



Newsletter 2013.07

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From the President's Desk

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the regions and all their respective participants, who dedicated their precious time in deliberating on issues tabled at our recently held constitutional reforms strategic workshop. With the same breath, let me also apologise to everyone who might have spent time analysing each and every clause of the proposed constitutional changes, and formulating regional positions on the matter, in preparation for the workshop, only to be confronted with a completely different dimension and different set of agenda items, brought about by our workshop facilitator Dr Andre Parker (whom I personally believe was excellent in performing this task). As the workshop proceedings were unfolding, I could not help but to ponder on the following:-

- As consulting architects, how many times do we come across clients whom, in briefing us on their projects, believe that they know exactly what they want their projects to be, how they should sit on their respective sites and so on and so forth;
- How many times in examining the clients' briefs and analysing their respective sites have we gone back to them with what they had wanted and having unlocked even further opportunities for their benefits, which they could not visualise nor even think about, up until we bring them to the fore, because of our training and because of the fresh eyes we bring in analysing the problem statements of their schemes.

Certainly, most of us can relate to this analogy, as it is almost our daily encounter in our respective practices. It is in my nature to strive to find positive aspects in any situation that I find myself being confronted with, and hence the direction the workshop took and the outcomes thereof, have in my view been no exception. There are positives we can take from the workshop, as it helped us in reaching consensus on:-

- SAIA's common Mission and Vision.
- Clear activity plan towards finalisation of the constitution, allocating roles and responsibilities to set individuals, with specific targeted dates.
- Clarity on the terms of engagement for our new CEO. May I specifically comment that this would not have happened at any better time than this, as the workshop coincided with the conclusion by our new CEO of a diagnostic report of our institute's state of affairs, upon which a turnaround strategy and business plan for moving our institute forward, would be developed.



Sindile Ngonyama PrArch MArch

SAIA President

In conclusion, your comments and inputs are always welcomed and I am looking forward in meeting with the majority of you, in Bloemfontein at the end of August.

CEO's Corner

The month of July afforded me the opportunity to continue my review of the functioning of the Institute, as I press strongly towards implementing the necessary interventions that will ultimately result in the turnaround of the organization. My assessment thus far of the Institute is revealing more and more our immense abilities to influence the course of action, not only within the architectural domain, but in the entire built environment. As architects, we are sitting right on the top of the built environment pyramid making it critical for us to "come out of our shells" and indeed be the "leading and authoritative voice" in the built environment. Highlights of activities during the reporting period include the following;



Constitutional Indaba

The President, Mr. Sindile Ngonyama has already alluded to the main highlights of the outcome of the Constitutional Indaba, held over two days in Johannesburg. Consensus that was reached on the Vision, Mission and Strategic Themes will certainly serve as the first critical baby steps in the implementation of a comprehensive turnaround strategy.

The proposed Strategic Plan will be formally presented at the next Board meeting scheduled for August 2013. Consensus was reached by the delegates on the following:

Mission

"A collective Voice serving the interests of Architects in pursuit of excellence and responsible design"

Vision

"SAIA Architects to be the Authoritative Leaders in the Built Environment"

Strategic Themes (Objectives)

- Membership Services
- SAIA Operations
- Transformation of the Profession
- National & International Partnerships
- Research, Innovation & Development
- Marketing

Actions items under each strategic theme together with the associated budgetary projections would form part of the final Strategic Plan and Business Plan.

Business Plan

The need for a comprehensive Business Plan, clearly indicating the direction SAIA is taking, is a necessary tool for an effective turnaround strategy. Work on the proposed Business Plan is already underway and will be tabled at the August Board meeting. Inputs from the regions will be sought in order to ensure that the final Business Plan is reflective of the different expectations from the regions.

Audited 2013 Financial Statements

Our external auditors have completed the audit of our financial books and the audited Financial Statements would be tabled at the next Board meeting, in line with corporate governance principles. The financial statements, which are unqualified, will form the necessary foundation for the financial projections that will form part of our business plan. I need to hasten to express a word of thanks to the staff at the national office, in particular Ms. Esther van Tonder for working tirelessly in preparing the financial books for the audit, and ensuring that we achieve a clean audit.

Annual Subscriptions

We would like to report that we have already received approximately 25% of the Corporate Subscriptions for the 2014 Financial Year. We would like to thank both the Corporate and Individual members who have already remitted their subscriptions timeously. All our efforts to improve the member benefits and our advocacy forays will not be successful should due subscriptions remain outstanding.

