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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we prepare this newsletter a month after our biennial forum, held this year in Mombasa, hosted by Kenya Power & Light, I am sure that many of you that were able to share with us in that event have fond memories of the superb venue, excellent organisation, wonderful meals, delightful company, the renewal of old acquaintances and the making of new friendships. Such is the nature of events when we reap the benefits of the hard work put in by all those involved. The fact that we can attest to such things, over and above the excellent technical presentations and discussions and the sharing of experiences that is at the core of our activities, makes me proud to be the Chairman of PIESA.

On behalf of the membership as a whole, I extend a hearty THANK YOU to the management of KPLC for their commitment to this event and the enormous effort put in by the organising team. While they were thanked individually at the close of the event, I need to single out Robert Mahaga who headed up the team in Mombasa, and ensured that we were all treated like VIPs.

Our international guests, IERE representatives from Japan, Dr Mikio Sato and Kiyotaka Saito from the IEC Central Office in Geneva, Jonathan Buck, have given positive feedback and we have again confirmed our recognition as an Association of international standing.

As a result of our interaction with Professor M Elmissiry of NEPAD during the workshop, the secretariat is already in discussion with NEPAD representatives about further formal liaison between PIESA and NEPAD, and I hope to be able to share more of that with you in the near future.

The IERE continues to regard PIESA as its prime interface for the Technology Issues and Solutions (TIS)-Africa initiative and we are in the process of proposing specific projects that IERE might help us with during 2010.

Notwithstanding that 2009 has been the most challenging of years for our commercial affiliate members, only a few have seen the need to withdraw from PIESA. The secretariat is active with initiatives to get back our members from Uganda and from Swaziland, as well potential new members.

Based on the input from the working groups and direction from the Board, the secretariat is

drafting a new three-year action plan for Board approval early in 2010. It was agreed at the September 2009 Board meeting that PIESA activities would now be restricted to four working groups, with the Power systems analysis WG being disbanded and the planned activities being allocated to other WGs. While this means some additional work for the remaining WGs, it will help the members contain costs when we need to meet. I take the opportunity to thank all those that have been participating in the PSA WG, and in particular the convenor from ZESCO, Custom Nthara for his efforts.

To all working group members who are the heart and soul of PIESA, please continue the good work, such that we can be adding value to our collective efforts to enhance the capacity to provide electricity to our peoples.

Viva PIESA!

Paul Johnson
Chairman of the Board of PIESA

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STRONG INTEREST SHOWN IN PIESA MEMBERSHIP

The recruiting of new members has been slow, but is gradually paying dividends.

Interest in membership of PIESA is clearly on the increase – The participation of the Rural Electrification Authorities from Zimbabwe and Kenya as affiliate members is significant, and clearly demonstrates a growing recognition of PIESA in the region. While suppliers of equipment and materials continue to express an interest in joining as affiliates, but has been seriously affected by the economic downturn around the world.

Our big challenge is to draw in those electricity distributors in the regions that are not yet members, and those whose memberships have lapsed. The secretariat has the prime responsibility to make that happen, and have gradually seen a response from utilities that have been visited recently.

Botswana Power corporation have expressed positive interest in joining PIESA and they can see considerable value for their members to participate in the working groups . The Tanzanian Electricity Supply Company , 'Tanesco', have submitted a formal application to join PIESA , and will be signed up as full members during October 2009, as their application has the approval of the PIESA Board.

We welcome Mr William Mtonga the General Manager of Marketing at Tanesco to the PIESA board, and wish him many years of active participation in assisting PIESA in it's quest for electrification of Africa.

As stated by the PIESA Chairman in his annual report, it is incumbent upon all PIESA members to market the benefits' of PIESA membership where we interact with our colleagues in neighbouring utilities to promote membership of PIESA.

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ACTIVITIES IN 2009

Maseru Workshop

The Electrification working group organized an Electrification Technology workshop in Maseru in Lesotho in May 2009. The workshop was very well attended by approximately 50 people from across the region with a very good representation from LEC.

Maseru is a vibrant , modern city set in the beautiful Maluti mountain range in Lesotho. PIESA wishes to express its grateful appreciation to the Lesotho Electricity Corporation LEC for their very efficient organization of the workshop and working group meetings, and their generous hosting of the various meetings and welcome cocktail function in the fantastic Lekoeha Sports and Community Centre. We wish to express our gratitude to Mr M Hloaele the MD of LEC and particular thanks to Tankiso Motsoika and the LEC staff with particular reference to Fobo for their excellent organization .

The workshop was facilitated by Prof Trevor Gaunt of the University of Cape Town together with Dr Hendri Geldenhuys assisted by Bruce McLaren and Bob Branfield of Eskom SA, who did an excellent job of leading the group .

The workshop was divided into four groups and each group had the responsibility to generate a position paper on a particular aspect of rural electrification under the watchful eye of the facilitation team.

The sub groups were:

Master Planning

Funding Options

Implementation

Vandalism prevention

Each paper was then referred to the relevant PIESA working group to be used as a guideline and incorporated into their action plans for the next PIESA business cycle.



Mr Hloaele MD of LEC welcoming delegates



The delegates



The LEC Welcoming team



Prof Gaunt Planning the next move

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BOARD MEETING - MAY 2009

The PIESA board meeting took place in the PIESA head office in Randburg , and was well attended by all Board members.



L to R: Paul Johnson (PIESA Chairman), Alvin Monga (Zesco), John Ombui (KPLC), Kelvis Kasonkomona (Zesco) - by invitation, Tankiso Motsoika (acting for LEC), Albert Mbaforoya Tchomba (SNEL), Wiseman Kabwasi (acting for Eskom), Bukasa Siso (Zesa), Robert Mahaga (KPLC) - by invitation.

