

Connecting chemical engineers in South Africa with an international community

SAIChE IChemE president David Lokhat summarises the new collaboration agreement between SAIChE and IChemE, which will link South African chemical engineers to the international chemical engineering community and provide access to the benefits associated with the larger global Institution.

In July 2014 SAIChE and IChemE signed a collaboration agreement to connect our two professional communities. The intention was to connect SAIChE members with an international chemical engineering community and provide access to the benefits associated with a larger Institution.

Since 2017 we have been working closely with IChemE's leadership to explore how our two organisations can best work together to deliver the sentiment of the 2014 agreement. Reshaping these collaborative arrangements has also provided SAIChE with the opportunity to address some aspects that have not met our expectations.

Since 2014 'SAIChE IChemE' has been the identity under which the collaboration has operated. However, this dual governed body has not provided sufficient recognition of each party's differences. Moving forward there will be an IChemE National Board in South Africa. This will sit alongside and work closely with SAIChE, with well-defined, separate but complementary remits.

The South African National Board will be part of the IChemE governance structure creating alignment between overall organisation objectives and activity in South Africa. The South African National Board will use and contribute towards learned society activities,

benefit from IChemE staff support and peer-reviews via the IChemE Regions Committee, and have access to central funding.

IChemE will provide full membership services, which includes processing annual subscriptions and membership applications. This will improve operating efficiencies and enable members to make payments online via the MyIChemE member portal.

SAIChE will operate as an independent body and continue to fulfil its role as an Engineering Council South Africa Voluntary Association for chemical engineers and the profession. We will continue to be a voice for the profession in South Africa and will support continuing professional development activities independently – by assessing for and awarding ECSA CPD points. In addition, we will work with IChemE to create and encourage active local Member Groups.

What is described above is, in part, a continuation of the provision that has been made available by IChemE over the past five years. To continue to benefit from this, it is fair and reasonable that operations in South Africa align with a global model that is scalable and sustainable, and that members in South Africa make the appropriate contribution in line with their peers in other countries.

The immediately noticeable changes will



be largely administrative, but with members continuing to pay a single annual fee for both IChemE membership and SAIChE membership. Longer-term, IChemE's Strategy 2024 will deliver substantial added-value, which is being underpinned through significant financial investment. This provides access to a broad and diverse volunteer-base, and a staff team of approximately 100 people. Alone, SAIChE does not have the resources to deliver such an ambitious programme but by working with IChemE, we can share an exciting future.

Whilst the new collaborative arrangements respect each organisation's subtle but important differences, the outcome will be a move towards closer collaboration than ever before.

The below briefly outlines the new arrangements for SAIChE members:

- IChemE's standard membership offering is available to all members, globally.
- IChemE provides a full membership service to SAIChE, which includes maintaining its membership roll. All those who wish to be members of SAIChE will be required to hold membership of IChemE.
- Those who wish to be members of SAIChE should apply to join IChemE via the online membership application system.
- Existing SAIChE members are recorded on a SAIChE membership roll on the IChemE database. Being based outside of South Africa does not impact this.
- Those wishing to join or be removed from the SAIChE membership roll should contact saiche@icheme.org.
- The Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape Members Groups' access to IChemE staff support will continue.
- An IChemE National Board is being created in South Africa to connect the membership in the country with IChemE's broader programme of activity. Governance of SAIChE will be separate but the two bodies

will work closely to deliver locally.

- SAIChE will continue to work with ECSA as a Voluntary Association to serve the profession in South Africa.

For more information on the revised arrange-

ments please read the 'IChemE in South Africa: 2019 onwards' document via the link below.

www.icheme.org/media/12503/icheme-in-south-africa-2019-onwards.pdf

Parting ways, but with new horizons in sight

In the early 2000s the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers established a relationship with Crown Publications to provide curated content to the membership of the association through focused news and opinion in the *Chemical Technology* magazine.

Every month readers received, along with the other relevant industry information, updates on the activities of the Institution, member profiles as well as reviews on industrial operations or research that were of interest to the membership. The magazine ran the *Chemical Technology* research awards, and published shortlisted and winning papers from postgraduate students and industrial researchers. Over the years the magazine supported the work of the Institution by publicising workshops, seminars and other events that were organised by SAIChE.

In 2014 SAIChE entered into a collaboration agreement with IChemE, which saw the two organisations deliver a combined offering to members in South Africa. Under the new designation 'SAIChE IChemE', the Institution continued to play a pivotal role in the development of the profession, with the *Chemical Technology* magazine there

to provide a platform for dissemination of information.

