



Note from the editor

“It takes a long time to bring
excellence to maturity.”

Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

Prof Schalk Claasen has left the *South African Journal of Industrial Engineering* with a legacy of excellence. I trust that my tenure as editor will disprove the above statement.

The *Journal* is experiencing significant interest if judged by the number of articles submitted for publication. Not only are the articles from South African authors, but an increase in the number of articles received from outside South Africa is noticeable. An interesting phenomenon is the increase in articles covering hard-core Industrial Engineering topics.

In this edition, the first two articles address business-related issues such as enterprise architecture, the balanced scorecard and enterprise resource planning. The third article covers the topic of sustainable development focussing on the complexities of integrating it into the realities of technology and innovation management.

The next article proposes the integration of the population-based incremental learning algorithm with computer simulation to find good solutions to combinatorial optimisation problems. Two further articles are relevant to the field of project management - the first proposing buffer sizing for the critical chain project management method whereas the second discusses the ability of computerised information systems to reduce planned project duration. This is followed by an article identifying ‘incubators of competitive advantage’ - the aim being to identify the strategic drivers and corporate positioning to create a vibrant manufacturing and innovation landscape for South African stakeholders.

The remaining seven articles in this edition cover the previously referred to hard-core Industrial Engineering issues. The article topics vary from automated parts-handling, to the development of a mechatronic device which may be controlled remotely via an available wireless network, a comparison of automation strategies at a motor vehicle manufacturer’s local and foreign plants, the performance evaluation of a cassava chipping machine, a proposed sensor fusion control system for computer integrated manufacturing, an analysis of three dimensional printing in the South African industrial environment and finally, the use of new technology and reengineering for effective hearing conservation in an industrial environment.

I would like to thank Anne-Marie van Heerden for her wonderful support with this issue - we have changed the way we process the articles as well as the look and feel of the content of the *Journal*. I also have to thank Mathys Venter, a post-graduate student in Industrial Engineering at UP for his stellar work - we would not have achieved the changes without his committed support.

I trust that you will find this edition as elucidating as previous issues.

Susan Adendorff