

## Welcome to 2007!

The holidays are behind us, and we are fully charged to tackle the many challenges ahead of us during 2007.

## Working Groups:

The Convenor of the **Electrification** Working Group, Mr Cyprian Muzamwese (ZESA), tried to convene a meeting in mid-December to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe. However, as many people in the region plan their annual holidays to coincide with the end of the school year – also in mid-December - the response was disappointing. Mr Muzamwese will contact the Working Group members during January to arrange a meeting as soon as practicable.

Members of the **Power Systems Analysis** Working Group, and the **Non-Technical Loss Reduction** Working Group should expect to be contacted during January 2007 by the Convenors (Mr Julius Kampamba, ZESCO, and Mr Wiseman Kabwazi, ESCOM) with details of dates and venues of the next meeting of their respective Working Groups.

During the last quarter, the Convenor of the **Standardisation** Working Group, Mr Paul Johnson (Eskom), continued to forge PIESA's links with a number of regional organizations, including the Regional Electricity Regulators' Association (RERA).

Following its productive meeting in October 2006 in Maseru (hosted by LEC), the **Environmental Management** Working Group continued to consolidate the outputs and make steady progress to meet its 2007 business plan targets.

## PIESA Training:

### **Standardisation Course – February 2007**

In December 2006 the Secretariat sent out the invitations to the PIESA Board members for nomination of participants in the Standardisation course to be held during 19-23 February 2007 at Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) in Zambia.

The course is intended for any manager or engineer who is required to manage technical resources, and will be of particular benefit to any of the engineers in PIESA member utilities

who are required to participate in PIESA standardization projects. It is regarded as an essential course for staff in the engineering design and planning departments in PIESA member organizations, and will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the world of standardization and how standardization and standards can be managed to the benefit of an electricity utility.

As approved by the PIESA Board of Directors, the cost of this specific course will be subsidized by PIESA. Participants will be required to pay only their own travel costs to and from Zambia, as well as accommodation and meals at KGRTC at a cost of US\$110.50 per day. Transport between Lusaka and KGRTC will be provided by KGRTC and the cost is included in the charge for accommodation.

As the number of delegates to be accommodated on the course is limited, please ensure that application is made as soon as possible. Please contact KGRTC direct on the addresses shown below:

Mr Kaela Siame, Training Manager  
Postal address: P O Box 32774, Lusaka, Zambia  
Email: [siamek@kgrtc.org.zm](mailto:siamek@kgrtc.org.zm)  
Telephone: +260 1 37 1007/8  
Fax: +260 1 37 1086

If you require further information or assistance, please contact Judi Koncz in the PIESA Secretariat (e-mail: [judi.k@telkomsa.net](mailto:judi.k@telkomsa.net) and/or [secretariat@pieasa.com](mailto:secretariat@pieasa.com)).

## PIESA/IERE<sup>1</sup> Africa Forum:

### **IERE East Asia Forum**

To assist the preparation of the joint PIESA-IERE Africa Forum, Ms Judi Koncz of the PIESA Secretariat, and Mr Danny Sichela, Ms Monica Chisela and Ms Elizabeth Chambwe of ZESCO attended the IERE General Meeting and East Asia Forum held during 13-15 November 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan, and magnificently hosted by the Taiwan Power Research Institute / Taiwan Power Company.

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<sup>1</sup> International Energy Research Exchange

Every aspect of the Forum was delivered to perfection, with great attention to the smallest detail. It was an invaluable experience for the PIESA/ZESCO delegates, and one which amply demonstrated the awesome challenge to meet the standards set in Taiwan!

The conference topics and presentations were excellent, and Proceedings (abstracts, papers and presentations) are available on the IERE website: [www.iere.dcc.co.jp](http://www.iere.dcc.co.jp).

The process management was deceptively effortless, time-keeping was strictly observed, and even lunches and dinners began and ended 'on the dot'. This was no mean feat when the 10-15 course dinners included every imaginable festive delicacy.

All lunches and dinners were provided in splendid restaurants and venues, but one is memorable for its location in "101". At 101 storeys, this is the tallest building in the world, and dwarfs all the many other skyscrapers that pierce the Taipei skyline.



Its observation deck affords a 360° view of the sprawling metropolis. Despite the steady drizzle and fog on the night of the dinner, it was an awesome sight.



The PIESA/ZESCO delegates met with the IERE Secretary General and members of the IERE Central Office to discuss and agree various aspects concerning the joint PIESA-IERE Africa

Forum. Also participating in the meeting were Mr Lauby, the out-going Chairman of IERE, the incoming Chairman Mr Kim (President of the Korea Electric Power Research Institute – KEPCO), and the incoming Treasurer of the IERE, Mr Dudzinski of GE Energy. Discussion centred on the draft programme, proposed themes/topics and indicative budget for the Africa Forum. Various aspects concerned with logistics such as optimal flight routes, airport transfers and local transport were also explored.

Key dates:

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers	February 2007
Deadline for Submission of Abstracts	April 2007
First Announcement	April 2007
Second Announcement	June 2007
PIESA-IERE Africa Forum and other PIESA and IERE meetings	24-28 September 2007

Many participants in the East Asia Forum who had not yet visited Africa expressed keen interest and the PIESA/ZESCO delegates responded as fully as time permitted. The enquiries related not only to details about accommodation, flight routing options, and reliability of local transport, but also concerned tour options, cultures and customs.



