

## Note from the editor

*The hardest problems of pure and applied science can only be solved by the open collaboration of the world-wide scientific community.*

*Kenneth G Wilson (1936 - )*

*American theoretical physicist and Nobel Prize winner.*

With this special edition - a first for the *South African Journal of Industrial Engineering* - the celebration of 25 years of academic publishing is continued. It also heralds the first ever instance where a volume of SAJIE will have three numbers - it is envisaged that this will be continued with future volumes given the significant increase in articles in the SAJIE review process.

This special edition reflects the *Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering's* growing collaborative network. Seven of the articles published in this edition are expanded versions of presentations made at the *ISEM 2011* conference and five articles are based on papers delivered at the *RAPDASA 2011* conference.

The *Industrial, Systems and Engineering Management (ISEM)* conference was a joint initiative between the *Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering*, *INCOSE (South Africa)* and the Graduate School for Technology Management at the University of Pretoria. The conference therefore focused on Industrial Engineering, Systems Engineering and Engineering Management

*INCOSE SA* is the South African chapter of an international body known as the *International Council on Systems Engineering* or *INCOSE*. *INCOSE* is a not-for-profit membership organization founded in 1990. Their mission is to share, promote and advance the best of systems engineering from across the globe for the benefit of humanity and the planet. In Southern Africa, this aim is carried further by *INCOSE SA* which was founded in 2002 and is registered as a non-profit society of professional persons. *INCOSE SA* has a total of more than 200 members from a wide range of industries in South Africa and in neighbouring countries.

*RAPDASA*, the *Rapid Product Development Association of South Africa*, was officially launched during the first annual international conference, held in 2000 at the CSIR in Pretoria, following a number of meetings held nationally, to establish a community of practice. *RAPDASA* embraces the complete product development value chain (starting from idea/concept, to design, prototype development into manufacturing and commercialisation). *RAPDASA* aims to become a government-recognized activity or industry cluster/group, as it currently creates strategic links between academia, science councils and industry. It was started by volunteers, and is still being driven by individuals with a passion for innovative product development.

The impact of *SAJIE's* collaboration with the organisers of the *ISEM* and *RAPDASA 2011* conferences has further broadened *SAJIE's* international footprint. No fewer than nine countries are represented in this edition of *SAJIE* with Germany, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia and New Zealand having authorship for the first time.

The *SAJIE* collaborative efforts reach a climax in 2012 with the 42<sup>nd</sup> *International Computers and Industrial Engineering* conference being presented in Cape Town in July. Prof Corné Schutte has kindly written the guest editorial to this special edition of *SAJIE*.

*Susan Adendorff*

Editor