



## **Final Report**

on

## **14<sup>th</sup> SAASTEC Conference** (26 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012)

Submitted to

**Department of Science and Technology (DST)**

# Contents

	Page
1. General Background .....	3
2. General .....	3
2.1 Registration .....	3
2.2 Programme .....	4
2.3 Transport and Accommodation .....	5
2.4 Finances .....	5
3. Conclusion .....	6
<b>Appendix A – Finances .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix B – Working Programme – 14<sup>th</sup> SAASTECH Conference .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendix C – Feedback from Delegates .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## 1. **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The 14<sup>th</sup> SAASTEC Conference was held at the National Zoological Gardens (NZG) in Pretoria, Gauteng from the 26 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

*Due to the fact that the 6SCWC was held in 2011, a call was sent out via email to all science centres asking for proposals to host the 14<sup>th</sup> SAASTEC conference. Initially there were no proposals forthcoming – so the NZG, University of North and the Durban National Museum were contacted. NZG responded very favorably immediately. It was felt that holding the conference at a “Living Science Centre” would bring new dimensions to the science centre community.*

## 2. **GENERAL**

At the SAASTEC Board meeting on the 6/7<sup>th</sup> February 2012, a Local Organising Committee (LOC) was appointed. This was comprised of:

Ulrich Oberprieler, Lorenzo Raynard, Rudi Horak, Rubeena Sampson, Vee Naidoo, Craig Allenby and Ginny Stone.

The LOC met several times during the course of the conference planning.

Conference fees were pegged at R1000 for SAASTEC Members and R1500 for non-SAASTEC Members. These fees have been kept the same since 2010 because it was felt that many science centers are somewhat financially challenged and SAASTEC would like as many as possible to be able to attend the conference.

It was also decided that an amount would be set aside to subsidize science centres in need and that one person per centre (providing their SAASTEC fees were up to date) would be able to apply for a subsidy on their registration fees. Only two requests were received for funding. *(Please note that these do not reflect on the expenditure of the conference due to the fact that in actual fact the registration fees are waived.)*

Pads for conference use were generously donated by the Plastics Federation of SA and pens by SAASTA.

### 2.1 ***Registration***

A total of 186 people registered for the conference, although some of those delegates only attended for a day. Apart from delegates from South Africa, there were also delegates from Namibia, Zimbabwe and La Reunion.

NZG's auditorium comfortably seated all these delegates

### 2.2 ***Programme*** – see Appendix B.

**Talks** - As usual, there was an overwhelming response to the call for abstracts. The deadline for receiving abstracts was the 31<sup>st</sup> July. This was then extended to the 12<sup>th</sup> August. The LOC met to discuss these on the 14<sup>th</sup> August and concluded that very high levels of abstracts were received for this conference.

There were a total of 50 talks divided into 14 sessions. Mostly these talks were of a high standard.

These talks have all been posted on the SAASTEC website – <http://www.saastec.co.za>.

*Conference Topics were as follows:*

<b>Topics</b>
Sustainability of: Science Centres, Energy, Outreach and Awareness Sector, Environment, Biodiversity, Human Capacity, Exhibitory, Funding, Museums and Communication.

Only one abstract was returned to ask for clarity and a re-write. The programme did not have parallel sessions (excluding workshops). Delegates were urged not to send in “show and tell” type contributions as talks, but rather as posters, to avoid having parallel session.

The intention is to publish the proceedings for this conference and get an ISBN number so that these may be used as publication.

**Posters** - Seven posters were submitted and accepted.

**Workshops** - In accordance with the theme of sustainability... it was decided to make this conference more hands-on, informative and interactive and at the same time increase the science centre skill-set.

A call for intent to host a workshop was sent out with the deadline being 31<sup>st</sup> May. 14 different workshop proposals were received. Only two of these required payment and one of these was turned down due to the high cost versus low delegate ratio.

Selections of 8 short workshops (60 minutes and 90 minutes) were included in the body of the conference. In addition, 3 half-day workshops were held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Delegates had the choice of 3 workshops on that day. *It was not compulsory to attend this day of workshops as part of the conference, although it was included in the registration fee.*

**NYS Volunteers Programme** - In order to give National Youth in Science volunteers a chance to participate more fully at the conference, it was decided that a selection of volunteers would give informal presentations at the Ice-Breaker opening function on the 26<sup>th</sup> November.

A call was sent out by SAASTA inviting volunteers to submit proposals including costs. These proposals were then vetted by an evaluation panel coordinated by SAASTA.

Volunteers were required to use props, and dress-up (a limit of R500 has was set) as some form of biodiversity and wander around explaining, in an “edutaining” manner, just what or who they are trying to portray. The volunteers were also required to submit a poster presentation on their particular theme.

Unfortunately this event was not quite as successful as it could have been. (a) Due to the fact that SAASTA arrangements were a little tardy the event was not communicated to SAASTEC delegates before the time and (b) the venue (the Aquarium) at the zoo was not the best place to have these presentations due to the fact that it was almost impossible to make announcements that everybody could hear. Therefore many people were actually not aware of what this edutainment initiative was all about.

However – the NYS presentations were excellent and it was very difficult to determine who the winners should be. Three prizes – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places (sponsored by SAASTA) were awarded for the best presentations at the conference dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. These went to: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Celiwe Chauca (KZN SC); 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Yusrah Salie (Cape Town SC) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize went to Siyabonga Bengu (UniZul).

**Exhibitions** – A total of 11 Exhibitors exhibited at the conference. Although exhibitions were only seen during lunch time when delegates went to the Flamingo Restaurant, this was still very successful and good feedback was received from the exhibitors.

### **Functions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Informal visit to the Zoo (this is to prevent people “bunking off” during the conference!)
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Icebreaker at the NZG
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Dinner at Intundla Lodge
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Dinner at the National Zoological Gardens.

