



CONFERENCE 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2006 Conference was hosted by the Gauteng Branch from 5 to 7 April 2006 at the Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre, Benoni. As has become custom, it was well organised and the facilities and accommodation was five star.

This conference has again shown that a one stop venue for the conference and accommodation works excellent and serious thought should be given to make this a pre requisite.

The following topics were addressed:

Enhancing Organisational Performance:

Mr F van Heerden of the Wits Business School.

The promotion of ethical norms and values amongst municipal administrators:

Mr Kris Dobie of the University of Pretoria.

Customer satisfaction:

Dr Mandla Adonisi of the Wits Business School

Towards effective and efficient local governance: A case study 2000 to 2005

Clr M Akoon.

was devoted to four educational sessions held simultaneously and delegates could choose which two sessions to attend. The topics varied from

.../ *Electronic records*

The delegates were also presented with a striking and lively motivational address on the first day by Dr David Molapo.

The last day



THE NIC AT WORK

Office Bearers

At the Annual General Meeting held on 5 April 2006, the following members were elected:

- President - Mr Francois Allers
- Deputy President - Mr Tom Sikonela
- Secretary General - Ms Priscilla Thene
- Treasurer General - Mr Andre Coetzee.

Congratulations to all of you. May your term of office be fruitful!

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Special points of interest:

- IMASA was the first Municipal Institute established in the new South African Democracy
- In the 9 Provinces of South Africa, 6 branches of IMASA are actively involved in establishing and promoting pro-active Municipal and Local administration in their districts.

.../Conference 2006

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Electronic records management, Property management information systems, General principles of the Law of Contract and Practical guidelines on the sale of immovable land, tender procedures, etc. all presented by experts in the various fields.

Social activities inter alia, consisted of the gala dinner on which occasion the Executive Mayor of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality officially opened the conference. Foreign visitors extended greetings, the Branch of the Year Award was presented and the President/Deputy President was inaugurated.

IMASA in the Eastern Cape?

Members in the Eastern Cape expressed a need to establish a branch in their Province. The NIC instructed the Administrator to prioritise this project and a meeting was scheduled to take place in East London on 4 July 2006, which was held at the Calgary Conference and Museum Centre. Unfortunately the number of representatives from various Municipalities and Districts in the province was insufficient to successfully promote and support the strategic objectives of IMASA, as only 10 persons attended.

The formal establishment of the branch therefore had to be postponed, but we assure each of the attendees at the meeting in the interim that, although the number of interested individuals were limited in comparison, they would still be kept abreast of all national and local developments close to them. All of the potential members were very enthusiastic to utilize our infrastructure and commit to IMASA's vision and

mission as contained in our constitution. The NIC recently resolved to put strategies in place to facilitate the formal establishment of this branch, in the near future.

Anyone else interested in becoming involved, should keep a look-out for this event, in order to add value in their respective communities. His/her vital input would contribute to IMASA's various goals and objectives in society. Any details and/or information can be obtained/sent to the Administrator, whose details appear on the last page of this newsletter.

A special word of thanks to the Amathole District Municipality for making the arrangements and providing the facilities.

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP FEES

During the 2005 Conference in Cape Town, it was resolved inter alia to increase the membership fees annually by 10%. The fees for 2007 will therefore be R132,00 for Professional, External and Associate membership and R110,00 for Student membership. The fees for 2006 which were due on 1 May 2006 are R120,00 and R100,00 respectively and arrangements can still be made with the Branch Treasurer of each branch. Members should take note that these fees enable each branch to grow, develop and increase our national organization's input at all levels of government.

Next IMASA Conference

The 2007 Conference will be hosted by the North West Branch. The date will be determined by the NIC but will in all probability be during April/May 2007 and not to be missed!

"2010 International Conference in Sydney, Australia"

Despite all the hard work by the Bid Steering Committee in association with the International Convention Centre, Durban, the Board of Directors of the IIMC resolved to allocate the 2010 international conference to Sydney, Australia.

Thanks, Lebu and your team for all your efforts in this regard.

Recognition

A completely new development has also been embarked upon. For the first time in IMASA's history, a full time Administrator has been appointed in the person of Mr Frans Palm.

