



Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa President's report: 14 September 2007

1. Introduction

My second year as President has seen exciting growth in Institute affairs, with a notably higher profile in Industry and much activity in the education/training sector. It has been a privilege to steer the Institute through this busy time.

2. Training

2.1 CorrISA courses

While no courses were run during the past calendar year, the 5-day Corrosion Engineering is scheduled for presentation next week and at least 14 delegates are booked, a pleasing increase over previous courses.

We are looking into suitable commercial options for the Understanding Corrosion (entry-level) course which we hope to see being offered to several companies in the future.

2.2 SAQCC

In order to meet the ISO requirements for training establishments, the SAQCC has undergone a formal restructuring. SAQCC is now being run by SAIW Cert. A new committee has been appointed and a Chairman is elected from within that committee. The Institute no longer holds *ex officio* chairmanship of SAQCC (Corrosion).

A number of Institute members remain actively involved in both the committee and the panels of examiners and moderators.

The Institute encourages this participation and will continue to do all in its power to ensure that the courses that are run maintain an acceptably high standard of training.

2.3 NACE courses

The response to the NACE courses has been overwhelming to the point that an additional CIP level 1 course had to be run this year. It is encouraging that several well-known companies are committed to offering this education opportunity to their personnel. This year alone saw nearly 60 people attending the various NACE courses.

The Institute decided to invest in our own set of NACE course equipment, to improve the financial viability of future courses. Despite this, the courses have already become self-funding and all costs associated with the NACE courses have been recovered, other than those associated with the original feasibility study.

South Africa now boasts 3 fully accredited NACE instructors, one of whom has already been involved in presenting courses internationally.

The NACE administrator, Craig Botha, has resigned due to pressure of work. This function is being handled by John McEwan in the interim, pending the possible appointment of a CorrlSA “executive officer” – q.v.

Once again 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. A corrosion “advertorial” lecture is being planned for presentation to engineering students of all disciplines. This approach has been welcomed by some of the leading engineering campuses and will be promoted further once it has been developed.

3. Technical meetings

The monthly technical meetings have covered a variety of topics, and attracted an average of 20 persons at the Gauteng meetings.

A joint conference was held with SAIMM which proved to be a great success. It was particularly encouraging to see the number of up-and-coming corrosion fundi’s of tomorrow who presented papers. Our thanks and congratulations to Darelle van Rensburg for her hard work in this regard.

4. Regions

Once again I congratulate the KwaZulu-Natal committee on the high level of activity which they sustain. They have held regular technical meetings with attendance between 15 and 35 over the past year, and raised some R10 000 for charity at their Golf day

The Western Cape branch is still struggling, with personnel moving on and a discouraging lack of interest. Our thanks to Pieter van Riet for his efforts to keep things going, and to Corrocoat for their continued support.

5. Awards

This evening, the Corrosion Institute Award will be presented in recognition of innovative technology and long term planning in an industrial application.

A bronze medal is being presented this year, but there are no eligible recipients for the Ivan Ogilvie scholarship.

6. Journal and website

The Institute continues its regular column in the SA Mechanical Engineer. Once again our thanks go to Vanessa Sealy–Fisher for maintaining this important mouthpiece of the Institute

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 is being upgraded to represent the Institutes function as as a hub of information and service within the materials industry. Our thanks to Darelle for steering this important facet of our image.

7. Membership

Membership continues to show a small, but welcome increase. Membership initiatives through courses and conferences are bearing fruit. The membership structure is being simplified in line with the principles applied by NACE – which subject will be debated at the 2007 AGM. The table below summarises the position.

Membership Category	Sept 2003	Sept 2004	Sept 2005	Sept 2007
Sustaining	84	77	76	82
Honorary	12	12	12	12
Retired	28	26	25	24
Fellow	12	11	10	10
Members	172	163	167	174
Total	293	289	290	303

8. Executive and Council

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

All members of council are under severe time pressure from their “day-jobs” For this reason, council has proposed the appointment of an “executive officer” – exact title to be determined. This person will work together with our secretary to keep the affairs of the institute on track and actively promote our training endeavours.

As this position is a radical departure from the traditional structure of the Institute, the proposal is being put to the membership at the 2007 AGM for ratification.

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. This year included the baptism by fire of handling the NACE courses directly – thank you Bev.

Conclusion

Not much changes in a year. Training remains one of the most crucial challenges facing this industry and country. A similar situation is being experienced overseas and we are losing many of the competent people we have. I believe that the future of our industry is dependant on the efforts we put in now to encourage young people to join our roller coaster ride.

Last year was a trip down memory lane. Tonight's dinner is a trip of a different nature – as always our thanks to Darelle Janse van Rensburg, Vanessa Sealy-Fisher and my PA, Bianca Rathgens for their innovative approach and hard work.

My best wishes to Deon Slabbert as he takes over the reigns for the next two years.

Neil Webb
Outgoing President, September 2007