SAICE YMP on
a winning path

INTRODUCTION
The SAICE YMP (Young Members Panel) is a voluntary unit of SAICE and was established to facilitate the development of young engineers in their learning curve to becoming competent engineering personnel in our industry. The YMP believes that the growth of civil engineering professionals at tertiary education level contributes significantly to the wholesome development of the industry.

With this principle in sight the YMP initiated the SAICE YMP Road-Show, a campaign sponsored by Esorfranki Construction. It comprises a series of seminars presented by members of the YMP committee. Over the past two years the SAICE YMP Road-Show has been presented at tertiary institutions across the country. Feedback from students indicates that the campaign has been hugely successful so far.

The Road-Show programme consists of a combination of motivational and practical presentations, which aim to expose civil engineering students to the realities of our industry. In so doing we hope to mentally prepare students for the challenges of the workplace and empower future graduates to deal with the social and commercial aspects of engineering.

SAICE ESORFRANKI YMP ROAD-SHOW PORT ELIZABETH
Our most recent Road-Show was held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, on 14 May 2012. Once again it was concluded with a wonderful sense of attainment. We were met with an engaging and enthusiastic audience – a reminder for us of the trials of studentship and the anticipation of taking the first steps into the industry.

An important underlying theme of the Road-Show is creating awareness of ethics and corruption, and of the impact that the destructive forces of corruption have in our industry. This was very successfully received at the NMMU Port Elizabeth Road-Show, with fervent agreement that we need to be mindful and take action against corruption in our profession. At the end of the Road-Show this theme was underlined with the screening of a short film (Incident at Morales) which depicts a realistic situation, posing an ethical dilemma for engineers in industry context. The film evoked much thought and offered a glimpse of how subtle such ethical questions may present themselves in everyday engineering activities.
THE PROGRAMME

The programme for the SAICE Esorfranki YMP P.E. Road-Show was presented as follows:

Fridah Mahlangu  SAICE Structures and Membership
Vincent Kuo  Introduction to Civil Engineering: Past, Present and Future of the Industry
Matimba Ngwenya  First Steps into the Industry: Networking and Managing your Expectations
Alice Chang  Continuous Education: Furthering your Education?
Oliver Rowe  With Permission from Powerhouse Consultants: Personal Branding
Thesele Mokoma  ECSA Registration: The Significance and Procedures
Incident at Morales  Developed and distributed by the Institute for Engineering Ethics (website: www.niee.org)

A formal evaluation process (completion of a questionnaire) has been introduced to enable continuous improvement of our Road-Shows in the future. The results obtained from the evaluation of the SAICE Esorfranki YMP P.E. Road-Show indicate that the audience did not only experience the programme as relevant and functional, but also as dynamic, fun-filled and thought-provoking. It is this very “gusto” which we as young members would like to maintain and promote further into the profession.

On behalf of SAICE and its Young Members Panel, as well as all the attendees touched by our Road-Shows, we would like to thank Esorfranki Construction for their generous sponsorship, thus making the Road-Show possible in the first place. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the staff of NMMU, especially Lizelle Pienaar for her tireless efforts in the local facility arrangements, as well as Vincent Danoher for his support and attendance. We are notably grateful for Thesele Mokoma, from the Algoa SAICE Branch, who volunteered to present the ECSA registration section at short notice. Last but not least, a word of acknowledgement must be given to Fridah Mahlangu, SAICE’s Career Guidance Officer, for her support throughout the Road-Show and general YMP endeavours.

CONCLUSION

Our civil engineering industry is in a constant state of flux, and the demands of our ever-developing environment warp and shift with time, generation after generation. The YMP strives to continue improving the Road-Show programme to achieve the greatest relevance and significance for students, and for the industry of which they will be the champions one day.

The P.E. Road-Show was an eye-opener, not only for attendees, but also for us as the YMP. We were pleasantly surprised by the substantial attendance, as well as by the interest and keenness shown by the students. We were inspired by the realisation of the great potential that is to be released into the industry when these students graduate in the years to come.

To all the tertiary institutions that have facilitated our YMP Road-Shows so far, we hope to see you again soon. To the others that have yet to experience the Road-Shows and are interested in hosting one at their respective institutions, please feel free to contact any of us at the YMP directly. Also feel free to obtain more information on YMP news and activities by visiting our website (www.saiceymp.org.za).

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