



*Seat of the
International Society
for Mine Surveying
2008 to 2010*

Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa

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Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa President's Report

The Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMSSA) has continued to deliver on its objectives throughout the year through its active committees and regional branches, as well as ensuring it has representation on various industry forums, advancing the science and practice of Mine Surveying, promoting the character of the Mine Surveying profession of in South Africa and fostering professional etiquette.

The mine surveying profession has a significant impact on mine health and safety. The mining industry values the contribution of mine surveyors and relies on their observing, locating, processing and planning skills to guide operations on surface and underground on a daily basis.

The Institute is playing a critical role to ensure that the role of the mine surveyor is defined and appointees have the appropriate skills.

Executive Committee (Exco)

Exco meetings were dominated by International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM) matters and the IMSSA strategy to responsibly manage Congress organisation, sponsorship and cash flow

leading to, and post the XIV International Congress. Other matters on the Exco agenda for the year included Mine Survey education, and strategy.

SA Council for Professional and Technical Surveyors (PLATO)

At the 2009 PLATO Annual Meeting, PLATO recognised the need for a Professional Certificated Mine Surveyor registration category, over and above the current registration categories of Professional Mine Surveyor, Mine Surveyor and Mine Survey Technician. The new category was approved as Mine Surveyor (Pr. Cert.). All mine surveyors in possession of a Government Mine Surveyor's Certificate of Competency may apply for this new category.

Both the University of Johannesburg and the University of South Africa received PLATO accreditation, meaning that graduates of these institutions will be eligible to register with PLATO. The issues highlighted at both institutions during the accreditation visits have been addressed, but staffing remains a concern and the filling of vacant posts a problem. A shortage of lecturers is an ongoing problem at tertiary education institutions and it is suggested that mining companies consider, as part of their restructuring plans, "parking" personnel at mining schools, rather than retrenching at great expense.

Education Committee

The Education committee consists of representatives of the University of Johannesburg, University of South Africa, University of the Witwatersrand, IMSSA Council members and volunteers from industry. The issue of the impact of the Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF) on the education model of the Mine Surveyor in South Africa received attention. Qualifications in their current forms will be phased out within the next five years and in order to align current qualifications with the new HEQF requirements, a working committee has developed models for all new qualifications; Certificate, Degree and Honours Degree. Postgraduate (masters and doctoral) degree models remain unchanged.

IMSSA obtained the rights to the books: *Problems and Solutions for Mine Surveyors* and *South African Mine Valuation* from the Chamber of Mines. The sales from these books are doing well with five reprints since permission was obtained. Progress was also made toward the updating of Mathematics for Mine Surveyors, thanks to a generous donation from Anglo American. This project is now close to completion.

Public Relations Committee

Despite the effects of the worldwide economic downturn the September IMSCON 2009 event was very successful. ISM matters were the main focus of the PR committee for the year, with extensive engagement with the professional conference organisers Global Conferences Africa.

Technical Committee

The new format Journal with relevant content is eye-catching. The Editor's outstanding efforts have been recognised by Council. The papers published in 2010 were mainly from the ISM Congress held in Budapest, complemented by a few locally authored papers.

Additional changes to the Constitution have been identified by the Technical Committee and will be addressed in the coming year, along with an investigation into the allocation of CPD points (continuing professional development).

The Technical Committee is also assisting with, and offering advice regarding the densification of the new active GPS Trig Net system – a function which will continue in 2011.

Branches

The three branches, Mpumalanga, North-West and Free State are functioning well, with attendance of branch meetings being maintained at a healthy level. This level of participation indicates that the format of participation and content of technical presentations is appreciated by Members.

Representation on Allied and Industry Forums

The Institute is the current official seat of the ISM which entails certain responsibilities particularly for the President of the ISM, Mike Livingstone-Blevins.

Regarding the *Mining Regulatory Advisory Committee (MRAC)*, which is a tripartite task group consisting of State, Employer and Labour representatives, the committee has revised chapters of the Mine Health and Safety Act affecting the appointment, duties and responsibilities of the Mine Surveyor.

The Institute and PLATO remain involved and serve on the SAMCodes committee (codes for reporting on mineral resources and ore reserves, and on valuation). For mine surveyors, competence to report reserves and corresponding value statements becomes possible upon registration with PLATO.

IMSSA is also represented at PLATO Council, the Mining Education Trust Fund and the Mine Professionals Association.

Strategy

Council has formulated strategy on the following key issues affecting mine surveyors, which will be addressed in 2011:

- Education – in particular the implementation of the new mine survey education model;
- Professional registration at PLATO and stronger links with the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy;
- The role of the mine surveyor in mine planning – in particular the provision made by Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) to provide for non-ECSA professional input; and
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for mine surveyors.

Fred Cawood

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