

Message from the Chairman:

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter. PIESA was established with the objective of sharing technology obtained from the member's knowledge, experience and research.

PIESA is a voluntary association of organisations, as the name implies, participating in the electricity supply industries of East and Southern Africa. To make a meaningful contribution PIESA focuses its energies where there is the greatest need. This presently, in the case of member countries, is in distribution and electrification for the delivery of electricity to all potential end users.

PIESA is structured to address this objective with Board Members, Affiliate Members and five active Working Groups. It has been recognised that PIESA would become more productive through increased communication between all those who participate in PIESA. Hence the launch of the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter as an electronic communiqué.

What will the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter contain? We can express our present ideas and objectives but these must not be interpreted as being inflexible since the content of the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter will be continuously reviewed to align with the information needs of all PIESA Members.

The Editor will be the PIESA Secretariat who will be responsible for inserting all administrative information such as updated member contact details, decisions made at Board meetings, agendas for all Working Group meetings and progress made with the various identified PIESA tasks. The Editor will also include information on related events of interest such as the IEEE Conference in Durban in July and the Cigré Conference in Cape Town in October. What is happening in similar objective organisations such as the research activities of the IERE will also be reported on in the newsletter. All sources of information would be acknowledged. The creation of the new PIESA web site will contain information which the newsletter will highlight and direct the members to view.

It is recognised that PIESA Member organisations are actively involved in many internal programmes and projects the results of

which could be of considerable interest to all PIESA members. The Editor would enquire of the members, both utilities and manufacturers, to provide information on such projects be they envisaged, in progress or completed. Technical information will always be welcomed to keep members abreast of what is being researched or what has become available.

To share what is happening in the region, beyond what is being addressed within the member utilities, consideration could be given to the establishment of a corresponding editorial panel. The contributors to such a panel would be volunteers from the member organisations who would be in a position to keep the PIESA membership informed of relevant information and activities within the region. Typically a corresponding editorial panel member could report on the restructuring of the Electricity Distribution Industry in a member country. Similarly there could be a report on a rural area pilot solar panel project in a non-PIESA member country.

In addition to the reporting aspects mentioned above, letters to the Editor, from any member could become the most interesting component of the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter. Valuable contributions would be from the Board Members suggesting in their letters what their utilities consider PIESA should be doing that would be of benefit in the cost effective development of technically acceptable distribution and electrification networks. Other individual letters even if considered controversial will be presented for open debate to make the PIESA Quarterly Newsletter a lively interactive forum to assist the members and develop the worth of the PIESA.



Greg Tosen
PIESA Board Chairperson

Message from the Editor:

We hope you enjoy this first quarterly newsletter. Greg Tosen has indicated that for the newsletter to be a success it requires your input by providing material for future editions.

When you do have something you would like to share with the membership please forward it to the PIESA Secretariat so that we can include it in the next edition.

We expect the format of the newsletter to evolve over the next few editions. Any feedback or comments on how we can improve the newsletter would be most welcome.

Mike Page - PIESA Secretariat

E-Mail: Secretariat@piesa.com

Highlights of events during the previous period:

The main PIESA functions that took place during the past period were the 2nd AGM and the 17th PIESA Board Meeting both held on 19th April 2005 in Blantyre, Malawi.

2nd PIESA AGM

Six Board members, one liaison board member, one affiliate, two observers and two members of the Secretariat attended the AGM at the Protea Ryalls Hotel.

The minutes of the meeting were prepared by the secretariat approved by the Chairman and circulated to those members who attended the meeting on the 17th May 2005.



PIESA members and other participants attending the AGM

17th PIESA Board Meeting

The same members that attended the AGM attended the Board meeting held later on the same day.

The minutes of the meeting were prepared by the secretariat approved by the Chairman and circulated to those members who attended the meeting on the 17th May 2005.

Key actions from the Board Meeting:

Marketing:

All members should take responsibility for marketing the benefits of membership, in particular to encourage utilities in the region that are not members, to join PIESA.

We should like to encourage Nampower, Namibia and BPC, Botswana to attend the next PIESA Regional Workshop in October 2005.

2005-2006 Business Plan:

The Chairman and Secretariat to finalise the 2005-2006 Business Plan based on output from the board meeting for adoption at the next board meeting in October 2005.

