

REPORT TO THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[Corrected per report to AGM 11 Dec 14]

2015 IN BRIEF

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of the founding of the South African Institute of International Affairs in Cape Town in 1934. For the Western Cape Branch, the centrepiece was the 80th Anniversary Dinner at Kelvin Grove on 12 May.

We are very proud of the fact that SAIIA has for the fifth successive year been rated the top think tank in sub-Saharan Africa [81st in the world and 45th if you exclude the USA]. The rating is a global survey done annually by the University of Pennsylvania. This reflects the wonderful work being done by our full-time colleagues at Jan Smuts House and the GARP Office.

A wide variety of events kept the Branch very busy – the 80th dinner, speakers' meetings, two major "non-events", the youth programme, including the CHEVRON Interschool Quiz and a careers evening, , and other presentations. A pleasing new aspect was Branch involvement in the European Union Inspiring Thinkers Series.

Administratively, we have done well and also managed to hold on to a reasonable financial state.

Our relationship with Jan Smuts House has been very good with much highly valued support coming from that direction.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS

At the AGM last year, [portfolios indicated], Dr Martha Bridgman [Interschool Quiz]; Sheila Camerer [Parliament], Rob Mackay and Prof Chris Saunders [Universities] were elected to the committee. They joined Dr Boy Geldenhuys, Dave Wheeler [Secretary], Alex Benkenstein [GARP Office representative], Chris Inskip [Technical, Website, and Publicity], Anthony Silberberg [Diplomatic Liaison, Corporates] and Martyn Trainor [Chairman, Membership].

Co-opted to the committee in the course of the year were Chris Knoetze [UCT student representative], Shawn Duthie [Universities, alternate] and Richard Higgs [Honorary Treasurer]

Our indefatigable Pippa Segall has continued her extraordinary work as our Branch and Project Administrator. We are also very grateful to Lidia Hall who looks after our financial transactions and books.

The Executive Committee has met regularly to keep the plans of a very busy year going. I am very grateful for all the hard work and valuable contributions of the members of the Committee.

Now, at the end of the year, we have to release Chris Inskip and Dr Boy Geldenhuys who have resigned from the committee. They will, however, remain active members of the Branch and still do for us many of the things that they are so good at. Chris has served on the committee for at least 14 years and has been a pillar of strength in a variety of roles to successive Chairs. Boy has been a valuable guiding hand and a consummate handler of the platform, including the discussion with Benjamin Pogrund and Bassan Eid on the subject: "In two minds: "An Israeli and a Palestinian Perspective on Peace in the Middle East", which various activist groups promised to disrupt!

Many thanks are due to the Committee and other Branch members who do all the many and varied tasks that go into the staging of our various events. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes before and after an event. However, I am sure that the members and visitors who attend will, indeed, have noticed.

We continue to be very grateful to the Mountain Club of South Africa, Cape Town Section, for the continued use of their fine club house, with ample space and good acoustics, at a very reasonable rate.

ACTIVITIES

The programme of events was varied and the speakers' meetings focussed on most of the international issues that came to the fore this year such as: conflict in Eastern Europe; conflict in the Middle East; South Africa twenty years into constitutional democracy; African and South African issues; and the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. All our events have been well attended.

Of particular note were the two talks of the EU Inspiring Thinkers Series with which we were involved – once as the host and once at the invitation of the Political Studies Department at UCT. Both events brought outstanding speakers within our orbit.

We are very grateful for the support we received from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung [KAS]. It enabled us to present a comprehensive discussion on the relationship between the media and politics. KAS also provided the generous sponsorship needed for our very successful careers evening for students of the universities of the Western Cape.

