

Annual Chapter Report 2015

<i>Chapter:</i>	South Africa
<i>Year:</i>	2015
<i>Officers</i>	Prof Alan C Brent
President:	Dr Josephine K Musango
Chapter-society liaison:	Andries Botha
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<i>Last update:</i>	

1. The past year

1.1 Chapter development

1.1.1 Activities

Please list the main activities organized by the Chapter as such in the table below; insert rows as needed.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Estimated number of Attendees</i>
3 rd Eskom / SASD Chapter Annual Conference	16 Nov 2015	Attended by 75 participants and 18 papers were presented. Additionally, a keynote on system dynamics applications in the health sciences curriculum at tertiary level.
SASD Chapter Social Event	16 Nov 2015	Attended by 20 participants. Award winners for the following categories were presented with trophies: Best presentation at the Conference; Best Contribution to Chapter; Best Student presentation.
Annual General Meeting	15 Nov 2015	7
SASD Chapter Policy Council Election	15 Nov 2015	
Policy Council Meeting	9 Sept 2015	7
SASD Chapter book workshop	9 Sept 2015	10
System Dynamics Courses:		
a) Stellenbosch University	17-28 Aug 2015	20
b) Wits University – School of Electrical and Information	Per Course and	Approximately 250 students in

Engineering a. Health and System Dynamics module in each of three separate undergrad courses, “Medical Thought and Practice” for BHSc, MBBCh and BPharm. c) Eskom Academy of Learning – Introduction to Applied System Dynamics (2 day course)	Syllabuses guide each year Available on demand, generally twice a year	each module ~750 students per year 20
Chapter Roundtable at Cambridge, USA	21 July 2015	11
9th Annual African Young Graduates and Scholars Conference	30 March – 1 April	Attended by 120 participants. A system dynamics session where 5 papers were presented.
Policy Council Meeting	4 Mar 2015	7

1.1.2 Products

Please indicate the number of DS related publications in form of books, chapters, articles and conference proceedings made on behalf of the Chapter (you do not need to include products of individual members).

Type	Number of products	Type	Number of products
Article		Video	
Book		Software	
Chapter		Simulators	
Proceedings	1	Models	
Websites	1		

1.1.3 Relationships with other societies or institutions

Please indicate other institutions and professional or scientific societies your Chapter maintains a relationship with. Add rows as needed.

The South Africa Chapter of the International Council of Systems Engineers (INCOSE) and the SASD Chapter have a close relationship by virtue of some SASD Policy Council members being members of the INCOSE SA Chapter. On 20 th August, the President of the SASD Chapter, Prof Alan Brent, presented at the INCOSE SA Western Cape Event.
A number of members of the SASD Chapter are also involved in the South African Engineering Management Chapter of the IEEE.
Two of the SASD Policy Council members, Prof Alan Brent and Dr Josephine Musango, are involved with the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS).

1.1.5 Finances: cash reserves

If your chapter raises a membership fee, please indicate your current financial situation here.

Cash reserves = R29 122 (as at 30 November 2015)

As at 15 November, there were 18 confirmed members who had paid their membership fees for 2015, most of which were students. During the conference, all those who attended the conference were offered a free membership until February 2016. Hence, as at 31 December, there were xx members, of which only 18 were paid members.

In 2014, the Chapter received field development fund of USD 3000 (ZAR 32 960.94 – at the time the funds were received), which was planned to bring out Prof Erik Pruyt as the Keynote Speaker. However, he ended up prioritizing an urgent project on the Ebola Outbreak that he was working on. The funds received were thus planned to support a Keynote Speaker for the 2015 Conference. Prof Andrea Bassi was the Keynote Speaker who was identified and had agreed to attend the conference. Due to his partial conflict of schedule, the air ticket quote was USD 3200, equivalent to ZAR 45632 due to the South African Currency, which has been weakening against major currencies (USD, EURO and British Pound). The conference organizer applied for additional funding to partly cover this cost but was not successful. Hence, Prof Bassi was unable to attend, and a local Keynote Speaker was used.

As observed in the Chapter bank statement, some funds were utilized to cover the SASD Chapter Social Event and 3-Awards that were planned for conference, namely: Best Conference Presentation; Best Contributor; and Best Student Presentation.

