

SPOTLIGHT

on mine project planning

by R.W.O. Kersten*

The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy recently held a School on Mine Project Planning, the objective being to educate mine personnel who are involved in the planning and management of major projects, as well as young engineers who may become involved in this field.

The task of the organizers was twofold: firstly, they had to define the exact nature of the school and, secondly, they had to identify senior personnel in the industry who could contribute ideas, act as lecturers, and, at the same time, provide material for future reference. It took the best part of eight years of deliberations by the Technical Sub-Committee to define and solve the problems. The most important problem was the selection of the subject area to be covered by the school. *Planning* covers the range from strategic planning, through project planning, to production planning. The diversity of strategic- and production-planning procedures used by the various mining companies made it difficult for a course to be structured for the whole mining industry.

However, *mine project planning* was an area in which individual mining houses did not have specific procedures, no literature had been published for South African economic conditions, and no professional courses were available. Therefore, Mine Project Planning seemed to be an obvious subject for the type of school that the Institute likes to present.

School Programme

The best way of illustrating the complexity of the subject and how it was approached is to reproduce the index to the lecture notes.

1. *Geological*
 - 1.1 The role of geosciences in the identification of the mining projects (Introduction) R.P. Viljoen
 - 1.2 Exploration geophysics in South Africa F. Stevenson
 - 1.3 The role of remote sensing in mineral exploration L. de Gasparis
 - 1.4 Geochemistry in mineral exploration C. Bedley
 - 1.5 The role of the process mineralogist in the base-metal and gold-mining industry H. von Rahden
 - 1.6 The use of computers and geostatistics in the exploration for coal, gold, and base metals C. Lemmer
 - 1.7 Witwatersrand gold exploration with particular reference to the Deelkraal and Elandsrand projects J.L. Matthyssen

- 1.8 Base metals, northwestern Cape province:
 - (a) Exploration case studies E.C. Kostlin
 - (b) Black Mountain geological study J.E. Cheenetl
2. *Project Planning*
 - 2.1 Process of planning and planning aids R.G. Jurd, F. Schwiebus
 - 2.2 Infrastructure and services on an isolated new mining site B.R. van Rooyen
 - 2.3 Mine planning C.J. Davies
 - 2.4 Coal preparation A.J. van den Berg
 - 2.5 The planning of underground operations of South African gold mines M.H. Rogers
 - 2.6 Planning base-mineral mining operations D. Laubscher
 - 2.7 Metallurgical project planning B.J. Rear
 - 2.8 Cost estimates for mine planning M.H. Rogers
3. *Financial*
 - 3.1 Estimated exploration funding of a typical Witwatersrand-type gold deposit J.C. Winterbach, I.M.W. Preston
 - 3.2 Market studies B. Martus
 - 3.3 Financial planning investment policy in the mineral industry I.M.W. Preston
 - 3.4 Funding alternatives R. Bradshaw, M. Wilkins
4. *Organization and Compilation*
 - 4.1 Project team organization P.R. Janisch

It is obvious that the programme was full and varied. Demonstrations and discussions were held each evening after dinner, a fact appreciated by most, if not all, delegates. However, there was one evening of rest when the cocktail party was held, which was attended by the lecturers as well as the delegates.

General

As is usual at these schools, the delegates were asked to fill in a questionnaire relating to details of the School. The most important comment was that, although case studies had been included, more involvement by the way of workshops would have made the course an even greater success. Everybody agreed on one point—that the School had been worth while and should be repeated in the near future.

Because of the interest generated by this School and because it filled a very real gap in technical education, the Institute will be organizing a similar School taking into account the comments made by delegates.

The organizers of the School can be proud of their achievement, and are to be congratulated on the manner in which they achieved their objectives.

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Professor S. Budavari (Chairman of the Organizing Committee), Mr E.P. Gush (Chairman of the Gold and Uranium Division of Anglo American), and Mr J.D. Austin (President, SAIMM)

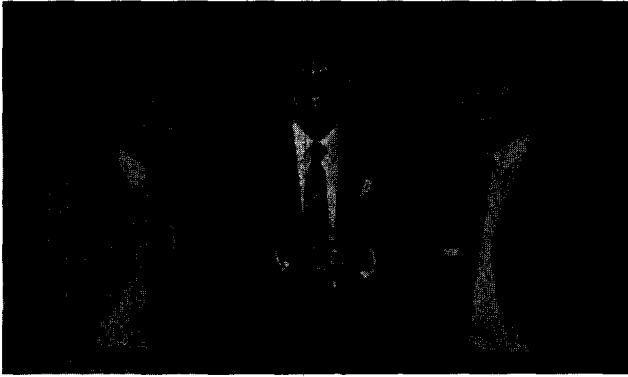


Mr J.J. Geldenhuys (Anglovaal) and Mr I.M.W. Preston (Rand Mines)