*Due to the fact that the conference was hosted by National Zoological Gardens their own caterers were used for all teas, meals, the ice-breaker function as well as the dinner that was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November.*

## **2.3 Transport & Accommodation**

Delegates were encouraged to use the Gautrain to get from OR Tambo to Pretoria. Transport was provided from the designated conference hotel (Hotel 224) to and from the NZG.

Transport was also provided for the function at Intundla Lodge on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012. (Unfortunately the visit to Freedom Park had to be

cancelled due to the fact that the new museum had not yet been officially opened by President Zuma).

#### 2.4 **Finances** (see Appendix A)

The grant of R150,000 so generously promised and delivered by the Department of Science and Technology was received on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

A total income of R288,300 (including the DST grant) was received, and R238,908 was spent against conference expenses. This indicates that a profit of R49,393 was made.

### 3. **Conclusion**

All in all the 14<sup>th</sup> SAASTEC Conference was a very successful conference. The quality of the papers was generally very much higher than at previous conferences. The venue was excellent. Feedback from the delegate questionnaire can be found on Page 13 in Appendix C.

SAASTEC would like, once again, to express the fact that it is deeply indebted to the Department of Science and Technology for their support of this conference and is eternally grateful for the opportunities provided.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Stone." The signature is stylized, with the first letter 'G' being large and looped, and the 'Stone' part written in a cursive-like font.

**Ginny Stone**  
**SAASTEC SECRETARY/TREASURER/LOC Member**

January 2013

## SAASTECH 2012 – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Budget

		Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant from DST		R 150 000	R 150 000
Income from SAASTECH/Non-SAASTECH Members & Exhibitors (total 180 pax)		R 120 000	R 138 300
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>R 270 000</b>	<b>R 288 300</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	R/unit	Budget	
<b>Conference venue</b>			
Plants etc for Auditorium		R 3 500	R 3 092
<b>Refreshments</b> (Included below)			
<b>Printing and Artwork</b>			
Book of Abstracts	60.20 x 170	R 11 000	R 10 235
Other printing			
Conference Proceedings (CDRom)			
<b>Conference accessories</b>			
Notepads, pens	170 pax	R 0	R 0
Conference bags, Bottles and Lanyards (Starfish Corp)	170 pax	R 20 000	R 22 224
Badges/keyrings for bags, laminating, etc	10 x 170	R 2 500	R 2 363
Science in a Bubble (delegate gift at conf. dinner)	35 x 170	R 5 950	R 5 950
D J Mouton (Photos)		R 1 000	R 1 000
<b>Conference Organising</b>			
R160 x 170 pax (G. Stone)		R 27 200	R 27 200
<b>Delegate transport</b>			
Transport to/from airport	R 0	R 0	
Buses - Zoo to Intundla Lodge and back	3 x 60 seaters	R 8 400	R 8 400
<b>Functions and other Catering</b>			
NZG - Lunches, Teas, IceBreaker & Dinner	170 pax	R 113 897	R 113 897
Intundla Lodge (Dinner)	170 pax	R 33 620	R 33 620
<b>Subsidies</b>			
	2 x 1000	R 2 000	
<b>Workshops</b>			
Hippo Communications (communication workshop)		R 15 000	R 10 926
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>R 244 067</b>	<b>R 238 907</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>		<b>R 25 933</b>	<b>R 49 393</b>

## Conference Programme

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Time	Activity
14:00	Delegates arrive at the NZG
	Tea/Coffee/Juice
14:00-17:30	Registration Informal walk around the Zoo and interaction with Zoo staff (Includes some awesome “behind the scenes” tours!)
18:00-20:00	Icebreaker – Finger supper in Aquarium and surrounds NYS Volunteers programme

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Time	Activity	Delegate	Mins
08:00	<b>Registration at Conference Venue</b>		
09:00	Morning Tea / Coffee		30
09:00-10:30	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>Chair : Julie Cleverdon</b>		
09:00	<b>Welcome</b> by Julie Cleverdon (SAASTEC President)		5
09:05	<b>Welcome</b> by NZG Management		5
09:10-09:40	<b>Challenges and solutions in human capacity development – the GIZ experience”</b>	<i>Thilo Thormeyer, GIZ</i>	30
09:40-10:10	<b>Intercontinental collaborations through study visits in science advancement: lessons learned in Miami.</b>	<i>Candice Potgieter, Irene Schoeman, Elize de Jager, Nomkhitha Mona, Norman Mthembi and Shadrack Mkansi.</i>	30
10:10-10:20	Questions		10
10:20-10:55	Tea / Coffee		35
10:55-11:00	Housekeeping (Ulrich Oberprieler)		5
11:00-13:00	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Biodiversity</b> Session 1 (Chair : Lorenzo Raynard)		
11:00-11:15	<b>The Science and Myths of Owls</b>	<i>Armstrong Mashakeni, National Zoological Gardens of SA</i>	15
11:15-11:30	<b>Pooling our resources</b>	<i>Ulrich B Oberprieler. National Zoological Gardens of SA</i>	15
11:30-11:45	<b>Museums and Education: Relevance in a Changing World</b>	<i>Allison Ruiters, Durban Natural Science Museum</i>	15
11:45-12:00	<b>Making Waves: Growing South Africa’s research capacity in the aquatic sciences?</b>	<i>Garth van Heerden, Vanessa Rouhani and Ndiviwe Baliwe, SAIAB</i>	15
12:00-12:10	Questions		10
12:10-13:05	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Energy</b> Session 2 (Chair : Gilbert Lekwe)		
12:10-12:25	<b>Energy Dialogues – Towards Environmental Citizenry</b>	<i>Marian Brown and Dr Anthony Lelliott, Wits University</i>	15



