

I am very impressed with what some of our international friends are doing with AEE and the CEM program. One of the most active is being implemented by Dr. L.J. Grobler in South Africa. I have asked Dr. Grobler to describe those efforts. His reply is published below. Dr. Grobler is very active and very effective in his work. We will hear a lot more from him.

Wayne

Certified Energy Manager Program to Southern Africa

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The Certified Energy Manager (CEM) program of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) has been in southern Africa since February 2002. It was the culmination of efforts by Al Thumann, executive director of the AEE, and LJ Grobler, AEE South Africa chapter president.

The process started during 2001 when Al Thumann conducted a study mission to South Africa. He was accompanied by a number of AEE members/energy professionals. A two-day business development workshop was held in Johannesburg. Nearly 50 people from industrial, commercial, and residential sectors attended the workshop. Presentations were made on key energy topics by South African and US energy professionals.

The workshop was concluded with the signing of an agreement between the AEE and the Energy Training Foundation (ETF) to present the CEM program under license in Southern Africa under the supervision of the new chapter of AEE. The ETF is the capacity building divi-

sion of Energy Cybernetics, a South African company specializing in the improvement and sustaining of the energy performance of systems through key performance indicator identification and improvement, measurement and verification, investment grade analysis, and the implementation of energy optimization systems.

The first CEM iteration was offered February 2002 in Pretoria, South Africa. A total of 25 persons attended the comprehensive five-day energy management course. All 25 attendees also completed the exam. Of the participants who completed the exam, 60 percent of them passed the exam with a final score of 70 percent or more. After the certification process, 12 participants were certified as energy managers.

They received their CEM credential during the CEM awards ceremony held in May 2002 in the prestigious Westcliff Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. All the new CEMs agreed that they gained incredibly from attending the energy training course and completing the CEM exam. They also agreed that it was their responsibility to promote the CEM program and assist in building credibility to the energy industry in southern Africa.

Next the AEE International CEM board of directors established an in-country CEM board in southern Africa to protect the integrity of the program as well as update the course material and examination as required. The board consists of three CEMs from southern African. Their role is to pre-screen the CEM applicants before they are sent to the international office of AEE for final approval.

The second CEM training course and examination took place at the end of October 2002, and the third took place during March 2003. A total of 52 persons attended these rounds with a pass rate of 50 percent. They are now in the process of becoming certified as energy managers. It is expected that another 20-25 of them will be certified as energy managers in the future. This will bring the total of CEMs in southern Africa to about 35.

We are extremely satisfied with the success and interest shown by industry in the CEM program. During the first 15 months that the CEM course has been presented, a total of 77 persons attended the course. The results are even more remarkable if we take into account that the whole initiative has not been supported by USAID or similar grants.

One of the requirements of the AEE was that a local association be formed to promote the interests of the energy industry in southern Africa and then apply to become an official chapter of the AEE. The local

association has been formed, and an interim board has been established for the first year. Its role is to finalize the constitution and business plans of the association.

Initially the association was named the Southern African Association for Energy Engineers (SAEE). After long debates and pressure from industry it was decided to change the name of the association to the Southern African Association for Energy Efficiency still with the acronym SAEE. The feeling from industry was that energy efficiency in southern Africa is not as matured as in the USA and that the term engineers would exclude or give the impression that a large section of the South African population is excluded from the association. The SAEE has lodged its application with the AEE to become an official international chapter of the AEE.

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