



South African Institute of International Affairs

African Perspectives. Global Insights.

**Western Cape Branch
PO Box 454 Plumstead 7801
saia.admin@telkomsa.net**

Annual Report 2008

December 2007– November 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

The past year included the opening in Cape Town of the SAIIA Governance of Africa's Resources Programme (GARP) office, under the auspices of the Institute's national office and Director Tim Hughes. The Institute's increased presence in Cape Town will no doubt be a benefit to the branch. Clem Sunter spoke to the branch in September to a packed audience at the University of Cape Town, and a May book launch featuring Heidi Holland and her book *Dinner with Mugabe* also drew a large audience. Thirdly, another successful Chevron/SAIIA WC Interschool Quiz took place in May and plans for expansion of that event are well underway.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MATTERS (Martha Bridgman)

The Chair wishes to thank the Branch Executive Committee members for the contributions of each to the ongoing work of the Western Cape Branch this past year. It has been a year of transition in our operations and the team has pulled together remarkably well to deliver a series of worthy events for the membership and guests, I trust all will agree.

Shortly into the new year, UWC liaison Selvin Daniels resigned, followed shortly thereafter by University of Stellenbosch liaison Alex Benkenstein, both due to work pressures. The UCT liaison and publications portfolio holder, Danga Mughogho, later tendered his resignation due to his PhD research load. Fortunately, Langa Malimela, a UCT post-graduate student, stepped in to take up the university liaison function as a whole, and after his co-optation onto the committee mid-year has performed this role admirably.

Carol Martin stepped in to chair the interschool quiz subcommittee, and oversaw that event with great effect. She has since moved into the role of Schools Portfolio holder, and Mary Carson, who had acted in a supportive role on the quiz subcommittee, stepped in as chair of that committee.

Branch member Dave Wheeler has joined the committee purely to help take the minutes at committee meetings, which is greatly appreciated.

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Pat Benbow-Hebbert, the branch secretary of many years, resigned last December citing an increased workload elsewhere. Early in the year, she handed over an extensive set of notes on the administration of the branch and the interschool quiz, and the Chair extended warm thanks to her on behalf of the branch. Following a period of reframing of the administrative needs of the branch, the branch took on Project Administrator, Ms Pippa Segall, who has been a valuable support to the branch in that capacity. Maria Stones has also come on board as administrator in support of the Branch interschool quiz, with great effectiveness, and will continue in this role.

Mrs Lidia Hall continues as the Branch bookkeeper, delivering financial statements with great efficiency. For her work, and her good humour, the branch committee is thankful.

Meetings continue to be held for the most part at the Centre for the Book. The branch enjoys the co-operation of the staff at the CFTB, as well as a valued discount on fees due to the non-profit, public service nature of SAIIA Western Cape's work.

The kind donation of several fine bottles of wine by Sheila and Alex Camerer, from their Wine Estate **WELGEGUND**, added to the ambience of many of our meetings this year. We thank them for their generosity.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (Martha Bridgman)

The following events comprised our programme of activities in 2008.

25 February 2008	Address by SAIIA Governance and Resources Project Deputy-Director, Dr Ken Mutuma , on 'Kenya Crisis: Towards Peace and Justice'
12 May 2008	Address by Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba , Director General of Foreign Affairs, South Africa on the 'South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership'
27 May 2008	Book Launch and Public Discussion with author Ms Heidi Holland , on 'Dinner with Mugabe'
3 June 2008	Address by the Right Honourable Paul Boateng , British High Commissioner, on 'The Millennium Development Goals - South Africa and the Wider Continent. Where are we now?'
12 August 2008	Address by Mr Dominic Medley , Journalist and Free Media Consultant to the United Nations, on 'Afghanistan Today'
17 September 2008	Address by Mr Clem Sunter , CEO, Anglo American Chairman's Fund, on 'South Africa and the World in the 2010's'
7 October 2008	Address by Dr Irina Filatova of the University of Moscow, on 'Putin's Legacy: past, present and future'
23 October 2008	Address by Dr Laurine Platzky , Head of Western Cape Organising Committee, Dept of Premier, on 'The 2010 World Cup'
11 November 2008	Analysis by United States' Ambassador to South Africa Eric Bost of the American Presidential Elections of 2008
19 November 2008	AGM and Address by Mr Michael Power of Investec on 'South Africa and the Global Economic Crisis'

