

IN THIS NOVEMBER EDITION...

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YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we come to the end of 2008, and hopefully many of us are looking forward to Christmas or year-end celebrations, family get-togethers or well earned vacations, I reflect on how quickly my time as the new Chairman of PIESA has passed.

A successful 2008 workshop is behind us and there is the promise of imminent delivery on our pilot "legacy" project involving IERE and the production of a training DVD. The secretariat is active with promoting increased membership and the planning for our 2009 forum in Kenya has started. Most of the working groups have planned activities for early in the New Year, and so it is very pleasing to have the privilege to be heading up such an active association.

Of course we have our challenges, but we know what they are and with perseverance and the cooperation of all we will meet them face on.

Thank you to the Board members, the convenors and members of the working groups, the Chief Operating Officer and all other staff of the secretariat for their support in this my first year as Chairman. I trust the New Year will be fruitful for PIESA and for all its members, and that we will be able to deliver on the things we have set ourselves.

I look forward to the occasions when we can meet again, and so whatever you may be involved in over the year end; be safe, drive carefully, and may you be blessed.

Paul Johnson
Chairman
PIESA

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THE 2008 PIESA GENERAL MEETING

The October 2008 PIESA general meeting was hosted by Eskom SA at the Eskom Convention Centre (ECC) in Midrand Johannesburg.

The new process of having a 'General meeting' was introduced as a catchall phrase to describe the second series of meetings in the PIESA calendar. This year was no exception and the General meeting included all working group meetings, the Board Meeting, and the AGM.

The Working Group (WG) meetings were well attended and included a good cross section of members from each of the member utilities. The spirit was good and the series of meetings included some very pleasant entertainment of the culinary variety. The WG meetings started with a plenary session where there was an opportunity for the 'COO' to explain what should be the required output for the Board report. It was resolved that the conveners of the WG's would attend the full Board meeting and report on the activities and plans of each group.



Working Group Plenary session. members of the PIESA listened attentively

All five Working Groups met at this general meeting to update action plans and feedback on progress achieved during the year.

Electrification WG

The convener of the EWG M/s Memory Zvipore had to go the extra mile to attend the meeting and caught a bus from Harare to Johannesburg in order to meet her commitments to the Group. Memory, we congratulate you on your commitment. Thanks for the extra effort it is appreciated by all members.

This WG made considerable progress at this meeting, and have arranged to have a follow up technology workshop and WG meeting in Maseru in may 2009 to complete outstanding work.



**The Electrification working group with Convener Memory
4th from the right**

Power System Analysis WG

The convener of this working group is Custom Nthara. They completed a very busy schedule including a close look at their terms of reference and action plans for the future. The purpose of the Power System Analysis Working Group is to conduct detailed investigations and post disturbance analyses on the electrical distribution systems of PIESA member utilities and to recommend measures to improve system performance. The WG is also required to work in close liaison with other relevant regional bodies such as the SAPP. This is collectively in support of the electrification.

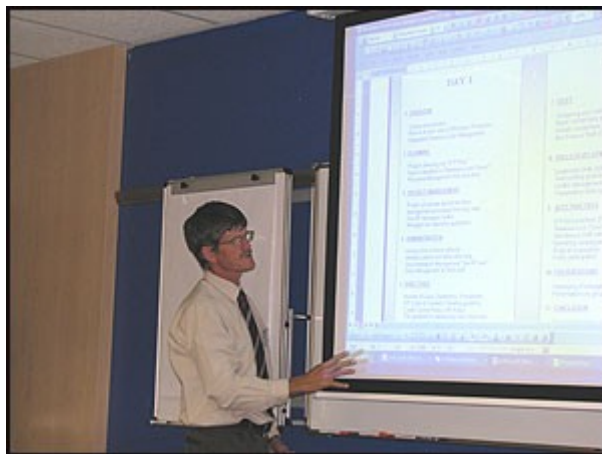
Environmental WG

This group convened by Ms Irene Maina, from KPLC, have done a remarkably good job during the year. This group has some very interesting projects lined up including a wildlife interaction program which will provide for the establishment of a fund to study the effects of mass electrification on wildlife. They are also working on climate change program, replanting of indigenous forests and a host of other very relevant and interesting projects



Non technical loss Reduction WG

This group is convened by Mr Wiseman Kabwazi. Non Technical losses reductions WG vision is to enhance the financial viability of PIESA Distribution Industry through reduction of non technical revenue losses by setting acceptable standards, procedures and projects.



Rens Bindeman addressing the NTLD WG regarding the forthcoming training course at Kafue Gorge in Zambia



The Non technical loss reduction WG after a hard days work at ECC October 2008

Standardisation WG

The standardisation working group is now convened by Mr Kelvis Kasonkomona, of ZESCO. The standards workgroup's objectives include proposing common standards to be used in East and Southern African countries who are members of PIESA. The aim is to ensure that these standards are harmonised and integrated throughout the region and beyond.

