



The General Secretary
South African Institute of Environmental Health
P. O. Box 195
Margate
4275
Tel: 039 - 6883529
Fax: 086 - 5418514
Cell: 0722710333
E-mail: Bright.Khumalo@ugu.gov.za
bb.khumalo.bbk@gmail.com
Web page: www.saieh.co.za

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT **2017**

Membership

South Africa is made up of nine Provinces. The South African Institute of Environmental Health hereafter referred to as the SAIEH has members in 8 Provinces with the total membership of 702. Kwa-Zulu Natal being the Province with the highest membership numbers.

The members of the SAIEH includes Environmental Health Practitioners, Environmental Health Practitioners employed in the South African National Defence Force, officials from Department of Water Affairs, Academics from training institutions, Environmental Health Assistants and Waste Officers.

The SAIEH derives strength in the diversity of its members from different disciplines.

The SAIEH conducted the following activities:

1. Continuous Professional Development Activities.

It has become tradition that the SAIEH in the Province of KZN conducts Continuous Professional Development activities twice annually during the months of April and September. This year has not been any different. The following CPD workshops were conducted by the SAIEH.

Activity	Date
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Management of oil spillage (on shore and off shore)	21 April 2017
	22 April 2017
Environment Urban Planning and better buildings project, including precinct improvement	21 September 2017
Air Quality Management	22 September 2017

Several relationships have been forged with different stakeholders in the Country and these relationships assist in ensuring that the CPD activities are successful.

2. World Environmental Health day

Most Provinces in the country have commemorated the World Environmental Health Day (WEHD).

The following WEHD events took place in South Africa:

- In KZN the SAIEH commemorated the WEHD on the 22 September 2017. The event was attended by over 165 Environmental Practitioners. Many experts in South Africa presented papers on Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution. eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality did a display of all the latest Air Pollution equipment they use to measure pollution levels.
- The Eastern Cape Province commemorated the WEHD in two areas in the Province.
 - (1) On the 24/ 25 August 2017, Alfred Nzo District Municipality celebrated World Environmental Health Day. This event was very well attended both by Environmental Health Practitioners and the political leadership of this Municipality.
 - (2) On the 18 to 22 September 2017, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality celebrated World Environmental Health Day. The event was a joint partnership between the Nelson Mandela University, Provincial Department of Health, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality and the SAIEH. The event was well attended by Environmental Health Practitioners and politicians.
- Limpopo Province commemorated the WEHD on the 22 September 2017. In the Province of Limpopo the SAIEH membership has grown by more than 100 percent in less than one year. This is the Province with great potential. The event was very successful and the politicians are now supporting this programmes.

- National ministry of health also commemorated the WEHD on the 25 and 26 September 2017. This event was well attended by all Provinces and Municipalities in the Country.

3. MHS audit

In the last five years the SAIEH in collaboration with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has been conducting audits of the provision of Municipal Health Services (MHS), which is Environmental Health, in all the municipalities in South Africa. Questionnaires are distributed which all municipalities are required to return to the SAIEH and SALGA for analysis and compiling a composite report.

Over the last five years there has been 100% return of the questionnaires. This helps in compiling a comprehensive report and taking informed decisions on the direction that MHS should take in providing an efficient service in the Country.

The status quo report of MHS (Environmental Health) in South Africa has been compiled by the SAIEH for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017. This status quo was never done before for the country.

The SAIEH has definitely got more exposure from these reports.

4. Costing exercise

During the survey that was done for MHS service delivery, it became clearer that it was not possible to motivate for additional funding, unless this MHS was properly costed out. Therefore the SAIEH decided to carry out this costing exercise.

A proper proposal was drawn up, listing out the details and the project plan.

This proposal and project plan was submitted to the members in Port Elizabeth and got the full support of all. A final proposal will be submitted to the full National Council.

This costing exercise will start in January 2018.

5. National Conference on Environmental Health

The National Conference of the SAIEH took place on the 30/31 January and 1st February 2017 in Cape Town. The President of the IFEH, Peter Archer attended the Conference.

There were over 250 delegates to this Conference. The quality of the presentations were very good and was well received.

An article of this Conference was sent to the editor of the IFEH and this was published.

6. National Council Meetings

The SAIEH has held three National Council meetings since January 2017. The meetings were held on the 29 January 2017, 23 March 2017 and 18 July 2017. In all three meetings all 8 Provinces were represented. Representation at National Council meetings also included Institutions of Higher Education. The inclusion of representatives from Higher Education in the National Council drastically improved the quality of service and deliberations in the National Council.

7. News letters

Two newsletters have been produced by the SAIEH during the year 2017. This is a new endeavour by the SAIEH and shows commitment and improvement on the part of the SAIEH. The content of the newsletters aims to promote the good work that is being done by the practicing Environmental Health Practitioners in the country, especially members of the SAIEH. It is hoped that the content of the newsletter will include work done by Environmental Health Practitioners around the world, especially IFEH affiliates.

8. Professional relationships

Successes of the SAIEH in the country can be attributed to good relationships that have been forged between the different stakeholders who play a part in Environmental Health practice. Some of these stakeholders are South African Local Government Association, National Department of Environmental Affairs, National Department of Health, Higher Education Institutions, and others.

9. Communication with membership

Several platforms of communication and strategies have been established by the SAIEH for improving communication with all our members in the country. These platforms and strategies include amongst others the following:

- Appointment of a webmaster
- Establishing a WhatsApp message platform
- Appointing a facebook administrator
- Producing a newsletter at least twice a year

Lastly the President of the SAIEH was invited to a 45 minutes TV Talk show to discuss Environmental Health in South Africa. This show really gave the SAIEH and the field of Environmental Health really excellent exposure.

Kindly receive our Annual Report for 2017.

National General Secretary

Bright Khumalo

Email Address - BrightKhumalo@ugu.gov.za

Cell. No. - 27(0)722710333