12:25-12:40	<b>The importance of science centres in South Africa creating awareness of careers in science at an early age: a preliminary analyses</b>	<i>Robyn Rütters Nelson Mandela Bay Science &amp; Technology Centre - UDDI</i>	15
12:40-12:55	<b>Investigation on the Energy efficiency awareness of the youth</b>	<i>Koena Selatile, Sci-Enza</i>	15
12:55-13:05	Questions		10
13:05-14:00	Lunch @ Flamingo Restaurant		60
14:00-16:00	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Education</b> Session 3 (Chair : Michael Peter)		
14:00-14:15	<b>Suitable Science: Adapting science centres to serve pupils from diverse school backgrounds</b>	<i>Derek Fish, Unizul Science Centre</i>	15
14:15-14:30	<b>An investigation on the effectiveness of the Sci-Bono Outreach programme (Emasondosondo) in the teaching of electrochemistry at Grade 11</b>	<i>Trust Nkomo, Fannie Matumba &amp; Thabang Molise, Sci-Bono</i>	15
14:30-14:45	<b>Bringing Life to Science Centres</b>	<i>Elize de Jager &amp; Paul Bartels, NZG</i>	15
14:45-15:00	<b>Chemistry, CAPS and Trying to Capture a Generation Lost In-between</b>	<i>MJ Schwartz, Unizul Science Centre</i>	15
15:00-15:15	<b>Early Childhood Development Programme</b>	<i>Alinah Masobela, ArcelorMittal Science Centre (Sebokeng)</i>	15
15:15-15:30	<b>Perceptions of science educators in teaching science with integration of computers and online virtual technology tools</b>	<i>Pumezo Kwinana, FOSST Discovery Centre, University of Fort Hare</i>	15
15:30-15:45	<b>Continuous evaluation: The safeguard for a sustainable science centre</b>	<i>Rudi Horak, SciEnza</i>	15
15:45-15:55	<b>SANSA Techno Program</b>	<i>Msizi Khathide, SANSA</i>	10
15:55-16:05	Questions		10
16:00-16:20	<b>Tea / Coffee</b>		15
16:20-16:40	<b>Assessing an exhibition and hands-on Fossil Fuel workshop at Sci-Bono Science Centre as a tool to promote students understanding of fossil fuels and climate change</b>	<i>Ian McKay School of Geosciences, Wits</i>	20
16:40-17:00	<b>The Bloodhound Project is an attempt at the World Land Speed Record in South Africa but with the number one aim of inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.</b>	<i>Dave Rowley BLOODHOUND SSC Education Programme</i>	20
17:10-21:30	Delegates to board buses for dinner at Intundla Game Lodge <a href="http://www.intundla.co.za/">http://www.intundla.co.za/</a> (Transport supplied – delegates to leave cars at zoo – buses will return to zoo and drop delegates at the designated hotel.		

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Time	Activity	Delegate	Mins
08:00-08:30	<b>Registration at Conference Venue</b> Morning Tea / Coffee		30
	Housekeeping (Ulrich Oberprieler)		
08:30-10:16	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Exhibitory</b> Session 4 (Chair : Jan Smit)		
08:30-08:42	<b>Science – Boys or Girls?</b>	<i>Diane Stacey Naidoo, Unizul Science Centre</i>	12

08:42-08:54	<b>The evolution of exhibits: a behind the scenes tour of the science of building world class exhibits.</b>	<i>Trevor McGurk Sci-Bono</i>	12
09:54-09:06	<b>Dialogue in the Dark</b>	<i>Stuart Hopwood, Sci-Bono</i>	12
09:06-09:18	<b>Student models in Science Centres: a win win situation, especially for small Science Centres</b>	<i>Tanja Reinhardt, Kumesh Naidoo, STEC, UKZN</i>	12
09:18-09:30	<b>The development of a game based application (App) for a zoo</b>	<i>Lezanne van der Walt, Rudi de Lange, Marcel Mare, TUT</i>	12
09:30-09:42	<b>What happens when an exhibition becomes outdated or loses relevance? Reduce, re-use and recycle, of course!</b>	<i>Jani DeBruin, Cape Town Science Centre</i>	12
09:42-09:54	<b>Interactive exhibits in a community context: are we relevant?</b>	<i>Michael Ellis, Sci-Bono</i>	12
09:54-10:15	Questions		19
10:15-10:45	Tea / Coffee		25
10:45-11:55	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Science Centres</b> Session 5 (Chair : David Kramer)		
10:45-11:05	<b>Lessons learned from establishing a science centre in Bahrain</b>	<i>Mike Bruton, MTE</i>	20
11:05-11:25	<b>"Give me a dollar please, actually make that a Rand"- a look at introducing an Individual Giving Strategy as part of your overall fund-raising strategy to help secure long term sustainability for your centre.</b>	<i>Julie Cleverdon Cape Town Science Centre</i>	20
11:25-11:45	<b>Centres or Festivals? What's the best way to promote Science?</b>	<i>Derek Fish, Unizul</i>	20
11:45-11:55	Questions		10
12:00-13:00	Session 6: (Chair : Alison Ruiters)		
12:00-12:15	<b>Astronomy as a tool to stimulate science centres across Africa</b>	<i>Kevin Govender, IAU Office of Astronomy for Development</i>	15
12:15-12:30	<b>Evaluating the impact of Sci-Bono's programmes: What we learnt along the way</b>	<i>Michael Peter, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre</i>	15
12:30-12:45	<b>South African science centres in perspective</b>	<i>Lorenzo Raynard, SAASTA</i>	15
12:45-13:00	Questions		15
13:00-14:00	Lunch @ Flamingo Restaurant (all delegates)		
14:15-15:20	Session 7 (Chair : Mike Bruton)		
14:15-14:30	<b>Dealing with the dark side of SET awareness</b>	<i>D Kramer, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre</i>	15
14:30-14:40	<b>Programmatic Support Grant Intervention (PSGI): A better way for sustaining your science centre</b>	<i>Thandi Mtsweni SAASTA</i>	10
14:40-14:55	<b>Planning a multi-functional digital planetarium in an old telescope building: optimal diameter, seating and acoustics</b>	<i>MJH Hoffman, JH Greyling, PM Lamusse, C Erasmus, HJ van Heerden, Boydton Observatory</i>	15

