

## SAWEA's WindAc 2018 Conference Editorial

---

For the third time since its launch in 2016, the academic conference on wind power WindAc Africa was hosted by the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) in proud collaboration with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) on 5/6 November 2018 at the Cape Town ICC. The WindAc 2018 Conference was co-located and overlapping with the industry focussed WINDABA conference (7/8 November), also hosted by SAWEA. The theme of WindAc Africa 2018 was "Knowledge for an Integrated Power Transition".

The WindAc Africa Conference has the vision of achieving the status of the pre-eminent academic wind conference in Africa, whilst at the same time becoming the pre-eminent sponsorship opportunity for excellent wind energy students from Southern African research institutions, spreading the knowledge of wind power supply through Africa and the world and, in turn, strengthen the cooperation between South African universities and the wind industry.

The conference had approximately 122 delegates per day with the following distribution of participants: 42 speakers, 9 chairs, 38 students, and 33 delegates.

The Director: Hydrogen and Energy Dr Chiteme (Department of Science and Technology - DST) opened the WindAc Africa 2018 Conference following the welcome from SAWEA's CEO Brenda Martin. The conference keynote speakers were Masechaba Mabilu, Strategy Director and Forethought Africa, as well as Project Manager Renewable Energy Initiatives at the Department of Energy (DOE), Siyabonga Zondi who delivered an address on behalf of the Country Director at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The conference was closed with the presentation by Greg Landwehr, Principal Engineer (CSIR), who summed up the two day conference with a view towards the future.

The academic programme consisted of 10 sessions covering a variety of wind energy topics necessary to understand, optimise and implement wind power in South Africa. The sessions were sequenced as follows: wind resource, technology, socio-economic and environmental considerations, system design, planning and economic / policy aspects. All programmes, biographies, presentations and logistical information are contained on the con-

ference website at <http://windac-africa.com/download-area/>.

Much like previous years the students had a chance to network with each other and meet industry role players at an impact talk event hosted at the South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC) on Sunday 4 November 2018.

Furthermore, the EnergyDRIVE 2018, a WindAc associated demonstration event showcasing renewable energy technologies from a mobile display bus supplied by the Durban University of Technology (DUT), was also a great success. This was thanks to the many school principals and the Enterprise Development (ED) managers for the cooperation. 24 High Schools, 9 wind farms and approximately 2000 learners were visited making it the biggest and most impactful EnergyDRIVE so far.

Each visit started with a briefing session on safety at the site followed by wind energy generation explanations. The community engagement role was presented as well as benefit for learners in terms of scholarship and career guidance. Finally, a guided tour to the different parts of the site was done.

The DST, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Research Foundation (NRF) support for the WindAc 2018 conference was requested in support of the student and organising costs as follows.

As part of WindAc 2018, SAWEA and the Journal of Energy South Africa (JESA) have agreed to collaboratively publish special editions of JESA in the form of a conference proceedings and a peer reviewed version showcasing the best papers from the conference.