MEMBERSHIP (Martyn Trainor)

SAIIA Western Cape Membership Figures as at October 2008, 2007 and 2006 are:

Category	2008	2007	2006
Company Nominees	6	10	10
Corporate	-	6	7
Diplomatic/Consular	38	50	52
Educational/Institutional	18	14	15
Family/Donor	40	24	20
Fellow	1	1	1
Honorary	1	1	1
Individuals	104	79	62
Members of Parliament	32	70	72
Students	35	38	41
TOTAL	275	293	271

(Non-paying categories are Fellows, Honorary & MP's. Nominees and Corporates are members of the Institute nationally.)

The growth in individual and family/donor members is the most significant feature of the above membership table. It indicates that the Branch is meeting the needs of the ordinary people of the region who have an interest in the Institute and its activities. The donation of name badges by a member has led to increased social inter-action at meetings. The need to re-evaluate the branch category for corporate members has been identified, and it is currently under consideration.

To improve communication with members a SAIIA W Cape News Update has been introduced. It is distributed more-or-less quarterly in addition to the notices of meetings. SAIIA National at Jan Smuts House also produces an email newsletter and, from time to time, a Foreign Policy Monitor, which members on email should be receiving.

FINANCE (Lidia Hall)

Thank you to the many members who have paid their subscriptions so promptly which has led to a healthy membership fee income. Sponsorship towards functions has helped reduce running costs. Membership subscription fees have not been increased for the new financial year to June 2009. The financial statements presented at this meeting have been prepared by myself and signed by Mr Karl Stulpner. We thank him once again for his kind service.

The 2008 interschool quiz expenses were totally covered by sponsorship. We owe Caltex, the branding sponsor, a great debt of gratitude for its strong support and continuing interest in this popular event. Also additional generous financial support for the quiz was given by the Abe Bailey Trust, Maskew Miller Longman, Pick 'n Pay and Pick 'n Pay Family Stores. Our sincere thanks go to each of these sponsors.

Thanks are also due to Jan Smuts House, which approved a request for a Matching Funds grant to sponsor activities designed to attract members from under-represented sectors of South African society, including students.

WEBSITE (Chris Inskip)

SAIIA Headquarters, at Jan Smuts House in Johannesburg, continue to provide valued support by providing a page for the Western Cape Branch on their website (www.saiia.org.za). This page contains information on past and upcoming Branch activity, and makes Branch documents (Annual Reports, membership application form) available for downloading.

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY (Rob Mackay)

The diplomatic community in Cape Town continues in its support for SAIIA and regularly attends and participates in our meetings. We plan to address a meeting of the Consular Corps to better publicize SAIIA WC events among diplomats in 2009. We remain alert to source visiting dignitaries who may be appropriate guest speakers for the branch. We look forward to further cementing the growing links with the Diplomatic Community in Cape Town.

PARLIAMENT (Sheila Camerer)

Because Parliament has hardly sat in the second half of 2008 it has been difficult to involve Parliamentarians in SAIIA meetings although notices have been sent out per e-mail on each occasion. After pruning the list of names that were no longer Members of Parliament during the year, a residue of 32 Members of Parliament were found to be still registered as members of SAIIA. Every effort will be made to increase membership of Parliamentarians next year. Realistically this will be more easily achieved with the new crop of MP's returned after the 2009 general election.

CORPORATE COMMUNITY (Anthony Silberberg)

All corporate membership is organised and serviced from Jan Smuts House. As a result of this and purely from a logistical perspective most activity is directed at the Gauteng region and only a handful of Cape Companies are members. The Western Cape Branch also does not currently have the resources to adequately service companies located here. This situation leads to a structural imbalance which precludes the Western Cape Branch from gaining membership, influence and participation from many medium sized companies located here.