14:55-15:10	<b>A sustainable science and nature centre in the making</b>	<i>Marine Soichot, Arda – Réunion island</i>	15
15:10-15:20	Questions		10
15:20-15:40	Tea / Coffee		20
15:40-17:10	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Workshop Session (Delegates must choose 1 workshop)</b> Session 8		
15:40-17:40	<b>Exhibit Signage</b> <i>Derek Fish, UniZul</i>		120
15:40-17:40	<b>How to go viral</b> <i>Lorenzo Raynard, SAASTA</i>		120
15:40-17:10	<b>Keeping critters in a science centre</b> <i>Mike Adams, Conservator: Reptiles, Department: Conservation &amp; Collections</i>		90
15:40-17:10	<b>Bringing genetics to life</b> <i>Desiré Dalton, Researcher &amp; Head: Wildlife Conservation Genetics Unit, Department: Research &amp; Scientific Services, National Zoological Gardens of South Africa</i>		90
15:40-16:40	<b>Teaching Biodiversity with Animal Soft Toys</b> <i>Mike Bruton (MTE)</i>		60
??:??-18:00	<b>Free networking time</b>		
18:00-21:30	<b>Conference Dinner @ The Waterhole (NZG)</b>		



### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Time	Activity	Delegate	Mins
08:00-08:30	<b>Registration at Conference Venue</b> Morning Tea / Coffee		30
08:30-10:00	<b>SAASTEC AGM (Voting year)</b>	All	90
10:00-10:30	Tea / Coffee		
	Housekeeping (Ulrich Oberprieler)		
10:30-11:45	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Science Communication</b> Session 9 (Chair : Candice Potgieter)		
10:30-11:00	<b>Science Centres and the Press</b>	<i>Lynne Smit, Hippo Communications</i>	30
11:00-11:20	<b>Science communication is going places – why it matters and how we can do better!</b>	<i>Marina Joubert, Southern Science</i>	20
11:20-11:35	<b>Mobile science: sustainable science communication using mobile technology.</b>	<i>Thandi O'Hagan &amp; Fikiswa Majola HartRAO</i>	15
11:35-11:45	Questions		10
11:45-12:50	<b>Topic : Sustainability of the Outreach and Awareness Sector</b> Session 10 (Chair : Eliza Fraser)		
11:45-12:00	<b>Bread, Milk and Biotechnology</b>	<i>Irene Schoeman, Sci-Enza</i>	15
12:00-12:15	<b>The roles of Anglo American science centre in promoting science literacy in schools and the public</b>	<i>Jan Seopa, Anglo American Science Centre</i>	15
12:15-12:25	<b>Outreach programmes for Sustainable Awareness</b>	<i>Given Ratsoma Sci-Enza (NYS volunteer)</i>	10
12:25-12:40	<b>Sustaining science through Sci-Enza/Mae Jemison outreach programme</b>	<i>Affinity Muzhinduki Sci-Enza, Amy Canby, US Embassy</i>	15

12:40 12:55	<b>Exploring IKS ideas for Science Centres: Possibilities, Observations, Ideas and Suggestions</b>	<i>Mdumiseni Nxumalo, UniZul</i>	15
12:55- 13:05	Questions		10
13:05 14:00	Lunch @ Flamingo Restaurant		45
14:00- 15:00	<b>Topic : Sustainability of Capacity Building</b> Session 11 (Chair : Alfred Tsipa)		
14:00- 14:10	<b>Technical Skills Development Through Science Centre Projects</b>	<i>Akash Dusrath, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre</i>	10
14:10- 14:20	<b>Building Human Capacity with the Sci-Bono Science Career Stream</b>	<i>Thami Mangena, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre</i>	10
14:20- 14:30	<b>Sustainability of Human Capacity</b>	<i>Tebogo Habedi, ArcelorMittal Science Centre, Newcastle</i>	10
14:30- 14:45	<b>Role of ArcelorMittal Science Centre In Engineer Development</b>	<i>Daniel Motsapi and Khuliso Makungo, Arcelormittal Science Centre</i>	15
14:45- 14:55	Questions		10
15:00- 15:30	<b>Final Word by Minister Derek Hanekom, DST</b> Session 12 (Chair : Julie Cleverdon)		
15:30- 16:00	Tea		30
16:00- 17:30	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Session (Delegates choose only 1 workshop)</b> Session 13		
16:00- 17:00	<b>Social Media</b> - <i>Carolina Odman (capacity 20)</i>		90
16:00- 17:00	<b>Introduction to Nanotechnology</b> - <i>Tebogo Mohlakane, National Museum (capacity 50)</i>		60
16:00- 17:00	<b>Responsible Management of Scientific Information</b> - <i>Joanne Riley, SAASTA (unlimited)</i>		60
16:00- 17:00	<b>Making a rain gauge</b> - <i>John Crossland, Cape Town Science Centre (capacity 20)</i>		60
<b>Delegates who are not staying for workshops on Friday leave. Free evening</b>			

