



**Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa
President's report: 9 September 2005**

1. Introduction

This year is the 100th anniversary of Julius Tafel's formulation of his "law" of the rate of activation-controlled electrochemical reactions – the empirical relationship which has many implications for corrosion, including the feasibility of cathodic protection. This year has also seen the first round of NACE courses, on cathodic protection and on coating inspection, successfully activated and presented locally by the Institute.

2. Training

2.1 CorrISA courses

In this era of NACE courses, it is important to remember that the Institute developed and has been presenting its own training courses, namely the five-day Corrosion Engineering course, and the two-day in-house Understanding Corrosion course. Corrosion Engineering was presented in March and August, to a total of 13 delegates, of whom 10 passed. This brings the total number of delegates who have attended this course since October 1992 to 291, a substantial contribution to the local industry. Under the stewardship of Michelle Sephton, presentation of these courses has become even more professional, with each delegate receiving a course file which contains copies of all the (PowerPoint) overheads (as before, each delegate also receives a copy of the Institute corrosion text book). This course can be presented profitably (financially as well as in the educational sense) to as few as 6 delegates, and the Institute will continue with the aim to present the course twice per year.

The new Institute corrosion textbook has proven to be popular, and a bulk order was placed by the University of the Witwatersrand for use in their Chemical Engineering undergraduate programme.

The Understanding Corrosion (entry-level) course has been revamped, and Council has approved cooperation with the consulting company Global Materials Solutions (GMS) on presentation of this course. The model is that GMS markets and presents the course, and in return shares equally in the course profits. The course has not been presented in this way yet, and it should be one of our aims to ensure that this does happen in the coming year.

2.2 NACE courses

It is gratifying that the NACE courses in cathodic protection and coating inspection were presented in June/July of this year. It has been a long road to this point, and much of the travel along this road has been undertaken on behalf of the Institute by Craig Botha, appointed by the Institute as Administrator of these courses, and John McEwan, past president and head of the NACE subcommittee of the Institute.

CorrISA now holds a licence from NACE to present the NACE courses; in this first round, a total 54 delegates attended Coatings Inspection levels 1 and 2, Cathodic Protection levels 1 and 2, and Coatings Inspection Peer Review. The Coatings Inspection and Cathodic Protection courses ran in parallel, with levels 1 and 2 presented in consecutive weeks. Certificates will be presented to successful delegates at the Annual Dinner, this evening.

In addition to the individual efforts of especially Craig Botha and John McEwan, company sponsorship has contributed greatly to the success of this first round of courses; these sponsors will be recognised at tonight's Annual Dinner.

The agreement with NACE specifies that NACE-approved instructors must be used for course presentation; this meant that instructors had to be flown in from the USA, adding substantially to the cost. Even so, overall the courses showed a profit of some R100,000, which is better than projected in the course planning presented at the previous Annual General Meeting. The process to train local instructors has started, with most of our identified instructors attending – and passing – the local courses; several more steps are required up to approval of our instructors, and some future courses will have to be presented with overseas instructors. The exact path to approval of our instructors remains a matter of negotiation with NACE.

Administration of the course has been undertaken by the firm CE@UP, which is owned by the University of Pretoria. In return of their fee, the Institute gains the advantages of auditable administration of the courses, and the possibility for companies to reclaim course fees from the Skills Levy fund.

The total expenditure by the Institute to date on these courses to date amounts to some R442,000, which is in line with original planning. This expenditure represents nearly half of the Institute's reserves, and it is essential that the courses show a profit, to ensure their viability in the longer term. There have already been substantial benefits to the industry, though. These include training of the more than 50 delegates, and also recognition by NACE of the SAQCC (corrosion) level II Coating Inspection qualification as equivalent to the NACE Coating Inspection level 1 qualification. The value of this reciprocal arrangement (in savings on NACE course fees by persons who already hold the SAQCC qualification) nearly equals the investment by the Institute in these courses.

The NACE agreement requires termination of the official position of the Corrosion Institute in SAQCC (Corrosion), and this will be addressed at the Annual General Meeting of SAQCC (Corrosion) later this month.

2.3 Tertiary training

The annual poster session of practical work in the module Corrosion 411 in the Metallurgical Engineering programme at the University of Pretoria was again supported by the Institute, and a summary of some of the students' findings has appeared in the Institute-supported journal, SA Mechanical Engineer. The Institute will also support student projects at the University of the Witwatersrand, later this year; a student from that university will be the recipient of the Ivan Ogilvie scholarship for postgraduate study in corrosion.