Turning SAIA into a Corporate Entity

A lot of areas would need attention in our quest of turning the Institute into a top class corporate entity. This goal is indeed achievable and some areas that we would be focusing on in the coming few weeks would include the following;

- Finalising the re-structuring exercise;
- Implementing critical internal policies, controls and processes;
- Implementing a Performance Management System (PMS) for internal staff and the Institute's representatives on the various fora;
- Constant benchmarking of our offerings against similar institutions both nationally and internationally;
- Implementing a strict corporate governance environment;
- Putting SAIA on the top class of influential entities in the built environment through effective and sustained advocacy on various matters pertaining to the profession and entire built environment.

Parting Shot

I have no doubt that we have, within SAIA, what it takes to take the Institute forward. As we place our hands on the plough, we need to all rally towards pursuing the same objectives, in order to ensure the success of our global goals. We now have an opportunity to re-brand SAIA into an instantly recognisable brand and indeed a force to reckon with the built environment. It is in our interest to have in our midst, an effective, functional and influential national Institute.

Mr. Obert Chakarisa

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Latest News



Durban 2014 - First Call For Papers

Click on the image above to go to the website

Connections, diversity, integration, resilience, sustainability, accountability and humility. These are the precepts that will guide the dynamic, challenging and inspiring conversation at UIA 2014 Durban.

Against the backdrop of this diverse and multi-layered city, UIA 2014 Durban invites practitioners, academics, designers and students from all disciplines involved with city making to contribute to a unique debate on human settlements and the evolution of cities.

The Congress theme, 'ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE', will celebrate diversity by exploring other communities, other regions, other disciplines, and other ways of thinking about, practising and teaching in the built environment. The intention is to acknowledge the built environment as a major force that may be harnessed towards a better life for all – through the sub-themes RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY and VALUES.

Please download the full brief for information and instructions [HERE](#)

Abstract Submission Deadline: 31ST October 2013

Abstracts must be submitted via the Oxford Abstracts system. Please note that you will be required to create a User ID on Oxford Abstracts in order to submit, and to receive notifications regarding your submission.

Register to submit your abstract now!

dialogue²⁵

27 August 2013 to 31 August 2013
UFS, Bloemfontein

Click on the image above to go to the website

Prof. Andre Keet • Anton Roodt • Bernard Viljoen • Chris Saunders • Doung Anwar Jahangeer • Dr. Finzi Saidi
Dr. Gawie Fagan • Henry Pretorius • Prof. Iain Low • Prof. Jonathan Jansen • Kate Otten • Margarite Pienaar
Prof. Martina Viljoen • Mels Crouwel • Pauline Gutter • Ryan Arenson • Thirshen Govender • Dr. Willem Boshoff

This year the prestigious Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture, annually hosted by the Department of Architecture, University of the Free State, forms part of Dialogue25. Dialogue25 integrates a series of departmental and national architectural occurrences scheduled between Tuesday, 27 August and Saturday, 31 August 2013.

Dialogue25 includes:

- The Murray and Roberts Des Baker Architecture Student Design Competition 2013;
- The Architecture Student Congress (ASC2013);
- The 25th Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture;
- The August Architecture Activities (AAA), annually convened by the UFS Department of Architecture and this year organised in conjunction with AZA;
- The annual AAA international keynote speaker, Mels Crouwel (Bentham Crouwel Architects, Amsterdam), sponsored by SAISC;
- The OH15 Maseru Architecture Tour, a journey to the Lesotho work of architect Iain Low.

The Des Baker Dialogue Box involves third year students from all Architectural Learning Sites across the country. Students install full scale designs where dialogue can take place on the UFS main campus. The dialogue continues throughout the three days with celebrated national and international speakers engaging with architecture, art, literature, aspects of the human ecology and the complex challenges faced by design professionals and others.

The 25th Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture will be presented by architect Kate Otten. Her practise focuses on developing an architectural language within the search for an African identity.

[Click here to view the provisional programme](#)

Activity Portfolios

SACAP Professional Practice Examination

The SAIA PPE Study Aid is available from SAIA's offices and from certain regional institutes' offices (check availability). The cost of the Study Aid over the counter is:

- SAIA members: R 400,00 (excl VAT)
- Non-members: R 550,00 (excl VAT)
- Postage (ordinary post): R 62,70 (incl VAT)

SAIA wishes candidates taking the examination every success

CPD @ SAIA

[Click here to view all CPD activities endorsed by SAIA](#)