Final Report

on

19th SAASTEC Conference
(27-30th November 2017)

Submitted to

SAASTA & Department of Science and Technology (DST)
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1. **CONFERENCE HOST / VENUE**
   A call for proposals to host the 19th SAASTEC Conference was made and originally FOSST Discovery Centre responded after some prompting. Due to the fact that East London is a little remote this proposal was eventually turned down by the board due to the fact that it was too expensive. Thami Mphokela responded to an urgent request from the SAASTEC Chair and rose to the occasion by agreeing to host the conference at his science centre in Sebokeng.

   The 19th SAASTEC Conference was therefore held in at the ArcelorMittal Science Centre in Sebokeng from the 27 – 30 November 2017.

2. **GENERAL**
   2.1 **Theme of Conference**

   The theme for this conference was “Science Centres and Innovation”.

   "Innovation is very much at the forefront of everyone’s minds at the moment in relation to science, technology and informal science education. It is a topic that can be approached from many different points of view, which gives the whole science centre community a chance to address the theme. Delegates are also encouraged to submit innovative talks and posters that speak to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.”

   Due to the fact that there had been a delay in selecting a place to host the conference the first invitation was sent out rather later than usual... An invitation and call for papers announcement was sent out to all relevant parties at the beginning of August 2017. A second announcement was sent at the end of August, reminding everybody that abstracts were due and extending the abstract deadline to the middle of September.

   Thereafter various announcements were sent out as necessary to cover logistics of the conference (i.e. programme, the change of venue etc).

   *The final conference announcement is attached as Appendix A.*
2.2 Registration and Programme

Conference registration fees were R1 700 for SAASTEC Members and R2 500 for non-SAASTEC Members. There were no early bird fees this year due to the conference announcements being tardy.

R5 000 was charged for commercial exhibitors. There were 3 exhibitors who added great value to the conference. Some subsidies were given.

It was found last year that the on-line registration system did not work optimally for all delegates so we reverted back to the old .docx system.

A total of 189 delegates registered for the conference. These people came from over 72 different places. A couple of international delegates also attended from Kenya and USA. (Signed registration forms attached separately to this report.)

(Once again a number of unregistered delegates also attended – this was a result of people being invited to the stake-holder’s meeting by SAASTA and automatically assuming that they were also registered for the conference. This causes great confusion and complicates matters when it comes to registration and catering numbers. Care must be taken in the future to ensure that this does not occur again.)

Deadline for submission of abstracts was 15th September 2017. A total of 54 abstracts were received for oral presentations and 13 for posters.

A total of 52 talks (two presenters withdrew) were delivered over the period of 3 days. The conference presentations were generally of a high standard. (Most of the people who presented at the conference had received rigorous presentation training at a SAASTA workshop prior to the conference.)

In order to accommodate all the talks, it was necessary to have parallel sessions.

Mr Isaac Ramovha, Science Promotion Unit, DST gave an opening presentation on “Stakeholder engagement for the development of future support framework for a national network of science centres.”

There were two Invited speakers that both gave presentation on Wednesday 29th November:
1. Dr Jabu Nukeri gave a presentation about innovation at SAASTA
2. Mr Jeff Meade (US Embassy) gave a talk about the Wildlife Website project in Mamelodi and the establishment of a teen interest-driven Science Club.

A successful AGM was held on Thursday 30th November. The conference ended after lunch on the same day.

Thirteen posters were exhibited. These were all place in one venue in the ArcelorMittal Science Centre and a dedicated poster session was held on Tuesday 28th November from 16h30 – 17h30. The posters were of a very high quality and the content was innovative and interesting.

The book of abstracts was provided digitally this year in an effort to save funds. A programme was printed and distributed to the delegates.

The programme and book of abstracts is attached as Appendix B.
2.3 Workshops
In accordance with the proviso in the DST funding contract 4 workshops were held during 1 specific workshop session the conference. Originally there were 5 workshops but it was decided during the conference that SAASTA would rather host the safety workshop aimed at mobile lab facilitators):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29th Nov 2017</th>
<th>Workshop submitted</th>
<th>By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crowd-sourcing opportunity regarding the Wildlife Website project and the establishment of a teen interest-driven Science Club at the Mae Jemison Science Reading Room</td>
<td>Jeff Meade (US Embassy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Use technology to add punch to your physical science experiments” PASCO Workshop</td>
<td>Peter Horszowski (PERT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSW Tourists on the UNISA Science Campus robotics challenge</td>
<td>Kabelo Pheeha (ISET, UNISA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit Building (Coupled pendulum)</td>
<td>Stuart Hopwood &amp; William Britz (Sci-Bono)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the fact that space was limited in some of the workshops delegates were urged to not have more than one person per centre attend those particular workshops so that everybody had a fair chance. Lists were used for delegates to sign up.

