

E-BULLETIN

Whats Inside

- 01 **ECSA Improves its Accessibility as it Officially Launches its On-Site Registration**
- 02 **ECSA Champions the Capacity Building Workshop in Engineering Education at Africa Engineering Conference**
- 03 **Registered Persons Trained on the Education Evaluation Process and Requirements**
- 04 **6th SA-UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference Calls for an Action Plan**
- 05 **RPS Hosts a Policy and Standards Framework Training Workshop**

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

The year is drawing to an end and this is sadly the last edition for 2019. However, a special edition on the Annual ECSA Engineering Awards will be produced and distributed during November.

This edition is packed with information on workshops and conferences that have taken place over the last quarter and which have capacitated Registered Persons and increased the visibility of ECSA.

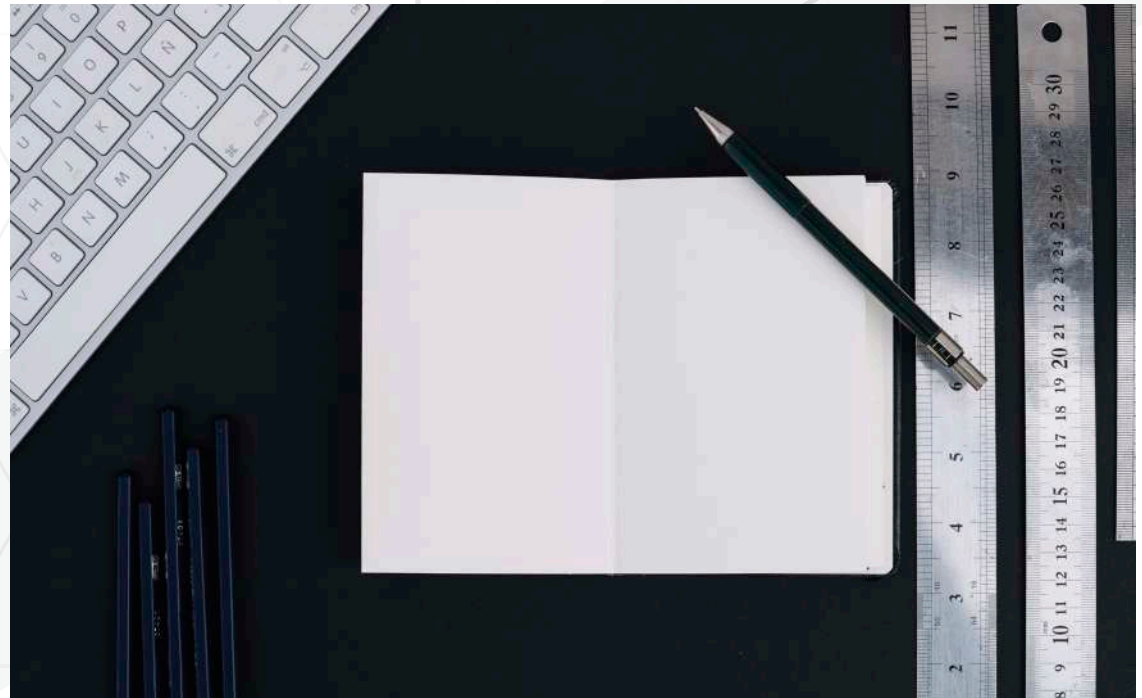
The first article in this edition covers the launch of Mobile ECSA, an initiative that aims at improving the understanding of the journey to professional registration and to facilitate the process of submitting quality reports to ECSA each time an applicant is ready for this phase of registration.

In September ECSA participated in the UNESCO-Africa Engineering Week and Africa Engineering Conference hosted in Zambia from 15-21 September 2019. Following the international conference, South Africa led by the Department of Science and Innovation in partnership with ECSA, hosted the South African-UNESCO Engineering Conference held at the North West University. This edition highlights activities and ECSA's involvement in both conferences.

Lastly, the edition ends with ECSA's continued efforts to upskill Registered Persons through training on how to draft, review and

implement policies and documents to assist them when they conduct peer work. In the past quarter the Education Evaluation Workshops have taken place in different parts of the country and this edition looks at how these have fared. Furthermore, Registered Persons were trained on the Policy and Standards Framework. Both these workshops are covered in the newsletter.

Enjoy the read!!!



01 ECSA Improves its Accessibility as it Officially Launches its On-Site Registration

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), on Tuesday, 08 October 2019, held an inaugural Onsite Application Screening Workshop at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, Gauteng.

The workshop was a culmination of two separate engagements presented previously at the CSIR as part of the on-site registration roll-out initiative which seeks to introduce the registration process to stakeholder organisations that have a concentration of practitioners that wish to make an application for professional registration.

The first engagement began with a Road to Registration workshop where ECSA explained the requirements and process of registration to CSIR practitioners seeking to register. This was subsequently followed by mentorship training which was aimed at assisting mentors to be able to guide applicants into seamless submission of applications.

