



**South African Institute of International Affairs**

African Perspectives. Global Insights.

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## **Report to the Annual General Meeting**

26 November 2012

### 2012 IN BRIEF

SAIIA Western Cape started the year with a new chairman and a new collaborative relationship with the SAIIA Governance of African Resources Programme [GARP] office in Cape Town. A varied, balanced and, at times, exciting series of events was presented. The GARP connection provided a number of excellent speakers and an enhanced level of refreshments! The venue for most of the meetings this year was the Mountain Club of South Africa because the Centre for the Book was undergoing renovation. There were a number of additional youth events originating from the SAIIA National Office. Unfortunately, the Chairman, Joe Emeran resigned and the committee had to close ranks to continue the programme.

### BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS

During the year there were a number changes to the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Joe Emeran, resigned in June for personal reasons. Arifa Parkar resigned because of the pressures of starting up a new consultancy business. Dr Boy Geldenhuys was co-opted on to the committee. Lee Padayachee was also co-opted on the committee and took on the Parliamentary Liaison portfolio. Sizwe Mpfu-Walsh, the universities representative, has recently resigned to take up an appointment in Johannesburg. The Executive Committee at the end of the term therefore comprises: Martyn Trainor [Acting Chairman], Alex Benkenstein [GARP representative], Mary Carson, Boy Geldenhuys, Chris Inskip, Lee Padayachee, Anthony Silberberg, and Dave Wheeler.

Once again, the members of the Executive Committee, ably supported by Pippa Segall, the Branch Co-ordinator, and Lidia Hall, the Honorary Bookkeeper, worked hard and successfully to maintain the Branch and its activities. Apart from their particular portfolios, committee members and Pippa could be seen preparing the venue well before the start of an event and staying long after the end to wash up and clear away. A number of members are also very helpful at events – Ruth and Julian Hobbs with the books and publications; John Patten at the door; Lee Hall with name tags; and Liz Wheeler, Richard Higgs and others at the washing up basin.

We are very grateful to the Cape Town Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa for allowing us the use of their clubhouse in Hatfield Street, not too far from our usual haunt, The Centre for the Book, which is still undergoing renovation. Mountain Club has excellent facilities and the acoustics are good. On one occasion, at short notice, we were able to use the Holocaust Centre, just across the road, for which we are also very grateful.

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

The purpose of SAIIA is "...to promote a wider and more informed understanding of international issues among South Africans. It seeks to educate, inform and facilitate contact between people concerned with South Africa's place in an independent world, and to contribute to the public debate on foreign policy."

The 2012 programme was varied and covered a wide range of subjects relevant to the purpose of SAIIA. It included international and national speakers.

A lot of excitement was generated around the discussion of perspectives for peace in the Israel/Palestine conflict. A number of activist groups gave notice of their intention to picket the event and attend the discussion in large numbers. In the end, with Tim Hughes as chairman and Boy Geldenhuys as moderator during the discussion phase, a lively but cordial and constructive engagement was the result.

It was fortuitous that Peter Leon's talk on mining in South Africa came just a week after the tragic events at Marikana. He paid a visit to the area just before coming to Cape Town and was able to speak with great authority. His talk to us was widely quoted in the national and international media.

The youth activities, with the SAIIA/CALTEX Interschool Quiz as centre-piece, have expanded. The UN Mini Model Conference and the final presentations of the Environmental Sustainability Programme are new to the Western Cape. All three events were excellent and members would be well-advised to make the effort to attend next year and see how involved many schools have become in international affairs as an extra curricula activity. It is a great opportunity for the learners. We have also seen many learners over the year attending our SAIIA public fora.