The workshops were good and the delegates mostly found them useful.

2.4 Exhibitions and Sponsors

There were three exhibitions –

In addition to the generous sponsorship of R150 000 from the Department of Science and Technology (administered by SAASTA), the following organisations also participated.

- SAASTA/DST sponsored the stake-holders meeting before the conference started.
  - NRF kindly sponsored the attendance travel of two delegates from Kenya. Janet Kariuki and Anthony Kinyili (Science Centre Kenya)
- Thusong Project kindly donated a bag of goodies, flash drive, pen, pencil, eraser, highlighter, water bottle and pencil case.
- BMS Education donated pads and pens
- Cambridge Press also handed out useful printed matter.
- VASTECH provided interactive display screens in all the conference venues.

BMS Education, Cambridge Press and VASTECH exhibited at the conference.

Conference bags were printed by local service providers Lency Printing, at a cost of R120 each. The bags were branded with SAASTEC, DST, ArcelorMittal and Thusong logos.

2.5 Catering
The catering was done by various local service providers, thus empowering the community – i.e. Tee Caterings Company provided platters for the opening event;
NDOSUS Trading provided teas and lunch each day.

### 2.6 Functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>Ice-breaker</td>
<td>ArcelorMittal Science Centre, Sebokeng.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Nov</td>
<td>Braai</td>
<td>Emerald Hotel, Vereniging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Nov</td>
<td>Gala Dinner</td>
<td>Bon Hotel, Vereniging.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once again tickets were provided for alcoholic beverages at the braai and the gala dinner.

The ice-breaker finger supper proceeded smoothly was a good networking opportunity. The traditional dancers - Young Stars Performing, provided lively entertainment.

The braai at the Emerald Hotel was not quite what everybody expected, mainly due to inclement weather and the fact that delegates were split up into different venues. Originally Danno the Drummer had been organised for entertainment but the rain made it impossible for his expensive drum set to be exposed. His show was postponed to the Gala Dinner.

The Gala Dinner was enjoyed by all and Danno the drummer (and his sister) performed for the delegates. (It should be mentioned that Daniel performed for a greatly reduced price of R10,000.)

### 2.7 Venue, Accommodation & Transport

**Venue**
The venue was at the ArcelorMittal Science Centre in Sebokeng. The conference hosts, Thami Mphokela and his team, had gone to great lengths to ensure that the venue was clean and comfortable and that everything ran as smoothly as possible. There was plenty of parking, the conference space was large and airy and the breakaway rooms were perfectly adequate and air-conditioned. There were no complaints from any of the delegates.

**Accommodation**
A list of guest houses and hotels were provided on the conference website, with the Bon Hotel, in Vereniging being the main conference hotel.

**Transport**
Transport (one bus) was provided daily to and from the hotel (delegates who were staying in guest houses were welcome to meet up with the bus each morning).

### 2.8 Finances

**Credit**
DST gave SAASTA a grant for R150 000 to be distributed to SAASTEC for the 19th SAASTEC Conference. This was highly appreciated and SAASTEC is indebted to the DST for their support. The money was paid timeously into the SAASTEC Account.

To date, R187,900 (registrations and R12,500 (exhibitors) was received in registration fees. Approximately R37,000 is still outstanding and is being actively pursued.
Debit
An amount of R329,754 was spent against the conference budget.

*The financial report is attached as Appendix C.*

3. **CONCLUSION**

A successful conference was held at the ArcelorMittal Science Centre in Sebokeng, Gauteng. The quality of papers was considerably improved from previous conferences. (A post-conference survey has been distributed to all delegates but so far the response rate has been 0%.)

SAASTEC expresses its gratitude to the Department of Science and Technology for its support of this conference.

All conference announcements, registration forms etc are also available on the SAASTEC website ([www.saastec.co.za](http://www.saastec.co.za)).

Ginny Stone  
**SAASTEC SECRETARY/TREASURER**  

30 January 2018
1st Announcement & Call for Papers

for the

19th Annual Conference

of the

Southern African Association of Science & Technology Centres

to be held at

ArcelorMittal Science Centre
Sebokeng, Gauteng

from the

27 - 30 November 2017
It is with great pleasure that ArcelorMittal Science Centre invites you to attend the 19th Annual SAASTEC conference.