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012

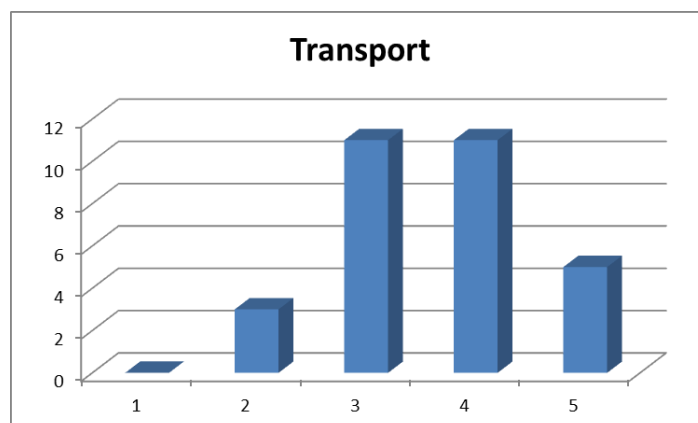
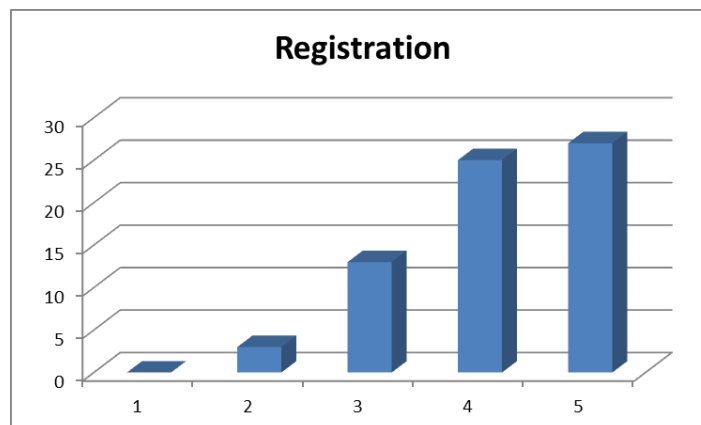
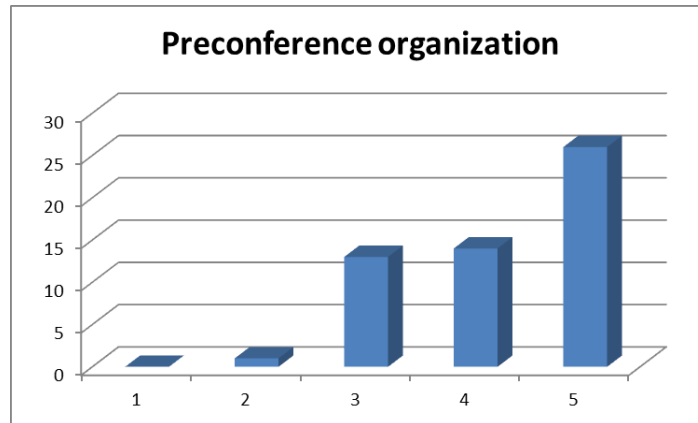
Time	Activity	Mins
08:30 09:00	Morning Tea / Coffee	30
09:00 13:00	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Session (Delegates choose only 1 workshop)</b> Session 14	
09:00- 12:30	<b>Social Media</b> <i>Lynne Smit – Social media expert, veteran journalist, author, PR strategist.</i> <i>Ray Joseph - Freelance journalist, journalism trainer and media consultant, former newspaper editor, social media expert.</i>	240
09:00- 12:30	<b>Exhibitory</b> <i>Theo Koullapis and Stuart Hopwood</i>	240
09:00- 12:30	<b>“Universal Design for Learning Science”</b> <b>Science popularisation through low-cost and locally available materials</b> <i>Hideo Nakano (science specialist) and Alfred Tsipa (science specialist)</i> <i>Osizweni Education and Development Centre</i>	240
13:00- 13:30	Lunch <b>Delegates Depart</b>	

## Feedback from the 14<sup>th</sup> SAASTEC Conference

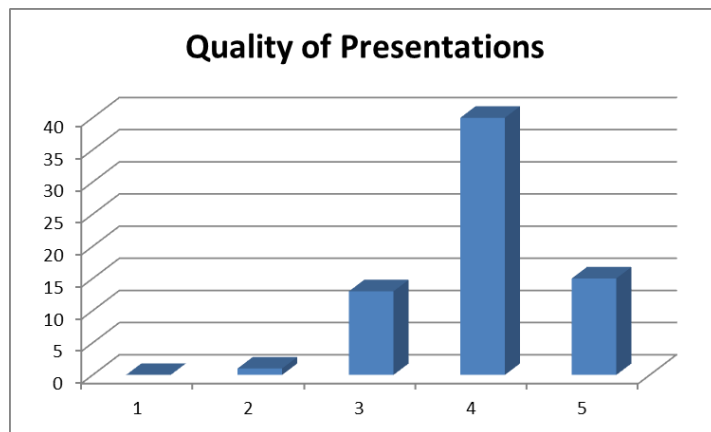
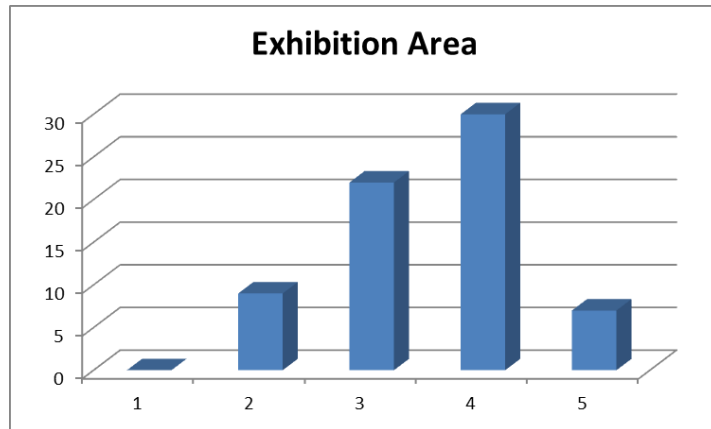
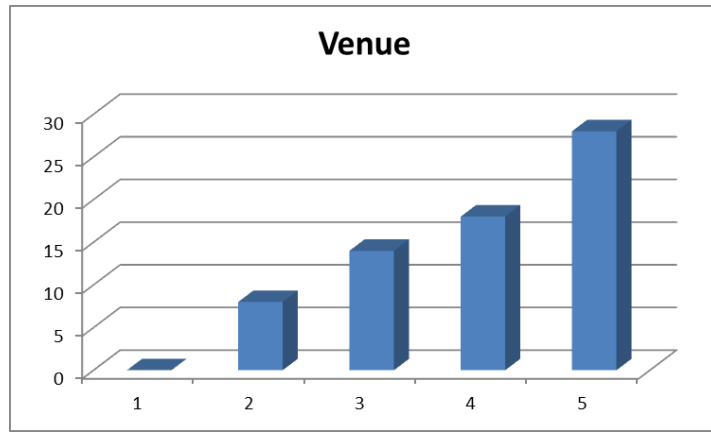
(71 forms returned)

