



Western Cape Branch  
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## THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Western Cape Branch

Annual Report 2005

November 2004– December 2005

### **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Following the departure in February of Dr Greg Mills, National Director of SAIIA from 1996, the National Executive Council appointed Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, previously SAIIA's Director of Studies, as successor. Ms Sidiropoulos visited Cape Town, as did several of the Institute's research staff during the course of the year, to address the branch membership on various aspects of the Institute's research programme. Also notable was a thirteenth successful annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz.

Many thanks to the branch committee members for the time and effort they have expended throughout 2005 on behalf of the Institute's Western Cape branch.

### **BRANCH COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Mr Tim Hughes will be standing down this year due to heavy travel and work commitments. His input will be greatly missed, and I thank him for his considerable contribution over the past two years.

During the course of the year Mr Danga Mughogho, Mr Brian Hardie and Mr Stephen McQueen were co-opted as members of the branch committee, after Phakama Ntshongwana stepped down, due to a career move to London, and Advocate Thabani Masuku was no longer able to serve due to his busy legal practise. Jennifer De Beer also resigned earlier this year, due to her temporary relocation to Spain. The branch treasurer position, while temporarily filled early in the year by volunteer Cathie Kok, had at last to be filled by a paid bookkeeper in the form of Lidia Hall, who has competently filled the gap.

The current Chairperson will be stepping down as of May 2006 and nominations are sought for a successor. These may be sent via email or fax to Pat Benbow-Hebbert, with the consent of the nominee.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs Pat Benbow-Hebbert, branch secretary, continues in this key administrative role, both for branch meetings and for the Interschool Quiz. Branch communications have returned to email groups, instead of a listserv, to maintain a more professional public face for the branch.

Meetings continue to be held at the Centre for the Book, which is increasingly in demand as a venue for private, corporate, and government meetings.

### **PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES**

The following events comprised our programme of activities in 2005.

- 10 February 2005      The SAIIA National Conference on *Strengthening Parliamentary Democracies in the SADC Region*, under the leadership of Tim Hughes, at the V&A Waterfront.
- 3 March 2005          Address by Dr Sara Pienaar, SAIIA research associate on Eastern Europe and Russia, on "Ukraine – Borderland or Centre Stage?"
- 16 March 2005        Address by Prof John Cartwright of UCT on "Social Services, Policing, and the 'Regulatory State' – A South African Case Study," co-sponsored with the SA Institute of Race Relations and the Institute of Directors, at the Athenaeum.
- 5 & 8 April 2005      Lunchtime Seminars at UCT and Univ of Stellenbosch with Amb Elias Eliades, former SAIIA Bradlow Fellow, focussed on "Understanding the complex nature of ethnic conflicts: Cyprus, a case in point."
- 7 April 2005          Address at the Centre for the Book by Amb Elias Eliades, on "Understanding the complex nature of ethnic conflicts: Cyprus, a case in point."
- 26 May 2005          Address by Tim Hughes, SAIIA Parliamentary Research Fellow, on "Reflections on the Zimbabwe Elections."
- 15 June 2005         Address by Benjamin Pogrud of the Yakar Center for Social Concern, Israel, on 'The Middle East on a Knife Edge.'
- 28 July 2005          Address by Lyal White, SAIIA Research for Asia and Latin America, on 'Dynamic China: Leapfrogging Development to Superpower Status.'
- 8 September 2005    Address by Ross Herbert, Nepad and Governance Research Project Head, SAIIA, on "Nepad and Peer Review: Implications for South Africa."
- 29 September 2005   Address by Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA National Director, on "Africa at the Crossroads: Taking Stock of Progress."
- 3 November 2005     Address by Peter Draper, Development through Trade Programme Head, SAIIA, on "The Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting of the WTO: What to Expect?"
- 15 November 2005    Launch of the 2006 World Development Report of the World Bank, with discussion from a panel comprised of two of the reports' authors and

response from MP Gavin Woods and SANE chair Margaret Legum.

8 December 2005

Launch of the book 'Enter the Dragon: Towards a Free Trade Agreement between China and the Southern African Customs Union' and Panel Discussion on China and International Trade, with Martyn Davies of the Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, and Peter Draper of SAIIA's Development through Trade Programme.

#### **FINANCE** (Lidia Hall)

The financial resources of SAIIA Western Cape Branch are somewhat reduced, mainly due to increased branch meeting costs. A "matching funds" grant from Jan Smuts House received in October 2005 will help to recover some of these costs over the short term. Additionally, the branch has employed a bookkeeper, paid by the hour. This was necessary in light of the lack of volunteers. Alistair Johnston of Caltex kindly prepared, without charge, the financial statements presented to this meeting. We thank him for this service.

Membership subscription fees have increased for the new financial year to June 2006, due to increasing costs. Thank you to the many members who have paid their subscriptions so promptly. Unfortunately, many have not and this fact adds to the picture of reduced finances at this point.

The 2005 interschool quiz expenses closely matched those of the previous year and were totally covered by sponsorship. We thank Caltex, the branding sponsor, for its strong support and continuing interest in this popular event. Other additional financial support for the quiz came again from Toyota, Abe Bailey Trust, de Beers, Pick 'n Pay, Pick 'n Pay Family Store, Juta and Maskew Miller Longman. Sincere thanks to each of these sponsors.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** (Brian Hardie)

**SAIIA Western Cape Membership Figures for at 30 November 2005, 2004 and 2003**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Company Nominees	10	17	17
Corporate	7	8	8
Diplomatic/Consular	49	12	13
Educational/Institutional	16	14	14
Family/Donor	20	25	23
Fellow	1	1	1
Honorary	1	1	1
Individuals	80	77	87
Members of Parliament	54	67	71
Students	70	27	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>253</b>

(Non-paying categories are Fellows, Honorary & MP's. Nominees and Corporates are members of the Institute Nationally.)

