

## INTRODUCTION

This issue is to keep all members of SACAA abreast with what has been happening in our association and general topics.

Remember the undated SACAA website - [www.coalash.co.za](http://www.coalash.co.za) Please assist in keeping it current.

I have included some news impacting on SACAA members and a topic on the technical talks.

Also covered in this issue is feedback on the DEA – SACAA meetings.

Kind regards

*Mark Hunter*

SACAA GM

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The South African Coal Ash Association (SACAA) focussed a lot of attention recently to include more Universities and Students onto our membership database. This is to offer more support to all who are involved with ash research or studies, so if you are aware of any new recruits, please advise. It was further decided to not charge these institutions a membership fee to belong to SACAA.

We can also report a 100% payment of membership fees from all our corporate and ordinary members, during the last financial year. Thank you to all our valuable and reliable members.

As an association, like many others, with the current downturn of economy, jobs and infrastructure as well as the corruption scandals, mergers and political upheavels, we all have had to take critical introspections and decisions for survival. This is not going to abate in the short term, as it is not only a South African problem, but an international problem as well.

Last year saw SACAA appoint a permanent General Manager to bring a bit more focussed attention to SACAA related matters including the joining forces with ASPASA to assist with administration and financial support. Over and above this ASPASA assisted in a bit of strategic thinking and business strategy sessions. This enabled SACAA to re-focus and identify the benefits and shortcomings in our support for our members. We believe that we have made great strides and with the DEA now engaging to have SACAA appointed as the Phakisa Stream Lead for Ash ,will be very fruitful.

**REMEMBER** : Ash is a resource and not a waste. It has to be managed properly.

Read more in this newsletter.

## ASPASA and SACAA HOSTING A JOINT ROADSHOW

The ASPASA/SACAA joint regional visit formed part of the agreed strategy to take the ash awareness to other provinces away from the traditional Gauteng meetings.

The venue of Lephalale was selected as both Matimba and Medupu have large volumes of ash challenges/opportunities as well as the attraction of taking the delegates through the Medupi site tour. Invitations were sent out to all ASPASA and SACAA members, as well as local business chambers in Lephalale.

The program of events was that on 5 June 2018 at Matimba Conference Centre, from 12h00 until around 16h30 an ash workshop of talks and practical demonstration of ash products was held. 16 delegates attended as per the signed register.

- Nico Pienaar – ASPASA did the opening and welcome, as well as a presentation on ASPASA and the work they do.
- Mark Hunter – SACAA did a presentation on the ash focusing on all the challenges, opportunities, risks, strategies required to increase the ash utilization.
- This talk was followed by a topic on the Phakisa initiative and the expectations.

On completion all the delegates did some practical exercises using some different polymer and ash to make moulded products that they took away as conversation pieces. This was very exciting, and a high degree of learning was achieved, with everyone saying that they enjoyed the experience.

Eskom Research (Kelley Reynolds-Clausen) and SACAA also hosted exhibition stands, and the evening was concluded with a supper where all delegates could network and continue the ash discussions.

On Wednesday 6 June 2018, 15 delegates assembled at the Eskom Welcome Centre and were met by the Eskom facilitator Patiswa Jwacu, who ensured that the group was properly equipped with PPE. This was followed by a safety induction and overview of the site.

Nzuki Dlyemnyango Manager Coal Supply then did a presentation of the coal supply and ash flow of the station.

The Eskom team also arranged for a bus tour of the site accompanied by 2 tour guides, where we witnessed the entire coal value chain, as well as the ash process and dump. The Eskom team went out of their way to make the tour a success, and everyone commented on the mere size of the operations and left with a better understanding of the complexities of operating a Power Station.

On behalf of ASPASA and SACAA the regional visit was considered to be very successful, and the growth in the ash complexities and challenges made more aware to the new delegates that have never been exposed to ash.



## NEWS – VIEWS -INTERVIEWS

### SABS IN DYER STRAITS!!!!

Reading about the dysfunction at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is putting all South Africans at risk, reported in the Sunday Times dated 8 July 2018.

The SABS is a statutory body established in terms of the Standards Act and was tasked with developing, promoting, and maintaining South African national standards in terms of quality on commodities, products, and services, he said.

The dysfunction and lack of accountability at the SABS had forced Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies to revoke the entire board and removing the Executive Directors delegation of authority and appointing co-administrators to "urgently oversee a detailed process to develop a turnaround strategy for the SABS". One of major concern was that the SABS seemed unable to account for operational assets under its management.

SABS dysfunctionality came as no surprise as the entity ran a R44.3 million losses in the 2016/17 financial year. Further that the SABS had **lost 1 052** customers since its 2015/16 financial year, including 401 customers since April this year. In addition, the SABS had to refund 41 customers a total of R1.03m in this period.

South Africa could not afford to have a dysfunctional standards and certification body, as this negatively impacted businesses who relied on standards for market access and growth.

## TECHNICAL TALK

SACAA have generally held a Technical Talk after each Council Meeting, which is open to all members and guests. This is followed by a networking snacks and drinks, where the real getting to know each other takes place. In recent time the attendance has not been that good and with some of the excellent speakers and topics that we have had, has placed SACAA in a bit of an embarrassment when so few attends.

While we do understand the work-related challenges, or times of the meetings, perhaps we need to change the way we meet in future or do things differently going forward. If you could please apply your minds and share with Mark Hunter any suggestions, ideas and thoughts.

As a Manco we believe that it is important to meet and share experiences, challenges, and opportunities as members. But the **how** in the new economical and electronic age is the question.

It is a fact that the more you participate in SACAA events, the more you achieve and get benefits out of being a member.

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*Comments, suggestions or feedback please.*

## DEA - SACAA FEEDBACK MEETING

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) invited the SACAA Manco held follow up meetings and SACAA and the DEA are in the process of drafting a Terms of Reference Document.

### ❖ The Ash Stream

As this initiative needs to have a dedicated focus, DEA have looked at SACAA to consider the facilitation of the ash stream. Naturally this cannot be done on the current structure and budget, so a lot of thought needs to go into the best methods and operations for SACAA to respond to DEA within a reasonable time. Workgroups with different industries, academics and associations will need to be facilitated. DEA will play an oversight on the progress.

The targets have been set by the Phakisa workstream, so things will have to be done differently and with purpose, as South Africa needs to prosper from waste reduction.

- GDP Growth
- Job creation – 127 000 new jobs
- Target of utilising at least 19 % of the ash that goes to landfill.

Lots of challenges and opportunities, so everyone of you must put your thinking caps on.

This is what SACAA have always strived to achieve, where ASH IS KING

## SACAA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM is scheduled for 15 August 2018. Please diarise as this is your association and where decisions are made for the next year.

Instead of having a technical talk, the session after the AGM will be to have a detailed discussion on the way forward. It is important that as many as possible come and participate.

The venue will be the Concrete Institute and not the SACIE Building where we normally meet. Invitations will be distributed.

ALL FOR NOW

Regards

**SACAA GM**