

### Message from the Editor:

Welcome to this the second quarterly newsletter.

### Highlights of events during the last quarter:

The 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Association of Municipal Electricity Undertakings (AMEU) took place from 25 to 28 September 2005 in Polokwane, South Africa.

The Convention was well attended with over 200 delegates. Papers were presented on topics ranging from:

- Restructuring of the electricity distribution industry (EDI) in South Africa;
- Environmental issues;
- Innovation/technology updates;
- Telecommunications; and
- The introduction of renewable energy into the South African energy market.

The restructuring of the EDI in South Africa is presently undergoing significant changes with the establishment on 1 July 2005 of the first Regional Electricity Distributor (RED). The remaining five REDs will be implemented during the next two years.

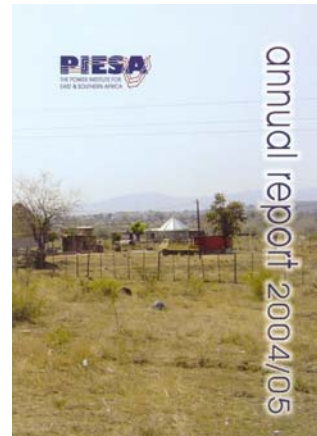
Further, South Africa's Electricity Regulation Bill has been approved by the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) and has been submitted to Government for final consultation before passing into legislation. The proposed Bill is controversial and created much interesting debate during the Convention. More information on this topic can be viewed on the following website: [www.eepublishers.co.za](http://www.eepublishers.co.za), and in the leading article of the September issue of Energize titled 'Fight looms over new Electricity Regulation Bill'.

### PIESA Secretariat News:

#### **PIESA 2004-2005 Annual Report:**

The PIESEA 2004-2005 Annual Report has been published and copies were delivered to our offices on 29 September 2005. The Annual

Report will be distributed to all members at the forthcoming regional workshop in Cape Town.



#### **2005-2006 Business Plan:**

Following a successful one-day break away, the Secretariat and your Chairman have developed a three year (rolling) Strategic Business Plan for PIESEA. The plan will be presented to the PIESEA Board on the 22 October 2005 for approval.

#### **PIESA Web Site:**

The integration of the two websites has been successfully completed. You are invited to review the website and provide feedback to the Secretariat on its functionality and content. <http://www.piesa.com/> The development of the website is an ongoing process and any views on how to improve it are always welcome.

#### **Forthcoming PIESEA events:**

##### **PIESA Regional Workshop: 21-24 October 2005**

This is a very final reminder to all of you regarding the forthcoming Regional Workshop to be held in the Strand Beach Hotel in Somerset West, near Cape Town. If you have not already replied to the numerous communications regarding the event, please do so by return. The latest communication was sent by e-mail on 24 September 2005 by Arnot Hepburn on behalf of the Secretariat. Attachments to the e-mail comprised the latest attendance list and an accommodation form.



*Strand Beach Hotel*

A registration form was also attached for the Cigré 5th Southern Africa Regional Conference should you wish to extend your stay and attend the Cigré Regional conference which follows immediately after the PIESA Regional Workshop.

**For your diary the dates are:**

- Thursday 20 October 2005: fly to Cape Town.
- Friday 21 October 2005: combined PIESA Board and Working Groups meeting.
- Saturday 22 October 2005: separate PIESA Board and Working Groups meetings.
- Sunday 23 October 2005: day of leisure still to be defined.
- Monday 24 October 2005: PIESA participation in Cigré C6 Colloquium.
- Tuesday 25 October 2005: fly home from Cape Town or attend the first day of the Cigré Regional Conference.

**5<sup>th</sup> Cigré Regional Conference** 

The three day 5<sup>th</sup> Cigré Regional Conference will take place from 25 to 27 October 2005, also in the Strand Beach Hotel, Somerset West.

For details visit: <http://www.cigre.org> or enquire from the PIESA Secretariat: [Secretariat@piesa.com](mailto:Secretariat@piesa.com).

As already mentioned, to assist your registration should you wish to extend your stay after the PIESA Regional Workshop, the Cigré registration form was forwarded to you on 24 September 2005 together with the PIESA forms.

**Other events:**

**2007 IERE Africa Forum:**

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

It was suggested that a future PIESA Regional Workshop could become an international technical event if combined with an IERE Africa Forum. At the last Annual Meeting of the IERE held in Poland, our Chairman Greg Tosen tabled the PIESA proposal and an agreement in principle was reached to hold such a 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 the PIESA and the IERE. PIESA members will be kept informed as arrangements are progressing.



*Victoria Falls*

**Members' Contributions to Future Newsletters:**

This is *your* Newsletter, so please send articles or any other material that you would like to have included in future issues. All our members find innovative ways to tackle the challenges in their respective organisations, and these are always of interest to the PIESA membership. The Newsletter is also a good forum to share our experiences (but also problems!) and assist each other. Remembering that "a picture tells a thousand words", photographs would also be very welcome!

Please forward anything that you want to share to the PIESA Secretariat so that we can include it in the next edition of your Newsletter.

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