

Newsletter

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A message from our chairperson

Online Technical meetings 2020

Our first online technical meeting using MS Teams took place on 30 July 2020. The title on the presentation was "Metallurgical update of the newly commissioned Belfast Plant" presented by S Sikhosana.

The online presentation was well attended. We will endeavor to use the digital platform for all Technical Meetings going forward, allowing for, future, on site and on line audiences. These will be advertised on our website and social media platforms.



Greetings to all our SACPS members during these difficult times in our industry, our country and the world. I would like to welcome all our new members that have joined since our last newsletter and we trust that you will find the society beneficial to you and look forward to your inputs, recommendations and continued membership. Remember we exist to serve you, the coal processing industry.

We are facing unprecedented times, with South Africa having the fifth highest infections of COVID-19 globally. Infections in the mining industry is on the rise and we need to do our part to keep the infection rate as low as we can. COVID-19 has decimated many industries and left large parts of the population unemployed, with uncertain futures. We, in the coal industry are fortunate that we are still able to positively contribute to society via coal to Eskom, domestic markets, and export markets, which in part supports many jobs and livelihoods. We have adapted to work from home where practically possible, moving us

to the digital era faster than we ever anticipated. To that end, we will be hosting our first bi-monthly Technical Meeting via the MS Teams platform. This will enable us to reach wider audiences than ever before, with the recording for the technical meeting available for those that cannot attend the scheduled session.

I would also like to congratulate Refiloe Maila on being appointed as vice chairperson of the Society. I look forward to your chairpersonship from 2021. I would also like to congratulate Peter Hand as being awarded the Coal Person of the Year 2020, a well deserving award to Peter who has spent many years supporting and growing the coal industry.

Stay safe and we will prevail.

Please follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, check out our website, LinkedIn and Facebook page for up to date information on events and happenings within the society and of course we appreciate feedback and suggestions from all members.



Our aim is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge related to coal processing by means of meetings, conferences, seminars and colloquia.

Objectives and goals of SACPS

Create forums for the exchange of knowledge related to coal processing by means of technical meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.

To further the education and understanding of coal processing by Society members and industry personnel.

To foster co-operation with appropriate educational institutions and other similar organisations for the furtherance of coal processing knowledge.

To distribute accumulated funds to support the objectives above.

Awards

Coal Person of the Year

The 2020 Coalperson of the Year is Peter Hand.

Peter obtained his A-Levels at Cardinal Vaughan Grammar School in London and a B.Sc. (Hons) Mineral Processing from the University College in Cardiff, Wales. Further to this he completed a Senior Management Programme at Stellenbosch Business School in 1991 followed by a Management Development Programme at the University of South Africa in 1995. He is a fellow of the South African Coal Processing Society as well as the South African Institute of Mining & Metallurgy.

Peter is a minerals processing engineer, who has worked in the South African coal industry for 38 years. His first 15 years were spent with Anglo Coal and Ingwe (Randcoal), firstly as a metallurgical trainee and then through successively senior mine production levels, including Plant Superintendent of Rietspruit. In 1988, he was moved to Head Office as a consultant where he was involved with operations, as well as numerous projects.

As part of his duties with Ingwe, he was extensively involved with the technical marketing of coal as well as liaison with Eskom. One of his specialisations is the link between the mine, beneficiation plant and the customer; another is the beneficiation (including dewatering) of fine and ultrafine coal and the use of novel technologies to enable projects to succeed, where conventional techniques may not be appropriate. He was a member of the Operations and Technical Committees for Richards Bay Coal Terminal and a director of the TCOA. Since 1997, he has been an independent consultant, working for most of the major South African coal companies as well as many international projects e.g. London, India, Russia, Ukraine, Australia, Mozambique, Mongolia.

He generally works in dense medium processes, particularly coal, iron ore & diamonds, but has been extensively involved in related technologies including crushing, sorting within those areas. He has also worked in other minerals such as copper, cobalt, nickel.

The simulation and optimisation of mineral processing operations, particularly dense medium plants, using the Limn Flowsheet Processor is a particular specialisation.

Peter has written 44 papers on various aspects of plant simulation, dense medium processes and coal processing.

Peter will formally be awarded the Coal Person of the Year at the 2021 Annual Awards Dinner.



COVID-19 and other matters

Impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown on CTC's activities

In difficult times, companies can only make use of their most valuable assets to survive. In CTC's case, our most valuable assets are our staff and they have been our lifeboats in these trying times. We have seen that within our staff lies untapped opportunity which only few organizations can dream of!

Going into the lockdown meant that we had to close the campus completely for the duration as set out by the authorities. This meant that our learners were left to their own devices and no training could be done, as no face to face contact was allowed. Like the rest of the country and the world, we decided that leaving them to wait for an undetermined length amount of time is not an option, and we undertook one of the most difficult, yet rewarding tasks that we could: That of creating online learning content. This meant that the training staff had to don their IT caps, (which they don't do often), and armed with Diana Laurillard's (University College London) six learning types and our own Moodle site, started creating online learning content that will totally change the way we train forever.

