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**Environmental Engineering Training for electricity utilities**

The Environmental and Safety working group is intending to conduct a specialized course in Environmental Engineering.

The course will be presented by the convener of the PIESA working group, Troy Poobalan Govender. He is an Environmental Scientist and a Chartered Public Relations Practitioner by profession. He holds a Masters' Degree in Environmental Management, a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Public Relations Management and Communications. Troy is currently doing his Phd in Development Studies, with a focus on sustainable development. Hence this promises to be a very professional course and will certainly benefit utilities in our region of Africa.

Due to the specialised nature of such a course, we will have to limit the number of attendees to about 25 PIESA members, so please register early.

Certificates will be issued at the end of the course upon completion of Compulsory Assignment (50 multi-choice questions).

**Course Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, the learner is capable of:

- Understanding the concept of 'sustainable development' and the need for it from a business perspective.
- Understanding environmental legislation in the RSA.
- Incorporating appropriate environmental management strategies into projects.
- Analysing and implementing various environmental assessment tools, such as environmental impact assessments (EIAs).
- Understanding climate change as it relates to the electrical industry
- Monitoring the environment.
- Appreciating the environment they are going to operate in as engineers.

The course takes place from 13-14 June 2011 at 08:00 – 16:30 at Sandton Sun, Corner Fifth and Alice Streets, Sandton.

The Cost: R1200.00

Please note that delegates will be responsible for accommodation and flights to South Africa.

Registration & Cancellation: Please note that each Utility Member may not send more than three delegates as space is limited.

Please complete the registration form, once complete please send to Thenjiwe Roda. Email [Thenjiwe@vdw.co.za](mailto:Thenjiwe@vdw.co.za) or Fax: 086 670 4460.

Should you wish to cancel your registration, notice must be given in writing no later than 48 hours.

Please click [here](#) for more information on the course content.

**About the course presenter:**

Troy Poobalan Govender is an Environmental Scientist and a Chartered Public Relations Practitioner by profession. He holds a Masters' Degree in Environmental Management, a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Public Relations Management and Communications. Troy is currently doing his Phd in Development Studies, with a focus on sustainable development.

He is currently employed as the Senior Environmental Advisor for Eskom, Distribution Division. He has been with Eskom for the past 20 years.

Troy is also the Special External Advisor in the Communications and Public Information Division of Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1997. In this capacity, he has undertaken 35 international missions for the UNEP. He is one of the contributing authors to the UNEP 2002 Global Environment Outlook 3 (GEO3) and African Environmental Outlook (AEO) reports, as well as the Youth version of the AEO. He was also the editorial coordinator for the recently launched Youth version of the South Africa Environment Outlook 2006 (YSoER).

Troy lectures (part-time), the Environmental Engineering course in the undergraduate and postgraduate Engineering programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and is a guest lecturer at the Rhodes University Investec Business School for the MBA Programme.

Recently he undertook three climate change capacity building projects for the World Bank in S.E. Asia.

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**Standards for adoption by PIESA**

The PIESA has refreshed the memorandum of agreement which was signed with SADCSTAN on the harmonization of standards.



The PIESA website has been modified to provide for the working group members to collaborate on line and make comments regarding work in progress.

The Standardisation working Group has drawn up a list of all PIESA standards and their current status.

This has been published on the website and the idea is that a convener and working group committees will be appointed to study the existing standards and determine if or when they should be updated.

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## **2011 PIESA-IERE Biennial workshop TIS Africa**

The biennial PIESA IERE workshop is set to be hosted by Escom in Malawi from 29 August 2011.

Many varied and very interesting proposals to present papers at the workshop were received by the closing date on 1 June 2011, the papers committee will now develop a programme to accommodate these papers in the various workshop sessions.

### ***.....Smarter Electrification.....***

- Smart metering and standards
- Demand Side load management
- Renewable Energy generation and feed in tariffs
- Energy Efficiency, and energy management
- Tariffs and price setting
- Data Communication methods and standards
- SCADA systems and remote fault monitoring technology
- New distribution technology
- Asset management techniques.

The registration documents for the conference will sent to members by end June 2011.

As usual, it will be a very busy week for the PIESA. The week's programme will accommodate the PIESA Board meeting, working group meetings, and the AGM before the workshop.

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## Kenya transformer plant

Please click [here](#) for an article Kenya transformer plant. This is just the sort of initiative that PIESA is striving to support.

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## PIESA Board meeting March 2011 highlights

The PIESA Board meeting took place at the International Convention Centre in the Westin Hotel in Cape Town on 14 March 2011 and some of the important resolutions taken at this meeting were as follows:

- The PIESA Board resolved, to revert the PIESA back to being a common law association from being a section 21 (not for Profit) company as it initially was when the PIESA was established. This change will have no effect on the PIESA, it will continue as before. As the PIESA is a regional organisation, it will not have the added burden of having to register the Directors of the Board in terms of the South African Companies Act.

- The Board resolved to establish a policy to sponsor a PIESA member each year to attend an international IERE workshop or conference.