In view of the distance and structural difference in the Gauteng and Western Cape corporate environment it has been suggested that a new corporate membership category for Cape based companies be created. This will enable SAIIA to make inroads into this sector and unlock some of the potential available. However the problem of how to service these members remains and we are presently considering a number of options on how services to this category can be financed and organised. Communication has been established with Wesgro and the Cape Regional Chamber of Commerce with a view to achieving co-operation in a number of spheres when these organisations host trade delegations from international groups.

INTERSCHOOL QUIZ (Carol Martin)

One of SAIIA's successful annual activities in the Cape Town area is the Interschool Quiz in International Affairs which has been operating for 16 years, the main financial sponsor being Chevron for the past ten years. Thirty five high school teams, or 140 learners (4 per school team), came together at the Groote Schuur High School Nassau Auditorium in Newlands on 21 May 2008 to compete by answering questions which were based on articles in the Cape Times newspaper and SAIIA's most recent issue of the Foreign Policy Monitor. Learners underwent a three week reading period prior to the Quiz. John Maytham, a popular Cape Radio talk host, again facilitated the quiz as Quiz Master, and was well received by learners and the audience. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Jonathan Stead from Jan Smuts House (SAIIA Director of Marketing and Operations). For the first time, the provincial Department of Education participated, and its Director of Communications, Mr. Paddy Attwell, agreed to be the Quiz Patron.

Fish Hoek Senior High School won the first prize and received R4000 and the Caltex Floating Trophy. In second place was La Rochelle Girls' High School (which won the 1st prize in 2007) receiving a prize of R2000. Third prize (R1000) went to St. Cyprians' Girls' High School. The 4th position was shared between Norman Henshilwood High School and Wynberg Boys High School. No participants however went away empty-handed, as each team took away a selection of books for its school library. The Chevron representative, Ms. Miranda Anthony, gave out the winning prizes.

Chevron has firmly committed to continue as the main sponsor, and supports an expansion of the quiz to include 10 additional schools. The 2009 Quiz will be held in May in a larger venue at Bishops High School in Rondebosch. Preparatory workshops will be offered to ten schools from under-resourced areas of the Western Cape that have demonstrated an interest in the quiz.

UNIVERSITIES (Langa Malimela)

On the 17th of September this year, SAIIA hosted Clem Sunter at UCT, where he discussed 'The World and South Africa in the 2010s'. As the committee we had hoped to use this opportunity to raise awareness amongst UCT Students about SAIIA and its activities and publications, but unfortunately despite our efforts, very few students attended this talk.

We have devised a number of strategies to try and bring more students to SAIIA and inform them about our organisation in the new year. For instance, we have established a database with the email addresses of the entire Political Studies staff at UCT, students in the postgraduate school, and those in their final year of undergrad in the political studies department. We have also added members of the UWC postgraduate school to this database, and aim to broaden our database by adding Stellenbosch students and staff. We will also be reaching out to the Economics, Sociology, African Studies and other departments at the University of Cape Town. Plans are in place to use the VULA 'virtual classroom' facility at UCT to showcase SAIIA publications as well as add a direct URL link which would take students directly to the SAIIA website, from their online classroom. Certain students will thus have direct access to our site, and in this way, hopefully we can make students more aware of our publications and seminars and talks.

CONCLUSION: (Martha Bridgman)

SAIIA's Western Cape Branch has come into a new season of vibrancy and looks ahead to further activities generating public discussion on international affairs important to South Africa in 2009. The pared down schedule, the spirit of volunteerism among the committee members who have each done their part, and the new branch administrative support arrangements, have enabled the Branch to maintain its viability while still delivering a series of engaging and substantive public seminars. I thank the membership for their continued support and look forward to the year ahead.

ELECTION OF WESTERN CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following is the proposed slate for 2009.

Martha Bridgman	Chair
Sheila Camerer	Parliamentary Liaison
Mary Carson	Interschool Quiz Committee Chair
Chris Inskip	Technical Support/Logistics Portfolio
Rob Mackay	Diplomatic Liaison
Langa Malmimela	Universities Liaison
Carol Martin	Schools Liaison
Anthony Silberberg	Corporate Liaison
Martyn Trainor	Membership Portfolio
Dave Wheeler	Minutes Secretary