A collage of some great moments this year

Some general photographs taken at the October 2009 PIESA General meeting held at the Eskom leadership

Development Centre Midrand, hosted by Eskom South Africa:



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THE PIESA PROGRAMME FOR 2009

We have a very exciting programme lined up for 2009 including:

- Most working groups are planning to have their next meeting in Maseru Lesotho early in the New Year. Individual working groups are working on the logistic arrangements in this regard.
- The non-technical loss reduction working group are planning to conduct a 'Revenue protection' training course during April 2009. The course, arranged by Wiseman Kabwazi in close liaison with SARPA (The South African Revenue Protection Association) will be facilitated by Rens Bindeman who is well known in PIESA working groups. The venue for the course will be Kafue Gorge training centre in Zambia . Much more information about this training course will be circularised to members, and on the PIESA website early in the New Year. In the mean time interested members can contact Wiseman Kabwazi in Malawi for further information.
- The PIESA Board meeting will be held in April 2009. The exact date and venue to be announced.
- Then the highlight of the year will be the PIESA Biennial Workshop to be held in Mombasa Kenya on 14-18 September 2009. This workshop/conference follows on from the very successful Victoria Falls conference in 2007 and will once again include active support by IERE. This workshop/conference will take place every second year. The conference theme will be **'Distributed Generation and Renewable Technology in support of Electrification'**. The theme focuses on the support of Distribution in the more remote areas where access to the transmission grid is restricted
Lots more information will be circulated about this exciting conference early in the new year.

PIESA 2009 Calendar of Events:

	EVENT	DATES
1	Working group meetings	March 2009
2	Revenue protection training course	April 2009
3	PIESA Board Meeting	April 2009
4	PIESA BIENNIAL workshop	September 2009

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ICS CONCLUDES SUPPLY CONTRACT OF SEALS TO ZESCO: THE UTILITY OF ZAMBIA

ICS has concluded another supply contract with ZESCO, the Zambian electricity utility, to supply a large volume of plastic, uniquely numbered seals for their revenue protection campaign.

A delegation from ZESCO Ltd (Zambia Electricity Supply Company) attended the SARPA convention, hosted by the City of Tshwane in July this year. Mr Christopher Mubemba (Senior Manager / Principal Engineer Metering), John Chirwa (Site Manager Pre-payment Project Manager), Peter Costa, David Tembwe (Billing Services Manager), Nelson Mbilishi and Rosemary Mbao were guests of Integrity Control Systems with whom they share a 3 year relationship.

ZESCO participated in a recent case study conducted by ICS, with the main objective being to evaluate the prevalence of meter tampering and energy theft and to evaluate the management practices that help to minimise this. ZESCO services the whole of Zambia and has approximately 335 000 customers. Total annual consumption is 4.5 GWh and total annual revenue equates to USD 135 million. Due to a high percentage of energy theft and meter tampering prevalent in the area, ZESCO decided to take a firm stand by implementing a stringent revenue protection programme. Their management structure includes a revenue protection team and a sealing policy has been implemented. Different methods are deployed to increase awareness of meter tampering. These include meter sealing, frequent field audits, energy balancing, meter sweeps and tip offs. The biggest challenges ZESCO face, in terms of deterring tampering, is that the penalties for such devious activity, are too low and they have limited resources to effectively drive these campaigns. When choosing a tamper indicative seal as part of their revenue protection programmes, ZESCO rate the following as important criteria: seal security & functionality, compliance with industry standards and supplier credibility.

The ZESCO team commented on the quality of the SARPA convention, the number of supply authorities represented, the quality of the papers delivered and the superb organisation of the event. 'It is comforting to know that the problems we encounter are not unique to us and sharing the experiences of others brings insight and learning which can only enhance our endeavours back home. This has been a very informative and enjoyable experience, we will definitely make every effort to attend again,' said Christopher Mubemba, Senior Manager / Principal Engineer Metering of ZESCO Ltd.

ZESCO is a member of PIESA (Power Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa). Last year's PIESA-IERE Africa Forum was held in Livingston, Zambia, hosted by ZESCO. 'Although not as exotic a location, we trust that the South African hospitality was on par with the Zambian warmth and service we graciously experienced,' said Claudia Coetzer, managing director of ICS. "We are very proud of our association with ZESCO and look forward to a possible paper delivery on their revenue protection experiences at a future convention, " added Coetzer.



Members of the ICS and ZESCO teams having fun at the SARPA Convention evening function at the Zoological gardens of Tshwane

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UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like to let our readers know about your upcoming meetings or events, please e-mail Dion Abrahams (PIESA Secretariat) at dion@vdw.co.za with all the relevant details.

Ensure that you get your information to Dion at least three weeks in advance to make the deadline for publication. Alternatively contact him on 011 993 9505.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the final edition of the PIESA Bulletin for 2008! I trust that those of you who will be on holiday will have a well deserved break and those of you who are working right through, do take it easy. Enjoy the festive season and have a wonderful new year. Until we meet again in 2009, Season's Greetings.

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

