Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President and Council of the Institute invite members, their guests, and members of other constituent societies to attend the Annual General Meeting 2014

Wednesday, 13 August 2014
The Country Club, Johannesburg, Napier Road, Auckland Park, 2006 at 16:30

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of minutes
3. Obituaries
4. Brigadier Stokes Memorial Award
5. Presentation of awards, medals, and certificates
6. Presentation of student prizes
7. Annual report of the Council and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2014
8. Declaration of election of office bearers and members of Council for the year 2014/2015
9. Election of auditors and honorary legal advisors for the year 2014/2015
10. General
11. Induction of President—J.L. Porter
12. Presidential address
13. Vote of thanks
14. Photographs of all Council members

A cocktail party will be held after the meeting
Are efforts to mechanize South African mines too focused on machinery rather than technology?

This paper takes a personal look, through the authors own experiences, at the implementation of innovations in the narrow seam, hard rock mining environment of South Africa’s mining industry over the past 40 years. A number of examples are used to illustrate some of the successes and failures over this period. More importantly, the examples are used to illustrate that the focus of attention of where the bulk of the investment was expended for these projects should have been applied in a manner that could have resulted in more sustainable results.

The use of the word “Technology” in this context is also examined as it is the author’s contention that only measuring the performance of machinery fails to encapsulate the potential of the entire system that describes the scope of the innovation implementation.

These experiences and observations are projected on to the current backdrop of upheaval in the relationship between key industry stakeholders and the sustainability challenges facing areas of the mining sector of the economy. The paper concludes with some opinions on where attention can be focused in order to develop new thinking that can be applied to the safe and economic extraction of the nation’s mineral wealth.