In her opening remarks, Ms Valentine Ndlovu, ECSA Registration Manager, explained that the purpose of the on-site application screening workshop is to facilitate the review of applications. To this end, assessors collected those applications that were in a state of readiness for submission at the end of the session and offered advice on areas that still required improvement. The workshop was well attended by participants which included engineer trainees and qualified engineers who work for the CSIR. They were assisted by a group of 12 assessors who screened applications and attended to all application related questions.

Mr Serge Banza, a registered engineer, managing director at Ayamah Consulting Engineer and an ECSA registration panel member, led the session and highlighted that the workshop was intended to assess the applicants' readiness for submission. He explained that applicants seeking to be registered in the professional category must meet the eleven outcomes as prescribed by the ECSA competency standards, possess a suitable qualification and have a minimum of three years' work experience before their application can be considered ready for submission.

Mr Banza cautioned, however, that the on-site initiative should not be perceived as an assurance for registration. "It doesn't mean because we came here to assist you in preparation of your application, you will automatically be registered once you submit an application", warned Mr Banza. He further emphasised that the purpose of the workshop is solely to ensure that the applicants' applications are ready to go through a seamless assessment process and that all documentation is submitted.

The process of the day ran seamlessly with an on-site administrative desk set up to ensure that all the documents received were evaluated against a checklist for required documentation. Each applicant was allocated an assessor, who is a registered person in the same category and discipline as the applicant. The assessor spent an hour with each applicant and checked the content of their report. Only those applications that were ready for submission were collected.

ECSA invites all organisations who are interested in receiving the same service to contact Ms Valentine Ndlovu on valentine@ecsa.co.za.

02 ECSA Champions the Capacity Building Workshop in Engineering Education at Africa Engineering Conference

As a member of the Southern African Federation of Engineering Organisation (SAFEEO), the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as part of the 6th Africa Engineering Week and the 4th Africa Engineering Conference which was held from 15-21 September 2019, facilitated a two-day Capacity Building Workshop in Engineering Education which was attended by leaders in the engineering fraternity and key stakeholders.

South Africa, through ECSA, chairs the Committee on Engineering Capacity Building at World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO). Chairing this committee means ECSA should, among other activities, build engineering capacity by improving engineering education at all levels to meet recognised international standards. Furthermore, support the development of professional engineering institutions that can effectively support the profession and promote professionalism.

The workshop which took place from 18-19 September 2019 sought to mentor African National members on the process of belonging to the International Engineering Alliance (IEA). Mr Yashin Brijmohan; Chairperson of the Committee on Engineering Capacity Building, led the discussions on the first day while Mr Cyril Gamede, ECSA President, served as a member of the panel for the duration of the workshop.

The presentations which featured different elements by the ECSA delegation entailed an exhaustive overview of the scope of the IEA. Mr Jones Moloisane,

International Engineering Technologist Alliance (IETA) Executive Committee Chair, deliberated on the IEA accords, agreements, members and how South Africa is represented on the alliance.

Mr TC Madikane who has represented ECSA in the IEA under International Professionals Engineers Agreement (IPEA), ECSA unpacked the conditions for joining a Competency Agreement for professional practice. Mr Edmund Nxumalo, ECSA Executive: Research Policy and Standards, explained how ECSA collaborates with Voluntary Associations and Universities in implementing the Continued Professional Development (CPD) Framework.

This workshop was part of the 6th Africa Engineering Week and the 4th Africa Engineering Conference which was held from 15-21 September 2019 in Livingstone, Zambia under the theme “Addressing the SDGs through Sustainable Engineering Development”.

Mr Vincent Mwale, Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Development in Zambia, delivered an opening address on behalf of the President of Zambia, His Excellency Edgar Lungu, in his opening remarks praised the organising committee for choosing the theme saying it demonstrated the industry’s willingness to take the lead in addressing and achieving the SDGs.

The other highlights of the conference included the Leadership Excellence awards which were bestowed upon His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda; His

Excellency Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt; World Federation of Engineering Organisations(WFEO) President-elect, Prof Gong Ke and other distinguished engineers from Africa.

The conference which takes place annually will be held at a different country and the date will be announced early next year by the organising committee.



ECSA President Mr Cyril Gamede receiving an honorary award from Engineering Institution of Zambia: Mr Sydney Matamwandi



Panel and Guests at the opening of the Zambia Engineering Conference



Some of the delegates at the Zambia Engineering Conference

03 Registered Persons trained on the Education Evaluation Process and Requirements

“The pool of evaluators will be increased to assist ECSA in carrying out its mandate to evaluate and register individuals who meet the educational requirements for registration”.

This was part of the opening remarks by Mr Edmund Nxumalo, Executive for Research Policy and Standards, as he spoke at the first leg of the Education Evaluation Workshop which was held on Wednesday 28 August 2019 at the Premier Hotel east of Johannesburg.

The workshop was attended by Registered Persons who were taken through a technical presentation on how to conduct the evaluation of foreign obtained qualifications.

Qualification Evaluation of a programme is a formal recognition awarded to an education or training programme through a quality assurance procedure carried out by ECSA, that is substantially equivalent to an Accredited South African University Programme, and meets the criteria laid down for the type of programme. Applicants who do not hold an accredited qualification or a recognised qualification are required to apply for educational evaluation.

