

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011**

2011 has been a successful year for the South African Council for Automation and Control. SACAC has fulfilled its mission by organizing and participating in national and international events in the automation and control arena; by maintaining SACAC's relationship with IFAC as its NMO; by facilitating contact between researchers, practitioners, vendors and suppliers in the automation and control domains; and by establishing contact with relevant national and international organizations.

Even in these economically challenging times, SACAC has maintained its presence as the foremost South African body fulfilling member's needs in the automation and control fields. Planning for the future continues, as we move towards very exciting times...

### **EVENTS**

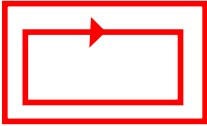
Several SACAC activities took place in 2011:

SACAC has been in existence since 1961 and this fact was celebrated at the SACAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Johannesburg Country Club on 12 August. An overview of SACAC, its accomplishments and plans for the future by past presidents Danna Strydom, Les Lange and Ian Craig were given. My thanks goes to the speakers who provided an enlightening view of SACAC. The launch of the sponsorship prospectus for IFAC 2014, the progress of the preparations for the World Congress and the marketing video were also presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> SACAC birthday celebrations.

SACAC presented a one day interactive workshop on the writing of control system functional design specifications for PLC and SCADA on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September in Cape Town. The guideline presented was completely generic and did not align with any specific automation product or manufacturer. At the conclusion of the workshop the attendees had a thorough understanding of the minimum requirements for an FDS as well as a complete sample document for reference. The workshop was attended by 16 delegates. Our gratitude goes out to Alfred Schroder for organizing this event and making it a success.

SACAC also presented a two day interactive workshop on modern techniques and software for process control on 12-13 October in Johannesburg. The workshop covered the fields of base level control and linear and non-linear model predictive control. The workshop was presented by Dr. Kevin Brooks and Dr. Loutjie Coetzee; who are experts in the fields. At the conclusion of the workshop the attendees gained a thorough understanding of both the modern techniques and software that is used in implementing advanced control schemes. Our sincere thanks goes out to Kevin and Loutjie for making this event a success.

The IFAC Council awarded the 2014 World Congress to SACAC on 29 July, 2007 in Toulouse, France. Preparations for this prestigious event has successfully continued since then; with 2011 being a significant year in the preparation leading to the Cape Town



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Congress. 2500 to 3000 delegates from across the globe are expected over the five day technical period of IFAC 2014.

The preparation highlights for the 19<sup>th</sup> instalment of the World Congress over the past year includes a successful hosting of the South African evening at the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Milan. Dignitaries of IFAC attended this SACAC event and they carry the warm reception, marketing material, tastes of delicious South African wines and beautiful imagery and messages contained in the marketing video of our great country back with them to their respective countries. This event was a successful marketing exercise to petition international attendance at the IFAC 2014 Congress in Cape Town. The presidency of IFAC was also handed over to Professor Ian Craig at the Milan Congress. Ian holds this prestigious position in the triennial period leading up to the congress in August 2014 in Cape Town, and SACAC congratulates and supports him in his tasks as the leader of IFAC. Several presentations about the various aspects of the IFAC 2014 progress were made to Council, the General Assembly and other IFAC committees at IFAC 2011 and these were very well received.

The SACAC appointed IFAC 2014 NOC has held ten meetings since its inception. Members of the committee work closely with the appointed PCO, African Agenda, to make the World Congress at the CTICC a success. NOC meetings are held every six to eight weeks during major activity. The next major steps in the preparation include securing further sponsorship, further marketing of the event at major conferences, tightening of the venue booking, possible inclusion of a major exhibition and the development of a full web site ([www.ifac2014.org](http://www.ifac2014.org)).

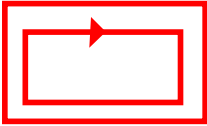
### OPERATIONS

Together with the events, we have continued to consolidate the organisation, based on our primary objectives:

- strengthening SACAC's relationship with IFAC,
- improving co-operation between industry and institutions,
- developing capacity within the automation industry,
- providing value for our members and
- developing a strong balance sheet to support the 2014 Congress preparations.

In support of these objectives, a number of continual actions have been undertaken, and include;

- updating of the membership information database,
- revision of the SACAC website and providing access to executive committee members to easily update information,
- the workshops which aimed at providing both educational and practical value to the attendees, and received positive feedback,
- an increase of the visibility of SACAC in the South African environment through a number of publicity activities,
- making effort to broaden our relationships with fellow associations.



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### RELATIONSHIP WITH IFAC

We are currently enjoying a strong relationship with IFAC, as several of our members are participating on various IFAC committees, either as members, chairs or the president!

### FINANCES

Our Honorary treasurer and Honorary Secretary, Kobus Oosthuizen, is holding a firm hand of control over the SACAC balance sheet. With only two and a half years to go before the World Congress, we will need to significantly strengthen the balance sheet, and realise that some extraordinary effort will be required from all our members. A large portion of the upfront and seed funding will need to come from sponsorships, and I urge all members to look at innovative ways to support this very prestigious event. The IFAC 2014 sponsorship prospectus will be circulated to all members.

### OUTLOOK FOR 2012

SACAC has planned several activities for 2012. These include a rerun of the FDS and Modern Control Techniques for Process Control workshops due to their popularity and benefit to our members. SACAC further plans to host workshops on energy efficiency, modern technologies in automation, common pitfalls of upgrading automation systems, autonomous mining, unmanned aerial vehicles and the control systems day. We also encourage members to both support these events, as well as provide suggestions for topics that are of specific interest to themselves. Preparations for the 2014 World Congress will continue.

In conclusion, SACAC would like to thank all the current executive committee members for their continued support during the year, and to Jean McKenzie, Reina Aviges and Kobus Oosthuizen for their dedicated and sometimes less visible behind the scenes secretarial, administration and finance management support.

To all the members of SACAC, thank you all for your ongoing support of the organisation. Look forward to see SACAC continue to grow and to host a successful three year IFAC tenure-ship, leading up to a magnificent 19th IFAC World Congress in 2014.

Fernando Camisani  
2 March, 2011