

SAIIE Incoming President's speech – 2023

Thank you, Jacques and thank you to the SAIIE council for placing your trust in me to nurture and lead SAIIE for the upcoming year.

It is humbling and a tremendous honour to have been given this opportunity. I have been a part of SAIIE for what seems like a lifetime and it has undoubtedly shaped my career and who I am as a person and as a result of this, I am acutely aware of the importance of SAIIE and the joint accountability that we have towards shaping the industrial engineering profession of the future.

I am excited about the years ahead and the role that I can play in building on the vision and strategy and leadership of the past. I am following in the footsteps of a series of great presidents who are the reason that SAIIE is what it is today.

I would like to thank Jacques, as outgoing President, for the years that he has dedicated to SAIIE. I still remember my first introduction to Jacques when he attended a SAIIE council meeting representing the SAIIE student chapter at the University of Pretoria. Over the years, Jacques has made many contributions, bringing his infectious energy and enthusiasm and love of industrial engineering to every engagement that I have had with him. Jacques has built a strong team that is constantly adding to the portfolio of value for our members and stakeholders. Thank you Jacques for your time and leadership, I know that I will continue to lean on you as we embark on the journey ahead.

SAIIE is a very special voluntary association. My exposure to organisations that form part of our region's Engineering and the Built Environment has made me aware of just how awesome SAIIE is. Although we are one of the smallest voluntary associations, we achieve an incredible amount and have exceptional reach. SAIIE has one of the region's few peer-reviewed journals and arranges an annual conference that draws engineering professionals from other disciplines who do not have a platform to share their practice and research. We have been involved in conversations at municipal and government levels raising the profile of the industrial engineering profession and the possibilities that it offers. SAIIE has been singled out amongst our peers as an example of best practice concerning our CPD processes and other voluntary associations have expressed their admiration for our strategic vision that intentionally brings together stakeholders including academia, industry, government and society across the entire supply chain of industrial engineering professionals to make a positive and sustainable contribution. SAIIE continues to find new ways to engage with

our members through our many events, our platform, webinars and our exciting new plans for a podcast.

As we step into the SAIE year ahead of us, it is my desire to enable every council member to lead and every SAIE member to shine. It is our collective SAIE dream that as a community, there is much that we can achieve.

As global citizens, industrial engineering professionals and human beings we stand looking out on a world that is experiencing unfathomable change and seemingly insurmountable challenges. We are caught between the energy and excitement of new technologies, the unknown future that these enable and the very harsh realities faced by individual communities, people and the ecosystems on our planet, who are fighting to survive.

What opportunities lie in front of us.....

As industrial engineering professionals, we know that we can make a difference and I encourage each of us to reflect on our individual and collective capacity and responsibility to take action.

In the year ahead, as a SAIE community, we will call on you to be brave, to step forward and to find a way to be involved and make a difference.

To be a part of the positive change for our region, for our profession and for our collective future.