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**YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE PIESA BOARD CHAIRMAN**



It's that time of the year when many of us are looking forward to a well-deserved break and some quality time with our families.

On behalf of the PIESA Board I want to thank all our members for their active participation in the activities of PIESA during 2010, which was a year filled with events that I believe have been of value to our members. The thanks of all our members is extended to the staff of VdW&Co, who have again so ably supported us during the year. Well done to Paul van Niekerk and the team!

We are looking forward to another event-filled year in 2011.

My personal best wishes and to all our members and their families. May you all experience richest blessings and peace during the festive season.

I look forward to the next time that we meet.

**Paul Johnson**  
**Chairman of the Board of PIESA**

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**PIESA MEETING - STELLENBOSCH**

The year 2010 has just flown by and as usual PIESA has had quite a number of activities. To recap we've put together a brief summary of the year's events.

2010 started off with PIESA having the board meeting earlier than usual!

The PIESA board held its 28th meeting at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West near Stellenbosch in the Western Cape in South Africa.

This was particularly planned to coincide with the AMEU convention which took place in Stellenbosch, and provided the opportunity for PIESA members to attend the AMEU convention, as well as visit the affiliate's exhibition.

Once again, a very fruitful meeting with many significant resolutions took by the board which affect planning of activities in 2011.



The Board resolved that a policy should be drawn up which will provide for PIESA sponsorship of one utility staff member to attend an International IERE TIS conference each year

The PIESA Board meeting was attended  
Back row Left to Right: Paul PIESA Secretariat, Peter Escom Malawi, Paul Eskom South Africa, Mtamono, Benson  
Front Row: Sophie, Bukosi, Gerard

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## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



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## **WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

All four of the working groups had their respective meetings at the same venue and reported to the PIESA board regarding specific objectives for 2011

### **Electrification Working group**

The Electrification WG report was done by Ms Memory Nyoni, and she highlighted the following:



The attendance at the Electrification working group meetings and training courses has been very pleasing indeed, and my thanks and appreciation goes to all participants for their conscientious support during 2010.



**The delegates that attended the PIESA SWER practical implementation of the pilot project at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Zimbabwe that was presented by Dr Hendri Geldenhuys and Bruce McLaren of Eskom in South Africa.**



Dr Geldenhuys demonstrating the use of the earth Resistivity testing techniques, on site in Mutsi Zimbabwe.  
The benefits of SWER is primarily the cost saving that can be achieved if the installation has been planned judiciously.  
We would like to encourage all PIESA members to do a pilot SWER installation in their Countries

#### **Environmental and Safety Management working Group**

This WG is convened by Mr Troy Govender and they have developed a significant schedule of work for 2011 Troy reported to the Board in September that:



The Environmental and Safety Management Working Group Priorities for the region in 2011

- Finalize Waste Management Guideline
- Draft Safety Management Guideline
- 3 day Environmental Training Course

Troy reports to the Board in Sept 2010

### Standardisation Working Group



Kgopisho reports to the Board

The convener of this working group is Kelvis Kasonkomona and deputy is Roy Wienand, but as neither were available, the feedback presentation was done by Kgopisho Mahunonyane and he emphasised the primary points of discussion from the WG that no document management process (DMP) exists in the PIESA, and in addition, they believe, that the website should be used more extensively to manage and control input from WG representatives.

The WG has undertaken to have an effective DMP in place by February 2011.

### Non Technical loss reduction

The workgroup nominated Mr Macvittie Chiphwanya as the new convener of this workgroup and Mr L Chisina as the deputy, which was ratified and approved by the Board.



Macvitte reports to the PIESA Board in Lord Charles Hotel

The primary goal for the current year is to conduct the prepaid metering training early in November 2010, and distribute DVD's throughout the region by next year; In addition, DMS will be considered and promoted in the region.

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## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The following changes have occurred in the Board 2009/2010:

Utility	Retiring Board Member	Replaced By
Kenya KPLC	John Ombui	Eng. Benson Muriithi
Tanzania TANESCO	William Mhando	Eng. Felchesmi Mramba
DR Congo SNEL	Albert Mfamoya	
Lesotho LEC	Mbele Hoohlo	Eng . Gerard Lehloenya
Zambia ZESCO	Alvin Monga	Eng. Augustine Musumali

In addition the board resolved to appoint two non-voting executive directors to the board, that will be appointed in terms of South African CIPRO regulations .

Paul van Niekerk ; PIESA Chief Operations Officer: Executive Director for Operations

Adrie de Silva; PIESA Secretariat: Financial Director

### Some of the new board members

		
Mr Peter Mtonga Escom	Mr Molan SNEL in DR Congo	Mr Gerard Lehloenya LEC in Lesotho

## Board decisions

Some of the significant resolutions taken by the board, include the following:

- A PIESA policy will be drawn up to encourage more affiliate member participation in the PIESA working groups

- That the PIESA Secretariat draws up a policy document for approval by the board whereby one staff member of a full utility member of the PIESA will be sponsored to attend an IERE technical forum each year. It was further noted, that as executive members of IERE, all PIESA members may attend any IERE event at their own cost at the reduced members registration fee
- It was agreed that the Board will nominate suitably qualified staff members to serve on the technical committees of AFSEC
- The strategic plan for 2010-12 was approved by the board, subject to flexibility in the WG action plans, which may be changed by the board subject to prevailing circumstances
- That the 2011 PIESA biennial Africa forum would be hosted by Escom Malawi

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## **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 Mocambique Electricity Supply Company , 'EDM', have been approached, and they are currently considering to join PIESA , the COO will visit them early in the new year to present the credentials of the PIESA

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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## **TRAINING**

### **SWER practical implementation**

REA in Zimbabwe decided to implement a rural electrification project which has proved to be a remarkable success. This will be expanded into other Countries in the region.

### **Prepayment Metering**

PIESA Non technical loss reduction working group resolved to request authorisation from the board to conduct a prepayment metering training project . Following on from the success of the IERE legacy SWER training DVD, it was agreed that another video would be made of the prepaid metering training course.



Candidates at PIESA Prepayment Training

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## PROGRAMME FOR 2011

A draft programme has been drawn up for the current PIESA projects for 2011 as indicated below.

The primary activity for 2011 is of course the Africa Forum which will take place in Malawi in the second half of the year , provisionally it will be late August or early in September depending on the conference venue chosen and to avis clashes with other major activities during the year.

March 2011	PIESA Board and working group meetings	Cape Town South Africa
April 2011	Environmental and Safety WG Training course	EAL Midrand South Africa
June 2010	UPDEA General Assembly	Tunisia
July 2011	Electrification WG SWER Pilot implementation project	Harare Zimbabwe
September 2011	PIESA Board meeting , AGM and working group Meetings and Africa TIS	Llongwe Malawi

In conclusion, we wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New year.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the December 2010 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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