Delivered monthly to your Inbox!

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

August was a busy month for the IITPSA as a whole, with our AGM, the wrapping up of the President's Awards nominations, several webinars, and a special Women's Month event in the Eastern Cape.

In particular, we were delighted to be in a position to again send a four-member team to compete in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), thanks to the support of our sponsor Jane Street. The IOI – staged in Hungary this year – is regarded as one of the most prestigious programming events for students in the world. In addition to a chance to travel, it offers participants programming experience as well as cultural and social programmes. As such, we see this as an important educational and personal development opportunity for our young people.

We could not offer this opportunity without the help of our sponsors, and we call on businesses willing to help us to extend this chance to more young people to get in touch with us.

In this - my last column as President of the IITPSA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow IITPSA board members, colleagues and members for their support and friendship during my tenure. My thanks and congratulations to Senele Goba, who takes on the role of President. I have every confidence that Senele's capable guidance will help the IITPSA to evolve and grow.

Admire

CEO'S COMMUNIQUE

As a membership-based organisation, one of the IITPSA's most important measures of how well we are doing is our membership numbers. As I reflected in my report during our recent AGM, we saw some decline in membership during the pandemic. There has also been an increase in migration, with some of our younger members seeking work abroad – and finding it. The Institute has a solid and increasingly young and dynamic member base. Indeed, 68% of our membership is in the 26 – 40 age group, and a growing proportion of our members are women.

Although the decline we experienced during Covid is turning, we would like to drive significant growth in our numbers – particularly in under-represented regions. It should be noted that IITPSA members can be the Institute's best – or worst – ambassadors. As a member, you can help increase awareness, grow positive opinion of the Institute and strengthen our ranks. If every member brought another member on board, we would have a stronger voice and even greater impact.

Our members must be seen to be shining examples of ethical, professional behaviour, and should evangelise the benefits of belonging to the IITPSA.

These benefits include professional development, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities that we offer in line with our three key strategic objectives – thought leadership, career development and stakeholder engagement. We have increased the number of webinars and events we host, and partnered with a greater number of quality ICT-related events, where our members benefit from opportunities to secure discounted fees and earn CPD points. We also offer members the opportunity to apply for professional designations such as CMIITPSA, PMIITPSA and Pr.CIO, which enhance their professional credibility. We urge all members to take advantage of these opportunities.

Best regards,
Tony

IN THE NEWS

Senele Goba named IITPSA President, Board members re-elected

Ms. Senele Goba, previous Vice-President of the Institute and a current committee member of the IITPSA Women in IT Chapter, has been elected as the new IITPSA President and Board Chairperson for the 2023/24 term. The other IITPSA Office Bearers for the next year are Ms. Pearl Pasi, IITPSA Vice-President and Board Vice-Chairperson, and re-elected IITPSA Treasurer, Mr. Karel Matthee.

The IITPSA Office Bearers were elected at a Board Meeting following the IITPSA AGM, where five Board Members standing down on rotation were re-elected to the IITPSA Board. They are Ms. Goba, Mr. Admire Gwanzura (Immediate Past President), Mr. John Singh, Mr. Kudzayi Chipidza and Mr. Rimmon Kisten.

Muhammad Shah, Minkyum Kim, Youkyum Kim, Benjamin Kleyn, Taariq Mowzer (Team Leader), Kamohelo Motloung (IITPSA Olympiad Manager),

IOI team competes in Hungary

The South African team competing in the 35th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2023) is currently in Szeged, Hungary, for the prestigious event.

The team, comprising Minkyum Kim and Youkyum Kim of Reddam House Durbanville, Muhammad Shah Khan of the UJ Metropolitan Academy, and Benjamin Kleyn of Parel Vallei High will participate in IOI 2023 until 4 September. The IOI is an annual international informatics competition for high school students from various invited countries. It is one of the five international science Olympiads and is regarded as one of the most prestigious competitive programming events in the world.

