

REPORT TO THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017 IN BRIEF

“3. PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE. The Institute is an independent organisation which aims 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.”

ACTIVITIES

During another lively year we have again held 13 Speaker’s meetings (besides the annual Interschools Quiz and Careers Evening at UCT) where we have tried to focus on important international trends and events and South Africa’s and Africa’s relationship to them. We kicked off close to home with Mayor Patricia De Lille talking about Cape Town’s burgeoning role in international relations followed by Judge Richard Goldstone who outlined the consequences of SA’s withdrawal from the Rome Statute. Moving on, Professor Carlos Lopes, immediate past executive secretary of the UN economic Commission for Africa told us about world changes affecting Africa. Among speakers on international events we had visiting US Professor John Stanfield’s take on US President Trump’s first 100 days, the new French Ambassador Christophe Farnaud speaking about “The new France” under its new President Emmanuel Macron and more recently the new UK High Commissioner Nigel Casey giving us an update on Brexit. We also heard about Ukraine’s troubled relationship with Russia as a result of its pro- Europe choices as well as trends in international terrorism from Prof Tim Hoyt of the US Naval War College.

In cooperation with GARP (SAIIA’s Governance of African Resources Programme based in Cape Town), we hosted some informative round tables tackling issues like rewilding, agri-food systems and the blue economy in Southern Africa with many prominent academics taking part. Once again the Interschools Quiz held at Bishops in August with the participation of some 50 schools and the Careers evening held at UCT in September for which over 300 students from all 4 Western Cape Universities registered went from strength to strength. Full reports appear below.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OPERATIONS

The members of our Exco have pulled together magnificently this year to ensure that our interesting programme came to fruition. My own portfolio of Parliamentary liaison yielded very little despite efforts to involve MP’s in our events. Fortunately, DA MP and Spokesperson on International Relations, Stevens Mokgalapa was an excellent speaker at the Careers evening but we could not

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interest Parliament itself to send a representative to “man a stall” at the event. GARP still has the goal of establishing a closer engagement with Parliament’s portfolio committees. Vice Chair Martyn Trainor has kept membership up to date and he and his “company of volunteers” handle all the preparations and arrangements before and after events. We owe this dedicated group (Bridget Carrick, Wendy Paisley, Richard Morris, Chris Inskip, Anthony Silberberg, Liz and Dave Wheeler, John Patten, Lee Hall, Peggy de Kock, Luke White, Leigh Hamilton)– a big debt of gratitude for keeping the show on the road. Dr Martha Bridgman in cooperation with Pippa Segall, Mary Carson and Romy Chevallier did a great job as usual with the Interschools Quiz. The quiz committee has been successful in getting generous funding from the Abe Bailey Trust for next year’s Quiz. Well done! Anthony Silberberg is our ever present delegate at diplomatic and Cape Chamber events and we hope to further strengthen our cooperation with these sectors next year. Prof. Chris Saunders ably assisted by Luke White, who deals with student liaison at UCT, looks after the Universities portfolio. Rob Mackay and Dave Wheeler perform a great supporting role. Without them we would have no minutes of our meetings. Mike Spicer is a welcome and energetic addition to our ranks.

Pippa Segall, our Branch and Project co-ordinator has had a heavy workload this year assisting the branch by looking after the branch accounts and her hard work on a very successful Careers evening is much appreciated. She has also introduced a welcome wine-tasting element at several meetings and we thank her for all her efforts.

We continue to be grateful to the Mountain Club of South Africa, Cape Town Section for the continued use of their club house at reasonable rates and for the cheerful and kind assistance of their members.

THE FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2017 IS GIVEN BELOW.