The following comprised our programme of activities for 2012:

24 January 2012	Consul General of the USA, Erica Barks-Ruggles	South Africa and the United States: Common Challenges, Common Goals
2 February 2012	Professor Robert Rotberg	Africa in 2012, a view from Harvard
29 February 2012	Mr Benjamin Pogrun and Mr Bassan Eid	In two minds: An Israeli and a Palestinian Perspective on Peace in the Middle East
23 April 2012	Hon Lance Greyling, MP	Unpacking a Decade of International Climate Change Negotiations: Where is the World Heading
9 May 2012	SAIIA Western Cape Youth	SAIIA/CALTEX Interschool Quiz
20 June 2012	Nicolas Dasnois	Africa's Uranium and the Global Nuclear Renaissance
25 July 2012	Michael Power	The Great Migration of Capital
27 July 2012	Youth@ SAIIA	Mini Model UN Conference: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] meeting on the refugee situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo
30 August 2012	Peter Leon	Marikana, Mangaung and the future of the South African mining industry
5 September 2012	Youth@SAIIA	Environmental Sustainability Programme finals
13 September 2012	Dr Lyal White	Book introduction. "Going Global - Insights from South Africa's Top Companies"

10 October 2012	Swiss State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr Yves Rossier	Roundtable discussion. "Switzerland's approach to promoting peace in Africa at the multilateral and regional levels"
29 October 2012	Mr Elman Abdullayev	Azerbaijan, Energy Security and Intercultural Dialogue
12 November 2012	Brooks Spector	The US Election: how the victor won and what it means to the US and the world
26 November 2012	Prof Laurie Nathan	The Sacking of the SADC Tribunal

#### ADMINISTRATION [Pippa Segall]

Pippa has been spending a lot of her time transferring the membership lists onto the new SAIIA online database. Since this is a new system, it has come with a lot of teething problems. However at last we are sending our notices from the database at no cost to us, apart from Pippa's time.

#### MEMBERSHIP [Martyn Trainor]

There are number of membership categories, as can be seen from the table below. For purposes of comparison it is most useful to look at the individual and family membership numbers as these two groups provide the bulk of the annual revenue through subscriptions. There has been a slow decline in the numbers over the past few years, partly through more stringent application of the rules of membership, but there is still a significant drop. Between 2011 and 2012 the drop was 12%. It is a matter for the committee to act on in the coming year. The number of visitors has, however, increased significantly, as shown by a 35% increase in takings at the door between 2011 and 2012.

Category	2012	2011	2010	2009
Corporate/nominees	3	11	17	25
Diplomatic/consular	28	27	30	37
Institutional/educational	55*	55*	10	11
Family/donor	30	38	38	50
Fellow/complementary	5	10	3	1
Honorary	5	6	4	3
Individual	73	79	93	98
Members of Parliament	44**	32**	32**	32**
Students	10	34	18	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>279</b>

#### FINANCE [Lidia Hall]

The financial statements were prepared by Lidia Hall and signed by Mr Karl Stulpner. We thank him once again for his kind service. We remain grateful to the members who pay their subscriptions on time as it gives us the security we need when making our plans for the year. The sponsorship from CHEVRON and the Abe Bailey Trust for the SAIIA/CALTEX Interschool Quiz is vital and much appreciated. It has enabled the Branch to use the expertise of members to reach out to coming generations of leaders in the field of international relations.

The contribution of the GARP Office has been crucial in bringing speakers from upcountry to the Branch. It has also enabled the Branch to raise the standard of refreshments at events,

which has been very much appreciated by all. Members of the GARP staff who attend events are a very professional and relevant presence.

#### SAIIA WEBSITE/TECHNICAL [Chris Inskip]

SAIIA Headquarters, at Jan Smuts House in Johannesburg, continue to provide valued support by including a page for the Western Cape Branch on their website ([www.saiia.org.za](http://www.saiia.org.za)). This page contains information on upcoming Branch activity, and makes Branch documents (Annual Reports, Schools Quiz report, membership application form) available for downloading. SAIIA HQ also includes mention of our upcoming events in their emailed Members' Newsletter.

#### ADVERTISING / PUBLICITY [Chris Inskip]

We appreciate the continuing support of local newspapers and radio stations, which have carried mention of our upcoming events. We have made valued use of Fine MusicRadio's new "Events List" web page. We have experienced a good proportion of newcomers attending our meetings.

#### DIPLOMATIC LIAISON [Anthony Silberberg]

During the year I attended the National Day receptions held by most of the major consular offices in Cape Town, networking and promoting the activities of SAIIA, Western Cape. Special reminders were also sent to members of the Consular Corps to encourage participation at seminars and talks held by the Branch. We appreciate the attendance of those members of the Consular Corps that were able to attend.

