

SAIOH newsletter

SAIOH PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hennie van der Westhuizen: SAIOH president
e-mail: president@saioh.co.za

There is no argument that 2021 has, in numerous ways, been more challenging than previous years. The fast-surgingly third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant financial and health impacts on several of our members and associates. In addition, some of our members were seriously affected and, in some cases, traumatised by the recent unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and, to a lesser degree, in Gauteng.

The Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) Council would like to express our solidarity with every member that has been and/or will be affected by COVID-19 and/or the unrest. Our prayer is for a swift recovery from the effects of both events and for lessons learnt during these adversities to be beneficial for future planning. It is heart-rending that, during my tenure, we have seen such anguish. However, I cannot refrain from expressing how heart-warming it is to have witnessed the camaraderie and support amongst our members in these trying times. These challenges have showed the grit in our members and forged a solid bond that is bound to strengthen SAIOH as a professional body.

The SAIOH Management Board's and the SAIOH National Council's activities continue to drive SAIOH's goals for 2021. In this newsletter, updates on the Annual Conference, Professional Certification Committee (PCC) matters, and other aspects of SAIOH are reported.

INTRODUCING OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nico Potgieter: SAIOH marketing and communication
e-mail: njpotgieter101@gmail.com

Moses Mokone, branches co-ordinator

Moses Mokone is an occupational hygienist registered with SAIOH; he holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Environmental Health. Currently, he is studying for a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH), in the field of occupational hygiene at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is employed at the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) as



an occupational hygienist/technical manager. Moses has more than 10 years of work experience in the field of occupational and environmental health, having worked as an occupational hygiene consultant, and occupational hygiene specialist in various sectors, including the mining and petrochemical sectors, and governmental agencies. Moses serves as a Council member for SAIOH, and his portfolio is to manage/co-ordinate all activities of the SAIOH national branches. His hobbies include reading, singing, listening to music, playing football, and running marathons.

In this newsletter

- Introducing our Council members
- Council activities
 1. SAIOH Council and Management Board activities
 2. SAIOH Annual Conference update
- Branch activities
- From the PCC

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Hennie van der Westhuizen: SAIOH president
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Nico Potgieter: SAIOH marketing and communication
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Deon Jansen van Vuuren: SAIOH general manager
e-mail: deon.jvvuuren@gmail.com

Kate Smart: SAIOH chief administrative officer
e-mail: info@saioh.co.za

1. SAIOH Council and Management Board activities

SAIOH Technical Committee

SAIOH's Technical Committee preparation is progressing well. The committee will consist of members of all three registration levels and will be responsible for researching and drafting all SAIOH position papers and technical papers.

Make your mark

The SAIOH Council invites topics and the establishment of working groups for technical papers from its members. If you have any suggestions or contributions in this regard, please e-mail them to our president at president@saioh.co.za or to the chief administrative officer at info@saioh.co.za.

2. SAIOH Annual Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will once again be a virtual conference, consisting of six (three-hour) webinar sessions, to run over a three-week period (with two sessions per week). The times of the webinars will be confirmed closer to the conference and will be scheduled in accordance with the presenters' time zones. The official dates are 18 October to 5 November 2021. Please note that the SAIOH annual general meeting (AGM) will also take place on 5 November 2021.

Details to note:

- Four professional development courses (PDCs) will be presented during this period, in the form of two webinars. These will run concurrently in the morning, followed by two in the afternoon.
- Fifteen international speakers, mainly from the USA, UK and Australia, have been identified to present keynote and other presentations.
- The initial invitations and programme will be shared with SAIOH members and stakeholders in due course.

- The conference will be hosted on the NIOH virtual platform; it will be a paid conference, with recordings available afterwards, as well as room for sponsors.

In the interim, SAIOH will be hosting two special training webinars:

- 29 July 2021: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and how this guides the occupational hygiene practitioner's (OHP's) scope of occupational hygiene (OH) services; and
- 25 August 2021: Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents and guidance on how to comply with the regulations.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Moses Mokone: SAIOH branches co-ordinator

e-mail: moses.mokone@nioh.ac.za

Nico Potgieter: SAIOH marketing and communication

e-mail: njpotgieter101@gmail.com

Due to COVID-19, all branch meetings and workshops are currently held online. Online meetings and workshops present opportunities to SAIOH members who are invited to attend and participate in any branch meetings, regardless of their branch affiliations. We urge all our members to support their branches and to participate in branch activities. Members can submit topics for discussion to the various branch chairpersons for consideration in future webinars/meetings.

The Gauteng, Western Cape and North-West branches hosted virtual workshops for members during June 2021. A branch chairpersons' meeting was held on 9 July 2021 to brainstorm ways in which branch meetings could attract speakers and focus on technical issues confronting the profession in general.

SAIOH would like to revive the stagnant branches, starting with the Mpumalanga branch. Members who would like to assist with, or contribute ideas towards, this initiative are urged to contact Moses Mokone (branches co-ordinator) or Nico Potgieter (marketing and communication) on the provided e-mail addresses.

FROM THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE (PCC)

Deon Jansen van Vuuren: SAIOH chief examiner

e-mail: deon.jvvuuren@gmail.com

Karen du Preez: PCC chairperson

e-mail: KarenD@nioh.ac.za

Lee Doolan: SAIOH PCC administrator

e-mail: lee@saioh.co.za

Certification assessments

A summary of results of written and oral examinations of the year to date (YTD) is provided in Table 1. The YTD pass rate levels for registered occupational hygiene technologists (ROHTs) and registered occupational hygienists (ROHs) remain a matter of concern. SAIOH urges prospective ROHTs and ROHs to make use of the SAIOH Mentorship Programme. Lee Doolan can be contacted in this regard, at the address provided.

The PCC's Examination Committee is in discussions with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH), and Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB), to develop and share a single multiple-choice

question database for the Occupational Hygiene Training Association's (OHTA's) Foundation Module (W 201). Watch this space!

Table 1. SAIOH PCC certification assessment results for 2021 YTD (as at 26 July 2021)

Certification category	Written assessments (Mar and Jun 2021)				Oral assessments (Mar 2021)			
	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate (%)	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate (%)
OH Assistant	37	30	7	81	37	30	7	81
W201 - Assistant	36	31	5	84	36	31	5	86
OH Technologist	36	19	17	53	20	10	10	50
Occupational hygienist	25	12	13	48	10	5	5	50
Total	134	92	42	69	103	76	27	74

Occupational Hygiene Skills Forum

The SAIOH Occupational Hygiene Skills Forum (OHSF) was introduced to co-ordinate all aspects related to the recognition of occupational hygiene training materials, training providers and institutions, and the development and management of assessment and examination systems, where required.

Another function of the OHSF is to evaluate applications from tertiary institutions for recognition of their occupational hygiene-related qualifications. The OHSF is progressing well with these accreditations. A matrix was recently developed to evaluate the occupational hygiene (OH) qualifications offered (in line with the 50% OH content requirement). All tertiary institutions that offer OH qualifications are encouraged to contact the PCC administrator for information regarding application for recognition (Lee@saioh.co.za).

The details of recognised training providers and recognised qualifications will be available on the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za). This will make it easier for students and certification candidates to select suitable qualifications that meet SAIOH and international requirements.

Have your say

The SAIOH Council invites and welcomes your feedback on how this communication is helping you as a SAIOH member, and how we can improve it. If you have any suggestions, inputs, or contributions, please e-mail them to our president at president@saioh.co.za, or to the chief administrative officer at info@saioh.co.za.