

1997 -- 6Th INTERNATIONAL HEAVY HAUL CONFERENCE --- “STRATEGIES BEYOND 2000”

The 1997 International Conference, STRATEGIES BEYOND 2000 was held in Cape Town, South Africa on April 6 through 10th, 1997. The IHHA host member was SPOORNET. The Conference Manager and Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Mr. Danie J. van Zijl, Executive Manager of Metrorail. The conference aim was to bring together railway business, technical and operational managers, as well as process and hardware suppliers to review past performance, analyze present practices and project future strategies. The conference technical program addressed the following issues;

1. Has the development of heavy haul been too technically driven?
2. Have business managers played an adequate role in decision making?
3. What are their views and perspectives on state-of-the-art technology?
4. Is the technical approach sufficiently holistic? If not, what can be done to remedy this
5. What effect does advanced technology have on maintenance costs and competition?
6. What specific cutting-edge technologies should be developed for beyond 2000?
7. How informed are technical, general, maintenance and business managers of the potential value of research? How can they be the driving force behind translating research results and implementing them into practice?
8. What specific technical developments are taking place? How can these contribute to making heavy haul railways more effective?
9. What need to be done to equip managers to provide appropriate heavy haul technology beyond 2000?

The Keynote address was delivered by Mr. Braam le Roux, Chief Executive Officer of Spoornet.

The conference sessions covered the following subjects; Strategy of heavy haul, Subgrade-substructure, Locomotives, Vehicle track interaction, Substructure-general, Track condition measurement, Rail-general, Rail-profile, Track design, Maintenance management, Rolling stock, Fasteners and ties, Wheels and brakes, Bridges, and Research and education.

The technical program covered four days with post-conference tours to; Sishen-Saldanha Heavy Haul Iron Ore Line, Richard's Bay Coal Line, and a Technical Tour of the Engineering Centre, Material Engineering Facilities, Rolling Stock Development Centre and Training College, Esselenpark.

The bound Conference Proceedings are in three volumes and contain 82 technical presentations, for a total of 1230 pages.