Team SA was selected from the top performers in the Programming Olympiad, an initiative of the IITPSA sponsored by Jane Street.

The 2023 Programming Olympiad, which invites schools across the country to participate, enjoyed increased participation this year. This year, 1694 learners from 136 schools participated, up from 1612 learners who participated the year before.

Pr.CIOs review the pros and cons of cloud in SA

While there are some compelling benefits of moving to the cloud, cloud adoption is also causing headaches for CIOs, who must grapple with major vendors going all-cloud, cost spikes driving repatriation from the cloud, and unexpected business risks.

This emerged during a virtual round table hosted for the IITPSA's elite Professional CIOs (Pr.CIO). The round table revealed that moving to cloud had not been plain sailing in most organisations.

Read More

Eastern Cape Chapter rounds off Women's Month with a breakfast celebration

The Eastern Cape Chapter of the IITPSA ended Women's Month in style, with a champagne breakfast at the Bridge Street craft brewery in Gqeberha's lush Baakens Valley. Celebrating women in IT, the event included talks by Denise van Huyssteen, CEO of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber, on business activism in response to the changed environment; and by the head of the Strategic Focus area of Entrepreneurship, Design Thinking and Innovation at NMU Business School, Professor Margaret Cullen, on the thought-provoking topic 'Stand Up'.

Gauteng Chapter chair hosts Free State networking session

Saba Rahimi, Chair of the IITPSA's Gauteng Chapter, hosted a face-to-face networking session with IITPSA Free State members in Bloemfontein this month. Despite the chilly weather, members enjoyed the opportunity to meet and greet by the fireside.

Exceptional nominees for President's Awards 2023

Nominations for the 2023 IITPSA President's Awards closed on 27 August, and again our judges will have a tough task selecting winners from this year's exceptional nominees.

This year's awards theme is: **'IT Visionaries: Celebrating the ICT Industry's Embrace of the Future'**, recognising those ICT professionals who are driving innovation and progress.

The award categories include:

- **IT Personality of the Year**
- **Visionary CIO of the Year**
- **Technology Excellence Award**
- **Social Responsibility / Community Award**
- **Dynamism in ICT Youth Award**

The finalists will be named in October, and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in November.

APPLICATIONS OLYMPIAD: STUDENT PROFILE

Lara Lategan

Lara Lategan, a Grade 12 learner at Hoërskool Randburg in Gauteng, was among the top performers in this year's IITPSA Applications Olympiad. The Olympiad is part of the Computer Olympiad, which is one of the oldest and biggest events of its kind in the world. First launched in 1984, the event engages over 50,000 participants annually.

The Applications Olympiad is a challenge for those who take CAT or the ICDL or are otherwise computer literate. Participants must solve a number of problems using a Microsoft Office package and the data provided. They may use the application of their choice, such as the Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Database and Presentation Tool.

Lara, who won a bronze medal in the Olympiad, plans to complete a BAcc degree at Stellenbosch University and work towards becoming a chartered accountant. Commenting on the benefits of participating in the Olympiad, she says: "I have learned many new computer skills that I will be able to apply to my future career path." Lara's other interests include learning new languages, reading and exercising to relieve stress.

ETHICS CORNER

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers

While the proposed cage fight between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg did not happen, their rivalry is as fierce as ever. Constandious Takura Munakandafa, a member of the IITPSA Social and Ethics Committee, reflects on the ethics of their competition.

Read the column here

IN THE MEDIA

President's Awards nominations

The IITPSA President's Awards and the closing date for nominations were covered by several media channels:

Young boffins named IITPSA Olympiad champs

ITWeb reported on the national medal winners of the 2023 Applications Olympiad.

ITWeb

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

5 September
Green Blockchain: An IITPSA Social & Ethics Committee and Blockchain SIG Event

In this combined Social & Ethics Committee & Blockchain SIG webinar, Josine Overdevest and John Singh will discuss the environmental impact of software in general and blockchain in particular.

