



Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa President's report: 8 September 2006

1. Introduction

This year has been one of intense activity in the field of education and training as we move on to cement our relationship with NACE and continue to fly the flag in terms of local industry.

Whilst we do not have any significant 100 year anniversaries this year, it is interesting to note that 100 years ago in America, mechanical engineering was one of the highest paid professions. The good old days indeed!

2. Training

2.1 CorriSA courses

The 5-day Corrosion Engineering was presented in July 2006, to a total of 5 delegates who all passed. This brings the total number of delegates who have attended this course since October 1992 to 296.

The course has been accredited in terms of the new CPD requirements which came into force at the beginning of this year.

The Understanding Corrosion (entry-level) course has not been presented in its new form. Council will be addressing this issue in the coming year.

2.2 SAQCC

The Institute has *ex officio* held the chairmanship of SAQCC (Corrosion) since its inception.

This situation initially presented some difficulty with the NACE licence agreement, and the future relationship of CorriSA and SAQCC was in doubt. However, after the first round of NACE courses was held last year it became clear that the two courses were not in conflict. With the CIP level 1 lead instructor in May 2006 being a senior member of the NACE education committee, the situation was further clarified, and the requirement that the Institute sever its relationship with SAQCC was dropped.

CorriSA has therefore re-affirmed its commitment to SAQCC (Corrosion) and all courses presently being run. The structure of SAQCC is under review as the implementation of ISO training standards is being considered. This has specific requirements in terms of the structure of any training body.

The level 2 inspectors course was run in March of this year with 4 candidates and 2 re-sits.

2.3 NACE courses

CorrISA has finally signed the agreement with NACE in terms of all courses offered by NACE.

This year, the second round of courses was held in May and August with a total of 67 candidates. The response to the level 1 courses was overwhelming and actually created some problems in terms of venue capacity.

Each course requires a lead instructor. This is a five-year haul and something we will have to live with. Our local instructors have all completed their apprenticeship, which means that they will not only be instructing locally, but may be called on for NACE assignments anywhere in the world.

Administration of the courses has been taken over by the Institute. The perceived benefit of using CE@UP has not been forthcoming. The skills levy aspect does not appear to be as significant as we first thought, and we have in lieu thereof had the courses accredited in terms of the CPD requirements.

The August CIP level 2 course saw the first concrete results of the reciprocity agreement. 3 SAQCC level 2 inspectors who obtained their CIP level 1 through this arrangement attended CIP 2, passed and achieved certified status through the peer review. Special congratulations to Malcolm Smith, Lee Bunce and Dale Hattingh.

The financial viability of the courses continues to be a challenge. We need in excess of 12 candidates per course to cover expenses. The NACE sub-committee is looking at ways of reducing expenses, particularly in terms of equipment and freight costs.

Several offers have already been made to run the courses elsewhere in Africa.

A special vote of thanks to John McEwan for his tireless and meticulous handling of this portfolio.

2.4 Tertiary training

Poster sessions at both Pretoria and Witwatersrand Universities were supported during the year. Three corrosion-specific posters were presented at Pretoria covering synthetic seawater, galvanic corrosion and dental implants.

3. Technical meetings

The monthly technical meetings have covered a variety of topics, and attracted an average of 25 persons at the Gauteng meetings. An interesting analysis of meeting statistics versus topic was undertaken by Deon Slabbert. Joint meetings continue to be popular and this year have included OCCA and the Concrete Society. Against the odds, a meeting in Gauteng where the subject was stainless steels, attracted the highest attendance.

A highly successful plant visit was held in Gauteng in November 2005. Our thanks to Hall Longmore for hosting this event.

4. Regions

Once again I congratulate the KwaZulu-Natal committee on the high level of activity which they sustain. They have held 9 technical meetings averaging 25 attendees over the past year, including some international speakers, and raised some R10 000 for charity at their Golf day

The Western Cape branch has been successfully re-launched. An inaugural meeting was held earlier this year which was well attended. A completely new-look committee has been formed. Three further technical evenings have been held, one in conjunction with OCCA. Ironically, a presentation by Eskom was held by candlelight! Average attendance has been 25 – 30. Our thanks to Jeandre Gouws for his effort in this regard.

The council has adopted a decision that the President of the Institute should officially attend a meeting in each region each year in order to promote good-fellowship and support the regions. I attended the inaugural Western Cape meeting in this capacity.

5. Awards

This evening, the Corrosion Institute Award will be presented for the second time. This year the award is being made in recognition of exceptional support by a sustaining member over many years for the Institutes education and training activities.

No bronze or silver medals are being presented this year, and there are no eligible recipients for the Ivan Ogilvie scholarship.

The role of the silver medal is currently under review by council, and any proposals from members are welcome.

6. Journal and website

The Institute has a regular column in the SA Mechanical Engineer. This journal is circulated to Institute members. The column covers a wide variety of topics, both technical and of general interest.

We have received a lot of positive comment on the articles, and our thanks go to Vanessa Sealy–Fisher for maintaining this important mouthpiece of the Institute. A significant advantage of this publication is that corrosion awareness is being brought home to a much wider audience than just an in-house circulation would achieve.

Council is considering a similar column for the civil engineering journal.

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. We thank them for their continued interest in the affairs of the institute.

The website has been moved to a new host, which will allow more regular updating. We are progressively implementing the various targets designated for the website, which is a first port of call for many prospective enquiries.

7. Membership

The decline in membership appears to have been halted, with an encouraging (albeit small) upswing. Apart from the membership drives associated with courses, the Institute is being actively promoted at conferences and through the media. The table below summarises the position.

Membership Category	Sept 2003	Changes in 2003-4		Sept 2004	Changes in 2004-5		Sept 2005
		New	Resigned / lapsed		New	Resigned / lapsed	
Sustaining	84	4	11	77	2	1	76
Honorary	12		-	12	-	-	12
Retired	28	1	3	26	-	1	25
Fellow	12	-	1	11	-	1	10
Members	172	-	2	163	10	6	167
Total	293	21	25	289			290

8. Executive and Council

My thanks to all council members for their support during this past year.

Chris Gross, our honorary treasurer, has resigned from Council after nearly a decade of keeping track of the beans. This has been a challenging period with the Institute turning over significant amounts of money over the ICC conference and the subsequent NACE courses. Our thanks to Chris for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Tonight's dinner will again have a different look - be prepared for a trip down memory lane. Once again thanks to Darelle Janse van Rensburg and Vanessa Sealy-Fisher for their innovative approach.

9. Secretariat

Beverley van Niekerk better known as Bev to one and all, has done sterling work once again in keeping the administration of the Institute running smoothly.

Conclusion

Those of you who have been following Chris Reay's articles in Mechanical Engineer will realise that technical training is one of the most important aspects of the future of our industry and the country as a whole. We have lost a significant chunk of our technical resource resulting in an unbalanced workforce of highly experienced professionals and new boys on the block, with relatively few in between. We need to train and mentor people as fast as possible to ensure that we do not in fact go backwards. The Institute aims to play its part through technical conferences, seminars and the ongoing in-house, SAQCC and NACE courses.

We look forward to a challenging and successful year ahead.

Neil Webb
President, September 2006