No	Date	EVENT	SPEAKER	Sponsor/co-convenor	Present
1	26 Jan 17	The role of cities in international relations – with specific reference to Cape Town	Patricia de Lille	SAIIA WC at MC	135
2	8 Feb 17	Rewilding in Southern Africa – an opportunity to rethink the role of local communities in conservation	Elizabeth Aardenburg. Respondents: Jackie Sunde, Thomas Cousins, Philile Mbatha	SAIIA WC at MC sponsored by GARP	68
3	28 Feb 17	The consequences of South Africa’s purported withdrawal from the Rome Statute	Judge Richard Goldstone	SAIIA WC at MC	140

4	9 Mar 17	Ukraine's price for European choice: a troubled relationship with Russia	Ukrainian Ambassador Yevgen Burkat [represented by Counsellor Ms Liubov Abravitova; Defence Attache Col Andriy Kuzora]	SAIIA WC at MC	81
5	6 Apr 17	The First 100 days of US President Donald Trump: Unpeeling the Personified Paradoxical Unknown in American and Global Politics	Prof John Stanfield	SAIIA WC at MC	100
6	25 Apr 17	World Changes affecting Africa	Prof Carlos Lopes	SAIIA WC at MC	78
7	10 May 17	Agri-food Systems in Southern Africa: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface	Prof Julian May, Ms Lulama Traub, Dr Antony Chapoto, Dr Tsakani Ngomane	SAIIA WC at CftB sponsored by GARP	66
8	20 Jun 17	Oceans Governance: the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Blue Economy	Mr Adnan Awad, Prof Mandy Lombard, Mr Alex Benkenstein	SAIIA WC at 6 Spin Street sponsored by GARP	65
9	12 Jul 17	The New France – what role in global politics?	Ambassador Christophe Farnaud	SAIIA WC at CftB Main Hall	144
***	17 Aug 17	INTERSCHOOL QUIZ	Quiz Committee	Bishops sponsored by Abe Bailey Trust	200 learners 200 in audience
10	18 Sep 17	Trends in International Terrorism and the Changing Character of Contemporary Warfare	Prof Tim Hoyt	SAIIA WC at MC	105
***	10 Oct 17	CAREERS EVENING	Pippa Segall	SAIIA WC at UCT sponsored by KAS	301
		Astronomy for Development: Is		SAIIA WC at	

11	30 Oct 17	the Future of Humanity Looking up?	Mr Kevin Govender	Observatory	53
12	6 Nov 17	Britain and South Africa: Perspectives from the new British High Commissioner to South Africa	High Commissioner, Mr Nigel Casey	SAIIA WC at MC	125
13	29 Nov 17	The global trend for politics to dominate economics	Mr Michael Power	SAIIA WC at MC [AGM]	?

MEMBERSHIP 2017

The membership numbers of the Branch [see table below] remain healthy although there has been a decrease of 12 in the key revenue producing categories. The numbers are still well above the 2014 level. The biggest fall of 9 was in the “Individual” category. The steady trickle of new members has been outweighed by resignations, deaths and the non-renewal of membership.

There was a small increase in the subscription rates for the 2017/18 at or below the general inflation rate.

Many visitors attend events, [see figures below]. Many of them are frequent visitors. They mainly get notice of the events by being on the non-member mailing list or from the announcements on Fine Music Radio.

They pay their dues in the form of visitors’ fees, currently R 40 per person, and receive the benefits of the event on offer. Their participation is also aligned to the purpose of the SAIIA Western, Cape Branch, as stated in its constitution, and they should therefore be seen in a very positive light. Of course, it would be preferable to have many of these visitors in the ranks of the members as it would improve our income.

Visitors made up about two thirds [62,4%] of the people who RSVP’d in 2017.

Not all the members and visitors who RSVP actually attend the event and vice versa. They seem to balance each other out. The total number of people who RSVP’d was 965 versus the 1,158 who actually attended. [difference 193].

Table of Membership Numbers: Nov 17

NB. Please note that the figures for 2017 and the preceding years have been adjusted so that the **nominal** figures relating to the categories *Members of Parliament* as well as the schools in *Institutional/educational* list separately.