Register to attend

AfICTA – IITPSA e-conference on cyber disinformation

The 13th edition of the Quarterly eConference of the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA), will be held on 13 September, hosted by AfICTA Southern Africa Stakeholders in collaboration with IITPSA. The virtual session will examine the theme **"Fighting Disinformation as a Prominent Cybersecurity Challenge"**.

Learn more here

The IITPSA also partners with leading industry events throughout the year. These include:
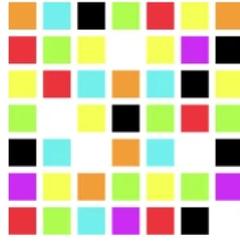
27 – 29 September, Cape Town
South African Innovation Summit (SAIS) 2023

Celebrating innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship in South Africa, this event offers a 20% discount and CPD points for all IITPSA members attending. IITPSA members will receive their discount code soon – please watch your mailbox for details.

Read more

5 October, the Maslow Hotel, Sandton
ITWeb CX Summit

With an agenda that speaks to the entire CX value chain, the CX Summit is an IITPSA accredited event. IITPSA members will receive a 20% discount on delegate fees using the promo code: CX2023-20.

Read more

2 – 3 November, Sandton Convention Centre
AI Expo Africa

IITPSA members benefit from a full 50% discount on delegate fees to attend the largest business focused Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and 4IR trade event in Africa! Watch your mailbox for your discount code!

IITPSA members in good standing qualify for discounted registration fees at these events. Follow our social media pages for more information and the discount codes.

Read more

Click on the button below to see the full events calendar.

Events Calendar

CATCH UP ON RECENT WEBINARS

IITPSA Pr.CIO round table explores load shedding risks in IT

The risk of increased load shedding or even complete grid failure was the hot topic under discussion at a successful IITPSA round table webinar for CIOs, IT Directors and IT Managers. Participants said they were under pressure to mitigate the risks.

See the webinar here

IITPSA Social & Ethics and IITPSA WIIT Event

In the IITPSA Social & Ethics Committee and Women in IT webinar on Ethics at Work, mobile industry veteran, Ineke Botter, shared how digitisation of critical business processes assists in motivating ethical behaviour in companies. She also highlighted the strategic importance of building close relationships with the education in the search for scarce ICT skills.

See the webinar here

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REMINDERS

Get social with the IITPSA

Are you following IITPSA on Facebook? Twitter? LinkedIn? Instagram? YouTube? IITPSA is active on all social media platforms, where you can stay up to date with all our events, partner offerings, and thought leadership content.

Follow IITPSA's YouTube channel to review online events you may have missed:

YouTube

Follow and engage with us on:

IITPSA facebook

IITPSA Twitter

IITPSA Linkedin

IITPSA Instagram

MEMBER BENEFITS

Member Self Service is Live!

Did you know that you can now easily access the IITPSA member self-service platform, where you can apply for membership and re-grades, apply for a designation or critical skills, pay your membership fees, and record your CPD activities?

Member Self Service

Anti-Virus Products

AVG is a leading developer of Security Software with over 120 million home and business users around the world.

Anti-Virus

ITWeb Publications - Brainstorm

ITWeb Brainstorm is available free of charge to Fellows (FIITPSA), and to paid up Professional CIOs (Pr.CIO) and Professional Members (PMIITPSA) of the Institute.

To subscribe, please contact the IITPSA National Office.

ITWeb Publications

Career Opportunities

IITPSA has partnered with CareerJunction, SA's #1 Quality Candidate provider, to offer a job search/advertising service on its site. Go to www.iitpsa.org.za and click on 'Careers' in the 'Activities' menu to see it in action, or simply click on the link below.

Career Opportunities

EARN CPD POINTS

IITPSA members will accrue 1 CPD point for every Tabling Tech or other IITPSA webinar they attend

Follow us on social media, and check our interactive events calendar here to stay up to date with new events and special delegate discounts!