The extent of the financial implications of the sponsorship will be determined by the actual cost of travel and accommodation but will be limited to a maximum of \$3,500-00 USD, subject to annual revision.

- The agreed that in future, the venue for the working group meetings should rotate between the various countries, so that each country gets an opportunity to host the meeting which will allow more staff members of that utility to be exposed to the working group and it will not always be the same people that must travel.

## IERE Workshops

The IERE has several high level technical workshops each year where new Electricity technology research is debated,. This creates a marvelous opportunity for skills transfer. The Board resolved at the March meeting that PIESA will sponsor a utility member to attend one of these workshops each year.

The process is that Board members will be afforded the opportunity to nominate an Engineer in their utility, and in the event that more than one nomination is received, the Board will vote to select a delegate.

The next technology workshop will be held in Nanjing in China with the theme ‘Smart Grids and Energy Efficiency’

A Board member from Escom in Malawi nominated Mr Peter Bobo, from Escom Malawi, and the Board has agreed that he may be sponsored by the PIESA to attend.

Congratulations!, Peter, we hope that you will enjoy the experience of attending the International conference at this high level, and that it would assist you with your daily work at Escom in Malawi.

Peter will present a paper at the Malawi conference covering his experience in attending the workshop in China

The schedule of IERE meetings for 2012 will once again be published in February 2012, and hopefully the Board will agree to delegate another deserving Engineer to attend.

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## Working Groups

In terms of the board resolution regarding the rotation of the venues for working group meetings, a proposed schedule has been drawn up for the hosting of the March WG meetings by the various utility members.

The table below illustrates the concept.

	01 March 2012	01 March 2013	01 March 2014	01 March 2015
KPLC Kenya	Loss Reduction WG	Standardisation WG	Environmental WG	Electrification WG
ZESCO Zambia	Standardisation WG	Loss Reduction WG	Electrification WG	Environmental WG
TanESCO Tanzania	Electrification WG	Environmental WG	Loss Reduction WG	Standardisation WG
LEC Lesotho	Environmental WG	Electrification WG	Standardisation WG	Loss Reduction WG

The March Board Meetings will be held at the PIESA head office in Randburg, and the Sept meeting will alternate at the TIS workshop venue one year and alternating between utilities on the other year as illustrated in the example below.

September	
<b>2011 TIS Forum</b>	<b>Malawi Sept 2011</b>
2012 General Meeting	Zambia Sept 2012
<b>2013 TIS Forum</b>	<b>Tanzania Sept 2013</b>
2014 General Meeting	Lesotho Sept 2014

Please let me have your inputs on the proposals.

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## PIESA training courses for 2011/12

In terms of the objectives of the PIESA, we will once again do unique needs analysis to determine the

training courses required by members in 2011.

Members are encouraged to submit unique training needs to the Secretariat, the COO will do a report to the board at the next board meeting with all the training needs to formulate the training budget for the next three years.

The SWER training practical implementation is still proceeding in Zimbabwe, and the first pilot should be completed during this year. The economic benefit of this design should then be evident and further decisions can be made to proceed.

IERE have indicated that they would like to see a similar project in each of the PIESA utilities.

I would like to hear your views on the following training, and if any would interest you.

Strategic Planning	Cables and cable selection economics
Project management	A practical course in cable termination
Utility management	SCADA, fibre optic communication
Financial management for engineers	Substation earthing and lightning protection

### **Environmental Engineering training**

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### **Standardisation training**

A very successful training course that was conducted at Kafue Gorge in Zambia in 2008, and we propose that this training should be repeated in 2012 at a venue to be determined.

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## **AFSEC Technical Committees**

The PIESA is an affiliate of AFSEC, and as such we may nominate working group members to the various technical committees.

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## **Utility Benchmarking**

Benchmarking of utilities is a very interesting concept that was developed in the USA. It creates an opportunity for the utility to compare its effectiveness with other utilities, and benchmark it against the

efficiency and effectiveness of services provided by a world class utility.

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### **New cabinet announced for Uganda**

Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, has announced a new cabinet which includes a mixture of new and experienced faces.

Irene Muloni, former head of the Ugandan Electricity Distribution Company, is the new Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Muloni is an electrical engineer and graduated with an honours degree in Electrical Engineering from Makerere University, Kampala, in 1986. She also holds an MBA degree from Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, US (2004).

Muloni has been employed in leadership, management and operations responsibilities in government utility companies (electricity and telecommunications) and also served on a voluntary basis in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. In 2003 she won the "Sarah Ntiro Award" as a "model of excellence" by the Forum for Africa Women Educationists. She is an advocate for gender equality, women's empowerment and utilization of science and technology for sustainable development.

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June 2011 edition of the PIESA Bulletin!

As this bulletin carries the objective of keeping its readers up-to-date with the latest industry developments, we welcome and encourage you to send your thoughts, editorial contributions and comments.

*Please note that PIESA reserves the right to edit content for clarity and/or brevity. Please note that the views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of the PIESA.*

*Dion Abrahams*

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