The 80th Anniversary Dinner was a most enjoyable and heart-warming event. Mr Michael Spicer was the guest speaker and Mr Moeletsi Mbeki proposed the toast to the Institute. Our Chief Executive, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, led a Jan Smuts House contingent. Many members attended. We managed to unearth many former members of the Branch from "the good old days", and meeting up with them again was a treat. We were also gratified by the presence of numerous members of the Cape Consular Corps. We are very grateful for

the support from Jan Smuts House and to the Altydgedacht Wine Estate for kindly donating the wonderful wine for the evening – a richly Italian Barbera 2012 red wine and a refreshing 2014 Sauvignon Blanc.

The 80th Anniversary Dinner was also used to launch the SAIIA 80th Anniversary Campaign – Sponsor a Delegate – an appeal to help fund the SAIIA youth programmes.

Other activities relating to the youth programme and diplomatic liaison will be reported under the respective headings.

The full programme of events for 2014 is given below.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
17 February 2014	“Building a stable and prosperous democracy in Iraq: Progress and Challenges”	Ambassador Dr Hashim Al-Alawi
8 March 2014	Environment Sustainability Programme [ESP] workshop	Youth
17 March 2014	“All change for Climate change: our Climate is changing – what about us?”	Dr Nicholas King
26 March 2014	CHEVRON SAIIA inter-school quiz	Youth
16 April 2014	“Surviving in a rough neighbourhood: Ukraine, Russia and the Crimean crisis”	Dr Sara Pienaar
5 May 2014	“The UN and EU: why their roles are so important for South Africa and the World”	Sir Emyr Jones-Parry in the “EU Inspiring Thinkers Series”
12 May 2014	SAIIA 80 th Anniversary dinner	Kelvin Grove
28 May 2014	Book launch: “Strengthening Governance in South Africa: Building on Mandela’s Legacy”	Prof Robert Rotberg and contributors

5 June 2014	“The Relationship between Media and Politics: Experiences and Insights from Germany and South Africa”	Dr Klaus Schüler and Mr John Matisson
24 July 2014	“20 years of democracy in South Africa; and 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall: two countries in transition”	Markus Meckel with Albie Sachs and Ramphela Mamphele in the “EU Inspiring Thinkers Series” By invitation of the Dept of Political Studies, UCT
28 August 2014	Environmental Sustainability Programme final presentations	Youth
4 September 2014	“Eastern Europe at a Crossroads?”	Sheila Camerer
15 September 2014	Careers evening for students	Youth
22 September 2014	“Capital flight and oil in Africa”	Dr Mare Sarr
26 November 2014	“Smuts, the Great War and a Greater South Africa”	Prof Bill Nasson
10 December 2014	AGM and “Land Rights or Land Grab”	Dr Aninka Claassens

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Branch has increased satisfactorily with a 17% overall increase in the key subscription-paying categories of Individual; Family/Couple/Guest; and Student. The flexibility of the Family/Couple/Guest category seems to be the key to its rapid growth.

There was another increase in the subscription rates due to rising expenses.

We are also very grateful to our loyal members who continue, through their subscriptions, to help fund the Branch even when they are not easily able to attend events.

We have mounted a special campaign to bring SAIIA to the attention of Members of Parliament, particularly the members of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Co-operation. We have sent them material on SAIIA - electronic and paper versions –

and also reminded them of our standing invitation to all Members of Parliament to become complimentary members of SAIIA.

A table showing the membership by categories is given below.

Category	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Corporate/nominees	5	5	3	11	17
Diplomatic/consular	28**	28**	28**	27**	30**
Institutional/educational	57*	58*	55*	55*	10*
Family/guest [2x indiv]	76	56	30	38	38
Fellow/complimentary	7	7	5	10	3
Honorary	6	6	5	6	4
Individual	64	64	73	79	93
Members of Parliament	44**	44**	44**	32**	32**
Students	15	12	10	34	18
TOTAL	302	280	253	292	245

[Membership numbers as at 28 Nov 14]

*Includes 55 schools SAIIA co-sponsored with CHEVRON and two political studies departments.