### **PARLIAMENTARY AND CORPORATE COMMUNITY**

Several South African MPs attended the SAIIA International Conference on Strengthening SADC Parliaments in February of this year. Tim Hughes, the Parliamentary Liaison Officer for SAIIA National, will be completing the project on good parliamentary practise later this year and is due to issue the report on the research shortly thereafter.

The committee made a concerted effort to reach the corporate community, via the Chamber of Commerce and bodies such as Wesgro, regarding specific meetings this year. Several attended the November launch of the World Bank World Development Report as a result.

### **DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY** (Rob Mackay)

Contact with the diplomatic community in Cape Town has strengthened. A number of newly arrived diplomats participated in our meetings. A few briefings of diplomats over lunch took place, which programme we will extend. An address to a meeting of the Consular Corps is planned to better publicise SAIIA WC events among diplomats, and to maintain communications regarding visiting dignitaries who may be appropriate guest speakers for the branch. We look forward to further cementing the growing links with the Diplomatic Community in Cape Town.

### **SCHOOLS** (Adriana Watson)

#### **CALTEX / SAIIA INTERSCHOOL QUIZ ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Interschool Quiz was successfully hosted at the Nassau Centre, Groote Schuur High School, in Newlands on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2005. We acknowledge the support of CALTEX – the branding sponsor - and our other sponsors and donors without whom we would not be able to host this event, the aim of which is to stimulate the interest of learners in international affairs.

Once again we had participants from the greater Cape Town area including Somerset West, Stellenbosch and Paarl and we can again report an increase in participation of schools from previously disadvantaged areas.

The role of quizmaster was once again uniquely performed by Temba Mvusi of Sanlam – unfortunately for the last time as his business commitments have increased and we will indeed miss his special sense of humour and excellent rapport with the participants and supporters. Master of Ceremonies, Adv. Murray Bridgman, ensured that the evening's program was kept on track.

Questions relating to a wide range of international areas of interest were compiled by Martha Bridgman and Tim Hughes who drew the questions from the *Cape Times* which had been distributed to the participating schools in the two weeks preceding the quiz. Further questions were also drawn from SAIIA's e-journal, *The South African Foreign Policy Monitor* – this was a new element introduced this year and was positively received by the participating schools.

The winners of this year's contest – Rondebosch Boys' High – received the coveted SAIIA Interschools Quiz Trophy, together with a handsome cash prize. Cedar House School took second place following a tie break session. Three

schools shared the third prize. Each participating school received a set of books for their library and each student received a personalised certificate of participation.

A special word of thanks goes to Pat Benbow-Hebbert whose administrative expertise keeps the wheels turning, Lesley Houba and Cathie Kok who negotiated with our donors and sponsors – and to everyone else who gave of their time to set up the venue, mark and score and generally make the evening a highlight in the school calendar for many.

#### **UNIVERSITIES** (Martha Bridgman)

The branch has continued to seek to draw in university students, following the orientation week advertising campaign on each of the three local campuses (the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, and the Western Cape). Using a matching funds grant from Jan Smuts house, the branch continued this year to offer transport from Stellenbosch and UWC (UCT students can use the Jammie Shuttle to the Hiddingh campus, near the Centre for the Book). The overrun publications received from Jan Smuts House, offered free to paid up branch members, are especially attractive to students. The general student membership has increased dramatically (to 70) due to the incentives named above, and to the increased awareness on the various campuses about the benefits of SAIIA membership. Alex Benkenstein of the University of Stellenbosch, and Danga Mughogho of UCT deserve thanks for the continued efforts they have made to publicise SAIIA WC on their campuses. Thanks go also to Olivia Sladen and Michael Elston, active at UCT earlier in the year. The effort to hold SAIIA events at UWC did not bear fruit this year, but plans are in motion for a series of SAIIA lectures there next year.

#### **Publications** (Danga Mukghogho)

Besides the distribution of the Institute's e-journals via email, and the Chair's efforts to announce the release of newly published SAIIA materials, the branch undertook in 2005 to store a collection of overrun publications from Jan Smuts House with the view that these may be of benefit to branch members. For a small fee, the Centre for the Book stores these publications, which can thus be made available at most meetings for no charge to paid up members of SAIIA Western Cape. A catalogue of books currently in stock is available upon request.

**Conclusion:** The efforts of the branch to offer quality programmes and at the same time to diversify its membership across the spectrum of socioeconomic standing, age, race, professional interest and political perspective continues and will be a focus again in the new year. The challenge inherent in such an effort is how to offer benefits to several different constituencies who share only an interest in international affairs, without draining the branch resources irreparably. The Jan Smuts House matching funds grants, based on branch membership income, is greatly appreciated in supporting the goal of a diversified and dynamic Western Cape Branch.

**Martha Bridgman**

**Chair, SAIIA Western Cape**

**8 December, 2005**

**ELECTION OF WESTERN CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE:**

**The following is the proposed slate for 2006.**

Martha Bridgman	Chair (through May 2006 only)
Brian Hardie	Membership Portfolio
Chris Inskip	Technical Support Portfolio
Rob Mackay	Diplomatic Liaison
Stephen McQueen	Corporate Liaison
Danga Mughogho	Publications Portfolio
Adriana Watson	Interschool Quiz
John Watson	Vice-Chair
Lidia Hall	Bookkeeper
Pat Benbow-Hebbert	Branch Secretary. Tel: 794 5480, email: <a href="mailto:pbhebbert@mweb.co.za">pbhebbert@mweb.co.za</a>