In 2017, *Chemical Technology* was combined with the sister publication *Mechanical Technology* to form *MechChem Africa*, with a broader readership and consolidated mandate. The new magazine has since been the home for SAIChE related content.

Major changes in the relationship between SAIChE and IChemE are underway, however, with closer collaboration expected as it transitions towards a National Board of IChemE in South Africa. As the institution looks to drive efficiency and more benefit from the communication channels that IChemE will make available, it will make more frequent use of web-based communications, email and IChemE publications. As such, the institution will be discontinuing its association with *MechChem Africa*, with effect from January 2020.

As SAIChE moves towards a new chapter in its history, it is poignant to recall the role that the magazine has played in it to date. The long record of the relationship will not be forgotten, and is in fact greatly appreciated.

David Lokhat

SAIChE IChemE

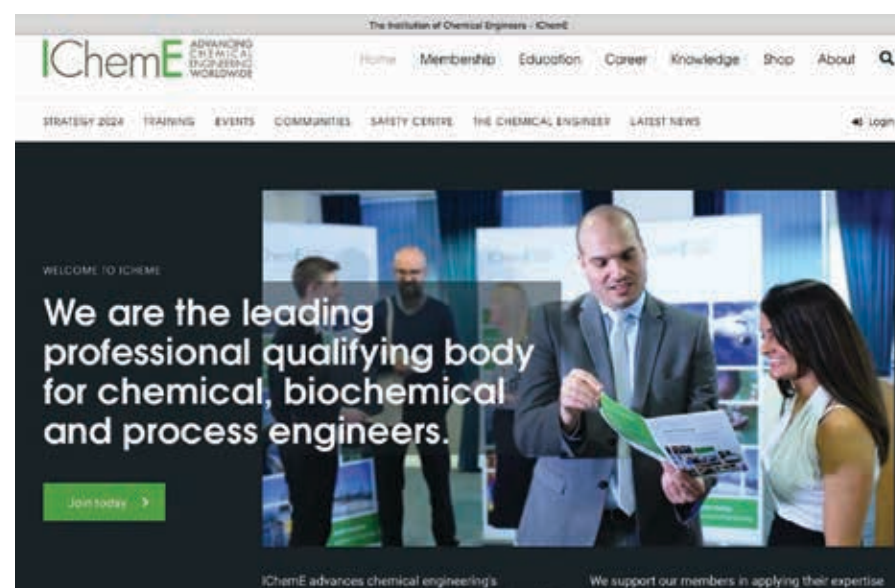
SAIChE IChemE Board members:



President:	D Lokhat
Past president:	C Sheridan
Honorary treasurer:	L van Dyk
Honorary secretary:	EM Obwaka
EXCO member:	M Hughes
EXCO member:	JJ Scholtz
Council member:	D van Vuuren
Council member:	M Chetty
Council member:	H Mazema
Council member:	K Naidoo
Council member:	P Cairns
Council member:	M Mabaso
Council member:	C Sandrock
Council member:	C Mause
Member (co-opted):	NN Coni
Member (co-opted):	MD Heydenrych

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IChemE will be providing full membership services to SAIChE IChemE members, including processing annual subscriptions and membership applications, which will be efficiently handled via the online portal.



REGISTER NOW FOR EARLY BIRD RATES

Registrations are now open for The South African Chemical Engineering Congress 2020 (SACEC 2020) which takes place on 1-3 July 2020 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Now is the time to take advantage of the early bird rates which are available for a limited time only! Please also note that there is a discount for group bookings of four or more delegates. The congress will be CPD accredited. The proceedings will be fully peer-reviewed, will have an ISSN and will conform to all DOHET requirements for accreditation. Register online www.sacec2020.co.za.

SACEC 2020 aims to bring engineers and scientists from around the world together in the hopes of creating real-world solutions to global issues.



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ABOUT SACEC 2020

The 21st century is likely to be the most profound for humankind. As we hurtle forward, there are clear signs that never before have we had so much impact on our planet. As engineers and scientists our contribution to that impact is more profound than average. Our theme for this congress, Entering the Anthropocene, provides a forum to consider the possibilities of this century. How will we utilise our skills in the Anthropocene period, to continue to improve the lives of all, whilst being cognisant of and reducing our impact?

ABOUT SAICHE ICHEME

SAIChE IChemE is a professional society in South Africa dedicated to advancing the science and the practice of chemical engineering.

Our aim is to promote high standards in the profession by enhancing the professional competence of its members.

SACEC 2020 Organising Committee
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