The farewell reception of Hao Guangfeng Consul General for the Peoples' Republic of China was held in March. Cape Town also saw the departure of Consul Generals, Rene Hannaert (Belgium), Joachim Whittaker-Salles (Brazil), Hans-Werner Bussmann (Germany), Ichiro Muto (Japan, and Alberta Mayberry (USA). We welcome their replacements, Roger Vyghen (Belgium), Debora Barenboim (Brazil), Liang Shugen (Peoples Republic of China), Roland Hermann (Germany), Yuiko Fujiwara (Japan), and Erica Barks-Ruggles (USA). The Taipei Liaison Office also saw the departure of Simon Tu after many years of service to be replaced by George Chiu.

The Belgian Ambassador, Johan Maricou opened a Belgian-South African Art Exhibition at my gallery in Tulbagh in March. This event was attended by Roger Vyghen, the Belgian Consul and Joe Emeran and well supported by the Belgian community in Cape Town.

We look forward to members of the Consular Corps participating in increasing numbers in SAIIA W Cape activities during the years ahead.

#### PARLIAMENT [Lee Padayachee]

SAIIA Western Cape began refocusing its attention on Parliament in 2012. Invitations to SAIIA events are now being sent directly to all parliamentary committees. Members of Parliament have traditionally been granted automatic membership status but this year MPs began to formally sign up as members on their own initiative.

In October, students from Rylands High School, who participated in the 2012 SAIIA/CALTEX Interschool Quiz, were taken on a tour of Parliament as part of their third place prize. Following the official tour of the parliamentary precinct, the students had a one-on-one meeting with long-standing MP, Sandy Kalyan, who explained the work of Parliament. The day concluded with a visit to the National Assembly, where the students joined members of SA's Paralympics team as they were heralded by MPs for their successful performance at the 2012 Paralympics.

With many important pieces of legislation currently in the pipeline – the Protection of State Information Bill and E-tolling legislation, for example - we hope to increase the participation of MPs at SAIIA events in 2013.

#### CORPORATE LIAISON [Anthony Silberberg]

Economic growth in many countries in Africa is currently expanding rapidly and surpassing that of South Africa, which is tending to lag a bit behind. For this reason most corporates are seeking to expand their business operations to the North. Many small and medium size enterprises (SME)s are also looking for business opportunities in Africa.

SAIIA, with its focus on research in Africa and also with the GARP office located in Cape Town is well positioned to provide assistance in this field. Much work is being undertaken by Wesgro and the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and Industry and opportunities for close liaison abound. It is a pity that Joe Emeran, the immediate past president of the Chamber resigned his position as Chairman of the Branch as steps were in progress to synergise our activities with those of the Chamber. In order to continue with this process I have decided to rejoin the Cape Chamber in the newly created Associate Membership category.

During the year I attended a number of seminars and talks on the developing African economy at the Graduate School of Business in Cape Town and the USB in Bellville.

The objective is to focus on African economic opportunities and liaison for the year ahead.

#### YOUTH PROGRAMMES:

##### INTERSCHOOL QUIZ 2012 [Mary Carson and Pippa Segall]

The Quiz has continued to build upon Chevron's increased grant to R150 000 made to SAIIA Western Cape in 2011, over a period of three years. Fifty schools participated. This was the 4th year of pre-quiz workshops for teachers and learners to give less resourced schools an introduction to international affairs.

Being the 20th Anniversary of the Quiz a celebratory atmosphere pervaded through the entire evening. Africa Melane, the Master of Ceremonies, broke the ice for the learners at the start by inviting them to dance around their desks to the music. Tim Hughes was the Question Master.

This year, the Quiz was graced by the US Consul General, Ms Erica Barks-Ruggles, who passionately and impressively connected with the learners. She suggested that the experience of participating in the Quiz made them future leaders of South Africa and then of the world.

A touching innovation made for the 20th Anniversary was that Tim Hughes, having been involved with the Quiz for the entire 20 years, presented a new Floating Trophy to the Most Improved School. The trophy is an antique illuminated globe of the world and is named The Donald Sole Trophy. His widow, Mrs Elizabeth Sole, presented the trophy to Cape Town High School for their remarkable improvement from 43rd place in 2011 to 8th place in 2012.