Professor Hugh Jeffery and Mr. Rod Harker, who are stalwarts in the profession, have a wealth of knowledge and serve on the Education Committee, facilitated the session over the course of the day and took the attendees through the scope of discussion that would be deliberated upon which included; the qualification

evaluation process, the interview procedure, the requirements and evidence needed, the qualification evaluation policy and what it prescribes as well as the qualification standards.

Once professionally registered engineers have been trained on the Evaluation Process, they will form part of work groups who will work hand in hand to assist ECSA to evaluate qualifications.

While the training seeks to open up the pool of evaluators, ultimately the Registered Persons who have undergone this training need to volunteer their time and skills in order for this to be a success.

Other provinces who had the workshops were Durban, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Mpumalanga and East London.



Mr Crisboy Ncuthushe, Professor Hugh Jeffery and Mr Rod Harker facilitating the Education Evaluation Workshop

04

6th SA-UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference Calls for an Action Plan

“We need an action plan, or without one we will continually have one conference after the other without any results to show for it”.

The above opening remarks by Mr Christopher Tsatsawane, Strategic Services Executive at the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) were sentiments carried out by all the speakers at the official opening of the 6th SA-UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference on Thursday, 26 September 2019.

Mr Tsatsawane was speaking on the theme of the conference, “Decolonising the 4th Industrial Revolution in support of the Sustainable Development Goals” and emphasised the importance of this conference not being a talk show, but for the conference to map a plan on how to embrace and adapt to the technological evolvments for South Africa and the world.

He said, “South Africa needs to harness the technological change presented by the fourth industrial revolution to serve the development aspirations of South Africa”.

Mr Tsatsawane was speaking among the Director



Ms Lebo Maphumulo addressing delegates during the Equal Opportunities Session at the 6th SA UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference

(DSI) Dr Phil Mjwara as well as the Premier of the North West Province, Professor Job Morogo who reiterated the same sentiments and called for this conference to be different and cognisant of the needs of the country as it manoeuvres through the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution.

The main conference which took place over two days from 26-27 September 2019, was hosted by North-West University's (NWU's) Mafikeng campus and is a collaboration between UNESCO, the DSI, ECSA and the National Research Foundation (NRF).

The conference sought to bring together role players from various engineering fields to discuss opportunities, challenges and propose strategies South Africa can adopt to develop relevant and future-oriented capacity and relevant skills.

Some of the discussions included youth in engineering in the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), infrastructure for the 4IR, advanced manufacturing and sustainable engineering and energy.

Ms Lebo Maphumulo, a Registered Person of ECSA and chairperson of the Stakeholder Relations Committee (SRC), on the last day of the conference chaired a session on Equal Opportunities with presenters speaking on entrepreneurship, funding opportunities within European Union context and decolonising the gender myths for sustenance of women in engineering.

Closing the conference Professor Liezel van Dyk, Executive Dean in the Engineering Faculty at NWU, poured out praises to all stakeholders who participated in the conference and in her remarks concluded that, the question is not when is the 4IR coming but the question is, now that the 4IR is here how are we adapting to the technological advances it presents?



ECSA engaging with students at its exhibition stand



Q&A session during the opening of the 6th SA UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference

05 RPS Hosts a Policy and Standards Framework Training Workshop

On Friday 13 September 2019, the Engineering Council of South Africa's (ECSA's) Research Policy and Standards (RPS) Division, held a Policy and Standards Framework Training Workshop at the Mercedes-Benz Bedfordview Conference Room.

Mr Edmund Nxumalo, Executive of the RPS division, opened the session and stated that part of the reason for having a workshop of this nature is to create a pool base of members to assist in the core functions of ECSA. Nxumalo further added that it was important to create a structure of what goes into policies and matters related to standards.

The Policy Framework which served as a working document at the workshop, was presented to the attendees and designed to create a clear approach to the development, implementation and management of all ECSA policies and standards to ensure that staff and any other persons involved in developing ECSA documents are clear as to their roles and responsibilities ensuring that ECSA policies are developed and implemented in an efficient, cost effective and consistent manner.

Attendees were taken through the framework by Mr Mduduzi Msibi (Pr. Techni); Mr Richard Jennings (Pr. Cert. Eng) and Ms Mildred Mtshali (Manager: Research, Policy and Standards) who were the facilitators on the day.

Mr Msibi explained that when generating and approving ECSA document and policies, the framework states the following:



- The regulatory function is responsible for implementing all approved policies and standards,
- External stakeholders may initiate a policy or standard and provide inputs through consultation and;
- A relevant ECSA High Impact Committee involved in the core mandate of the particular document being drafted may be approached for input.

In the discussion, Mr Jennings stated that documents should be clear, concise and accurately reflect content as per the approved Quality Management template.

The framework was structured in a way to encourage all ECSA stakeholders to bring inputs and according to the framework, ECSA policies will be clearly distinguished and articulated from related standards, procedures and guidelines.

ECSCA will continue to host workshops of this nature to ensure that Registered Persons who conduct peer work for the organisation are well equipped through the training provided to meet the core objective of ECSA which is "engineering excellence".

Thank you for reading...until next time

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