

Note from the editor

The ideal engineer is a composite ... He is not a scientist, he is not a mathematician, he is not a sociologist or a writer; but he may use the knowledge and techniques of any or all of these disciplines in solving engineering problems.

*~ NW Dougherty
(Professor of Engineering at
the University of Tennessee from 1916)*

The quote above seems to accurately describe an industrial engineer - except that Prof NW Dougherty was a professor of Civil Engineering early in the 20th century. Nevertheless, the collection of articles included in the November 2010 edition of SAJIE clearly demonstrates the ability of industrial engineers to solve problems as described in the quote.

The feature article in this edition looks at the visibility of engineering research in South Africa over three decades from 1975 to 2005. It provides a fascinating insight into the state of engineering research in South Africa and arrives at interesting conclusions.

In the general section of the Journal, thirteen articles are included that address very typical industrial engineering problems ranging from facility layout, location and inventory optimisation, outsourcing, operations scheduling, demand forecasting, pricing strategies, product quality, to activity-based costing. An interesting new development is the article using mixed integer programming for green supply chain management.

The case studies included in this edition of the Journal again demonstrate the wide application scope of industrial engineering principles - the operational planning of an auto carrier, to the manufacturing of pharmaceutical products concluding with a hard core production engineering case in a foundry environment.

In this edition, 17 articles have been included. In fact, the Journal's reach and visibility have increased to such an extent in recent times that the submissions from across the globe have more than doubled. No fewer than eight countries are represented in this edition - these include South Africa, Iran, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Spain, the United Kingdom and Ghana.

SAJIE is distributed to all current members (individual and corporate) of the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE) as well as authors included in a specific edition who are not members. Furthermore, all referees involved in a particular edition also receive copies of the Journal. At present, approximately 600 copies of SAJIE are distributed per edition. In recent times, subscription to SAJIE has also become a possibility to non-members of SAIIE - more information may be found in the back pages of SAJIE.

Susan Adendorff