He retired from Local Government and when approached by the NIC, agreed to establish an office and see to the day to day affairs of IMASA. Members are encouraged to communicate with Frans on all IMASA related matters.

Good Luck, Frans, with this venture. May IMASA go from strength to strength.



THANK YOU SUSAN

IMASA's heartfelt thanks is expressed to Susan du Toit of Makhadu Municipality who attended to IMASA affairs for the last 4 years.

We know that you did a great job under very difficult circumstances!

Thanks again and enjoy the resting period.

(Susan is still part of the NIC because her knowledge and experience is invaluable to IMASA'S current and future members.)

International Affairs

IMASA has always been proud of its international links with similar organizations abroad. Representatives from the International Institute for Municipal Clerks ("IIMC") in the USA and the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors ("ACSeS") regularly attend our national conferences and likewise IMASA makes sure to

be represented at the IIMC conference. We are aware of study groups from individual municipalities who visited the United Kingdom and members of ACSeS facilitated these visits for which IMASA is very grateful. It is a strategic ob-

"IMASA makes sure to be represented at the IIMC conference"

jective of IMASA to broaden its horizon and pick up ties with known and unknown similar organizations in Africa, Australasia and Europe. Members should pass on to the Administrator any information which they may come across to assist in this regard.

Finance

We finally received the Audit Report for 2005 which was supposed to be presented to the AGM earlier this year.

The Auditor expressed an opinion that the " financial statements reflect a fair view of the financial position of the Institute for the year under review". A copy of the statement will be circulated to Branches for distribution to members.

Our Members

We heard that Ria Heitbrink has undergone surgery. We wish Ria a speedy recovery!

Branch News

Branches are invited to convey any matters worth sharing to the Administrator for the Newsletter.

News of this nature will be communicated under the heading Branch News. Photographs in electronic format from Branches will be most welcome.



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The Administrator
IMASA
P.O. Box 54
LANGEBAAN
7357

Phone: +27 83 381 0492
Fax: 0866897950
E-mail: frans.palm@mweb.co.za

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IMASA's objectives and founding values have at their heart the promotion of sound, professional and ethical municipal (local government) administration, serving the best interests of the profession of municipal administration and the development and growth of those in the profession, especially those who come from communities or backgrounds where opportunities for full development have been limited or impaired.

In pursuing these **aims** IMASA will foster interaction and the exchange of knowledge amongst those in the profession and will encourage involvement in all aspects of the Institute (including its management) by all members - from the student to the most experienced practitioner.

It will also seek to work with other professional institutes, local government departments and associations and academic institutions for the common good. It will promote academic and career development and opportunities for its members.

It will focus strongly on Branch activities as it believes that it is only at this level that the individual member can become fully involved. Among the important values it will seek to take their rightful place in municipal administration are representivity, responsiveness, openness, accountability, development, equity, fairness and human dignity and rights.

NIC NEWS – DURBAN

6 OCTOBER 2006

The latest meeting of the NIC was held in Durban on 6 October 2006. The following are some of the resolutions adopted:

The date for the 2007 National Conference to be hosted by the North West Branch has been determined to be between 4-16 June 2007.

This was necessary due to the Easter holiday in April and the finalization of budgets during May each year.

- The 2005 Audit report to be circulated to Branches for distribution to members.

- A status report on the website to be submitted.
- Branches be requested to arrange at least one educational session after the Conference..
- For this purpose a database of speakers on educational matters be commenced with. Branches with limited funds will be subsidized to be able to organize such a session.
- Branches who are aware of leading innovative projects within their provinces are invited to convey such information to the Administrator. Make sure to provide contact details in order to make contact.
- An article will be prepared for publication in this Newsletter on the role of Information Officers of mu-

nicipalities. An Information Officer Forum was recently established by the Human Rights Council of South Africa.

Members who would like to know more about this, are invited to get in touch with Mr Joe Davids at the following address: davidj@durban.gov.za

The next NIC meeting will be held on 9 February 2007 in Cape Town.

Branches are invited to submit reports to be considered by the NIC to the Administrator for incorporation in the Agenda.