

Presidents report to the 41th annual general meeting

It is an honour for me to present to the AGM the Presidents report in terms of the requirements of Article D.3.2 of the Bylaws of the SAINT Constitution. This report details the activities of the SAINT Council for the past terms of office.

1. Members of Council

For the past terms of office the following persons served the Institute on Council:

Manfred Johannes	President
Ben Beetge	Vice-President
Johan Gerber	Honorary Treasurer
Lew Wells	Honorary Secretary
Felix Chembe	Immediate Past President
Hannes Barnard	Member
Keith Cain	Member
Marco Conzalez	Member
Brian Dadford	Member
Gerrie Coetzee	Co-opted Member
Hennie de Wet	Co-opted Member
John McLeish	Co-opted Member
Robin Marshall	Administrative Secretary

The Council met on 8 occasions and in addition the executive of Council met on numerous occasions for ad hoc meetings to deal with the matters of the Institute. Minutes of meetings were kept and are available for perusal on request.

2. Activities of the Council and the Institute

2.1 Membership drive:

One of the areas identified by council for the past 2 years which require attention was the SAINT membership. Numbers have to be increased so that by 2012 at least 1000 participants will come from South Africa. It is good to see that NDT companies have registered their employees as SAINT members. At present SAINT has 203 corporate and individual members. What is however required is that all the companies who utilise NDT should become corporate members. The Trade Group, as well as the NDT Level III practitioners can assist in this regard.

2.2 NDT Training activities:

a) Short Courses:

SAINT council had in the past co-operated with the IIR on the NDT seminars organised by them. The experiences associated with the 3rd such seminar on NDT were not pleasant and as a result this co-operation is on hold until the details and the level of co-operation have been clarified.

b) Involvement at Universities:

The opportunity came about to lecture to the 3rd year Mech Eng students at UP on 2 occasions. It is important that engineering students are confronted with NDT technology at this stage already, even if the lecture only provides an oversight. At UP the students must also address NDT in the final year design project, a requirement which can only be applauded. Much more marketing needs to be done at Universities.

c) NDT at VUT:

A number of SAINT members serve on the advisory committee of the courses offered at VUT. The message communicated from SAINT has always been, that students must in addition to their National Diplomas, also be subjected to qualification examinations – either at S-Cert or at any other qualifying body offering third party qualifications. Industry has only a need for technicians who do meet the requirements of the Personnel Certification Systems in line with ISO 9712, EN 473, CP 105 etc. It must be stated that all the students who did complete their Diplomas are in the employ of industry, some even as far away as Nigeria and Somalia.

Prof Mabuza and Dr Sikakane are doing their utmost to assure that students are also competent in the practical application of the various technologies. In order to achieve this, large amounts of money have been spent to purchase equipment and also suitable test pieces. From an infrastructure perspective there is nothing standing in the way of producing competent NDT Level II practitioners at VUT. The course structure has recently been adapted to provide the students with all the theoretical knowledge which will equip them to understand what NDT is all about.

I call on all SAINT members to support this effort at the VUT so that the practitioners entering the NDT market can do the work in line with requirements. There are new developments on the cards to also enter into the field of post graduate studies in NDT. These courses will also be available to the engineering fraternity and could for an ideal basis for formal NDT Level III practitioner training, similar to the German practice, where NDT Level III education and training in 5 methods can only be completed in 50 to 70 days (i.e. 400 to 560 hours of classroom lecturers).

2.3 18th WCNDT in Durban in 2012

This commitment from SAINT took up the majority of the effort of council during the past year. The following progress has been made to date:

- a) A meeting of the Trade Group of SAINT was called to solicit financial support for this commitment. The meeting was well attended and I would like to thank the individuals and companies who committed to providing bridging finance to SAINT for this venture. This support is highly appreciated.
- b) Following 2 meetings and 2 visits by members of council to Durban a contract for the conference organising was signed with a company from Durban called “The Conference Company”. This company is involved in organising between 5 and 7 international conferences of the same scale as the 18th WCNDT per year and they have all the systems, to control and manage such an event in place. The ConfCo is au fait with the ICC in Durban and I am convinced that this relationship is cardinal to staging a successful conference
- c) In order to separate the SAINT activities from the WCNDT activities, a new Section 21 company is to be formed to handle all the legal and financial aspects around the conference. Council is in the process of approaching 5 directors from industry to take fiduciary responsibility for the Section 21 company and this company will be in place soon. This board of directors will take over the roll of the Main Conference Committee.
- d) To date 2 subcommittees have been formed – a financial subcommittee and a marketing committee and work has been started in this area.
- e) I will be attending the 13th APCNDT in Yokohama, Japan, from 8 to 12 November 2009. At this meeting the ICNDT committee is also meeting and I need to feed back on progress to date. In addition a number of issues have been raised from the Main Committee and these will be addressed at the meetings in Japan.