Category	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Corporate/nominees	5	5	5	5	5	3

Diplomatic/consular	7	7	3	**	**	**
Institutional/educational	4 [50*]	[50*]	[52*]	[57*]	[58*]	[55*]
Family/guest [2x people]	74	76	90	76	56	30
Fellow/complimentary	10	10	10	7	7	5
Honorary life	8	8	8	6	6	5
Individual	73	82	77	64	64	73
Members of Parliament	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]
Students	15	20	22	15	12	10
TOTAL	196	208	215	173	150	126

[Membership numbers as at 8 Nov 17]

*Represents the 50 schools involved in the Quiz. Co-sponsored with the Abe Bailey Trust.

**Nominal figures

FINANCE

The financial situation of the SAIIA Western Cape Branch at year-end, 30 June 2017, is satisfactory with a cash balance [current account, petty cash and money market] of R 161,707. Of this, R 14,823 is attributable to the Branch account, and R 146,884 is attributable to the Quiz account.

The large balance in the Quiz account is due to the 2017 quiz taking place in the 2017/18 SAIIA financial year and will therefore be wound down further after financial year end.

For the year, the Branch expenses exceeded receipts by R 9,176 but it was cushioned by the positive balance of R 23,999 carried over from 2015/16. We did purchase a much-needed item of equipment. However, the message here is that we will have reduce expenditure on events and/or improve on raising funds through members' subscriptions. This is vital to the continued success of SAIIA Western Cape Branch and more focus will be placed on expense rationalization going forward for each event hosted.

We are, as ever, very grateful to the membership for the funding we do raise through subscriptions. That is the basis of the Branch's financial well-being and we will strive to continue hosting events which members feel add value.

We are also very grateful for the sponsorship we receive from the Abe Bailey Trust for the Inter-School Quiz, the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation for the Careers Evening and the SAIIA Governance of African Resources Programme [GARP Office] for the events they arrange and fund for us.

INTERSCHOOL QUIZ

The 25th Annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz on International Affairs was held on Wednesday, 17 August, at Bishops, and featured Moeletsi Mbeki as keynote speaker and Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio as Quiz MC.

SAIIA Western Cape's quiz is an opportunity for high school learners in the Cape Town area to learn about international affairs. It is specifically designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape, and to encourage them to read world news – especially news and analysis about South Africa's international affairs.

La Rochelle Girls High of Paarl took first place, followed by Oracle Academy of Ottery and Rhenish Girls High of Stellenbosch. Tied for fourth place were Sans Souci and Maitland High. St Cyprians' garnered the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved'.

On behalf of the Quiz Committee, we wish to thank the Abe Bailey Trust, our major funder for the 2017 quiz, as well as the Cape Times and the many other donors who made the quiz possible. A hearty thanks goes to Bishops for the provision of venues and technical support, for both the quiz and pre-quiz workshop. Additional thanks go to Murray Bridgman the Quiz Master, to Pippa Segall the Quiz Coordinator, and to the team of volunteers who set questions, set up the hall, mark answer sheets and score in a most professional manner (thanks to the Hall family in that last regard).

A full report on the 2017 quiz is available on request. Happily, we are funded for the 2018 quiz, again by the Abe Bailey Trust.

UNIVERSITIES: CAREERS EVENING

The intention of 5th Annual SAIIA/KAS's Careers Evening is to provide a platform for university students in International Relations, Political Studies, Economics, and Law to gain a better understanding of the career opportunities that are available to them. We aim to attract a broad range of speakers and exhibitors attending this event including representatives from the following sectors: media; business sector; various government and non-government agencies; as well as scholarship organisations. The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) has generously once again supported this annual event financially.

We invited exhibitors from a range of sectors and they included Department of Environmental Affairs, S-RM, DAAD, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Human Rights Media Centre, Cognia Law, HSRC, Action Volunteers Africa, Creative Consulting & Development Works, Southern Hemisphere, Heinrich Boell, SA Navy and South African Institute of International Affairs.