*Ms Judi Koncz responding to the IERE Secretary General's request to give an overview of the PIESA and the warm reception and exciting experience delegates can expect in Zambia and Africa*

Numerous in-depth questions were also raised about PIESA's members and their operating environments. Mr Danny Sichela was seldom without several IERE members eager to know more about utility operations in Zambia and elsewhere in Southern and East Africa.

It became clear that comprehensive information packages will be a necessary component of the successive Africa Forum Announcements, and the PIESA Secretariat undertook to provide these in due course.

## Visits to Places of Interest

Guided tours were also made available to various places of interest in the north of the country and in Taipei.

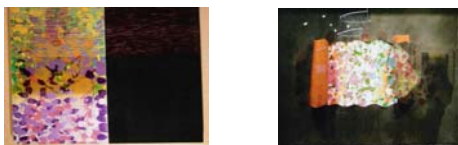
The Taiwan Power Company North Visitors Centre is located on the north coast, and contains a display model that demonstrates the entire operating process of a nuclear power plant.



The highly imaginative multi-media approach is such that any lay person – even children – can understand the information conveyed. The model is augmented by an array of audio visual material containing more technical and location specific data and illustrations. And the attention to detail that characterised the Forum was continued even in the North Visitors Centre: an electronic display flashed a welcoming message for the IERE delegates!



A further interesting feature was the exhibition of paintings and graphics by prominent Taiwanese artists. The Manager of the Centre explained that this was to "soften and balance" the 'hard' technical focus of the Centre.



Two of the paintings in the Visitors Centre.

The delegates also visited a wind farm on the northern tip of the country. Increased use of wind generation is a policy objective for the country in a determined shift towards 'clean' energy.

The day's tour included a visit to Yeliou Geopark, a 1,700 metre long cape protected by strict conservation regulations.



Over time, the limestone has been eroded into holes and rocks of many shapes resembling honeycombs, mushrooms, candlewick and even a sphinx-like formation aptly named the Queen's Head.



Mushroom rock



The Queen's Head

The day's journey took a very different turn with a walk through a lively area in Taipei where the narrow streets are teeming with happy people, and the hundreds of little shops and kiosks sell everything from foot massage to the latest fashion accessories. And, as seemed to be the case everywhere else, every second vendor sells food, food and more food to a populace that miraculously remains slender!



The day drew to a close with a drive through the city, allowing the delegates their last glimpses of the vibrant mix of beautiful monuments, friendly residential side-streets, huge shopping facilities, teeming traffic, and always the smiling faces of its friendly people.

### ***A Big Thank You!***

The generous hospitality extended by the IERE and the Taiwan Power Company is greatly appreciated by the PIESA.



*Mr Kim, incoming Chairman of the IERE, and Ms Judi Koncz of the PIESA Secretariat at the farewell dinner of the East Asia Forum*

The PIESA/ZESCO delegates received a warm welcome, and every effort was made to ensure that their participation in East Asia Forum and all the other associated activities was both informative and highly enjoyable. The PIESA Chairman and the PIESA Secretariat convey their deep appreciation to the IERE and the Taiwan Power Company for their support.

### **Preview:**

The PIESA-IERE joint Africa Forum will be held within a 10-15 minute walking distance from the Victoria Falls - a major World Heritage site.

The venue for the Forum is located on the Zambian side, some 20km from Livingstone. Livingstone is served by an airport that routinely handles large numbers of international visitors. Airport transfers are also routinely provided by thoroughly professional tour operators. The Convention Centre and hotel accommodation (the Zambezi Sun and The Royal Livingstone) are situated in the extensive resort that form part of the Sun International group.

More information will follow in future Newsletters!



*View from a room in the Zambezi Sun hotel. The accommodation is set out in a semi-circle around a variety of entertainment and eating facilities. The Convention Centre is adjacent to the building on the right of the photograph.*



*Luncheon preparations on the sprawling lawn between the Zambezi River and the Royal Livingstone hotel. The Royal Livingstone is a mere 5 minute walking distance from the Zambezi Sun and the Convention Centre. But be prepared for delightful distractions: cheerful zebras stroll across the lawns, a giraffe or two that happen to be munching a few meters away, or troops of small monkeys always ready for mischievous games.*



*"Sundowner" drinks on the deck of the Royal Livingstone above the mighty Zambezi River with Victoria Falls providing the perfect backdrop. As the sun begins to sink on the horizon, the hippos begin to emerge from between the banks of the islands: ears and eyes start to rise above the water, then the chorus of groans and roars begins to join the dusk chorus of birds and insects.*

### **Another Upcoming Event:**

Africa Utility Week 2007, now in its third year, will be taking place at the Cape Town Convention Centre, South Africa from 28 May to 1 June 2007. This is the largest utility event on the African continent and continues to deliver the very best speakers, discussing pertinent issues that will help in shaping the electricity, water and gas industries of Africa in the near future. AUW will focus on mobilising finance, regional cooperation, alternative energy resources, demand side management, privatisation, government policies and turning environmental challenges into profitable solutions for the power, water and gas sectors.

PIESA members participated in large numbers in previous years, and will not want to miss the opportunity of benefiting from the wide range of important topics to be covered during the 2007 event. For further information – including details for registration – contact the organisers at [info@spintelligent.com](mailto:info@spintelligent.com) or visit their website [www.spintelligent.com](http://www.spintelligent.com).

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