

SPOTLIGHT

on Richards Bay Minerals

by R.J.E. STEWART*

Another very successful evening meeting was organized by the Johannesburg Branch of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy on 20th November, 1990, when Mr R.D. MacPherson, General Manager of Richards Bay Minerals, gave a presentation on the Richards Bay operations.

The function was held in the Ballroom of the Johannesburg Country Club, and the very high attendance (some 250 people) was indeed a reflection of the high profile of the subject matter. It was also a fitting reward for the efforts of Mr MacPherson and his team, who spent a considerable amount of time and effort travelling the country to present 'the other side of the story'.

The evening started with an introductory sherry, over which the wide cross-section of interested parties had the opportunity of informally meeting old acquaintances and getting up to date with events in the mining and metallurgical world.

This was followed by an excellent presentation, which covered three main aspects. Firstly, an overview of the mining operations and metallurgical processes involved in treating the sands was given. It was refreshing to be given an insight into a technology that is generally considered to be confidential. The overview was followed by a video on the use of titanium—clearly, Richards Bay Minerals takes pride in contributing towards 'brightening our world'. Finally, Mr MacPherson gave a well-illustrated discussion on the St Lucia controversy, which was very informative and gave the audience exposure to a point of view that is not often heard in the popular press. The excellent slide and overhead presentation was impressive evidence of the efforts being expended and the successes being achieved in the rehabilitation of the mined areas.

The presentation was followed by a cocktail party sponsored by Richards Bay Minerals.

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Chemical engineering

The Fourth World Congress of Chemical Engineering is to be held in Karlsruhe (Federal Republic of Germany) from 16th to 21st June, 1991, immediately following AICHEM 91 to give foreign visitors the opportunity to participate in both events. The Congress will be held under the auspices of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and the German Association of Chemical and Process Engineering (DVCV).

The theme of the Congress is 'Strategies 2000', incorporating the following, which represent the changing requirements and interests of society as a whole, as well as the response of science and technology to this challenge:

- strategic goals that are of importance to society
- applications in the process industries
- fundamentals and methods of chemical engineering.

The importance of the goals and changes in their relevance according to developments in politics and public opinion

- will influence the development of new products and

processes

- will require new solutions by applied research and developments
- will need break-throughs in basic research.

In accordance with leading international scientists and industrialists, the Programme Committee of the Congress has selected specific topics that, according to an actual assessment, will probably have a decisive influence on the future development of chemical engineering, its profession, research, and application. Ample time will be available for discussions based on poster presentations, which will form the backbone of the Congress.

Enquiries should be addressed to

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