

HOT DIP GALVANIZING TODAY

ENGINEERS AND THE SAISC: Bolstering the two-way street



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With access to over 60 years' worth of local steel industry project case studies and an impressive number of experienced and highly-qualified team members, the SAISC stands as the custodian of steel industry knowledge and standards in Southern Africa.

"The Institute is highly respected for its reservoir of authoritative technical knowledge, and is, in fact, one of only 6 Institutes of its kind in the world," clarifies Gebremeskel.



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"As such, we are able to consult with engineers, specifiers, and architects on design recommendations and offer experienced technical input. We have many resources that local engineers are already accessing. However, by becoming members of the Institute, they have access to even more – and to our targeted guidance and mentorship - as required. We would also encourage engineers to work with fabricators who are members of the SAISC as knowledgeable and up-to-date steel specialists.

The SAISC is a stalwart of the steel industry which also provides popular technical publications for sale, a broad range of relevant training, and advisory services including technical queries relating to steel construction and structural engineering.

Sharing knowledge for the benefit of all in the steel value chain

The Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) has positioned itself to service the steel construction industry, and individuals, including engineers, are involved with and interested in steel construction. The Institute is able to offer engineers the value of the knowledge it is able to share. Amanuel Gebremeskel, Chief Executive Officer of the SAISC,

explains: "It is a universal truth that having access to information does not necessarily mean having access to knowledge. In this regard, the world can often be seen to be 'information rich but knowledge poor. Knowledge however comes through an understanding and application of the information. The SAISC provides a means to stakeholders of processing and understanding pertinent information and making it available as the knowledge that is easily understood and to is constructively used."

Refocusing: the importance of sharing knowledge

Gebremeskel explains that since its inception, the SAISC has been able to play different roles across the industry, at different times. We have noted a need to return our attention and efforts back to the Institute's original core purpose: namely, the sharing of knowledge. The SAISC encourages future engineer members to share their knowledge through the SAISC's technical talks and training opportunities. Furthermore, providing individual mentoring of young engineering student members thereby establishing a 'two-way street' for the greater development, empowerment, and benefit of all role players within the local steel value chain.

Toward a holistic membership pool

Denise Sherman, SAISC Marketing and Management Consultant, agrees, adding: "Over time, we have noted that many engineers make use of the SAISC resources. We would like to encourage them to become members of the Institute in order to be able to tap into an even richer fabric of available knowledge and have open access to all relevant role players throughout the local steel value chain."

1 SAISC Chief Executive Officer.

2 SAISC Marketing and Management Consultant.