**Nominal figures

FINANCE

The overall financial situation of the Branch is satisfactory. The backbone of the finances of SAIIA WC is the cash on hand. There was a positive movement during the year of R4 700 (10% increase year-on-year) resulting in a balance of R52 000.

However, the management of income versus costs was poor. For the 2013/14 year the collection of subscriptions and door takings did not keep up with the rising administrative and other costs.

As a result, there has been a drive to increase membership, to work harder at collecting money due to us as well as cutting down on excess costs.

We also turned to fund-raising. An annual grant of R 12,000 towards the administrative expenses of the Branch was obtained for the current year, 2014/15.

Thanks to the hard work of Martha Bridgman and Pippa Segall, funding has been obtained from the Abe Bailey Trust for the Interschools Quiz for the coming year.

We have been fortunate to find an Honorary Treasurer in the form of Richard Higgs who was co-opted on to the committee. He has been able to bring a keen analytical mind and some very useful tools to help with the way in which we plan, budget and account for funds. So, for the 2015 financial year a new financial template is being used which will assist with budgeting and will give more detailed financial feedback to ensure that SAIIA Western Cape stays on a sound financial footing.

YOUTH

CHEVRON - SAIIA INTERSCHOOL QUIZ 2014

The 22nd SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz took place at the Diocesan College for Boys, (Bishops) on 26 March, 2014, sponsored by Caltex/Chevron. Designed to encourage pupils to learn about world events and especially South Africa's international affairs, the quiz draws together teams from 55 schools to compete in answering questions from the Cape Times and SAIIA online publications. Invitations go out to a wide range of schools. However, there are several reserved spots for new or developing schools.

A pre-quiz workshop for eleven selected schools took place on 22 February at Bishops. It included tips on reading the international sections of the Cape Times and a mini-quiz. Quiz coordinator, Pippa Segall, also conducted information sessions at a number of schools new to the quiz.

Many thanks are due to Bishops who once again delivered excellence in the provision of a venue and visual-audio support for quiz night. Also thanks go to the Master of Ceremonies Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio and the Quiz Master, Jonathan Stead of SAIIA.

Western Cape Education MEC, Donald Grant, attended and delivered opening remarks.

The address from the keynote speaker, Dennis Goldberg, a Rivonia trialist who spent 22 years in prison, was a highlight. His inspiring speech, urging appreciation for the access to news afforded to modern South Africans as well as activism to address the challenges South Africa still faces, was well received.

The winning team from Claremont High School will attend the 2014 SAIIA Young Leaders' Conference in Johannesburg in December. Funding for this is being secured through SAIIA's 'Sponsor a Delegate' campaign. Second place went to Oracle Academy, and third place to Glendale Secondary.

CAREERS EVENING

Building on the success of the careers evening which is run annually at SAIIA headquarters in Johannesburg, the SAIIA Western Cape branch felt it was time to give the students in the Western Cape exposure to career opportunities and to professionals in the field of international affairs.

This is the second year that we have partnered with the Konrad- Adenauer- Stiftung on this event. The speakers were excellent and came from diverse backgrounds. We endeavour to find a speaker from DIRCO, a speaker from a large NGO who works on international issues, a speaker from the business world and we managed to secure speakers from all those sectors. Two speakers came from the professional ranks of SAIIA.

Roughly 200 students attended, mostly from UCT, although we had arranged transport from UWC and University of Stellenbosch. We managed to introduce the students to a large number of interesting exhibitors including SANDF, Parliament, the UK Consul-General, staff members from the US and German Consulates General, businesses and individuals who work in the sector of international affairs. More students attended than last year.

With the help of Megan Bybee and Lala Nongalaza from the SAIIA GARP office, all the arrangements went smoothly. KAS support was wonderful throughout. We look forward to repeating the event in 2015 and doubling the number of students who attend.

YOUTH@SAIIA

youth@saiia is the SAIIA youth programme based at Jan Smuts House. With support and encouragement from the Branch it also operates in the Western Cape.