I would like to thank everybody who has put energy into this venture. This is a unique opportunity and I am sure that NDT in South Africa and Africa will come out much stronger from the activities and the results of this WCNDT.

2.4 ECSA activities

It has always been the intent to use registration with ECSA as a way of formalizing the requirement for “operation authorisation” as contained in ISO 9712 paragraph 3.24 and 5.5 and which at present is not performed, nor required, by many services providers and users of NDT services respectively. To harmonise the ECSA registration with the SAQA and ETQA requirements, NDT Level III personnel, who are responsible for operation authorisation within their companies will have to be also qualified as assessors to the relevant unit standard applicable. A number of courses were held, however, nobody from the NDT fraternity has completed the requirements of the unit standard. I take it that this situation will change quickly when ECSA registration is a reality.

2.4 NDT Level III working group – SAINT Technical Group

This group met at regular intervals. The main drive is to assure enough training positions for NDT trainees and practitioners to meet the demands from industry for more NDT practitioners. S-Cert was approached to also recognise training performed at other training schools for S-Cert examinations, which at present are the only SAQA-approved examinations in South Africa. (African NDT has got similar recognition from UKAS through their partnership with a UK training school.) This request was granted and I am waiting anxiously for the first Schools to take up the offer. These activities have however prompted other schools in to getting their quality systems in line for SAQA audits as training (and possibly also examination) centres. On these issues I am in contact with 4 training schools – SAIW, A-NDT, SANDE and NASA – as well as VUT.

Once the availability of training and the examinations of NDT practitioners have been sorted out, this group will pursue the ECSA registration as a next step, to bring NDT into the fold of the larger engineering family.

2.6 Revision of the IRC91-I2 Code of practice for Industrial Radiography

The DoH DRC is in the process of revising the Code of practice. SAINT was requested to convene a meeting of interested parties. Two meetings have been held to date, the second of which (on 19 September) was in the form of a workshop to highlight all the issues of concern. At this second meeting the Deputy Director – Radionuclides, Mrs Emma Snyman, gave an overview of the thinking of the DRC. She made it very clear, that the DoH can not accept and recognise training for the purpose of registration of radiation workers, which is not SAQA approved. The SAQA legislation has the same status as the DRC legislation and the DRC is not in a position to act against national legislation. The Technical universities – by mouth of TUT – indicated that they will no longer be in a position to supervise and control the examinations. The reasons can be found in the fact that also informal qualifications issued by the Technical Universities must comply with the legislative requirement for these universities. In the current situation this makes the involvement of the Universities impossible.

SAINT is thankful that the DRC is interacting with industry and I want to call on the SAINT members to give their inputs into this work, in the interest of the industry at large.

2.7 Visits to corporate members:

A vote of thanks goes to NECSA and SAA who invited SAINT members to visit their facilities. Both these visits were well attended and it is recommended that this activity be continue in future.

2.8 2nd National NDT Conference

The arrangements for this conference are on hold, mainly due to external factors such as other bigger conferences falling on the same dates as those intended for the conference. If at all possible, a one day conference is envisaged in conjunction Aviation Industry Rendezvous 2010 from 16 to 18 February and a second day towards the end of March 2010 on general NDT issues. A call for papers for the second conference will be issued in November. The day at the AIR2010 will possibly be more in the form of a workshop.

2.9 Southern African ASNT Chapter:

During the past year the Southern African ASNT Chapter has been reconstituted. I am glad to say that it is the stated intent to have good relations with SAINT. The Chapter will endeavour to bring the advantages that ASNT have to offer to South Africa for the betterment of our industry. A special effort will be made by the Chapter to organise the aviation industry under their banner.

3. Conclusion

I would like to thank all who contributed in the past year. It is not always easy but if one sees the successes it becomes all worthwhile. A special word of thanks goes to Robin Marshall, the minute secretary of SAINT, who does much more than a secretary, by keeping us all on our toes. It is appreciated.

Today is also a sad day, as Brian Dadford's term of office on Council comes to an end. Thanks Brian for the effort made in the interest of our Institute and I know it will not end here. You are still much too young to retire.

Thank you to everybody who attended the AGM. Our Institute needs people who see NDT as their future and who are willing to go the extra mile. Attending the AGM is the first step.

M S Johannes
President SAINT