The speakers were well received and gave some excellent insight and advice on careers with an international relation slant. Speakers included Tim Hughes (Consultant), Stevens Mokgalapa (MP, SA Parliament), Joe Heshu (British American Tobacco), Kristen Blyth (S-RM), Tim Harris (Wesgro).

A total of 301 students signed our registration forms on the evening but we suspect that there were more who attended. We hired the New Lecture Theatre in Upper Campus, UCT as our new venue this year. The venue is modern and the equipment in the lecture theatre was very functional with the help of the technician we hired, however the lobby space was a bit cramped and we needed to hire a company to transport tables and chairs for the exhibitors. We might

need to look for a new venue next year which has a big lobby and tables and chairs already accessible in the venue.

We hired transport for students from Stellenbosch and UWC. A total of 19 students used the transport from Stellenbosch and 33 students from UWC.

Luke White was extremely helpful in booking the venue, securing the tables and chairs as well as the technician for the event and for following up on invoices. The SAIIA/KAS interns assisted with communicating with speakers, assisting with registration and chairing the event on the night.

We look forward to working together with KAS, the KAS interns, the GARP office, the SAIIA Western Cape branch committee again in 2018 on this wonderful event.

DIPLOMATIC LIAISON

This year, in addition to enjoying close ties with the Cape Consular Corps, we have focused on developing and building strong lines of communication directly with the diplomatic missions in Cape Town.

The Branch has been represented at the National Day commemorative events of all the leading delegations. This enables the good message of what SAIIA can offer through participation at the monthly speakers' events to be communicated.

It is pleasing to note continued increased participation from the diplomatic community at SAIIA events.

Significant effort is also made to communicate the SAIIA Western Cape message at Ambassadorial level during the missions visits to cover the opening of Parliament in February; and to recruit speakers from the newly arrived Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

This year the branch hosted the recently arrived French Ambassador and the new British High Commissioner to talk on international relations.

CORPORATE LIAISON

The branch was represented at the Cape Chamber's annual function "Business meets the Diplomatic Community". This provides excellent networking opportunities. The branch was also represented at discussions with International Trade Missions to Cape Town.

Following on the success of the last joint meeting between Chamber and the Branch when SAIIA National CEO, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos spoke on the implications of Brexit, it is proposed to ask the recently arrived Ambassador from the People's Republic of China H.E. Lin Songtian to address a joint meeting of the Chamber and SAIIA Western Cape. The objective of this meeting will be to explore and develop economic opportunities that can be derived from closer cooperation with the PRC.

China seems to be going places and is keen to open vast areas for development. Notwithstanding high unemployment, particularly amongst young people, the Western Cape enjoys the highest level

of skilled labour in Sub Saharan Africa and is ideally placed to offer China important opportunities to our mutual benefit.

CONCLUSION

2017 has been a year of varied activities. Apart from the big events listed earlier our programme included something different. We responded to an invitation by Kevin Govender, Director of the International Astronomy Union in SA, to visit the Observatory where he is based and hear a very interesting talk on “Astronomy for development” on how his unit puts the technical innovation developed in astronomy to work for economic and social development on a global basis. We met his dedicated team and visited their headquarters (virtually unchanged since it was built in 1826!) and the huge 120-year-old telescope housed there – an extraordinary working antique.

Our cooperation with GARP has yielded some exciting and informative round tables and we look forward to more of the same next year.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from Christina Teichmann and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Foundation) - KAS – which also provides generous sponsorship for the Careers evening held at UCT among others.

Together with our partners and sponsors and our team of volunteers we look forward to meeting the challenges of 2018 with a raft of round tables, seminars and lectures to assist our members and their guests to keep abreast of international developments affecting our country and Africa.

The Chair
Sheila Camerer