

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: OCTOBER 1993

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1 Introduction

My theme for this year is: '*Planners do it best*'.

Who would contradict me with the burgeoning evidence indicating the high degree of excellence to which planners aspire and which they attain?

To illustrate, I would like to draw attention to the large number of town and regional planners in public service who have risen to top positions in the country's administration. For instance, in the year there was one director-general, two deputy directors-general, eight chief directors and 17 directors in central and provincial government service who hold town and regional qualifications. There was also one town clerk! The profession is proud of their achievements.

At local authority level, town and regional planners are also proving themselves indispensable and they play leading roles in the promotion of the art and science of the profession at that level. Members in private practice have also been active in securing positions of leadership. Examples are town and regional planners in the negotiating fora, in parliament and other councils.

A further example is the role planners play in the cut and thrust of related activities. EPPIC's much coveted National Premium Award was bestowed on Dereck Chittenden and Associates for their planning of Jakalsfontein Coastal Estates. This award was the best of various entries including many by esteemed environmental specialists. Furthermore, EPPIC's National Student Award was bestowed on a planning student, Miss Karen Fortman of the University of the Witwatersrand for her dissertation 'Urban Reconstruction in South Africa: the Buffer Strip as Integrator'. In the field of housing, James Slabbert fielded the honours of Housing Man of

the Year from the Institute for Housing of Southern Africa in 1992 for his innovative approach to housing in Delft. In 1993 this honour was bestowed on Dan Smith for his work in promoting housing matters in Natal. That our colleagues have attained such high recognition in related planning fields is a source of inspiration to all of us.

2 Council

As far as Council matters are concerned, it is with regret that we took leave of Bruce McCormack who was coopted onto Council for his specialist input into the Planning Issues debate. Over the years he has played a major role in this regard and we are indebted to him for his valuable guidance and inspiration. We also regretfully take leave of Amanda Louw who performed a magnificent task as Honorary Secretary. It is with pleasure, however that we take leave of her at a time when she will be expanding her family and we wish her all good health and happiness in the Cape where she is to retire with her family!

3 Meetings and membership

The Council and Executive Committee have held three Normal Meetings during the year and the Council held an Emergency Council Meeting in March 1993. The last-mentioned was called to address certain issues that were raised at Port Elizabeth during the Annual General Meeting and which could not be finalised at that Meeting. Membership of the Institute has shown a positive growth as follows:

	1991	1992	1993
Corporate	611	649	668
Graduate	276	323	350
Associate	30	37	40
Retired/Hon/Life	45	32	44
Total	945	1041	1102

4 Finance and budget

As was reported in the last year, the finances of the Institute remain under good management which reflects on the tireless and good work of Tiaan Ehlers. The income for the year ended 30 June 1993 was R176 612. In the past year approximately 29% of the budget was utilised on creative activities which represents a drop of 14% on the 43% attained last year. The Council is hard pressed to achieve the ideal 60% - 40% relationship between creative projects and actual maintenance of the structure. The ravages of inflation and escalating costs which are discussed in detail in the Honorary Treasurer's report play havoc with this ideal and the Council grapples with this reality at every occasion. There are of course financial resource limitations but these are imposed by sound management requirements. The Institute has no debts or overdrafts which is a remarkable achievement in these days. So responding to members' needs and aspirations is always on the agenda - meeting them all within our budget is more difficult. The Council's task is to determine policies, to prioritise actions and to allocate resources appropriately.

5 Branches

One is often confronted by the misguided belief that there are two quite separate and different parts to our Institute - the Institute represented by the secretariat and the Council, and the Branches. In fact the Institute is its members. Members determine the policy of the Institute. It is a single body and as long as branch actions do not do anything to disrupt unity they are free to run their own affairs. In fact it is with pleasure that I can note that the branches have loyally and consistently upheld the traditions and aspirations of the Institute and have indeed gone a long way to promote the Institute's needs at local levels.

In this regard, I would like to highlight certain activities of the branches which are usually engulfed in the business of the Annual General Meeting as having been 'taken as read'. I have always felt that this is an injustice and would like to make mention of the sterling work which is done by the branches.