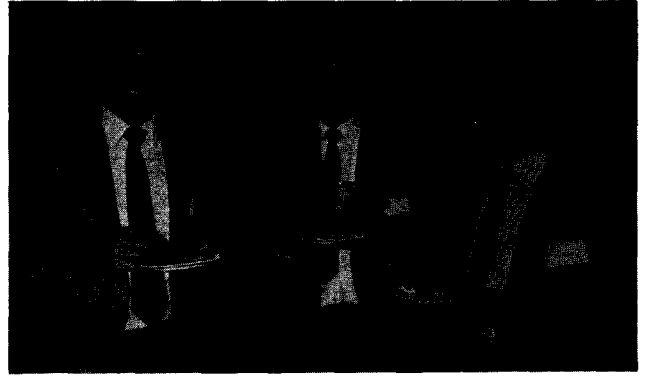
Mr Colin Wiggett (Amcoal) and Dr Carina Lemmer (Goldfields of South Africa)



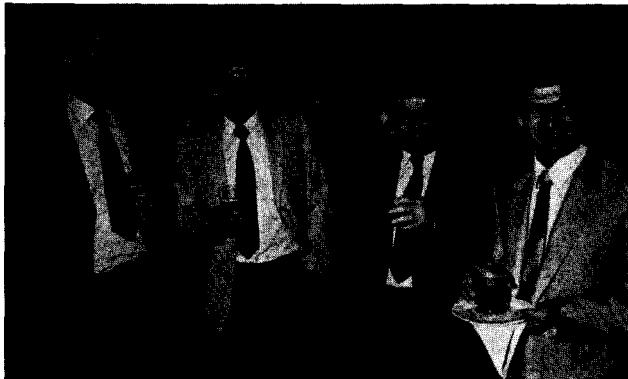
Some of the delegates...



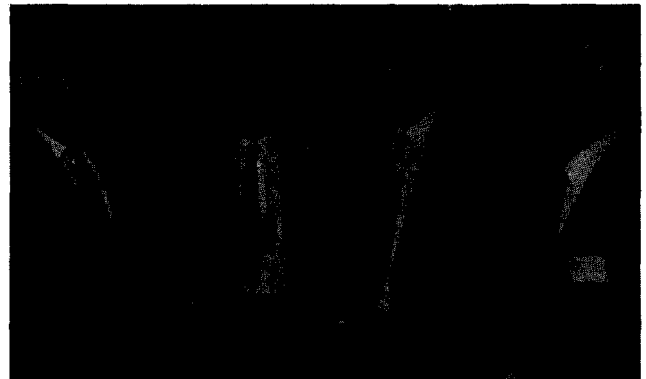
Messrs Fred Human, Gordon Wilson, and Roy Meade from Anglovaal



Mr Freddie Mulder (Rand Mines), with Messrs Pieter van Aswegan and Ben Coetzee (Gencor)



Messrs Hans Baasden, Steve Thorpe, Charles Ashton, and Lance Stilwell from Gencor



Mr Ben Leach (Sasol), and Doctors Oskar Steffen and Dick Stacey (Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten), with Dr D. Laubscher



Messrs C. Beggley, Des Gillespie, Roger Chaplin, John Wilson, and Richard Wallis from Goldfields of South Africa



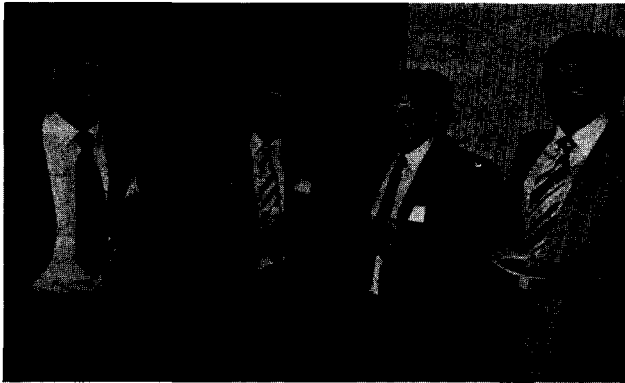
Messrs M. van der Merwe (Sasol), G. Jacobs (St Helena), and U. Herrmann (Blyvooruitzicht)



Messrs William Smart, John Donald, Jonathon Best, and Denzil Massyn from Vaal Reefs



Messrs Fanle van der Merwe and André Knoetze of Goldfields, and Mr Koos Conradie (Utah International)



Messrs Louis Boshoff, Chris Demarteau, and Jaap Storm of Iscor, and Mr Joep van Dyk



Messrs Peet J. Venter (Sigma), Anthony Boniface (Keeve Steyn), and Joseph Cassidy (Sasol 1)

Book prizes for universities

Prizes are awarded annually by The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for outstanding academic achievement by mining and metallurgical students at South African universities.

The 1984 Book Prize was awarded to Mr J.H. de Lange of the University of Pretoria for excellence in the third-year course in metallurgical engineering.

Mr H.E. James, Senior Vice-President, attended the prize-giving ceremony on 25th March, 1985, at the University of Pretoria.

Left to right: Professor G.T. van Rooyen (Head, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering), Mr J.H. de Lange (student recipient of the Book Prize), and Mr H.E. James (at the time Senior Vice President, the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy)

