



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

ARIA FRESCA

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Chamber's Note

ARIA FRESCA

With summer rolling in, open your doors and windows to allow the air to circulate inside your house. The flow of air going into your lungs and breezing past you has **circulated** the earth thousands of times. The movement of air has propelled ships across oceans and is increasingly electrifying the world.

Unfortunately, the air we breathe is a great and invisible resource that has been degraded by **pollution**. Despite limited solutions such as **oxygen bars** and the like, the easier and more equitable route to solving this problem is to protect this atmospheric resource that keeps literally every person alive on the planet.

The environmental movement is premised on the radical connectedness of things, the fact that our environment does not end at the walls of our house or at the finitude of our national borders. Neither does the implication of what we do end when we perish.

The difficulty is translating the insight of being part of a great whole into the day to day, when rising bills need to be paid, when companies need to be kept afloat and when the FIFA World Cup is around the corner (unfortunately involving neither Italy nor South Africa).

Without all the answers to this question, we can perhaps simply focus on the metaphor of fresh air, the importance of open doors and constant newness. Alongside making systematic efforts to associate with green energy companies, our philosophy of openness and our part in exhibitions promoting outdoor and sports, a number of internal factors keep our organization fresh.

For one, our **board** is rotational, with each director serving a tenure of four years, ensuring constant new blood and fresh insight at our command centre. Additionally, the circulation of our young and inspired interns is another source of newness at the Chamber, providing constantly renewed character and purpose to our work.

Finally, our stakeholders are in constant evolution. New members join every month. We were immensely pleased at the recent **DIVA Boutique Edition** of SMILE to meet dozens of new people with business interests which bridge the divide between South Africa and Italy. So, with a deep breath, we optimistically proceed.

Italcham!

UPCOMING EVENT

APEROL[®] SPRITZ

APERILINK DURBAN

AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
&
BUSINESS NETWORKING

1 DECEMBER 2022

18:00

ITALO SA CLUB DURBAN

Tickets

R150 - Members
R250- Non-Members

[BUY TICKETS](#)



*Not for sale to persons under the age of 18



UPCOMING EVENT

**SETTIMANA DELLA CUCINA ITALIANA NEL
MONDO 14-20 NOVEMBRE 2022**

JOHANNESBURG

**Thursday 17 November - 6:00 pm
Settebello @ The Italian Club
Bedfordview**



**Meet 4 wine producers from Southern Italy
Taste wines from all 4 producing areas
Pair with typical regional recipes from the producers
areas Interact with the producers and the chef**

R 550 p/p

For info & bookings:

eat@settebello.co.za - 010 035 5207

**CampoRe - Sicilia
Mount Etna (Volcano)**



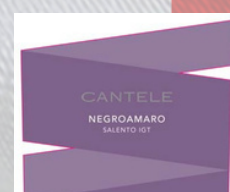
**Statti - Calabria
Lamezia Terme-Tropea**



**Colosi - Sicilia
Island of Salina (Volcano)**



**Cantele - Puglia
Salento-Lecce**



Louder, bigger and better than before...

Every November, we celebrate cycling, life and the vibrantly diverse City of Joburg. The coveted Virgin Active 947 Ride Joburg Lifestyle Expo, lies at the heart of the celebration and showcases the latest and finest in cycling technology, trends, and wholesome lifestyle inspiration.

- Expo Dates: 17 - 19 November 2022
- Race Date: 20 November 2022

The Italian Chamber is putting together an Italian Pavilion at the Virgin Active 947 Ride Joburg Lifestyle Expo with various Italian Brands such as [VanH](#) and [Panda Sportswear](#)

Come check them out at the Italian Pavilion!



EU Chambers Golf Day

Cape Town

Date: Thursday 24 November 2022

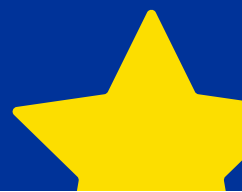
Where: Westlake Golf Club

**Contact desk@italcham.co.za
to book a fourball
or to sponsor a hole!**



Gold Sponsors

TAA3



Welcoming our New Member



oryx GROUP, including Oryx Health & Hygiene Services, Oryx Retail Services and Oryx MHI Services, is a leading provider of Specialised Cleaning and Hygiene Services across Southern Africa. The group creates long-term, strategic partnerships with its customers, providing customised, medical, and scientifically based end-to-end cleaning and hygiene solutions.



Our highly experienced staff complement of over 3000 permanent employees nationwide serves clients across various sectors, offering the unique skills and expertise required for each industry - from food and retail, to medical, hospitality, leisure, industrial and agricultural. We understand the requirements and specific operating procedures for each client and to this end we have specific management teams and staff dedicated to the various sectors.

