



SAPI KwaZulu-Natal Branch Newsletter

AUGUST 2008

Introduction

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2008. This edition focuses on:

- Leadership feedback on strategic work addressed locally and nationally on your behalf;
- Brief reflections on the Planning Africa Conference ; and
- The 2008 KZN SAPI Planning Awards Process.

Local Leaders Report... -



PRAVINA GOVENDER KZN BRANCH CHAIR says:
“Strategically, we are well aligned with National SAPI objectives”

Photograph by Larry Saunders 2007 and Adapted by Pat Luckin 2008

Pravina reports that the National SAPI Strategic Planning process facilitated by Neil Klug stressed four objectives for the 2008-2010 periods:

1. “Internal Organisation- Consolidate current membership and establish a well functioning website;
2. Fully Established Office grounded on Financial Sustainability;
3. Leadership- Increase the status & influence of planners
4. Strengthen -African Planning Association (APA) and Common-wealth Association of Planners (CAP)”

The National Mentorship Programme



MAX SINGH is passionate about mentorship & heads up the National Mentorship Programme

Photograph by Larry Saunders 2007 and Adapted by Pat Luckin 2008

The Department of Provincial & Local Government (DPLG) has concluded a MoU with SAPI to undertake a mentorship programme. Max Singh, the deputy chair of the KZN branch has been appointed by SAPI Board to manage the project. The programme has been conceptualized and was accepted at the national Strategic Planning meeting on the 30th May 2008. The intention is to pair professional, registered planners with planning officials within municipalities. SAPI shall select mentors at branch level. Mentors shall be trained prior to commencement of the mentoring task. Further Updates on this programme shall be made available on the SAPI webpage: www.sapi.org.za as the programme unfolds.

The African Planning Association (APA): A Virtual network of planners linking continents and strengthening localities.



CHRISTINE PLATT- The Commonwealth Association of Planners - (CAP) President says that “The African Planning Association has grown since 2002”

Photograph by Larry Saunders 2008 and Adapted by Pat Luckin 2008

The African Planning Association (APA) was established in 2002 during the Planning Africa Conference. APA was conceived as a “virtual organisation, using the web to create linkages”. Basic to APA are National Planning Associations from which membership is drawn and local/ continental networks are strengthened. The founding members of APA stem from SAPI, UN HABITAT Professional Fora, the Commonwealth Association of Planners, the Kenyan Institute of Planners, the Uganda Institute of Physical Planners and the Malawian Association of Planners ([www.durban.gov.za/durban-Platt C ,2002: Planning Africa Conference Report](http://www.durban.gov.za/durban-Platt%20C%202002%20Planning%20Africa%20Conference%20Report)).



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Christine Platt reports that “during the 2007 Planning Africa Conference dinner in Johannesburg we welcomed our 15th country as a signatory to the 2002 Durban declaration - Nigeria - with 37 Nigerian planners present to witness the occasion”.



Nigeria signing the Durban Declaration watched by representatives of Societe des Urbanistes Francaises, South Africa, Malawi, City of Johannesburg, Ghana, Ekurhuleni Metro / SALGA and Commonwealth Association of Planners Secretary – General with CAP President, Christine Platt wearing her SAPI Past - President hat.

Photograph by Larry Saunders 2008 and Adapted by Pat Luckin 2008

Christine stated that representatives from “Malawi, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Tunisia and Cameroon joined APA during the Planning Africa conference in Cape Town in 2006. Members will recall that the founding signatories in Cape Town were Egypt, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The breakthrough into Francophone Africa is welcomed and is a landmark event for planning in Africa.” We are particularly pleased to have been able to also welcome to the dinner the Societe des Urbanistes Francaises which has also become a supporting signatory to the Durban Declaration, said Christine. “SAPI is to hold follow - up discussions in Pretoria regarding our application for African Renaissance funding to take the APA forward in a more concrete manner, specifically getting the website and virtual network established” she stressed.

SAQA - SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) & Planning Competencies Bottlenecks

Max Singh reports that “after much lobbying from SAPI, SAQA called the first meeting on the 15 August 2006, where Ms. Christine Platt, was appointed the interim convener. However, progress has been slow because there are no funds to generate the unit standards for planning programmes. Consequently, the SA Council of Planners (SACPLAN), has motivated, through the Joint Initiative on the Promotion of Skills Acquisition (JIPSA)



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that priority is accorded to the identification of planning competencies and the generation of unit standards. This is essential for SACPLAN's task as the statutory Quality Assurance body for planning education. This matter was prioritized at the JIPSA meeting of 5 June 2008 and feedback is awaited. For further information on competencies; qualifications and the National Qualifications Framework, please visit www.saqa.org.za

Over the past 2 years, JIPSA has commissioned a number of reports investigating required planning skills. The reports generated reflect methodological shortcomings and SAPI has raised concerns in this regard. These reports are not in the public domain.

