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For the Trustees, Abe Bailey Trust

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Teacher and Liaison, Diocesan College Boys School, Cape Town

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Report on the 2019 SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs

Dear Quiz Partners,

Once again it is our pleasure to report to you on the Annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz on International Affairs. In its 27th year, the quiz was held on Thursday, 22 August, at Bishops (Diocesan School for Boys), and featured Ms Desiree Kosciulek of Youth@SAIIA, speaking about the youth advocacy campaign of UNICEF and SAIIA, and Ms Hayley McLellan, an environmental activist (rethinkthebag.org) as keynote speaker. The dynamic Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio served as the master of ceremonies, and Advocate Murray Bridgman was the quizmaster. In attendance were representatives from Taiwan and the Ukraine, both of whom donated prizes for quiz winners. Congratulations go to the teams from St Cyprian's, who took first prize, Oracle Academy of Ottery who came second, and Fish Hoek High School who took third place. Westerford High School was awarded the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved'.

On behalf of the Quiz Committee, we again thank the Abe Bailey Trust, our major funder for the 2019 quiz, as well as the many other donors listed in the attached program who made the quiz possible. A big thanks again to Phil Court and to Bishops (Diocesan College for Boys) for the provision of venues and technical support, for both the quiz and pre-quiz workshop.

A full report on the 2019 quiz follows.

Best wishes,

Martha Bridgman

Quiz Committee Chair, SAIIA Western Cape

Pippa Segall

Quiz Coordinator

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2019 SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs

In a strong tradition going back 27 years, to 1993, the SAIIA Western Cape Branch has each year organised the SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs. Specifically designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape, and to encourage them to read world news – especially news and analysis about South Africa’s international affairs – the quiz has had an impact on several generations of high school learners, many of whom go on to study or work in international affairs, according to alumnae of the programme.

The quiz formula has been refined over the years. By now up to 50 schools from the various communities of the Western Cape are able to participate when they respond to the invitations, issued at the start of each year to nearly two hundred schools. Except for a set of reserved spots for new or developing schools, respondents are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. These schools receive instructions via a manual and support from Pippa Segall, to equip the teams and their teachers as they prepare for the quiz. There is an emphasis on the fact that this quiz differs from other ‘general knowledge’ quizzes on offer in that the focus is specifically *international affairs*.

In addition, a pre-quiz workshop is offered to new or developing schools a few weeks prior to the quiz. At the 2019 workshop, learners heard from Jude Wells, a previous quiz winner who is now studying international affairs at UCT, and Sara Pienaar, a foreign affairs specialist and previously the director of SAIIA. These two presenters introduced the learners to the field of international affairs and offered advice on preparing for the quiz. Following that input, Quiz Chair Martha Bridgman, with the support of Pippa Segall and quiz committee members and other volunteers from Youth@SAIIA, ran a mini-quiz for the participants. Fifteen school teams took part in the event in 2019, on 20 July at Bishops.

In accordance with a survey carried out in 2017 and 2018 regarding the most preferred term in which to schedule the quiz, the quiz again took place in the third term, on Thursday, 22 August 2019. In view of some available places after some schools dropped out the week before the quiz date, the committee took the innovative decision to offer space for a B team from participating schools. A total of 47 teams took part, 6 of which were B teams. Hot soup and sandwiches were provided for the learners and teachers, along with snack packs at the tables and a coffee mug with the SAIIA logo for each as well.

The participants were tested on their reading of nine days of the *Cape Times* plus reading from the SAIIA website (one policy brief on SADC entitled ‘Reviving Regional Momentum’) and four articles from the online publication *The Daily Maverick*. The latter were focused on developments in Kashmir, in Hong Kong, in the US election campaigns, and regarding Brexit. There were 20 questions

altogether, read out by Quiz Master Advocate Murray Bridgman. Several questions included two or three parts, for 65 points total, plus three tie breaker questions ready in the event of a tie for first, second or third place. These questions were set by international affairs specialists from academia, policy think tanks, the diplomatic corps and the private sector. The spirited responses from the audience as the Quiz Master called for answers to the questions, once all answer sheets were in, testified to the strong teacher and parental involvement in the preparation for the quiz. One tie-breaker question, focused on regional economic communities in Africa, settled the identity of the winning teams, in the end.

