

## Board Meeting No. 20

The Board meeting was held on the morning of Tuesday 25 October 2006 in the boardroom of the Ethekewini Municipality Electricity Department, Durban, South Africa, and was hosted by the Association of Municipal Electricity Undertakings (AMEU).

The Board meeting provided the opportunity to become acquainted with the new Board member representing the Lesotho Electricity Corporation (LEC), Mr Mbele Hoohlo, LEC's Engineering Director. Mr Alvin Monga – the Board member for ZESCO – was unable to attend due to other pressing commitments, but Mr Augustine Musumali (ZESCO's Transmission Director) was well briefed and deputised actively.



The Secretariat reported on various follow-ups with utilities, invitations to new members and affiliates, various ongoing activities, as well as sundry administrative matters.



Reports from the Convenors of the Working Groups were tabled by their respective utilities' Board members, and are summarised below.

- **Power Systems Analysis Working Group:**  
Due to heavy commitments concerning the commissioning of a new line between Zambia and Namibia, the Convenor, Mr Julius Kampamba (ZESCO), had been unable to convene a meeting. However, Mr Kampamba has indicated that a meeting of the Working Group will be planned for early 2007.
- **Non-Technical Loss Reduction Working Group:**  
Persistent communication difficulties hampered the Convenor, Mr Wiseman Kabwazi (ESCOM) in his efforts to convene a meeting. However, a meeting shortly will be arranged to take place shortly.
- **Electrification Working Group:**  
The Convenor, Mr Cyprian Muzamwese (ZESA) who is also a member of the Standardisation Working Group, had experienced difficulties in arranging a meeting to be held in September 2006 in tandem with the Standardisation Working Group's meeting in Midrand, South Africa. Mr Muzamwese will convene a meeting of the Electrification Working Group to be held before the end of the year in Harare, Zimbabwe.
- **Environmental Management Working Group:**  
The Working Group has been very active throughout the period and the Convenor, Mr Samuel Ndirangu (KPLC), has ensured that a number of draft standards would be ready for finalisation during the Working Group's meeting in October 2006 in Maseru, Lesotho, hosted by LEC.
- **Standardisation Working Group:**  
This Working Group has also been very active throughout the period and met during September 2006 in Midrand, South Africa. The Convenor, Mr Paul Johnson (Eskom), also participated in various regional and Continental forums to further facilitate alignment of effort between PIESA and other key stakeholders.

### **PIESA Training: *Standardisation Course***

The Board agreed at its meeting that a repeat of the Standardisation course that was presented in March 2004 at Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) in Zambia, should be made available again in early 2007.



It was agreed that the course will be held during 19-23 February 2007, at KGRTC. The course itself will be sponsored by the PIESA, while travel and accommodation costs will be carried by the trainees' respective organisations. The Secretariat will forward enrolment details to Board members for nomination of trainees.

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

Members of the PIESA Organising Committee for the joint PIESA/IERE Africa Forum undertook a site inspection in September 2006 of the convention centre and accommodation at Victoria Falls, Zambia. Senior personnel from the host utility, ZESCO, participated in the site inspection and discussions with the convention centre management.



The venue and facilities are of a high standard, and the Secretariat has made provisional bookings for the Forum to be held in September 2007. In order to familiarise themselves with the IERE's requirements and expectations, some members of the

PIESA/ZESCO Organising Committee will attend the IERE's East Asia Forum being held during 12-16 November 2007 in Taipei, Taiwan. The IERE has graciously agreed to waive the registration fees of two delegates to the Forum.

The PIESA/ZESCO delegates will also meet with the IERE Secretary General and members of the IERE Central Office to discuss and agree the proposed dates, draft programme (theme/topics) and indicative budget that has been prepared by the PIESA Secretariat, as well as the respective responsibilities associated with preparations for the September 2007 joint Forum. The IERE Central Office and the PIESA Secretariat will publish the First Notice of the joint Forum in early 2007.

### **Other Key PIESA Meetings:**

#### ***Annual General Meeting (AGM)***

The Board agreed that the next AGM will be held at Victoria Falls, in conjunction with the PIESA-IERE Africa Forum.

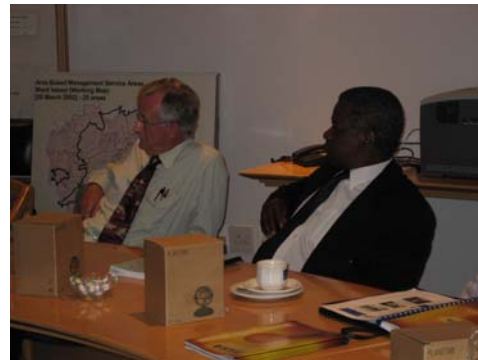
#### ***Joint Board and Working Groups Meeting***

The Board agreed that the annual Joint Meeting will also be held at Victoria Falls during the week of the PIESA-IERE Africa Forum.