3. Technical meetings

The monthly technical meetings have covered a variety of topics, and attracted an average of twenty persons at the Gauteng meetings, and twenty-five in KwaZulu-Natal. It is also encouraging that some of the presentations evoked debate (in person and by e-mail); it is one of the roles of the Institute to provide a forum for such exchanges. An innovative technical presentation, "Concrete Idols", attracted special interest. The Institute now owns data projectors for presentations and courses in both Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

4. Regions

I congratulate the KwaZulu-Natal committee on the high level of activity which they sustain.

There has been no activity from the Western Cape branch this past year, which remains a concern.

5. Awards

This evening, the new-look Industrial Award (now termed the Corrosion Institute Award) will be presented for the first time; thanks are due to Bob Wilmot and Gerald Haynes for their efforts to develop the criteria and scorecard, and to the judges for selecting the winner.

A bronze medal – for long-standing service to the Institute – will be made tonight. As noted above, the Ivan Ogilvie scholarship will also be presented at tonight's Annual Dinner.

Because of changes in the way in which papers have been published by the Institute, no silver medal award (which goes to the best paper published by the Institute in the preceding year) will be made this year.

6. Journal and website

Two main publications are now supported by the Institute following the demise of the Institute journal last year. These are SA Mechanical Engineer, and Colour, Coatings and Corrosion, both of which are supplied to Institute members. SA Mechanical Engineer appears monthly, and the arrangement is that the Institute has a permanent page in the journal. This is used to publish corrosion information of general interest, such as details of our courses and case studies. Colour, Coatings and Corrosion is the main local mouthpiece of the Oil and Colour Chemists Association (OCCA), appears quarterly, and our Institute has the opportunity to submit material for publication in this journal. Vanessa Sealy-Fisher is putting a lot of effort into ensuring that our submissions reach the journals on time, and she has also been responsible for our new three-dimensional logo.

The intention is to publish longer technical papers on the Institute website. To this end, the website has been moved to a new host, which will allow more regular updating.

7. Membership

At last year's Annual General Meeting, declining membership was identified as a concern. Changes in membership over the past two years are summarised in the table below. As this shows, the decline in membership has nearly been halted, thanks to growth in the number of Affiliate members. Delegates on Institute courses receive free one-year Affiliate membership; this is the main source of these new members. The decline in the number of Sustaining members remains a concern, and the Institute must ensure that these industrial members receive good value. As a step towards this, the Institute's database of resources (experts and companies) in corrosion has been updated; this allows rapid referral of queries which the Institute receives.

Membership Category	Sept 2003	Changes in 2003-4		Sept 2004	Changes in 2004-5		Sept 2005
		New	Resigned / lapsed		New	Resigned / lapsed	
Sustaining	90	2	8	84	4	11	77
Honorary	10	2	-	12	-	-	12
Retired	32	-	4	28	1	3	26
Fellow	13	-	1	12	-	1	11
Member	67	2	9	60	-	2	58
Associate	48	2	8	42	5	1	46
Affiliate	50	11	6	55	11	7	59
Total	310	19	36	293	21	25	289

8. Executive and Council

My best wishes and support go to Neil Webb, for his stint as President for the next two years. There are some new faces on the Executive and Council; we are grateful for their interest and

enthusiasm. Much credit is due to the Council members for their inputs over the past two years, and I wish to thank all of them for their support.

Michelle Sephton, former Honorary Secretary, has left the Executive and Council since she is pursuing a new career in educational support in the Western Cape. Her professional handling of the educational portfolio and technical programme is much appreciated.

Tonight's dinner will have a different look to that of previous years, thanks largely to the ideas and efforts of Darelle Janse van Rensburg and Vanessa Sealy-Fisher.

9. Secretariat

It is well known, but definitely worth reiterating, that the Institute runs as smoothly as it does thanks to Beverley van Niekerk.

Conclusion

Training and technical networking are the main functions of the Corrosion Institute. I am pleased with the major progress which we have made with training this year. The internationally-recognised qualifications which we present open up career paths in this industry. Our task of technical networking is performed largely through our monthly meetings; for next year, there is the prospect of a joint seminar on corrosion with the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. I trust that your Institute will continue to meet your needs.

Chris Pistorius
9 September 2005