The SA Council of Planners (SAC PLAN) committee on Education & Training, headed by Max Singh, has developed a conceptual "Skills Pipeline" which has been accepted by JIPSA. The task is now to develop the planning skills competencies, the qualifications and /or unit standards. Consequently, a funding proposal to develop this task has been submitted to the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA) by SACPLAN. However, a tender calling for further studies into skills needed has been issued by JIPSA while little process is being made with regard to competencies and qualifications unit standards (Max Singh 2008).

South African Council for Planners

On 8th August, Lulama Xingwana the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs called for nominations of suitably qualified persons to serve as member(s) of the South African Council for Planners in terms of the Planning Profession Act No 36 of 2002.

The Act provides for the:

- *establishment of the South African Council for Planners as a juristic person;*
- *different categories of planners and the registration of planners;*
- *authorization of areas of work for planners;*
- *recognition of certain voluntary associations;*
- *the protection of the public from unethical planning practices ;*
- *the maintenance a high standard of professional conduct and integrity;*
- *disciplinary mechanisms and an Appeal Board; and*
- *provision for incidental matters.*

The gazetted call comes in the wake of concern expressed by SAPI and serving Council members that the existing term of office ended on 14 June 2008. Nominations for the four year term closed on 25 August 2008. In the interim, the activities of Council continue with the current Council members. For information on SA Council of

2008 Planning Africa Conference – Highlights & Reflections from Namibia

The conference report committee including Yusuf Patel, Yondela Silimela, Stephen Berrisford, Tanya Zack, Alan Mabin and various committee chairs and an independent report requested from Barry Watson from Namibia provide the following reflections:

"The conference responded admirably to the intended outcomes of:

- Fundamentally shaping and influencing leadership in planning and development across the continent with a view to improving the livelihoods of inhabitants on the continent;
- Revisiting the role and contribution of planning and governance in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Strengthening the ongoing dialogue and debate on planning and governance issues that have bearing on the future development of the continent; and
- Formulating a sufficiently shared perspective on planning innovation to feed into an international discourse.



2008 Planning Africa Conference

Some core reflections include:

- “If the wealthy are abandoning the idea of a shared city, how then does the profession position itself in this polarity?”
- Several papers highlighted genuine collaborative planning...
- “The importance of sustainability science in planning was raised in our opening plenary by Christine Platt and carried through in several sessions”.
- “Alex Aylet usefully dealt with how we negotiate t sustainability”.
- Ashraf Adam, President of SAPI says that “We may wax loquacious but we cannot apply a town planning scheme equally to a formal and an informal area.”
- Solomon Lechesa Tsenoli, asks- “Integrated Development Plans – the question stands, are they mechanical pulling together or really integrated”?
- Professor Dan Smit says that the facts we have to live with include: - Population growth exceeds economic growth; Services follow urbanization and land delivery is 50 to 70% informally allocated. For more detailed reports see www.saplanners.org.za

SAPI Provincial Planning Awards 6th November 2008



Photos by eThekweni Municipality, Robynne Hansmann and Theresa Gordon

Theresa Gordon, the SAPI Awards portfolio committee member reports that the SAPI provincial award for excellence is to coincide with World Planning Day on the 6th November 2008. Both practicing planners and planning students are invited to submit entries for the awards by

30 September 2008.

If you are aware of planning work deserving of recognition we invite you to submit it for an award under the following categories:

- Design and local planning issues
- Strategic / Policy planning
- Sectoral Planning; and
- Research

The focus of these awards will be on the degree to which sustainability issues are addressed in submissions

**For further information, please contact:
Theresa Gordon at gordont@dut.ac.za or Rosemary Awuorh at Awuorh@ukzn.ac.z**

Branch Events

The following events occurred this year:

- KZN Planning and Development Bill: 12th March
- Curitiba Visit Presentation: 5th May
- eThekweni Soccer Stadium Tour-30th May
- Communal Land Rights Act: 22th August

Forthcoming events

- **PPDA FORUM**
- **9.00hrs, 16th September 2008 - UKZN INNOVATION CENTRE AUDITORIUM – Durban**
- **7th October 2008: Pietermaritzburg**
- **21st October 2008: Richards Bay**

World Town Planning Day/SAPI AGM: 6th November 2008

World Planning Day & AGM

Remember World Planning Day and the AGM which is to be held on the 6th November 2008. The special events planned for this day are the announcements of the KZN branch 2008 awards for planning excellence.

News letter Comments & Submissions

All comments or submissions for the newsletter can be forwarded to patluckin@gmail.com or subbant@durban.gov.za.

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