Established in 1998, we are BEE level 1 certified and are committed to ensuring provision of a high level of skills training, transformation, and equal opportunities within the Group.

Tel: 011 453 1111

PO Box 5185, Meadowdale, 1614

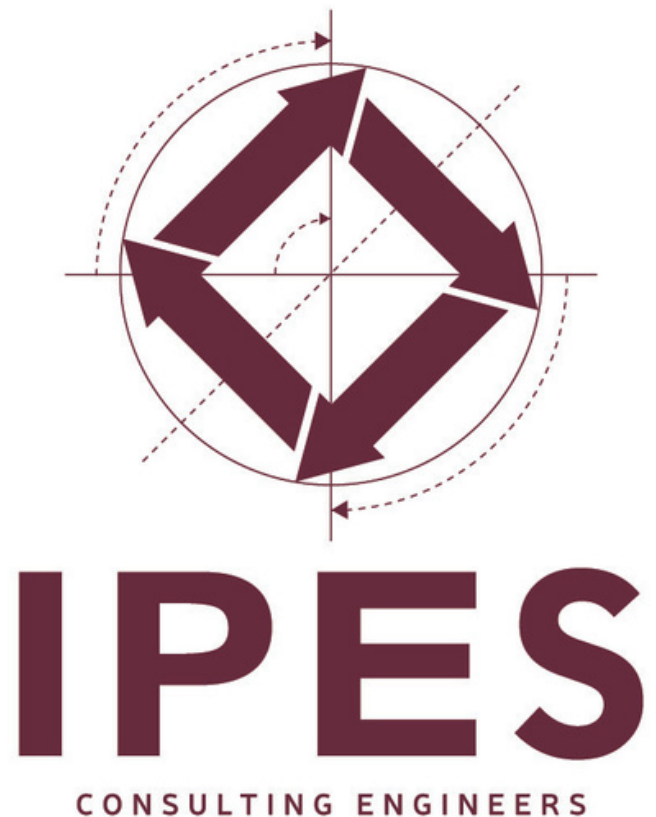
andre@oryxgroup.co.za



Welcome to Italcham!!

Welcoming our New Member

Established in 1988, Instrumented Process and Electrical Systems (IPES) is an independent Engineering Consultancy, with a penchant for precision and a passion for people, specializing in Electrical, Control, and Instrumentation design.



Key areas of expertise:

- LV & MV substation design and distribution
- Oil, CNG, LNG, LPG & hydrogen
- SCADA and HMI system design
- Lightning protection
- Hazardous area classifications and designs
- Earthing system designs
- Fire detection, gas detection and alarm systems.

Contact IPES:

Telephone: 011 476 4345

Website: www.ipes.co.za



Welcome to Italcham!!

Welcoming our New Member

MICHELLE STEYTTLER - MARKETING CONSULTANT

An experienced executive and digital marketing strategist with 15 Years plus B2B and B2C experience leading sales, marketing, sponsorship and content strategies across the African market focused on digital innovation. A proven record of generating revenue and increasing sales through the development of clear strategies aligned to market research, pricing, product marketing, marketing communications, advertising and public relations activities to meet business objectives. A professional with an exceptional ability to strategically lead sales, new business development, distribution channel management and customer acquisition initiatives across multiple channels aimed at global audiences.



A formidable business leader and influential communicator, who has established relationships with key international and local players within the Content and Media sectors.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Sales and Marketing Strategy
- Communications Strategy
- Sports Sponsorship
- Business Development
- IMC Strategy
- Media Strategy
- CRM and Partnership Management
- Inbound and Outbound Marketing
- Customer Acquisition / Retention Strategies
- Media Campaigns and Advertising
- Digital Marketing/CEO/Social Media/All Paid Digital
- Brand Development
- Product Management
- Marketing Research
- Client Value Proposition Strategy
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Leadership Strategies
- Metrics and Business Analysis

Contact Michelle for a free consultation and assessment of your marketing and sales structures, or areas where she can be of support at michelle.steytler@gmail.com or 082 469 5159

Welcome to Italcham!!

BEA Call for Nominations

ITALCHAM BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries has been organising the Business Excellence Awards annually since 1999 as a Charity Gala Dinner.

The evening will serve to not only recognise the efforts of the Italian Business community but also help raise funds for the Little Eden foundation, a non-profit the Italian-South African Chamber has assisted for several years.