#### WINNERS

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Spine Road High School	46 points (out of 54)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	La Rochelle Girls School	41 points*
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rylands	41 points*
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rhenish Girls High School	40 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jan van Riebeeck High School	40 points

\*A tie-break was held for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and La Rochelle won.

Winning schools received substantial cash prizes. This year some innovative additional prizes were on offer:

- Included in the First Prize for Spine Road High is a dream trip to Johannesburg in the week starting 10 December for 5 days. They, together with top learners from various other SAIIA programmes, will participate in the SAIIA Young Leaders Conference, during which they will visit various government departments and ministries, and foreign embassies and consulates. They will witness the work of Jan Smuts House, meet SAIIA staff, and visit some interesting historical sites.
- Included in the Second prize for La Rochelle was a day long visit to the ships and training units of the SA Navy Fleet Command in Simon's Town, (organised by Vice Admiral (ret.) Martyn Trainor). It included a ride in a fast patrol boat and visits to the Naval Museum, where they received a briefing by the Flag Officer Fleet, Rear Admiral Philip Schoultz, and Admiralty House to view the Sir JB Robinson Maritime Art Collection. They were hosted to lunch aboard the frigate SAS MENDI by the Officer Commanding, Captain Mbotho.
- Included in the Third prize for Rylands: A day in Parliament (organised by committee member, Lee Padayachee)
- Fourth prize for Rhenish Girls High: Half a day with Cape Talk radio, editorial meeting, work shadow departmental heads (news, sport, features, photographic etc.).
- Fifth prize for Jan van Riebeeck High School: A trip to the Caltex refinery
- Every school was given a large parcel of educational books for their Library;
- Every learner was given a certificate from SAIIA, an illuminated torch and a bag carrier by Chevron
- Every school is given complimentary membership of the Western Cape Branch of SAIIA and therefore invited to attend the monthly meetings with interesting speakers. Literature on international affairs is sent to them to post on their notice boards, which were presented to the schools in Quiz 2011.

#### MINI MODEL UN CONFERENCE

The first SAIIA W Cape Mini Model UN conference was held on 27 July 2012 at Cape Town High school. The topic was United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) meeting on the refugee situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The learners had a crash course on the workings of the UN, on rules of procedure, on debating and negotiating. SAIIA volunteers, teachers and learners learnt a lot of the refugee situation in the DRC.

Each country had to write a position paper, and appoint someone to read it out, to argue the debate and give a closing statement. Participating schools were Bishops, Cape Town High, Chesterhouse, Edgemoed High, International School of Hout Bay, La Rochelle Girls, The Oracle Academy, Rondebosch Boys, Stellenberg High, Settlers High, Simon's Town High, and St George's Grammar.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME [ESP] PRESENTATIONS

The Western Cape schools finalists for the ESP presented their research findings and recommendations and solutions on topics related to sustainable development and climate change on 5 September 2012 at UCT. The top 6 learners and 2 teachers were chosen to make-up the Western Cape delegation attending the SAIIA Young Leaders Conference 10-14 December 2012.

Presentations were made by teams from the following schools:

- Cape Academy of Maths, Science and Technology
- Rhenish Girls' High School
- Spine Road High School
- The Oracle Academy
- The Settlers High School.

## UNIVERSITIES [Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh]

Students from UCT, UWC and Stellenbosch have been attending events in considerable numbers, depending on the topic and the time of the [academic] year. A feature has been the number of foreign students among them. It has added to the level and variety in the discussions.

## CONCLUSION

With the year coming to an end I feel satisfied that we have achieved our mission, remained solvent and built on the foundations of the past. We have comfortably cleared a number of hurdles on our path. We have successfully embarked on a number of new things, particularly with respect to the youth activities, where we have expanded our scope and reach. Next year with the help of funding from the Abe Bailey Trust, we will be expanding our National Youth Programme to the Cape Town region.

We have been very fortunate with the breadth and competence of our speakers.

I am very grateful for the support we have received from our members and the encouragement derived from hosting visitors.

I am exceedingly grateful for the commitment, hard graft and support from the members of the Executive Committee and the many helpers. What a team – thank you!