**National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria** (26-30<sup>th</sup> November 2012)

Scale: 1 = Horrible    2 = Acceptable    3 = Good    4 = Very Good    5 = Excellent

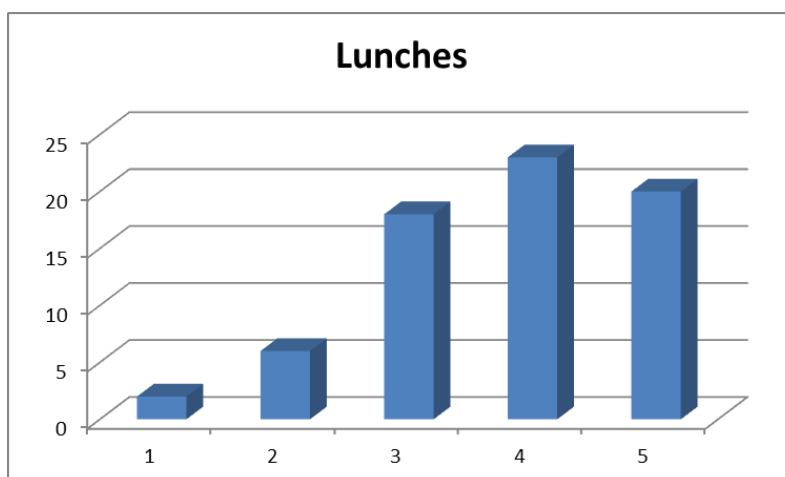
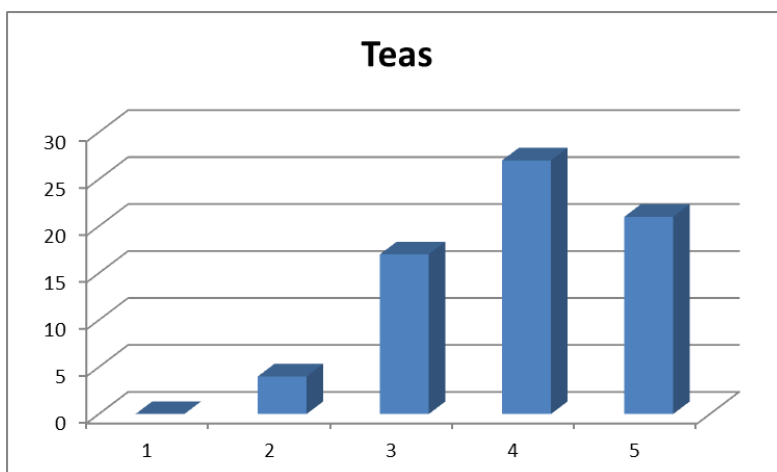


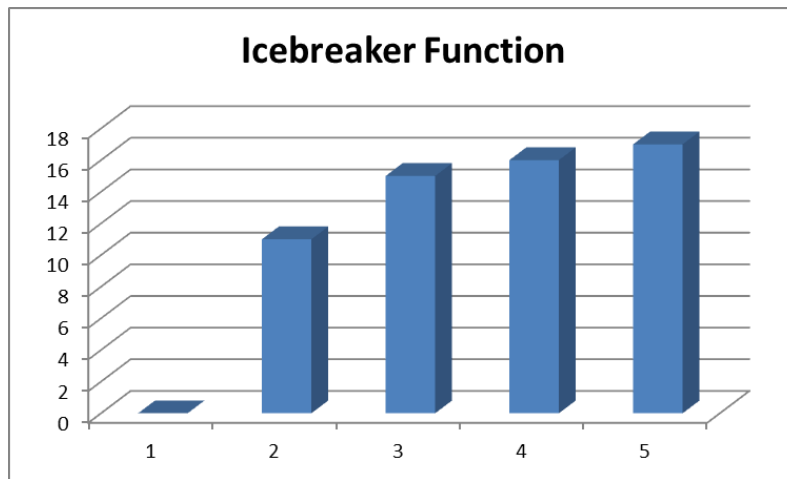
*Please note: If you did not stay at Hotel 224 – there was NO transport organized. Hotel 224 was the official conference hotel and was the only place where transport was available. This was advertised often enough.*



## Other Comments on Workshops

- Posters should have been in a place where more people would read it.
- There's a lot of improved and quality presentations as compared to the previous conference
- More interaction required – hands on activity to get participants more involved
- Have only attended one workshop – too early to rate others.
- I found the teaching biodiversity workshop very interesting as it's something I find very useful with regard to skills to take back to me centre.
- I enjoyed the workshops by Derek Fish. Very engaging.
- Very well organized, it's important to feature the most important scientific projects in the country such as the SKA.
- The workshop about signage was excellent.
- Only saw the one presented which went well. Nice break from talks.
- Next time presenters should be shown how to work the mike system by the chair persons.
- The workshop was very good – the problem was only the toilets that have a terrible smell!
- The times is to long (2H)
- It was good that the workshops were made to run concurrently. This allows people to go to their areas of interest or expertise. If the same could be done for some papers as well.
- Well organized.
- Excellent.
- We need to practice our workshops.
- There must not be too many workshops per day as most of the people end up falling asleep because of being tired of listening to talks the whole day.
- Don't know – presented one and could not attend any others.

