

EMASA held its Fifth International Conference on the 15th - 17th May 2002. The Conference theme was 'School Improvement for Excellence'

Report on the 5th International conference of the Education Management Association of South Africa (EMASA).

From the 15th to the 17th of May some 75 delegates from all over South Africa converged on the beautiful Boland town of Wellington for the 5th International Conference of EMASA. The theme of the conference was: school improvement for excellence. Vincent Landey from the Cape Technikon and an executive member of EMASA welcomed us with a smile (and a class of red wine). All his hard work could be seen in the attention he paid to detail. The conference was held in a declared historical heritage building from the late 17th Century (the Goodnow Hall). The programme was well compiled and the registration ran smoothly. We also know now that the conference was a financial success, thanks to him!

We had two prominent international keynote speakers from the UK in the persons of David Jackson from the National College for School Leadership in England and Tony Bush, well-known academic from the University of Reading. David shared with us the experiences from his involvement in the College during its first year of existence and Tony reconceptualised school leadership and management for the audience. The conference was opened by the well-informed Member of the Executive (MEC) for education in the Western Cape, Andre Gaum who clearly stated his priorities for the next three years.

A number of local researchers in the field of Education Management shared their research with the audience. The presence of the newly appointed director responsible for education management and development in the national department of education, Martin Prew, explained his vision for his directorate to those present. Two officials who are playing an active role in the Standard Generating Body for Education Management, Anusha Naidu and Haroon Mohammed reflected on the promises of an institute for school development. It was however not all work and no play. At an informal and a formal function delegates could mingle and network. The Boland is well known for its good quality wines and we could really spoil our taste buds during these culinary feasts.

Next year's conference will be held in Nelspruit, the capital of the Mpumalanga Province. As information comes available interested parties will be notified. Diarise March 2003 for a visit to South Africa! Tom Bisschoff CCEAM member for South Africa 5 July 2002