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NEWSLETTER

Fellow Groundwater Practitioners,

Earlier this year a few of us kicked up a storm, and committed to revitalizing the GAKZN. We presented a heartfelt plea to not let this valued organization slowly topple over to be consumed by the dusts of time, and disappear forever.

Well, believe it or not, the newly elected EXCO availed themselves admirably, and considerable effort was spent on strategizing about the future, and in fact we even booked our first two quarterly meetings to be hosted by representatives within the GAKZN. What we had not planned for was the World Cup 2010, and one issue led to another, and first meeting planned for June rolled over into the second meeting planned for August, creating a conflict ultimately resulting in neither meeting taking place. Up until then, things had been going well!

Our next meeting is due to take place this month, but a unanimous decision was taken by the EXCO to rather focus efforts on the new-year, when everyone's schedule is a little less cluttered by the festivities of December, we can set the wheels in motion for a full calendar of events, and we can align our membership with the financial year. So our next meeting is planned for January!

It has been decided to write off all monies currently outstanding, because let's face facts, no direct benefit has been derived from belonging to the Association for the last year. This is not to say that nothing has been done, and we have been busy identifying potential members, tried to get the Web site up and running, discussed fee structures, made an honest attempt to have our quarterly meetings, EXCO have been sitting fairly regularly, and not all has been a waste.

Some of the key issues that decisions have been made on to date are as follows:

Fees, Fee Structure and Voting Rights

EXCO have agreed on the following fee structure and voting to ensure representative costs and voting rights.

- Corporate Membership – All companies, consultancies (irrespective of size) will register under this membership option. Membership fee will be at a cost of R500.00 per annum subject to yearly escalation. This entitles the entity to 1 Vote.
- Individual Membership – Applies to any individual wishing to join the GAKZN without registering as a company, and any persons representing a corporate entity, should they wish to have additional voting rights, would need to register under this membership option over and above the corporate membership. Membership fee will be at a cost of R250.00 per individual per annum subject to yearly escalation. This entitles 1 vote per individual paid up.
- Institutional Membership – All Local Authorities, academic institutions, and Non Profit Organizations are permitted to register under this membership option. Membership fee is nil, however, it does not entitle the entity to any voting rights at all. Should the entity wish to be

able to vote, then the corporate membership and / or individual memberships options will have to be applied and paid for.

- Student Membership – Any student whom would like to register as a member will fall under this membership option. Membership fee will be at a cost of R100.00. No voting rights.

All the membership options entitle the entity and / or individual to obtain a certificate of membership as per the category they have registered for.

Application forms will be forwarded to members that are on the current mailing list (if you have received this, you are on it!).

The EXCO are also looking at aligning and even pioneering the implementation of registration criteria to belong to the GAKZN. We are currently looking at modelling our approach in line with the proposed registration of contractors at DWA being spear headed by Ernst Betram, and applying it across all the disciplines at the GAKZN. One of our objectives for the year ahead is the development of an ethos where integrity of product is featured strongly. More to come in the coming months.

Quarterly Meeting Structure

Strategies to revitalize the Association, include an approach that allows organizations that would be keen on promoting their products, to host an event, which intern creates an interest within the association. It was decided that a standard agenda should be adopted for future meetings. That being:

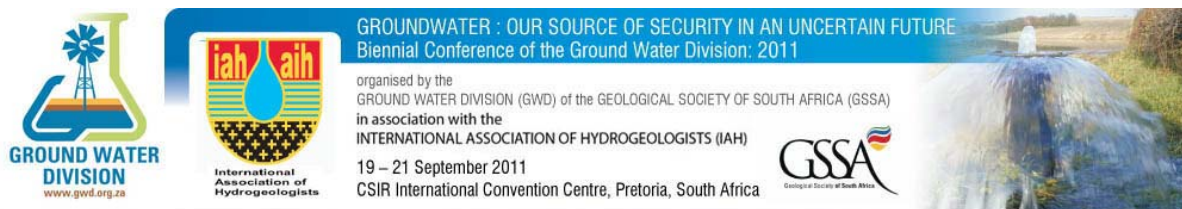
- Welcome
- Matters arising from last meeting
- Presentation by Host
- Presentation by Guest Speaker (to be arranged by the host)
- Discussion period
- Next meeting
- Close

Anyone wanting to host an event, please contact a member of EXCO at your earliest convenience.

Upcoming events:

Groundwater Conference 2011

One of the objectives for this year was to get the association to such a position that we would request the hosting of the Bi-annual groundwater conference to be held in 2010. We unfortunately left this a bit late, and while we were still aligning ourselves with associate organizations, it was announced that the conference will be held as follows:



Diarize it, and we hope to see you their next year.

Website and Mailing List:

We have had mixed success with the electronic environment, and the website is still in its death throes of a spam attack, but work is plodding ahead on reviving it, and it will be back to life in the new year some time.

Contact details of the "current" membership are currently being updated as best we can from our own resources, but we are hoping that this will be more productive when members sign up for the 2011 year.

Newsletter

For my sins, I have been elected editor for a newsletter, which we will try to get out every quarter in line with our planned meetings. I apologise in advance for bad grammar, worse spelling, and the creative flair of a brick, but, some news is better than no news!!

Next GAKZN Meeting

The next GAKZN meeting is scheduled to be held on the 27th January 2011. The venue will be the tried and tested Polo Pony Hotel. Try to make it, and make a difference to your industry. Note that all paid up members will receive their membership certificates for the year at this meeting.