Three mini Model United Nations programmes (mini-MUN] were held, hosted by the schools. The topics include Rhino Poaching, Youth Unemployment, and Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict. A total of 42 teams of 3 learners each took part in all the mini-MUNS.

The Environmental Sustainability Programme [ESP] took place for the third year running in the second term of this year culminating in a nail biting final in September with an amazing win from two very confident speakers (and researchers) from Masibambane.

The winners of the ESP and mini-MUN programme all joined the Quiz winners to the Young Leaders Conference in Johannesburg from 1 – 5 December. There our Cape Town delegates joined young delegates from four other provinces. They hosted their own negotiation sessions on topics related to the social, economic and environmental issues connected to newly proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The negotiations culminated in the presentation and the handover of the 2014 SAIIA Young Leaders Declaration at the Department of Environmental Affairs to officials from DEA, DIRCO and the United Nations at a special event on 4 December in Pretoria.

DIPLOMATIC LIAISON

This has been a busy and fruitful year with a fair number of changes to the Cape Consular Corps. In line with policy we welcomed newly appointed diplomats from United States, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Germany, Belgium, India, and Spain. A letter of welcome has been sent to the new arrivals together with an invitation to participate in SAIIA activities.

The Chairman, Martyn Trainor, addressed members of the Cape Consular Corps at a luncheon held at the Royal Cape Yacht Club on 9 May 14. He informed the meeting of the role of SAIIA and illustrated the benefits of the diplomatic community being actively involved in SAIIA matters. As a result a SAIIA banner appears on the home-page of the Cape Consular Corps news-letters.

The British Consul General, Christopher Trott, has been appointed Dean of the Consular Corps. He is a strong supporter of SAIIA. The good relationship that SAIIA enjoys with the diplomatic community was evident in the strong support received at the 80th Anniversary Dinner.

It is believed that the relationship between SAIIA and the Cape Consular Corps is mutually beneficial to both groups. The regular monthly talks provide an opportunity for diplomats to enhance their understanding of important matters affecting the country and the world, while SAIIA members benefit from being able to meet and network with diplomats to gain a better understanding of how the South African situation is perceived internationally.

In order to further develop co-operation it is proposed to hold a "Meet and Greet" function for SAIIA members and the Consular Corps early in the New Year.

CORPORATE LIAISON

As liaison between major national corporates lies within the domain of the SAIIA National Office, the objective has been to focus on Small and Medium size business in the Western Cape. This would also benefit in attracting younger business people to join SAIIA. With this objective in mind the aim has been to develop a collaborative association with the Cape Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry. An initial exploratory meeting was held at the Chamber office. Regretfully, progress has been slow as the Chamber has undergone a number of changes during the past year. The Chamber organisation and governance was restructured and experienced the departure of two CEO s during the past year. This has made collaboration somewhat more difficult than had been anticipated.

It is evident that a new strategy will need to be developed to attract younger business people to participate in SAIIA activities and it is proposed as a first step to obtain agreement to invite members of Chamber select specialist committees to attend our monthly talks. This will provide an easier avenue for collaboration as well as a source of active members to the Western Cape Branch.

WEBSITE, PUBLICITY AND TECHNICAL

The SAIIA website and newsletters run from Jan Smuts House have been very effective and the Branch matters have been well covered.

We have benefited greatly from the regular coverage our events received from Fine Music Radio [FMR] and the print media.

To a large degree, the technicalities of the sound system at our primary venue, the Mountain Club, have been mastered.

CONCLUSION

It has been a hard year but a good year! Certainly, we feel satisfied that we have fulfilled the purpose of SAIIA, Western Cape Branch which 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.”

It was the driving impulse of the founders of SAIIA, 80 years ago!

[H. J. M. TRAINOR]

CHAIRMAN: SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
WESTERN CAPE BRANCH

December 2014