

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How quickly things change! Here are some quotes from a paper that NACA submitted to the Business Co-ordinating forum from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

“In general, however there is an urgent need for a Law reform process to provide new or amended legislation that provides for and enforces the implementation of regional air quality management plans.....”

“A number of attempts have been made over the past 40 years to reduce the exposure of residents of low-income townships to smoke from domestic fires.... Implementation of a suite of actions that stress affordability and acceptability of the solutions being proposed is required”

“Similarly, co-ordination is required between departments responsible for the formulation of liquid transport fuel composition, for pollution reduction measures on vehicles, for the control of stationary pollution sources and for air quality management so that measures in the transport sector contribute to the overall (air quality) management plans”

These words were written about 18 months ago. Since that time, progress has been made on a number of fronts:

- the new air quality management bill has just been published for public comment
- ambient air quality standards for South Africa, without which implementation of the new Act would be well-nigh impossible, are due for publication in the first half of this year
- a strategy for energy provision to low-income households, which emphasizes the reduction of smoke from domestic fires, has been adopted by the Dept. of Mineral and Energy Affairs
- fuel formulation and vehicle emission control measures which will contribute to the reduction of urban air pollution are being vigorously debated.
- Cape Town has promulgated (and is vigorously applying) vehicle emission control by-laws.

- sharing of air pollution knowledge and capacity in a Southern African context is gaining momentum.

In a number of the above initiatives, your association and/or its members have played leading roles, proving the continued relevance of the organization that has been in existence for close to forty years. We urge you, as member, to stay involved in the developments listed above. Some branches have already organized workshops to comment on the new Air quality Management Bill; make use of the opportunity afforded there. Other branches are bound to follow with similar initiatives.

Paradoxically, these exciting times have brought with them some reduction in membership numbers and an increase in overdue membership fees. Council has already put in place a number of measures that will drastically reduce the cost base of the Association. These include a simplification of the accounting system and a large reduction in the cost of international association. Hopefully, this will lead to increased amounts being available for educational materials, bursaries, and other worthwhile projects for which only limited funds have been available in the past. You can assist by recruiting individuals, companies or authorities who have an interest in or will benefit by the activities NACA provides (and of course by paying your fees on time!).

The Association can only be active in the projects listed on above with an enthusiastic and growing member base

Please continue your input to council and to branch committees on the type of activities in which you would like NACA to play a role.

On behalf of Council I wish you success in your clean air endeavours.

Gerrit Kornelius
NACA President