

Annual Chapter Report 2017

<i>Chapter:</i>	South Africa
<i>Year:</i>	2017
<i>Officers</i>	Nalini Sooknanan Pillay
President:	Mapule Ntsoane
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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>
5 th Annual System Dynamics Conference Jointly hosted by SASD Chapter and Eskom. Host institution, University of Pretoria	27-28 Nov 2017	Attended by 38 participants; 21 papers were presented. Additionally, a welcome address and keynote on <i>Sustainability and Innovation in Socio-Technical Systems</i> .
Workshop on What Should I order? At 5 th Annual System Dynamics Conference	28 Nov 2017	Attended by 16 participants, facilitated by Andries Botha and Danie Booyens
SASD Chapter Social Event	27 Nov 2017	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	27 Nov 2017	23 participants
SASD Chapter Policy Council Election and assigning responsibilities to Newly Elected Policy Council	27 Nov 2017	9 participants
Policy Council Meeting	6 Sep 2017	8 participants
Chapter Roundtable at Cambridge, Massachusetts	20 July 2017	9 participants
System Dynamics Courses:		

a) Stellenbosch University	22 May – 2 Jun 2017	20 participants
b) Wits University – School of Electrical and Information Engineering a. Health and System Dynamics module in each of three separate undergrad courses, “Medical Thought and Practice” for BHSc, MBCh and BPharm.	Per Course and Syllabuses guide each year	Approximately 250 students in each module ~750 students per year
c) Eskom Academy of Learning – Introduction to Applied System Dynamics (2 day course)	28 Feb- 01 Mar 2017	12 participants
	5-6 Apr 2017	11 participants
d) Eskom Academy of Learning – Applied System Dynamics (5 day course)	19-20 Sep 2017	11 participants
	2-6 Oct 2017	7 participants
Policy Council Meeting	1 Mar 2017	8 participants

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	1	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.

INCOSE SA invited some of the SASD members to facilitate a one day workshop on the application of system dynamics in industry and there was a track on system dynamics at the conference.

A number of SASD Chapter members are also involved in the South African Engineering Management Chapter of the IEEE.

One of the SASD Policy Council member, Prof Josephine Musango and SASD member Prof Alan Brent, 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 = **R57 266.85** (as at 19 Nov 2017)

The cash reserves of the Chapter have improved due to the following:

- Introduced registration fees for the Chapter Annual Conference to support conference activities
- Received support for the conference from sponsors namely: Stellenbosch University – Industrial Engineering Department; School of Public Leadership; Urban Modelling and Metabolism Assessment; ESKOM; Transnet Centre for Systems Engineering at University of Pretoria

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 27 November 2017, there were 37 members of which 11 were in Policy Council; 8 were students and the remaining 18 working in various institutions in South Africa.

Student membership is still the largest proportion members as the Chapter continues to enhance and build capacity in System Dynamics in South Africa and Africa as a whole.

On 27 November 2017, conference participants were given free membership. The financial year of the Chapter is from March to end February. It is from March 2018 when the Chapter would determine the paid membership for 2018.

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

<i>Variable</i>	<i>N.</i>
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 quantitative growth of SD in the universities.	9

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 Chapter will be contributing to a book, whose launch was rescheduled for 2018 Conference.

Three new members joined the Policy Council 2018 for the first time. Given the large proportion of students in the Chapter, a Student Representative was elected for the Policy Council.

The chapter also complies with the South Africa Revenue Authority Services (SARS) Tax Returns requirements. As a Public Benefit Organisation, the Chapter is exempted 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?

- Continue with the conference fee to fund conference activities
- Expand student membership in various institutions.
- Invite African delegates to participate in the conference and to affiliate with the Chapter.

2.2 Planned activities

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

- The Chapter will launch a scholarly book on the application of System Dynamics to tackle developmental challenges. The book is based on selected South African case studies and is titled: '*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).
- 6th Annual System Dynamics Conference, jointly hosted by SASD and Wits Transnet Centre for Systems Engineering will take place on 22-23 November 2018.
- Policy Council meeting(s) and an Annual General Meeting planned to take place on 1 March 2018; 6 September 2018; and 22 November 2018. All these are expected to be face-to-face meetings. The venue for the first two meetings will be in Johannesburg,

South Africa; Eskom and Toyota will sponsor the venue logistics for the March and September meetings respectively. The third meeting will be held at Wits University, who will also sponsor the venue logistics.

- Annual training in System Dynamics at various institutions that are already offering courses.
- SASD Chapter Roundtable in SDS Conference in Iceland in August 2018.
- Eskom 2-Day Training on 24 – 25 April 2018; 3 - 4 July 2018; 29 -30 August 2018.
- Eskom 5-Day Training on 8 – 12 October 2018.

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.
- There is a need for a conference management platform to efficiently host the Annual South African System Dynamics Conference, funding would be required to support such platform.
- 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.