



Note from the editor

“Scientists investigate what already is;
Engineers create that which has never been”
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Innovative engineering is the cornerstone of sustainable economic growth around the globe. Through the processes of technological innovation new products, processes, services and infrastructure are created and improved on a continuous basis. It is therefore no surprise that the discipline of engineering and technology management is growing in importance, with numerous engineering and technology management programmes being offered by engineering and business schools across the globe. This edition of the South African Journal of Industrial Engineering commemorates 21 years engineering and technology management in South Africa.

In South Africa, the University of Pretoria took the lead with the establishment of a Chair in Engineering and Technology Management in 1987. Over the past 21 years, this initiative led to the establishment of a fully-fledged department in 1994, and ultimately the formation of the Graduate School of Technology Management in 2007. At the University of Johannesburg a programme in engineering management was established within the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1994, and the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Stellenbosch launched a similar programme in 2008. Through networking and collaboration with other international universities of high standing, the quality of education and research in the field of engineering and technology management is on global standards and improves on a continuous basis.

In this edition the contributions include an article on architectural concepts in value chains, a case study on managing the cold chain, a proposed framework for spent nuclear fuel management, a suggested risk management methodology for non-metallic process equipment and an article discussing issues in decision-making and management of pre-investment in a programme of projects. An interesting recent phenomenon has been a spate of articles addressing issues in electricity supply - no fewer than four articles in this edition of the Journal are loosely related to the topic. Finally this edition of the Journal includes four case studies from the manufacturing environment. The range of articles clearly illustrates the role that engineering and technology management plays in the engineering field - a confirmation of the worthy role played by the experts in this field, not only in South Africa, but also from an international perspective.

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