The business plan will be based on the following categories:

- *Communication*
- *Value to members*
- *Growth strategy*
- *Technical and political issues*
- *Documentation facilitation - databases*

PIESA web site:

To complete the merger of the two PIESA web sites into one.

The merger has been done and the new web site has been posted onto the web. Go and check it out for yourself at:

<http://www.piesa.com/>

PIESA 2004-2005 Annual Report

Report to be published by 30th September 2005 in time for the next Board Meeting in October 2005. Deadline for submission of the final draft to the printers is 31st August 2005.

Actions required from all members including affiliates by 31st July 2005:

Please send the following by 31st July 2005 to:

PIESA Secretariat at: Secretariat@piesa.com

Photographs: *Any photographs you have of generating plant or other similar structure from your utility. These will be used as either watermarks or actual photographs.*

Company Logo: *Your company logo and information on your company.*

Board Members: *Updated information for the table 'Utility Customer Connections Development' as supplied for the 2004 Annual Report.*

Forthcoming PIESA events:

PIESA Regional Workshop: 21st – 24th October 2005

PIESA Regional Workshops were held in Lusaka in 2001 and Johannesburg in 2003. Cigré hold regional conferences at four-year intervals in South Africa, the fifth such conference is to be held in Cape Town in October 2005.

A new Cigré Study Committee C6 with the focus on dispersed generation and distribution will be visiting South Africa and the customary one day technical colloquium will take place immediately prior to the regional conference.

2005 Cigré Colloquium

It was suggested to the Cigré C6 Study Committee Member Prof T. Gaunt of the University of Cape Town that there could be mutual benefit if PIESA participated in the Colloquium. This has been agreed to, as indicated, in the Cigré Colloquium call for papers document.

It was agreed at the 17th Board meeting that for efficiency the next PIESA Regional Workshop and Board meeting would also be in Cape Town and take place immediately before the Cigré technical colloquium.

The PIESA Secretariat is making arrangements for the:

- Co-ordination of PIESA contributions to the Cigré Colloquium.

The indications are that the required PIESA contributions will be on member experiences that align with the Colloquium session topics, rather than presentations on the structure of PIESA and its working groups.

Detailed information on the contribution requirements for the colloquium shall be sent out when arrangements are finalised with Prof Gaunt.

- The venue booking in Cape Town for PIESA Board and Working Groups meetings.

It is hoped we shall be able to book accommodation at the same venue as that being used for the Cigré Colloquium and regional conference.

For your diary the dates are:

Thursday 20 October – fly to Cape Town.

Friday 21 October – combined PIESA Board and Working Groups meeting.

Saturday 22 October – separate PIESA Board and Working Groups meetings.

Sunday 23 October – day of leisure still to be defined.

Monday 24 October – PIESA participation in Cigré C6 Colloquium.

Tuesday 25 October – fly home from Cape Town.

5th Cigré Regional Conference

There exists the opportunity to extend your stay by registering for the three day 5th Cigré Regional Conference which will take place at the same venue from 25th to 27th October 2005.

For details visit: <http://www.cigre.org> or, PIESA Secretariat at: Secretariat@piesa.com

2007 IERE Africa Forum

PIESA is a member of the International Electrical Research Exchange (IERE) and participated in the first IERE Africa Forum in Cape Town.

It was suggested that a future PIESA Regional Workshop could become an international technical event if combined with another IERE Africa Forum. At the last Annual Meeting of IERE in Poland our Chairman Greg Tosen tabled the PIESA proposal and an agreement in principle was reached to have the combined event.

It is proposed to hold the event in September 2007 at Victoria Falls, Zambia. The management of ZESCO Ltd has agreed to be the host utility and provide logistical support. The financial aspects of funding and charges for the event will be the responsibility of the secretariats of PIESA and IERE.

Other events:

IEEE Power Engineering Society

The IEEE in association with the Southern African Power Pool and the University of KwaZulu-Natal present the Inaugural 2005 Conference and Exposition in Africa.

"A new contribution against global warming" Introducing Africa's Electric Power Engineering Renaissance

Dates: 11th to 15th July 2005 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

For further details visit: <http://www.ieee.org>.

List of members:

A full list of all PIESA members with e-mail addresses is available from the PIESA Secretariat. A copy is provided as a separate file with this newsletter.