MEDIA STATEMENT

ECSA kicks off the accreditation visit at DUT`s Engineering and the Built Environment Faculty

10 September 2018

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) on Sunday, 09 September 2018, kicked off the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Accreditation Visit at the Durban University of Technology`s (DUT) Engineering and Built Environment Faculty at the Pietermaritzburg Campus.

The visit sought to determine whether the qualifications offered at the University are aligned to international standards. This was done through conducting interviews with the students and employees, partaking in site visits on campus and reviewing the documents within the faculty in order to assess whether the content offered is eligible to be recognised internationally.

Speaking on behalf of DUT was Professor Theo Andrew who is the Executive Dean of the Engineering and Built Environment Faculty. Professor Andrew said, “we are here to support the council and would expect the council to do a critical review of the programmes offered at DUT in order ensure continuous improvement”.

The visit was officiated by Dr Keith Jacobs who is the Vice President of ECSA and also the Executive Committee Chair of the International Engineering Technicians which is one of the agreements of the IEA established for an international benchmark competence standard for individuals practicing as a fully qualified engineering technicians.

In his opening address to assessors and reviewers from Taiwan, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, Dr Keith said, the visit is not only conducted to satisfy the international standards but also for the betterment of the engineering sector in South Africa.

Adding to this, Professor Andrew said the faculty and university are committed to societal development and believe that engineering is about social justice and if it is not giving effect to social justice then engineers have lost their mission.

The visits are conducted every five years by ECSA who is a member of the IEA, which comprises members from 36 jurisdictions within 27 countries, across seven international agreements. These international agreements govern the recognition of engineering educational qualifications and professional competence.

Through the Educational Accords and Competence Agreements members of the International Engineering Alliance establish and enforce internationally bench-marked standards for engineering education and expected competence for engineering practice.

The visits will be conducted throughout the week at various universities across the country and a preliminary report of the accreditation visits will be announced at the end of the entire process with the final verdict to be made in 2019.

Issued by the Engineering Council of South Africa and Institute of Engineers Australia

More information can be obtained on twitter: @ECSAOfficial; facebook: Engineering Council of South Africa and our website www.ecsa.co.za