The **Western Cape branch** was ably led by Tommy Brummer. Apart from the usual social events which are always a success, the branch arranged a day symposium entitled 'Metropolitan Development - Current Trends in Negotiations in the Greater Peninsular'. Furthermore the branch arranged a Continuing Education Programme on Conflict Management and negotiation with particular reference to Development. I am told that both these events were successful.

In the **Eastern Cape**, branch matters were ably guided by Ben Gericke. In the year the branch was recovering from their efforts in presenting the successful 1992 Biennial Conference. Not resting on its laurels, however, the branch has been negotiating with the Port Elizabeth Technikon to introduce a diploma course in town planning. This is an ongoing process and we look with interest at what will come of it. The branch is also attempting to prepare an informal course on capacity building in order to help disadvantaged communities to get the best out of planning and development services.

As far as the **Free State and Northern Cape** is concerned, Piet de Bie ably held the reins and helped in organising a discussion group on planning problems in general. A successful tour was arranged to the Cape Peninsula in which members were exposed to the experiences of the Cape Metropolitan planners in the field of conflict resolution.

In **Natal**, where Liz Hicks was at the helm, two discussion groups were held, one on planning problems in China and one on development of lower income housing in Southern America. Here again, branch members

were given an insight into other countries' experiences in addressing the needs of the poor.

The **Transvaal branch** was chaired by Lettie Steyn and in the period two breakfast symposiums were held. At the one, the speaker was Antonie Geldenhuis who discussed the peace initiatives and the other was addressed by Dr Van Zyl Slabbert who gave his insights on planning lessons out of Africa. A slide show was presented by Diet von Broembsen and Adriaan Schoeman on their perceptions on planning in third world cities and how the needs of the poor are addressed in the Far East and South America.

Hannes Lerm chaired the **Northern Transvaal** for this year. A well attended conference was held on urbanisation in the Northern Transvaal on 22 October. At this conference, a deeper understanding of the role of negotiation in the planning process was gained as well as the process approach to planning rural areas.

In summary, it can safely be said that the branches are excelling themselves in presenting timeous, appropriate and relevant issues which their members can attend with a view to expanding their knowledge and understanding of the profession. I appeal to all to support their branches, for it is at this level of activity that members can really expand, not only their professional knowledge, but also contribute and share their experiences with others.

6 Gekonsolideerde fonds

Die Instituut se Gekonsolideerde Fonds is weer in hierdie jaar doeltreffend bestuur deur Piet van Zyl. Hy het 'n handleiding opgestel wat vir toekomstige rade tot nut sal wees om daardeur 'n gestandaardiseerde metode van handeling te bewerkstellig. Toekennings is aan studente gedurende die jaar gemaak. 'n Toekenning sal vir die eerste keer in hierdie jaar gemaak word aan 'n outeur van 'n artikel in stads- en streekbeplanning. Die sluitingsdatum hiervoor is 31 Desember en lede word aangemoedig om in te skryf

hieraan. Die paneel sal bestaan uit myself, Peter Robinson en Sakkie Badenhorst.

7 Openbare betrekkinge

Soos reeds gemeld speel die takke die vernaamste rol in die voorsiening van aktiwiteite aan lede. In hierdie opsig hanteer hulle die reklame daarvan. Christo Kannenberg hou 'n oorhoofse ogie daaroor en gee breë koördinerende riglyne in dié verband.

8 Konferensie

Die vorige Tweejaarlikse Konferensie wat in Port Elizabeth in 1992 gehou is, is reeds genoem en die Oos-Kaaptak word weereens bedank vir hul uitmuntende bydrae in dié verband. Die Wes-Kaaptak reël die Konferensie vir 1994 en die tema is '*Groeibestuur vir stede in krisis: Internasionale lesse en Suider-Afrikaanse ondervinding vir 'n selfonderhoudende stedelike toekoms*'. Geoff Underwood staan hier aan die roer van sake en ons sien uit na 'n uitmuntende Konferensie wat sprekers vanuit die buiteland sal lok.