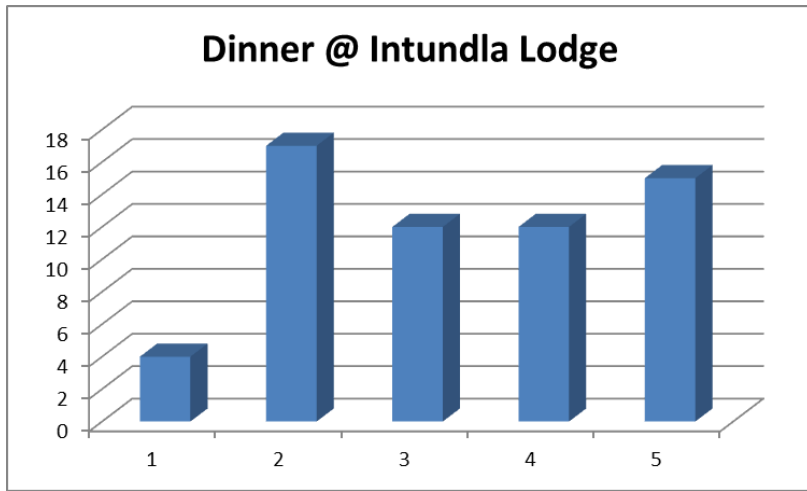




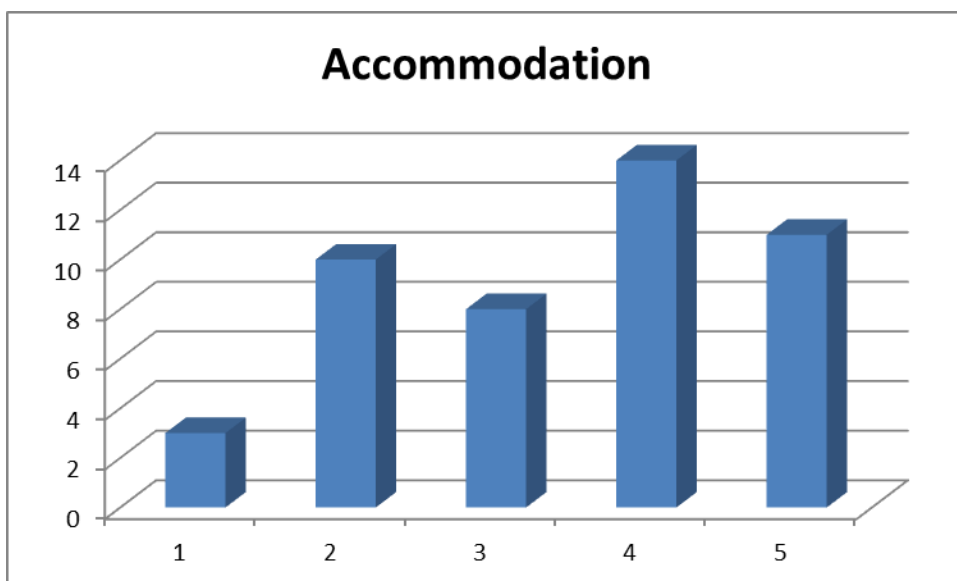
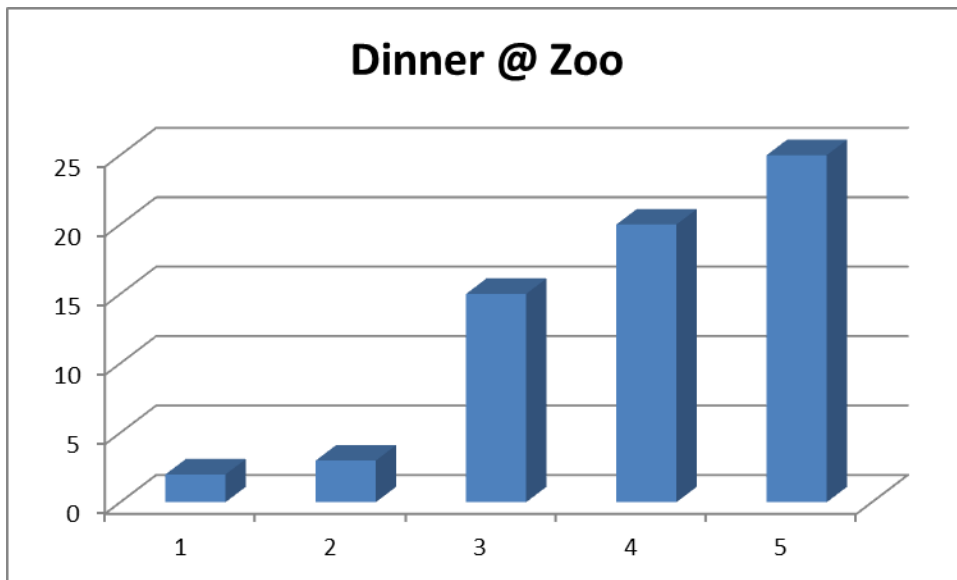
### Additional comments on NYS Presentations?

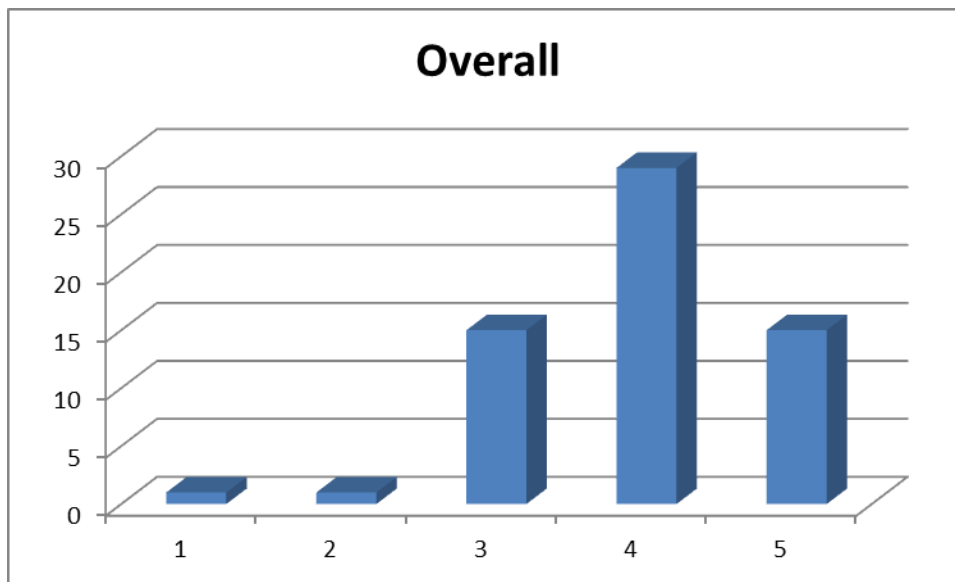
- Presentations were well researched and were interactive and informative.
- NYS presentations are not identified in programme therefore it is difficult to rate them.
- What is NYS?
- There should have been an introduction to everyone that they are aware of what was to take place. I realized most people didn't know what the volunteers' concept was aimed at.
- Great idea!
- Needed more/some activities during dinners shows / busking / Mascots were great.
- I loved the ant. More presentations should be like that.
- Good.
- I loved the ant, she even was so tiny. The guy holding the ant poster was awesome.
- Great.
- Venue for ice-breaker made it hard to mingle and meet people.
- They did very well, but a more coordinated program would have been a great platform for them.
- Maybe if they were given a stage to present their hard work.
- NYS volunteers did very well in their presentations.
- Excellent
- They didn't have enough platform to present and grab people's attention.
- I learn new exciting things about life of Bat, Bee – great stuff.
- I suggest to give 1 volunteer for all centres to presents
- They were very good and I think DST together with other stakeholders must do something about this interns issue, because it is very bad thing!
- Missed a lot of it as noise levels made it difficult to hear. Good effort on part of volunteers.
- It was not easy to hear their stories and have a clear view of the posters and costumes. Wonderful initiative with the volunteers.
- We should have been told about them beforehand. I did not know who the "dressed up" people were.





