

Happy 2008!!!

May this year bring health, happiness and success to you all!

Board Membership Change: SNEL

Mr Albert MBAFUMOYA TCHOMBA has been appointed as Director of Studies and Standards at SNEL in replacement of Mr Alex Kabata who retired during 2007. Consequently, Mr Albert MBAFUMOYA TCHOMBA has been appointed as the new SNEL representative on the PIESEA Board.

We welcome Mr Albert MBAFUMOYA TCHOMBA, and also take this opportunity to thank Mr Pascal KUNDA PAKA, who acted as SNEL's representative in the interim, for his active participation and strong support to the PIESEA and the Board.

PIESA – IERE Legacy Projects

One of the highlights resulting from the successful PIESEA–IERE Africa Forum hosted by ZESCO at the end of September 2007 at Victoria Falls, was the agreement between PIESEA and IERE for cooperation and financial support from IERE towards a "legacy project".

The PIESEA Working Groups made several proposals for projects that would further the aims of PIESEA where IERE might be able to provide support in the form of experts or financial assistance, or both.

SWER Course

The pilot project, which resulted from a proposal from the Electrification Working Group, was to develop and produce training material in the single-wire-earth-return (SWER) technology, in the form of a DVD that could be used by PIESEA members and intended primarily for electrification planning decision-makers and project engineers who have the design and construction duties of rural electrification projects in their respective organisations.

The PIESEA Board members were invited to nominate participants in a three-day course to

be held in South Africa, hosted by Eskom, comprised of lectures on SWER technology and field visits for practical demonstrations of installations.

The course was held in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, on 12-14 November 2007, and 13 delegates from three PIESEA member utilities attended (ESCOM, KPLC and LEC). Unfortunately, the nominees from ZESA and ZESCO were unable to join.

Dr Hendri Geldenhuys and Mr Bruce McLaren, both from Eskom, provided the technical input in the form of formal lectures and guided field trips. They were assisted by Mr Nkumbulo Sitole, also of Eskom. A local professional audiovisual company was contracted for the recording of the course proceedings.

The participants met on Sunday 11 November 2007 in Port Elizabeth. The next three days were spent in Jansenville and Hogsback in intense lecture and group work sessions and field visits. Participants departed from East London on the evening of Wednesday 14 November.



ESCOM participants and Dr Hendri Geldenhuys in Port Elizabeth



LEC participants (above) and KPLC participants (Below) preparing to depart Port Elizabeth for Jansenville



In Jansenville on Monday 12 November, lectures and discussion centred on:

- SWER introduction
- Safety criteria
- SWER planning
- SWER protection
- Single phase technologies.



Field visits were undertaken to view SWER application in an ostrich pelleting process and to inspect customer transformer installations.



Following the field visits, participants discussed their organisations' SWER electrification plans.



Discussion continued over dinner in the Boma at Jansenville Farm where the group spent the night.

Tuesday 13 November began with a lecture on SWER structural design before the group set off for Hogsback and field visits en route to view rural electrification areas, isolation transformer installations, and for demonstrations of earth resistivity and current return measurements.



Above and below: village domestic electrification projects near Hogsback



After dinner, each delegation worked on its own for preparation of its national SWER project presentation.

On Wednesday 14 November, lectures continued on:

- Lightning protection
- Operating and maintenance
- SWER & telephone lines
- Tools: Retic Master, Electech etc.

They also visited SWER electrification areas:



On arrival at the Arminel Lodge in Hogsback, lectures were presented in:

- Electrification technology: service connection and prepayment metering installation
- Earth electrode design (design tools)
- SWER electrode risk.



Delegates presented their national SWER projects for discussion.....



.....and assembled for a group photo before departure on completion of the course:



The audio-visual material is now to be further processed to produce a professional training tool in the form of a DVD, supplemented by the technical documentation developed by Eskom, and available to all PIESA members.

The final DVDs should be available later in 2008. If so required, the audio could be translated into French to make it suitable for use in francophone countries.

Future "legacy projects"

A similar arrangement is planned for other technologies during 2008; for example, the development of training material covering prepayment metering systems, and distributed generation technologies is being considered. For the latter, it is hoped that IERE will provide technical experts who have had experience with specific distributed generation technologies in other countries/continents.

The cooperation between IERE and PIESA is the first of its kind for PIESA, and will greatly enhance the value of being a member of PIESA.

African regulators to reference PIESA power quality standard: PIESA 1048

The PIESA Board approved PIESA 1048, *Quality of supply — Voltage characteristics, compatibility levels, limits and assessment methods* in September 2008, and is published on the PIESA web site for access by PIESA members, and through the publishing arrangement PIESA has with Standards South

Africa to make its standards available to other parties.

During the process of developing PIESA 1048, input was solicited from RERA, the Regional Energy Regulators Association for the Southern Africa region, resulting in RERA members supporting the content of PIESA 1048.

This paved the way for PIESA 1048 to be considered as a reference standard when the African Forum of Utility Regulators (AFUR) workshop on power quality and reliability was held in Johannesburg 3-4 December 2007. The workshop was aimed at producing a set of guidelines for African regulators in respect of setting up technical regulations in the area of electric power quality. By referencing the requirements of PIESA 1048, and the international standards on which it is based, regulators throughout Africa will be in a position to consistently monitor and benchmark the quality and reliability of power delivered by African utilities. The work done by PIESA in collaboration with RERA has provided a sound foundation for these guidelines, and the PIESA Standardization Working Group is to be congratulated in taking the timely initiative to have PIESA 1048 prepared.

PIESA Meetings

Board Meeting No. 23

The Board meeting will be held on 20 May 2008 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), to coincide with "African Utility Week" – an event in which most PIESA members regularly participate.

Other News:



The annual forum for African and international experts to come together and discuss strategies as well as technical improvements to the power industry will be held on 20-23 May 2008, in Cape Town, South Africa. Focussing on the Why, What and How of the business of utilities in Africa, the conference has been streamlined into three distinct tracks: Generation Africa; Transmission & Distribution Africa; and Metering, Billing/CRM Africa.

For information on submission of papers and presentations or for discounted early registration, visit www.african-utility-week.com.



SARPA Convention 2008

The 12th Annual Convention of the South African Revenue Protection Association (SARPA) will take place in Pretoria, South Africa, on 17 & 18 July 2008. SARPA invites PIESA members to submit papers and presentation. Closing dates for submissions are:

- Synopsis: 11 March 2008
- Paper: 30 June 2008.

For further information and Convention Proposal forms please contact the SARPA Secretariat at marlindi@vdw.co.za.

WWEC2008

The 7th World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition, taking place June 24–26 2008 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The conference will profile the special topic of Community Power, referring to the development and ownership of renewable energy projects by local communities including farmers and landowners, cooperatives, municipalities, utilities, educational institutions and other partners. Visit www.wwec2008.com for more information.

Newsletters

Please provide inputs to the Newsletters by sending news about developments in your organisation or the electricity distribution industry in your country. Please send your contributions to the PIESA Secretariat (judi.k@telkomsa.net).