9 Omgewingsake

Hierdie Instituut het 'n groot agting vir omgewingsverskynsels. Daar word op konsekwente wyse gepoog om die noue bande wat in die veld van die omgewing gesmee is, te verstewig. Lidmaatskap op EPPIC word as 'n prioriteit beskou en die Instituut is trots op die rol wat Rob Fowler as Voorsitter van EPPIC oor die afgelope jaar, gespeel het. Die werk wat Piet Claassen doen om 'n beleidsdokument vir die Instituut op te stel word waardeer en daar word met groot afwagting na die voltooiende dokument uitgesien. Lidmaatskap by EPPIC word kundig deur Hannes Botha hanteer.

10 Nuusbrieff en Tydskrif

Die Nuusbrieff, wat driemaandeliks deur Piet Claassen uitgegee word, kan as 'n poging van uitstaande gehalte beskryf word. Die Instituut is voorwaar trots op die professionaliteit en kundigheid waarmee dit voorberei word. Dit kan as 'n baken van voor-

treklikeid bestempel word wat tot groot eer en aansien vir die beroep strek. So ook kan die Tydskrif wat kundig deur prof Tod Welch geproduseer word, as die vlagskip-publikasie van die Instituut bestempel word. Ek dra graag my Raad se dank aan hom oor vir sy onbaatsugtige en kundige voorbereiding van hierdie Tydskrif. Ek wil weereens van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om lede aan te moedig om bydraes vir die twee publikasies te maak.

11 Opvoeding

Na aanleiding van verhoë van 'n groep beplanners om die beroep meer toeganklik, veral vir die minderbevoorregtes, te maak, is besluit om 'n kursus te ondersoek wat op buitemuurse studie gebaseer sal word en 'n kwalifiserende eksamen daar te stel. Lede sal mettertyd in meer besonderhede hieromtrent ingelig word aangesien dit waarskynlik op 'n reël wysiging sal neerkom. Die voortrefflike werk wat Sakkie Badenhorst en Piet Claassen ter voorbereiding van die akademiese stukke in hierdie verband gedoen het, word met dank erken.

11 Professionele fooie

In hierdie verband het Christo Kannenberg op onbaatsugtige wyse die voortou geneem en het hy in die stilte die fooie aangepas om dit met die Statutêre Raad se tariewe wat in Augustus aangekondig is, in lyn te bring. Hy gee ook gereeld 'n aantal menings en ander vertolkings oor die reëls aan kliënte en konsultante. Die Raad maak staat op sy goeie kundigheid in die verband en is dankbaar vir dit wat hy namens ons doen.

12 Reëls

Hierdie saak word deur Paul Waanders hanteer en sodra klarigheid oor reël wysigings bereik word as gevolg van die nuwe opleidingsbehoefes, sal hy reël vir die nodige wysigings.

13 Beplanningsvraagstukke

Soos reeds genoem, het Bruce McCormack die grootste rol gespeel in

die voorbereiding van die Instituut se standpunt oor beplanningsvraagstukke. Hierdie saak geniet voortdurende aandag en Pieter Claassen en Christo Kannenberg sal die voortou neem om die goeie werk wat reeds vër gevorder is voort te sit, dit met ander kundiges te toets en dit finaal persklaar te maak.

14 New branches

Piet van Zyl has drawn up a useful guideline in this regard which will be of ongoing assistance to future Councils. No new branches are being contemplated at present.

15 Construction Professions Committee

For many years the Institute has been attempting to gain access to the fora which have been set up to address the housing issues affecting our society. Upon request, access has been denied to the Institute to become a member of the National Housing Forum. This matter has been taken up with other professions who have had similar experiences. As a result of this, the Institute has been involved in creating a co-ordinating body known as the *Planning and Construction Professions Council*, in conjunction with the South African Association of Consulting Engineers, the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors and the Institute of South African Architects. Johan Biermann has been instrumental in promoting the Institute's interests in this regard.

16 SAI TRP consultation

During the year, the SAI TRP issued consultation papers to Government, provincial administrations and local governments on some ten subjects ranging from environmental issues, urbanisation, the development of St Lucia, direct access to national roads, regional delimitation and town planning scheme requirements. Members of Council have been directly involved in consultation on matters such as the Pretoria City Lake Project, the PWV Transportation Study and environmental issues.

17 Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to thank my Council and the branches for their continuing support they give me in running your Institute. Without them and their support it would be impossible to further the aims of our Institute. Happily, I can depend on the high calibre of members of the Institute.