The remaining amount will obviously not be able to fully support an International Keynote Speaker given that the South Africa Currency has weakened even further. While this is expected to be utilized in 2016 conference, mainly in supporting a Keynote Speaker, to bring in an International Speaker, additional funding support would be required.

1.1.6 Membership

How has membership developed over the past year? Please explain important changes in number or composition, with special emphasis on “local” members.

As at 15 November 2015, there were 20 members of which 8 were in Policy Council; 6 were students and the remaining 6 working in various institutions in South Africa.

On 16 November 2015, all the participants were given free membership. The financial year of the Chapter is from March to end February. As at 31 December, 4 members had registered for the free membership. It is from March 2016 onwards when the Chapter would determine how many participants who applied for free membership as at 29 February 2016, will turn their free membership to paid membership.

1.2 Level of development of system dynamics in the Chapter’s area

Variable	N.
Number of universities where at least one faculty member belongs to the system dynamics community: represents the coverage inside the local university system	3
Number of faculty members who belong to the SD field: indicates if there is	9

quantitative growth of SD in the universities.	
Number of <i>institutions where SD is taught</i> as part of other courses or in its own right: university training is a main driver of diffusion of SD, and it can be used as a proxy for the number of young adults who are exposed to SD.	5
Number of <i>faculty</i> members who belong to the SD community and <i>who have studied under a local faculty member</i> : expresses the solidification of the community.	3
Number of <i>school-level initiatives</i>	1
Number of application fields	Various

1.3 Your assessment of the closing year

Please elaborate concerning any particular development that may be relevant for the Society.

The interim Policy Council played a major role in laying the foundation of the Chapter, which involved substantial amount of administrative processes. With the first newly elected Policy Council, all individuals retained their previous posts, based on an unanimous agreement that this will enable a better transition of the Chapter to the next phase until next the election.

The Policy Council is contributing to a Paper that will inform the Society on the development of System Dynamics in Southern Africa. In addition, the Chapter will be contributing to a book, which is expected to be launched during the 2016 Conference.

The South Africa Chapter financial statements for the year ending February 2015 was audited by an Independent registered Auditor, and a “clean audit” report was received. The chapter also complies with the South Africa Revenue Authority Services (SARS) Tax Returns requirements. As a Public Benefit Organisation, the Chapter is excepted from Tax, but has to submit its financial statements to SARS at the end of each financial year.

2 The coming year

2.1 Challenges

What are the opportunities the Chapter plans to take, or challenges you plan to approach during the coming year?

- Introducing conference fee as part of additional funding to support conference activities
- Expand student membership in various institutions.
- The main challenge for the last two years is having an international Keynote Speaker participating at the conference. The Chapter intends to engage with various individuals and the SDS in advance.

2.2 Planned activities

Which activities (like workshops, courses or seminars) does the Chapter plan to perform during the coming year?

- The Chapter will be launching a scholarly book on the application of System Dynamics to tackle developmental challenges. The book will be based on selected South African case studied. The title of the book is: ‘*System Dynamics Models for Africa’s*

Developmental Planning', Edited by Prof Alan Brent and Dr Thokozani Simelane. The book will be published by the, Africa Institute South Africa (AISA).

- 4th Annual Chapter Conference hosted by SASD and Eskom planned to take place on 17-18 November 2016.
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- Policy Council meeting(s) and an Annual General Meeting are expected to take place on 9 March 2016; 7 September 2016; and 16 November 2016. All these are expected to be face-to-face meetings. The venue for the first two meetings will be in Johannesburg, South Africa, and University of Witwatersrand and Eskom will sponsor the venue logistics for the March and September meetings respectively. The third meeting will be held at Stellenbosch University.
- Annual training in System Dynamics at various institutions that are already offering courses.
- SASD Chapter Roundtable in SDS Conference in Delft in July 2016.

2.3 Support required

What would you ask the Society to do to help the Chapter?

- To be able to bring international speaker, additional funding would be required. The Chapter plans to engage with the various individuals in advance as well as with SDS.
- Continuous publication of the Chapter News on the Society Newsletter and other platforms.
- Continuous support for the Chapter Roundtable session during the Society Annual Conference.