This is where we saw that our training staff are capable of so much more when trying times push them to deliver results. Starting off slowly but surely everyone started to create some content and soon realised that they can do anything that they set their minds to and the creative juices started to flow and we saw content coming in thick and fast.

This is where we see that in life you have no control over some things, but the way you react to these circumstances is what shows true character. We are moving faster now with our Artisan 4.0 campaign than we could ever dream of and we already have online content that is ready to be delivered to anyone who has access to the internet. The Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown period gave us the opportunity to rethink the way we do things and advance our methods far beyond our imaginations.

(Anybody interested in learning more about our Moodle Crash Course and this project is welcome to contact the writer at jstrydom@ctctraining.co.za)

XX International Coal Preparation Conference 2022 - Gold Coast

This conference will be held on the Gold Coast from 10 – 13 October 2022. To download the flyer please visit our website. More details will be shared at a later date.

Coal Rush 2020 – Tamworth, New South Wales – 9th-12th March, 2021

The ACPS biennial conference and exhibition is considered to be the premier technical and professional development opportunity in coal preparation.

A key focus is optimising the utilization of coal resource and operations. Continuing to develop a deeper understanding of the coal resource and quantitative methods for defining its potential value. Within plant operations, there is a striving to improve availability, reliability and metallurgical performance of assets, in order to reduce operating costs and maximise value.

The Conference Technical Papers and the Poster Paper Sessions will bring together both local and international experts, focusing on new and improved processing techniques at the cutting edge of modern coal preparation.

The conference is open to all mining, geology, engineering and processing professionals, graduates and students, consultants and technology company representatives and presents great personal and professional development as well as networking opportunities for all.

In addition to the technical sessions the conference will also include:

- Some 40 plus exhibitors will showcase current equipment and services as well as new and emerging technology developments;
- A comprehensive partners program; and
- World class conference, exhibition and accommodation facilities.

More details on the conference can be found on their website <https://conference-2021.acps.com.au/>



Obituary - David Peatfield

David started his career as an engineering draughtsman in 1965 and went on to become a senior coal preparation engineer and then technical manager with Babcock Minerals Engineering in the UK until he joined JCI in South Africa in 1982 being appointed Chief Metallurgist, Coal and Base Metals in 1993. He and two JCI colleagues formed a consulting business, SSP & Associates in 1998 and subsequently established his own company, DMP Consulting, in 2001 until his retirement.

David was renowned in the coal industry for his immense knowledge and dedication to coal processing. He was a special innovator and entrepreneur while understanding the practicalities of engineering and project management. The coal industry has lost a highly regarded and valued member of the coal processing community. David was a lateral thinker often providing unique solutions to complex issues.

David is the author of numerous scientific papers on coal which he presented locally and internationally. He has been involved in projects spanning the globe and has made contributions in South Africa, Australia, Iran, Poland, India and Russia, among others.

David and his wife Jane shared a loving, happy, interesting and successful life and were together for 55 years. They travelled the world for business and pleasure. His family also meant so much to him. It was a joy to see the love and pride he had for his children and grandchildren. David loved most sport and was passionate about his football and was a lifelong supporter of his Sheffield Wednesday team. He also played golf for most of his life and was always very competitive in all sports.

David had a wonderful sense of humour and was always fun to be with. He was always fair and reasonable and never held grudges. David had read hundreds of novels and his reading material was extensive. He spent many an hour solving puzzles, Sudoku and cryptic crosswords. He loved music and dancing and was the life and soul of many a party. The wild life of South Africa was an absolute joy to David and he never tired of tracking that elusive leopard, cheetah or lion and he was never afraid to be very close to those elephant but the kudu was his favourite.

He loved life and laughter; he also loved the SACPS dearly. Mark Craddock remembers David making him promise that he would preserve the money that the SACPS had made during the 2002 ICPC conference. "Do not buy a pycnometer" he told Mark.

Mark recalls that he always had that thought at the back of his mind whenever he made a financial decision on behalf of the society. He was also a fun person to be with, Mark remembers having long talks with David on the veranda of The Wanderers Club or at The Bryanston Country Club, two of David's favourite places.

David was a generous man; he gave of his experience and knowledge freely and he was very loyal to his friends. He loved his wife Jane; he always spoke so highly of her that you just knew.

There are a lot of people in the society who knew David well and enjoyed spending time with him, he gave a lot of time and effort, attended the annual dinner from the first one in the late 1960's until he retired. David was very involved, from being a treasurer, Chairman and founder.

We will miss you David, the knowledge, the fun, the laughter and the loyalty. David was a great man! His legacy will live on through the coal plants and other metallurgical plants he designed and built and his wonderful family that he cherished.

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