

SAICE Transportation Division hosts annual Chairman's Award Luncheon

SAICE'S Transportation Engineering Division held their annual Chairman's Award Luncheon on Thursday 29 May 2014 at the Accolades Boutique Hotel in Midrand. The event saw more than 120 engineers from many leading transportation engineering companies attending, as well as guest speaker Hishaam Emeran from the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA).

Madeleen Engelbrecht, chairperson of the Division, started the proceedings by highlighting some of the Division's key focus areas for 2014:

"Our overall aim is to have a more positive impact on the industry. Firstly, we wish to attract more transportation professionals and inspire excellence. We have also initiated an outreach programme at the various universities which involves working with the SAICE Student Chapters to host talks and encourage an interest in postgraduate programmes in transportation engineering."

To this end, the Division sponsored a number of students from the University of Pretoria and the Tshwane University of Technology to attend the event.

In line with its aim to further the science of transportation engineering and enhance the industry's knowledge base, the Division offers various courses throughout the year, which include a course on universal access design, a refresher course on the *Highway Capacity Manual*, as well as courses on transit capacity and the *Quality of Service Manual*.

The Transportation Division comprises nearly 1 400 members, making up approximately 11% of the total SAICE membership.

GUEST SPEAKER

Hishaam Emeran, General Manager for Strategic Network Planning at PRASA, was the afternoon's guest speaker. A civil engineer with 20 years' experience in transport planning and engineering, and who was responsible for the development of the Strategic Rail Plan and the planning phases of many other high-profile projects (Bridge City Rail Link, Motherwell Rail Corridor, Moloto Rail Corridor feasi-

bility study, to name a few), delivered a presentation on PRASA, focusing on the challenges facing rail, as well as suburban, long-distance and regional rail priorities.

He also gave an interesting overview of PRASA's impressive rail network and its strategy going forward: "Over the next ten years, PRASA plans to implement a bold strategy to transform and modernise passenger railways – a significant total investment of R170 billion." PRASA's total rail network comprises 22 300 km, which incorporates 2 230 km of electrified track for the commuter rail network. Currently the total value of its assets stands at R23 billion.



A number of students also attended the luncheon; seen here from left: Tshepo Seshai (TUT), Elize Wessels (UP), Madeleen (chair), Siyabonga Dladla (TUT) and Ebenezer Dabana (TUT)



Hein Stander receiving the Chairman's Award from Madeleen Engelbrecht, chairperson of the SAICE Transportation Division

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

The luncheon saw Hein Stander awarded the prestigious Transportation Division's Chairman's Award for his significant contribution to transportation engineering in South Africa.

Hein obtained an Honours degree in civil engineering in 1973 from the University of Stellenbosch, followed by an Honours in transportation engineering in 1981 from the University of Pretoria, and a Master's in the same field from the University of California (Berkeley) in 1982.

A government bursary holder, he started his career working for the Free State Provincial Administration in Bloemfontein in 1974, and spent two years at its roads construction unit in Senekal. In 1979 Hein left to join BKS (now AECOM), becoming a director of the company in 1991, where he now holds an executive position.

Hein has served on SAICE's Transportation Division Committee since 1993 and was its chairperson for 1996 and 1997. He is a Fellow of SAICE, a member of the Institute of Transport Engineers (USA) and has been a full member of the American Transportation Research Board's Committee on Access Management since 2012.

A noted expert, Hein has delivered more than 40 papers locally and internationally on transportation and traffic engineering topics.

BEST PAPER AWARDS

At the luncheon the following awards were also given out for best papers in transportation engineering:

Pavement Engineering

Winner

M Slavik, G de Wet
Checking WIM axle-spacing measurements

Commendations

W J vd M Steyn, C L Monismith, W A Nokes, J T Harvey, T J Holland, N Burmas
Challenges confronting road freight transport and the use of vehicle-pavement interaction analysis in addressing these challenges

P Nordengen

Monitoring results of PBS vehicles in the timber industry in terms of productivity, safety and road wear performance

Traffic and Transport Engineering

Winner

M F Mitchell
A short resume of road financing with particular reference to tolling

Debbie Besseling (debbie@saice.org.za)



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