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BORDEAUX WORKSHOP - JULY 2009

It was just a coincidence that Paul van Niekerk the PIESA COO happened to be in London on private business, when the annual African Electrification Forum conference took place in Bordeaux France, and he could attend on behalf of the PIESA to promote business opportunities with Electricity Utilities in our region of Africa.

The conference inter alia provided the opportunity for Paul to meet Mr Gert Claasen of the Nuclear Industry of SA who later presented a fascinating paper providing an insight into the nuclear industry at the Mombasa workshop.

Several other relevant contacts were made which will provide future opportunities for our region.

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PIESA BOARD MEETING - 15 SEPTEMBER 2009, MOMBASA

The 26th Board meeting was held in Mombasa Kenya on 15 September to coincide with a series of meetings combined with the Biennial PIESA IERE forum.

At this meeting, the Board welcomed the new board member for Malawi who was appointed to take over when Mr Chiselo retired, in addition, we were advised that Mr Alvin Monga of ZESCO will no longer be available to serve on the PIESA Board and that ZESCO would

nominate a replacement for him.

Some of the highlights of the Mombasa board member were

PIESA IERE Biennial forum

A very successful PIEASA IERE 2009 Biennial forum took place in Mombasa Kenya on 16 September 2009

Our grateful appreciation goes to KPLC for hosting and providing continual assistance with the giant task of organizing the intricate logistics, and for the fabulous dinners and entertainment of the delegates every evening. It was indeed a very enjoyable conference.

In addition, our thanks and appreciation to the presenters who wrote and presented several very informative technical papers.

The forum started with a presentation from each of the PIEASA working group conveners that set the tone for the requirements of the workshop .

Twenty one papers and tutorials were presented in the two days and included international papers on renewable distributed energy, methane gas from waste right through to the very latest in nuclear pebble bed modular reactor technology (PBMR)



PIESA Chairman Paul Johnson and his wife Belinda planting a commemorative tree in the garden of the Serena Hotel



Represented here at the tree planting ceremony.(Left to right): Dr Saito the Secretary General of IERE, PIEASA chairman Paul Johnson, Jonathan Buck (IEC Switzerland) and Mrs Belinda Johnson

To view the photo gallery please click [here](#).

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WORKING GROUP PROGRESS

Electrification

The Electrification working group is chaired by Memory Zvipore and Deputy Chair is Hendri Geldenhuys and Secretary Tankiso Motsioka. They generally have well attended, active meetings.

They are intending to continue with IERE PIESA legacy project during 2010 and in 2011. The next step will be to conduct a practical implementation of a SWER project in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Government has agreed to do the electrification of a new development area using SWER and this is considered to be an ideal opportunity to continue the training by actually doing the installation and inviting interested parties from PIESA members in the region to participate. This include Electrification planning, Environmental impact assessment, documentation and drawing up of standardisation documents, and of course doing the physical installation.

The convener, Memory, will start planning the project early in the new year and invite interested parties to attend.

In addition, the electrification planning document from the Electrification technology workshop held in May 2009 will completed and published on the website for the benefit of all members.

Standardisation

The standardisation Working group, which is chaired by Kelvis Kasonkomona and the deputy is Roy Wienand, has good attendance at meetings and is making good progress.

It appears that some members have a concern about getting access to PIESA documents.

All PIESA standards are on the PIESA Web site under the members area.

See [http: www.piesa.com](http://www.piesa.com) and log in with your password.

If you do not have a password submit a request to bruce@vdw.co.za

The standardisation WG intend repeating the standardisation training courses, and their work plan will be published on the PIESA website in the members area.

Environmental Working group

The Environmental Working Group Chaired by Ms Irene Maina with deputy Robham Musondo also have active participation by members, and they have a busy year planned for the group including:

- A wildlife impact study
- Environmental Impact Study on the installation of SWER in Zimbabwe.

The Environmental WG intend publishing all their papers on the PIESA website including a new one being a generic model policy document on environmental issues that will be relevant to all utilities.

In addition they will develop generic environmental impact assessment guidelines to be published as a PIESA document.

Non Technical Loss Reduction Working Group

The convener of the NTLR working group has Mr Wiseman Kabwasi has been transferred internally and will no longer be available to Chair this working group. We join the WG members in expressing our appreciation to Wiseman for his years of service to the WG and wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

In the interim, in his absence, Mr Joshua Mutoa chaired the WG meeting, and continued the planning of a very busy session of this WG . Starting immediately with a 'Revenue Protection' training course which had already had prior approval from the board, but had to be postponed, to be conducted on 2-5 November in Johannesburg. The course will be facilitated by Mr Rens Bindeman of SARPA (south African Revenue Protection Association) This training course has been oversubscribed, but will be repeated in the future at Kafue Gorge training centre in Zambia.

In the interim, this WG is planning the next exciting TIS Africa legacy project which will also take the form of a live training course, but it will be filmed and placed on a video for distribution to each utility for the training of the trainers programme that was initiated a while ago as the IERE PIESA legacy projects.

This working group has many projects related to revenue protection techniques that unfortunately due to financial and time constraints will have to be phased over several years.

We all look forward to yet another very exciting PIESA year starting with some of the working groups meeting in February at a venue in Durban in South Africa to coincide with the Africa utility week which has been changed from its normal time slot in May due to the FIFA world cup soccer in South Africa at the same time.

It is now scheduled for the week of 22-26 February 2010.

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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.

Please allow for sufficient time for the forthcoming event to be posted on the website.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October edition of the PIESA Bulletin!

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

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