The theme for this conference is

‘Science Centres and Innovation’

Innovation is very much at the forefront of everyone’s minds at the moment in relation to science, technology and informal science education. It is a topic that can be approached from many different points of view, which gives the whole science centre community a chance to address the theme. Delegates are also encouraged to submit innovative talks and posters that speak to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Call for Papers, Poster Presentations and Exhibitions

Delegates are invited to submit proposals for oral and/or poster presentations. Your presentation(s) should focus on the theme above. Posters are encouraged this year. There will be dedicated poster sessions included in the programme with prizes for the most innovative posters.

Commercial displays are also welcome. Please see the web site for more details.

PLEASE NOTE
Deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 September 2017.

Venue, Date and Registration Fees

Venue: The conference will take place at the ArcelorMittal Science Centre, Sebokeng.
Date: Monday 27 - Thursday 30 November 2017
Registration: Afternoon/evening of Monday 27 November 2017
Cost: SAASTEC Members - R1700.00 / NON-SAASTEC Members - R2500.00

Accompanying persons are welcome to attend the social functions at an additional cost. Please indicate your interest on registration form. Final cost will be provided at a later stage.

Conference Objectives

Papers and posters are invited in line with the following objectives:

- To share experiences on the themes of the conference and catalyse future exchange of knowledge among colleagues in the SADC countries and the world networks.
- To focus on the impact of science and technology centres in the regions they serve.
- To stimulate the development of science and technology centres and to present models that could enhance education and change in South Africa.
- To interact with the relevant regional and national government officials, partners from the private sector, academics and students from HEIs (Higher Education Institutions, e.g. universities), principals, teachers, interested stakeholders and members of the community.

Who Should Attend?

Professionals from science and technology centres, national research facilities, innovation support centres, museums, planetariums, aquariums and art galleries as well as researchers, educators, teachers, government officials, administrators and policy makers involved with the public understanding of science, mathematics and technology (PUSET), curriculum developers and subject advisors.
Sponsors, industry partners, stakeholders and other interested members of the community are also welcome.
Accommodation & Transport

Please consult the SAASTEC website for conference accommodation.

Due to the distance from the airport, delegates will be expected to provide their own transport to the conference.

Transport may be provided daily from designated Born Hotel to the conference and functions.

Registration and Payment of Registration Fees

The registration form is available on the website.

All payments should be made into the SAASTEC account and the deposit slip should be emailed to the SAASTEC secretary together with your details. Participants from South Africa should deposit registration fees into the Standard Bank Account, while delegates from all other countries can do a wire transfer from any bank (SWIFT code provided).

Cash or cheques are not accepted.

Account name: Southern African Association of Science & Technology Centres
Bank: Standard Bank
Current Account: 009 002 051
Branch Code: 00 02 05
Swift Code: SBZAZAZ1

SAASTEC web site: http://www.saaastec.co.za

Email: SAASTEC Secretary - secretary@saaastec.co.za
Email: Thami Mphokela (ArcelorMittal Sebokeng) - thami.mphokela@mscc.co.za

Join us on Facebook
ArcelorMittal Science Centre - https://www.facebook.com/arcelormitalsciencecentresbk/
SAASTEC - https://www.facebook.com/SAASTEC/
APPENDIX B

Final Programme and Book of Abstract (link)

APPENDIX C

Grant from DST R 150 000
Income from SAASTEC Members ~170 @ R1700 R 187 900
Income for Exhibitors R 12 500

**TOTAL INCOME** R 350 400

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>R/unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference venue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment (sound)</td>
<td>R 6 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunches x 3 days</td>
<td>220 x R120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teas @R30pp x 2 x 3 days</td>
<td>220 x R60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cool drinks x 3 days</td>
<td>220 x R13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Organising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>250 x R5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference accessories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notepads, pens (sponsored)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference bags,</td>
<td>220 @ R120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clip on Name tags (5 boxes of 50 @ R151 each)</td>
<td>R 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon Hotel x 2 nights @ R1050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus from designated acc x 3 days</td>
<td>1 x 60 seater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions (including drinks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icebreaker - Monday - Tee Caterings Co (platters)</td>
<td>220 pax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braai - Tuesday - Emerald Casino</td>
<td>220 x R200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala Dinner - Wednesday - Bon Hotel</td>
<td>220 x R216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment for Icebreaker (Young Stars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks for gala dinner @ Bon x @R30 per person</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes for best poster</td>
<td>3 x R1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops &amp; Speakers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop presenter / speaker x 1 @R1500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danno the Drummer (entertainment on 28th Nov</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation for Danno et al 2 rooms for 2 nights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>R 329 754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS</strong></td>
<td>R 20 646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* sponsored