*Please note: Originally, a function at Freedom Park had been arranged. This would have been a 10 minute bus trip away from the Zoo. Unfortunately the //hapa museum was not opened on time and our function was cancelled at the last minute. It was rather hard to find something at that late stage. A night visit to the zoo was considered, but weather is precarious at this time of year and we were worried it would get rained out. Apologies from the LOC – this function was definitely not what it was supposed to be.*





### Additional General Comments *(transcribed verbatim from forms)*

- In general there is a lot of improvement in the conference and those attending.
- First evening function should be nearby – everybody tired from traveling and most still have to present.
- Transport to and from the conference venue (224) was not well organized. There were cases when we were stranded / lack of transport. Times were not communicated properly.
- Intundla Lodge too far to drive... Travel time of close to 3 hours for a dinner lasting 1.5 hours is ridiculous. A night tour of the zoo with light refreshments (pizza) would have been better.
- Each evaluation has to be scorlized according to the standardization of the normal distribution (*followed by an illegible equation!!*)
- Everything was good except the NYS poster presentation was not introduced formally before they took place.
- Many thanks for all the hard work in organizing an excellent conference.
- Intundla is a great facility, just found the trip too long and tedious.
- Meals must be improved next time.
- Presentations are too many – if they can be reduced.
- Thank you. Was a wonderful experience. I learnt a lot. Thank you to my centre for bringing me along.
- Excellent.
- Great conference, but the conference functions did not accommodate candidates who were staying at their homes.
- Have more exhibitors. Papers need to be read and accessible prior to the conference.
- I would like more workshops and less presentations. Actually there was too many presentations. That'd be great to have wifi connection in the conference room so we can live tweet the talks and spread the word.
- Too many presentations. Accommodation – small toilets and showers.
- Activities during Dinner. Intundla is a beautiful place but just to go and eat and come back was time consuming.
- The chairs in the venue – not comfortable. No signage of where the conference was taking place. But overall – everything was good.
- Dinner was nice but could have been anywhere long bus ride for nothing different. Queuing slow at lunch. Only saw exhibition area at lunch – not enough time. Hotel was average – little chaotic – parking appalling. Great conference. Please have laptop ON podium. Microphones occasionally troublesome.
- The hotel has really small room.
- Intundla Lodge did not cater for vegetarians and the food was not nice.
- There was no transport from and to the hotel. I need to walk daily. Consider the danger/risks. Sometimes I need to beg colleagues/friends met at the conference to drop me off. **(NB - please note this delegate did not stay at Hotel 224).**

- Very informative and educational conference. Social part – excellent.
- It would be a good idea to put the papers together and make the compilation available on the website. The same could be done with the presentations. (**NB – presentations are available on the website.**)
- Everything was conducted professionally and efficiently.
- We should have been given enough time at Intundla Lodge or we should have gone there in the morning or during the day to be able to see the game reserve.
- Intundla was too far. Should have been a category of Novice Speakers.
- Zoo food - very bad. Venue/facility – great!
- Time management was excellent.
- We need to have chairs equal to delegates to minimize empty chairs. Encourage speakers/presenters to be interactive with audience through their PowerPoint presentations more visual image than text. Great networking and social interaction with delegates. Congrats to the new board.
- Food was dry and overcooked. Bad sound quality.
- Speaker should have access to laptop. Great conference.
- Some repetition of content, some content only relevant to newbies. More variety between workshops/presentations – quite exhausting “watching” presentation after presentation.
- There is still room for improvement, but overall the conference went very well as far as I’m concerned. If next time they can cut short the workshops and presentations and try to come up with more funny activities – things will be perfect.
- SAASTEC has grown to become a very mature organization. This showed in the organization and more especially in the quality of the presentations.
- The conference was excellent.
- Please put citronella candles on tables at lunch for flies.
- Very good conference, however, the dinner at Intundla Lodge raised more expectations because of the chosen venue, I guess.
- Commercial exhibitors should have been mentioned in the Chairman’s speech. Why travel all that way to a Game Lodge only to be channeled straight into a restaurant and served chicken at a Game Lodge. An excursion and dinner at Sci-Enza would have been far more enjoyable and relevant (+ Mapungubwe). I like living in a cupboard. Presentations lasting only 10 minutes are pretty pointless and the speakers always exceed their time. 10 min slots should definitely not be offered to SAASTA or DST speakers. An enlarged print-out of the Conference Programme should be displayed at the entrance to the conference venue, as well as at lunch.