### **Communication Matters:**

#### ***Representatives' Contact Details***

The Secretariat again requested Board members to forward – on an ongoing basis – any changes to the contact details of their organisations' representatives. This is vital to ensure that the Secretariat is able to communicate with all concerned.



#### ***Members' Progress Meetings***

The Secretariat again requested Board members to forward the dates of their progress meetings with their own organisations' PIESA representatives in order for this information to be posted on the website.

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

### ***Activities after the Board Meeting***

Mr Howard Whitehead, the Chief Executive of Ethekewini Municipality Electricity Department and the AMEU's representative on the PIESA Board since inception, arranged a variety of activities of interest to the Board members.

#### ***Presentation of AREVA***

The General Manager Substations of the Ethekewini Municipality Electricity Department gave an excellent presentation on the application of AREVA in frequency analysis of transformers, and outlined specific examples where significant improvements had been achieved.

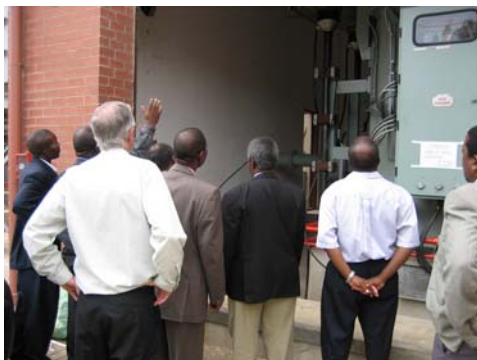


Mr Whitehead also arranged visits to various places of interest in the Ethekewini Municipality Electricity Department's supply area.



#### ***Durban's Point Area***

A recently developed area in Durban, the group inspected a new 132kV substation and integrated protection equipment.



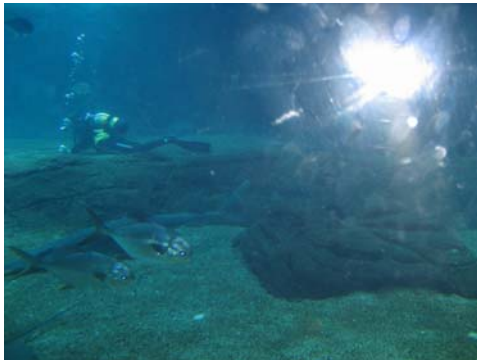
The visit to the Point development was greatly enhanced by the expert responses of the General Manager Substations to the many questions raised.



The informative tour to Ethekwini's installations was followed by a visit to Durban's Seaworld, including a show in the Dolphinarium .....



..... and close encounters with sharks and some of their friends in the extensive Aquarium.



#### Ekurhuleni Metro Electricity Division

Mr Fred Fryer, Acting Director Customer Services (and AMEU member of the Non-Technical Loss Reduction Working Group) offered to host any Board member who wished to visit the Metro while en route between Johannesburg and Durban. Mr Mwangi took up the offer and reported that he had enjoyed very informative interactions during the day he spent with Mr Fryer and his colleagues.

#### **Thanks!**

The Board and the Secretariat would like to express their deep appreciation for the generous hospitality extended by the AMEU in hosting the PIESA Board meeting, the excellent presentations, visits and arrangements, as well as the very enjoyable dinner hosted by Mr Whitehead.

#### **No change in Board Membership:**

Although Mr Whitehead retired from the Ethekwini Municipality at end of October 2006, he will remain active in the AMEU, and we are delighted that at its annual meeting held in October 2006 the AMEU approved Mr

Whitehead's continued representation of the Association on the PIESA Board.

#### **Changes in Working Group Membership:**

A member of the Power Systems Analysis Working Group informed us when he discovered that Dr William Dykman, the AMEU representative had resigned from his parent company to pursue other career opportunities. The Secretariat has requested the AMEU to notify the name and contact details of Dr Dykman's replacement.

Ms Keneiloe Molapo, LEC's representative on the Environmental Management Working Group, has informed the Secretariat that she will leave LEC at the end of November 2006. The Secretariat has requested the LEC to notify the name and contact details of Ms Molapo's replacement.

The Secretariat also learnt that Ms Dorah Nteo was appointed by Eskom as its new representative in the Environmental Management Working Group.

Also concerning the Environmental Management Working Group, Mr David Mwangi, Board member representing KPLC, informed the Board that Mr Samuel Ndirangu, currently the Convenor of this Working Group, may be replaced soon due to increasing pressure within KPLC for his expert services.

#### **Condolences:**

##### ***Trevor van Niekerk***

Trevor passed away in October 2006 after a long illness. The representative of PIESA affiliate member Aberdare Cables, he was a staunch supporter of the PIESA from its inception. He will be greatly missed.

##### ***Sarah Page***

While preparing to depart Durban on the morning following the Board meeting, Mr Mike Page of the PIESA Secretariat received the tragic news that his wife, Sarah, had been involved in a fatal vehicle accident. Those who were at the meetings held in October 2005 in the Strand and Somerset West will remember her: a charming, witty, exceptionally intelligent young woman. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mike.

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