAICE](#). He is now a member of the WURC, as well as the WFEO Strategic Planning Task Force. He is also a member of the group that assesses the functionality of the WFEO Standing Technical Committees.

The FAEO Executive under the leadership of Martin van Veelen has had continued discussions with the AU Commission for Human Resources, Science and Technology. A draft Memorandum of Co-operation was handed to the Commission and their response is awaited. For the first time the engineering practitioners in Africa now have a direct voice at the AU.

The FAEO is recognised by UNESCO as the representative body for engineering practitioners in Africa, and has become part of the African Engineering Initiative in which Dawie Botha, [SAICE](#) Executive Member, also plays a significant role. The FAEO successfully participated in the first ever

UNESCO African Engineering Week that was held in Johannesburg. Representatives from all four Sub-Saharan regions attended the conference and actively participated in the programme.

Martin van Veelen attended conferences in Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Uganda, Lesotho and Sierra Leone and has established excellent relationships with the engineering organisations in these countries. The cost was borne by various other organisations, not by SAICE. Although he attended these conferences in his capacity as President of FAEO, he is also recognised as a past president of SAICE. The role that SAICE plays in continental affairs is always acknowledged with gratitude.