



## AWARDS HIGHLIGHT TRANSFORMATION OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

The Annual South African Association of Consulting Engineer's (SAACE) prestigious Glenrand MIB Engineering Excellence Awards were held at a gala banquet at the Sandton Sun on the 2nd of August this year. The event, which is seen as a key part of National Construction Week (27 July to 3 August) serves mainly to put construction centre stage and make the industry more visible to the nation. The event is the highlight of the year in the Association's calendar and is a spectacular networking opportunity for leaders in industry as they celebrate the cream of South Africa's Consulting Engineers.

Webster Ndodana, the first African president of the SAACE, has as his key focus for 2006 the transformation of the Consulting Engineering industry to ensure that it remains relevant in the context of a transformed construction sector. The construction Charter has defined the broader transformation of the industry with respect to racial and gender composition of ownership, control and management as well as skills development, preferential procurement, enterprise development and corporate social investment. Ndodana is intent on 'Engineering an impact on Service Delivery through Partnering', which is his Presidential theme for 2006. During his presidency Ndodana is focusing on three key issues which he believes to be the cornerstones in the process of transformation: Capacity Building; Service Delivery; and Partnering.

In keeping with Ndodana's theme, this year the Association gave recognition, in the category of Visionary Client, to the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Transport for the implementation of the provincial government's development plan of which the priority flagship project is the road linking Ugie to Langeni sawmill and the R61 road. The Association recognises it as a unique partnership between community, local authorities, environmentalists, the private sector and provincial government working together to ensure sustainable development. The road paves the way for socio and macro economic growth in the region and is a monument to the skills, ingenuity and passion of South African engineers who are dedicated to building a sustainable future and infrastructure for the people of the country.

In addition to this, in order to promote the Consulting Engineering industry to young professionals, the SAACE recognised the contribution young engineers make to the industry and to the future of the profession. The nominees in this category must be graduates younger than 35.

The winner of the Young Engineer of the Year Award is David Freeme, a director with HBS Africa Consulting Engineers. David has a BSc Civil Engineering from Wits, is registered as a Professional Engineer and also holds a BCompt degree. He has extensive and varied experience in structural engineering and has managed projects for which he had sole design responsibility with a combined value exceeding R500 M. One of his major technical achievements for 2005 was the structural design of the new faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) building for the University of Johannesburg. David also has a keen interest in community development and completed the architectural and engineering design of the improvements and extensions to a primary school in the Eastern Cape as a donation to the school in his own time. He has a passion for commercial and retail structures with complex architectural features and utilises his structural knowledge and judgement in creating economic and architecturally appealing structures. David is also involved in encouraging young talent into the field of engineering. David is excited about his upcoming visit to FIDIC and is hoping to bring back value from the conference and share this knowledge with young engineers of this country. He is intent on creating a renewed interest in Engineering as a career choice among learners through his involvement with the Young Professionals Forum (YPF) within SAACE.

Awards were also handed out for nominations in the following categories: Engineering Excellence for projects both above and below a value of R5 M; Business Excellence; Young Company of the Year; and Journalist of the Year.

PD Naidoo and Associates won the award in the category of Engineering Excellence with a value greater than R5 M for the Cradle of Humankind project, they also received a commendation in this category for the Sec-

ondary Treatment Plant at Mondri Richards Bay and they won the Business Excellence category. Prestedge, Retief, Dresner and Wijnberg received a commendation in the category of Engineering Excellence with a value greater than R5 M for the Port of Ngqura project. Bosch Projects won the award in the category of Engineering Excellence with a value less than R5 M for the Chainless Diffuser for UCL's sugar factory at Dalton with Kayad Consultants receiving a commendation in this category for the Mitchell's Plain Public Transport Interchange project. Asakheni received a commendation in the Young Company category and the journalist of the Year Award was won by Helene le Roux from Engineering News.



Consulting engineers are the designers – and their impact on the way we live and move on planet earth is momentous, both now, and for generations to come! In life there are the thinkers, the doers and the observers... Consulting engineers do all three in a day's work, as they go about... designing life!

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