Feedback from teachers on the SAIIA quiz: What did you enjoy about the quiz?

- My students just love the quiz and especially the preparation that goes on around the quiz. The kids are now reading the newspapers and following the news more avidly.
- Thanks to SAIIA for providing the platform for my quiz coaching abilities to flourish and at the same time exposing students to International news with a bearing on South Africa. My teams now work on their own; mine is to choose the interested students and then use the first newspaper we receive to show them what to look for (especially the 5 WH questions). They then create Quizlets which they keep on updating and using to test each team member.

The top-scoring schools were as follows (with points earned, from 65 total points):

St Cyprians School	57 (1st prize, R10,000, plus lap tops for the learners)
Oracle Academy (A)	54.6 (2nd prize, R7,500)
Fish Hoek	54.1 (3rd prize, R5000)
Westerford High School	53
Rhenish Girls High School	52
Rondebosch Boys High School	52
La Rochelle Girls High School (A team)	51
Sea Point High School	50
Good Hope Seminary High	48
Herschel Senior School	47
The Oracle Academy (B)	47

Westerford was awarded the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved'. Each participating school received a set of books for the school library, and each learner a certificate of participation.

Prize monies are distributed directly to the schools, but thanks to the Taipei Liaison office in Cape Town, the learners from the winning team each received brand new laptops from Taiwan – a surprise on the night! The winners are also invited to participate in the Young Leaders’ Conference at SAIIA HQ in Johannesburg later this year. Remaining funds in the quiz budget are reserved to support airfare and accommodation for the team and one teacher for this four-day conference, which includes learners and university students who have excelled in various Youth@SAIIA events during the year.

Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio did an excellent job for his eighth year as Master of Ceremonies, providing spot questions during breaks, as well as his famed ‘dance breaks’. One spot prize was for a question on Ukraine, especially sponsored by the Ukrainian Association of South Africa. Quiz Master Murray Bridgman performed his role with aplomb and a clear delivery of the questions. Ms Hayley McLellan of the Two Oceans Aquarium delivered a keynote address while the final tally of points was concluded. She spoke on the importance of activism in taking care of the environment, with examples of young people who are making a difference – even on a small scale - to turn back the international scourge of plastics pollution.

The quiz committee is committed to finding better ways to encourage learners to become interested and informed on international affairs, including sourcing online resources that would serve as suitable material for questions. The *Daily Maverick* appears to be one such possible resource, based on the test run this year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Quiz Committee is once again deeply grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for its grant of R160,000 which provided the majority of funding for the 2019 quiz. Several smaller donations were received, both in cash and in kind, including from Bishops which continues to provide the venue and technical support without charge. All donors are noted in the quiz programme.

A special thanks must go to Phil Court of Bishops who organised the venue and related logistics, both for the quiz and the pre-quiz workshop. Thanks are due as well as to the audio team and the staff at Bishops who assist with set up, catering, security and clean up, as well as the wonderful volunteers who served as runners, technical support and general hard-working hands-on workers in setting up and cleaning up, drafting quiz questions, marking and scoring the answer sheets on the night of the quiz and a myriad of other tasks. The brilliant contribution of the Hall family in running the bespoke SAIIA Quiz computer scoring programme was again invaluable.

Special thanks to Quiz Coordinator Pippa Segall, who pulled things together in an exemplary fashion. Feedback again noted the superb organisation of the quiz.

Finally, to the learners and their teachers, we convey our admiration for their hard work and enthusiasm. This event continues to inspire those who pull it together with hope regarding the youth of South Africa.

Martha Bridgman | Quiz Committee Chair| SAIIA Western Cape Branch, Cape Town

Pippa Segall | Quiz Coordinator| SAIIA Western Cape Branch, Cape Town