BEA is a great opportunity for companies and attendees to build their network, helping them to connect and integrate the Italian and South African economies.

This year the following categories will be awarded:

Business Person of the Year
Business Enterprise of the Year
Best SME from SMILE Network
Lifetime Achievement Award

The first 3 awards categories are open to nominations from the public.
You can indicate your preferences at this [link](#)

This year's Business Excellence Awards will be a moment where we can be proud to be Italians



Member News

Addressing skills shortages in the renewable energy sector

The renewable energy sector in South Africa is making strides in providing an alternative energy source for the country's electricity demand. The sector does however have a challenge to overcome, and that is the shortage of required skills in the industry. Finding a solution to this could mean providing numerous jobs to those wishing to follow a career in renewable energy.

While the renewable energy sector already provides thousands of jobs in South Africa, many more are available; however, the skills required for these jobs are either in short supply or the skills and qualifications required are available, but experience in the renewables industry is lacking. Also, there is a general shortage of skills in the science, engineering, math's and technology (STEM) fields in South Africa.

STEM students needed

The industry needs electrical engineers, operations and maintenance managers and mechanical technicians. Skills in manufacturing, assembly and installation are also needed. Since renewable energy plants are also businesses, they require skills in sales, marketing, finance and general business operations as well.

With this in mind, how should we be educating young people about the opportunities available and the qualifications that are required? According to Asante Phiri, Head of O&M Southern Africa at Enel Green Power South Africa (EGP RSA), we need to encourage the youth to take up careers in STEM-related fields.

He says that students are still shying away from these subjects due to a perception that they're difficult subjects. He suggests that school outreach programmes would help the youth understand that, although degrees in these fields are challenging, they can be achieved, and are necessary to follow careers in renewable energy and to take up the many employment opportunities available.

Helping the youth become employable

Lizeka Dlepu, Head of Sustainability Southern Africa at EGP RSA, explains that the company is committed to encouraging young people to enter the renewable energy industry. Enel exposes learners from the communities in which it operates to the operations at the company's plants. These learners see for themselves how the sites operate and how energy is produced. The company has also discovered that some schools in its host communities do not offer maths and science as subjects. Learners can take what is known as Maths Literacy, but this will not equip them to enter tertiary institutions to study engineering-related subjects. In answer to this problem, EGP RSA provides schools in these communities with maths and science teachers, so that learners will be able to study towards STEM careers at tertiary level. EGP RSA has also begun funding learners at entry level. Learners who don't have a matric but are interested in engineering, can apply to Enel's community development program, which could fund them at N3 level.



Member News

Addressing skills shortages in the renewable energy sector

Another project that EGP RSA has initiated is the funding of disadvantaged learners by taking them out of township schools and placing them in private schools. These learners most often live in informal dwellings and are raised by their grandmothers who are dependent on a government pension. These are learners that have shown great potential, and if not assisted, could fall by the wayside. EGP RSA funds their tuition, uniforms, books, laptops, transport and daily lunches to give them an opportunity to reach their potential and go on to study at university.

Facilitating skills development

On the skills development side, EGP RSA has also started a driving school programme in the hope that, once trained, the drivers can gain employment either on the company's sites or elsewhere in the country.

As part of the company's commitment to the Circular Economy, it is also funding locals to study at furniture-making and carpentry institutions, so that they can make furniture from wooden pallets and other waste/recyclable materials. This will open up employment and self-employment opportunities.

The Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa (RES4Africa) foundation has instituted a programme called the Reskilling Lab, which EGP RSA is participating in together with other companies. The aim of the programme is to address one of the big challenges faced by the energy sector. South Africa has numerous coal-fired power stations and this is one of the contributors to employment within the mining industry. The problem is, if the country changes its energy mix by incorporating a larger percentage of renewable energy, what happens to the employees that are working within the coal sector and within the value chain in the coal power plants?

The Reskilling Lab aims to address this by reskilling employees from the coal-based power plants value chain to be able to take up jobs within the renewable energy sector and within the new value chain for the renewable energy industry. One of its objectives is to build training platforms that address the current skills gap between current skills and what is needed in the renewable energy industry.

The Reskilling Lab also looks at creating bases to make reskilling an asset for local communities, making sure that they're financially sustainable and also potentially scalable. EGP RSA is passionate about this and believes that the Reskilling Lab needs to happen in order to facilitate a fair energy transition.

While a skills gap exists in the country and in the renewable energy sector, much is being done to address this. With financial aid, educational support, and skills development programmes constantly being instituted, it is hopeful that the skills gap will continue to shrink, and that new job opportunities will become available to the many unemployed in the country.