



Message from the Chairperson

Dear ICCSSA members,

I look forward to my term as the Chairperson of ICCSSA and aim to grow the organisation from strength to strength. There are a number of activities that ICCSSA will be pursuing after the successful re-launch that was held on the 1st June. You will be updated on these activities via the newsletter. ICCSSA is thankful to the speakers for readily accepting the invitation to present talks at the ICCSSA relaunch. The new ICCSSA board comprises of the following members: Mr Philip Steyn (CEO), Ms Valentina Litvine (Financial Director), Ms Vanessa Ndlovu (Secretariat), Directors: Mr Paul Mokilane, Dr Mark Nasila, Mr Aneshan Ramaloo, Dr Ruan Rossouw, Dr Inger Fabris-Rotelli and Dr Caston Sigauke with Dr Pravesh Debba being co-opted to assist with the finalisation of the bye-laws. The BoI also consists of ex-officio members Prof. Danie Uys (SASA President) and Mr Ashwell Jenneker (StatsSA). The ICCSSA Body of Trustees will be announced once the voting process has been concluded. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter that the marketing team has put together.



ICC SSA – Relaunch

On 1 June 2018, ICCSSA invited members to the re-launch of ICCSSA. The event was sponsored by SAS and Casio and hosted at the SAS Institute premises in Houghton Estate.

The main purpose of the relaunch was to introduce and discuss the Continuous Professional Development Programme and Accreditation of Courses, conduct an Annual General Assembly for Chartered and Certificated members, discuss and approve the new Constitution for ICCSSA and to ratify the process for the new Board of the Institute for ICCSSA. The constitution was accepted by all members with minor changes.

Delegates were treated to a scrumptious breakfast spread before the formalities of the day commenced. The AGA was preceded by a breakfast seminar which gave a background to ICCSSA and reported on its achievements thus far. Thereafter, stimulating talks were presented by high profile speakers from different industries. The highlights of the event were the insightful talks given by our esteemed guests.

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Chairman: Mrs Yoko Chhana; **Chief Executive:** Mr Philip Steyn; **Financial Director:** Ms Valentina Litvine;
Secretary: Ms Vanessa Ndlovu; **Directors:** Dr Inger Fabris-Rotelli; Mr Paul Mokilane; Dr Mark Nasila;
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ICC SSA is a
professional body
recognised by SAQA

Mr Harry Thema, Statistics SA gave a talk entitled “Beyond SDG Baseline Report: Role of private sector in the SDG” which emphasised the importance of the private sector’s involvement in addressing the sustainable development goals (SDG).

There were 49 delegates from various industries that attended. The attendees received gifts in the form of a diary from SAS and a calculator from Casio. Mr Katlego Makgale was the winner of the Lucky draw. He received a superb book on Analytical Data Visualisation courtesy of SAS. ICCSSA Charters were presented to Ms Yoko Chhana, Ms Liesl Morey, Mr Philip Steyn and Ms Astrid Scheiber from Casio in recognition of their support and contribution to the activities of ICCSSA.



Prof De Jongh, North West University (NWU) spoke about Professional Training and Research Programmes in Data Science. In this talk he enthralled the audience and had everyone in fits of laughter as he discussed both the academic and business training that graduates go through as part of the data science programme at NWU. He talked about the “pain” that students must go through in order to become the best data scientist, so they are able to provide value to business as they enter the corporate world. Audience members will definitely remember the talk every time they hear the word “pain”.

The next talk delivered by Dr Mark Nasila, First National bank, was titled “The role of analytics, big data and machine learning as a driver for digital and artificial intelligence (AI) transformation”. He gave us a compelling overview of how Big Data and Machine Learning has transformed the financial services industry. One of the highlights of his talk was the video that illustrated how AI can automate the entire claims process for an insurance company and how it can improve the customer experience.



Mr Piet Maree of Discovery delivered an interesting talk on “The Need for Statisticians, Actuaries and Data Scientists”. The talk described the profile of Data scientist, Statistician and Actuary. He highlighted that organisations would benefit when analytical teams comprised of members from different backgrounds and with various analytical and computing skills sets. This emphasised the need for multidisciplinary skilled individuals to work together in the data science environment.

ICCSSA is thankful for the sponsorship from the SAS Institute which included the venue, diaries, food for the attendees as well as a stakeholder gala dinner. ICCSSA is also appreciative of the sponsorship of calculators from Casio.



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Look out for further details on forthcoming seminars which will be part of the joint seminar series between ICCSSA and ORRSA, SASA, SAS, CSIR and CoE-MASS:

The **SASA Gauteng chapter** invites you to a seminar on Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning Approaches for Parsing Pathology Reports which will be presented by Gciniwe Dlamini, IBM Research – Africa.

Date and time: September 6, 2018 at 10:00.

Venue: 41 De Korte Street, Johannesburg

For more information go to <https://www.iccssa.org.za/upcoming-events/>

The **CSIR** invites you to the Open Day in celebration, together with the rest of the world, of the World Statistics Day under the theme: Better Data, Better Lives: The role and relevance of statistics for long-term planning.

Date: Friday, 19 October 2018

Venue: CSIR Knowledge Commons (Ulwazi)

RSVP: Martiena Maabe - mmaabe@csir.co.za or 012 841 2566

The **SASA conference** will be hosted by the University of South Africa from 26 - 29 November 2018 at the Florida campus, Johannesburg. The website is now available at <https://sastat.org.za/sasa2018/>



Important Dates

Workshops: 26 November 2018

Main conference: 27 - 29 November 2018

Closing date for early bird registration	1 October 2018
Closing date for late registration	30 October 2018
Closing date for submission of abstracts	15 September 2018
Closing date for submission of full papers for the SASA Proceedings	17 September 2018

Contact

Email address for all queries: SASA2018@unisa.ac.za

Registration queries: Mr Zoli Bolani, tel. 011 670 9473

Local Organising Committee

Chair: Dr Eeva Rapoo, email: rapooe@unisa.ac.za

Scientific Committee

Chair: Prof Peter Njuho, email: njuhopm@unisa.ac.za



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