

**ESKOM EXPO FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS
ANNUAL REPORT 2016
STELLENBOSCH REGION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to the dedication and hard work of many teachers who motivated and guided their learners in doing research projects, parents who supported their children and the Stellenbosch expo committee who worked tirelessly to put the platform in place where participants could showcase their research, the 2016 Stellenbosch regional expo was once again a big success.

It was a privilege to take hands with sponsors who, just like us, believe in our youth and what they can accomplish. The Western Cape provincial coordinator, Mada du Toit, played a significant role in securing financial support from the Western Cape Education Department. We appreciate each and every partner in this important endeavor!

There were a few firsts in 2016: mentors were selected and allocated to eight schools where they worked with teachers and learners to establish research projects. The many lessons learned from this experience will definitely be used in similar initiatives in the future. Another first was the opportunity that RSFDs had to appoint a person, paid by Eskom, who could help with administrative duties. This was a huge relief and a great benefit for RSFDs and regional committees in general!

ISF 2016 was once again a big accomplishment and success, thanks to the hard work, vision, dedication and passion of ISF director Priscilla Moodley and her committee members! Like in the past 35 years, Expo opened learners' eyes, broadened their vision and give them opportunities that they would never have had otherwise.

SPONSORSHIP AND FINANCIALS

Thank you to the following sponsors and donors who supported the Stellenbosch expo region financially. We appreciate your funding and your sharing in the believe that we can make a difference in our country by promoting STEMI subjects.

| Sponsor | For ... | Value |
|--|---|--------------|
| Eskom | Subsidising ISF transport, accommodation and food | R89 122 |
| | Regional administrative assistant | R40 000 |
| | Branding and marketing | R1500 |
| | Stationery, blazer pins | R6 908.50 |
| | Special prizes | ± R1 200 |
| Het Jan Marais Nasionale Fonds, EMSS, SUNCEP | Human resources expenses | ± R120 000 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Department of Science and Technology | Mentorship programme in 8 schools | R39 690 |
| Western Cape Education Department | ISF transport and accommodation of learners | R37 359 |
| Donations of parents | ISF participation and educational excursion | ± R34 000 |
| Stellenbosch University | Category prizes | R10 500 |
| Eskom generation and distribution | Ruck sacks for ISF participants | ± R6 000 |
| Department of Water Affairs | Special prizes | ± R600 |
| Weather bureau | Special prize | ± R500 |

WORKSHOPS

- On 7, 14 and 21 May workshops were scheduled for teachers and their learners. Six teachers and about 80 learners in total attended.
- Three schools were visit individually to help learners with project guidance and teachers with judging.
- A judges' workshop was hosted on 25 August and 35 new judges attended. This was very encouraging since it was mostly younger people who pitched up.
- On 3 September an upgrading workshop was held for ISF participants. Learners were divided among committee members to help with ideas for expansion and polishing.
- A teachers' indaba was hosted on 5 November. 21 teachers and five WCED officials turned up.

REGIONAL EXPO STATISTICS

| DESCRIPTION | NUMBER | COMMENTS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Projects | 217 | The majority of the projects entered at regionals were done individually. |
| Participants | 276 | |
| Females | 183 | |
| Males | 93 | |
| Primary participants | 16 | |
| Secondary participants | 260 | |
| TOTAL number of Schools | 24 | |
| Quintile 1, 2, 3 | 3 | Involvement of resource poor schools remains our biggest challenge |
| Quintile 4, 5 | 18 | |
| Private | 3 | |
| TOTAL number of District expos | 19 | All schools in the region who organise their own expo's and elimination rounds before entering the Stellenbosch regional expo, were regarded as district expo's. |
| Number of schools | 19 | |
| Number of learners | 1463 | |
| Number of learners | 1768 | |

HIGHLIGHTS

- The WCED's newly appointed Maths and Science School coordinator in the person of Mr Andrey Booysen. He arranged for a financial contribution to all four expo regions in the Western Cape. This was very welcome and much appreciated.
- Mentors that were allocated to certain schools. Although some improvements need to be made in future, mentorship has had and will in future have a positive impact on schools' participation.
- The opportunity to appoint a regional assistant was a huge highlight and a tremendous help.
- A very productive Teachers' Academy, or Teachers Indaba as it was called, was hosted in forum format. WCED's curriculum planners and advisors, experienced teachers from expo participating schools as well as expo novice teachers attended.
- A Stellenbosch University accredited short course was offered to the Natural Sciences PGCE students in the Faculty of Education. Out of the 45 students 42 were rewarded with a certificate of competence, and 1 with a certificate of attendance.
- Stellenbosch University once again offered bursaries to deserving participants at ISF.

LOWLIGHTS

- Priscilla Moodley leaving Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. Priscilla was the mother and heart of Expo and she will be sorely missed! What a pity that the Board of Directors and Eskom Expo could collaborate in a constructive way to resolve the differences and issues!
- For the first time ever none of Stellenbosch's ISF participants was rewarded with a gold medal, not even the project who were rewarded with a special prize, three bursaries as well as the Derek Gray memorial award. This makes one question the validity and credibility of the judging process! The discrepancy between special prizes and the medals must be addressed.
- Not enough quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools willing to become involved in Expo. Lack of interest and an unwillingness to spend energy to think creatively or try something new remain the biggest challenge!
- The database provided for regional entries - after a lot of effort and time was spent on uploading information onto this website, it was not stable enough to use.
- Organisation regarding the handing out of lanyards, room allocations. at ISF.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR (ISF)

17 projects by 17 learners from 13 schools were entered into ISF 2016. Learners of the selected team was very well-behaved and worthy ambassadors for the region. Awards of the team included:

- The Derek Gray memorial award
- 3 bursary awards
- 2 special prizes

- 3 silver medals
- 11 bronze medals
- 3 Highly commended certificates

MARKETING/MEDIA

Marketing:

- The Stellenbosch region marketed its activities by sending out a press release before the competition. This was published in a few papers.
- The webpage of this region was updated regularly in the few weeks towards the competition. The website was also revamped and updated after the competition to be much more user friendly for 2017.
- The region developed a Facebook page as we thought that this medium would speak to the learners more directly.

Media coverage:

- After the competition, articles were sent out to the regions with pictures and news about the schools in that specific areas. This was also done before and after ISF.
- Articles were sent to: Tygerburger, Paarl Post, Eikestadnuus, Worcester Standard, Bredasdorp, 2 newspapers in Hermanus, 2 newspapers in Helderberg (Strand/Somerset West) and 2 newspapers in Mitchell's Plain.
- 2 radio interviews were done with Fransie Streicher. He was chosen to represent South Africa at the Nobel prize giving function in Sweden.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION (IF APPLICABLE FOR YOUR REGION)

From May 29th to June 3rd Amalia Geldenhuys and Gabriella Fedetto were accompanied to the International Sustainability Project Olympiad (INESPO) in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Both girls understood that they were representing our country and Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. Although they mingled well with other participants, they also accepted the responsibility of being ambassadors. They truly were exceptional representatives for our country! Amalia won a silver medal whereas Gabriella won a bronze!

The value of learners being exposed to competitions/exhibitions of this nature is immeasurable! Feedback from the learners included that they now understood that they are part of a new generation who, with other scientists around the world, need to take responsibility for the wellness of our earth, as that will determine the quality of their lives on it!

CONCLUSION

2016 was a year with its fair share of ups and downs, but hard work and dedication, mostly by volunteers, prevailed! A big word of appreciation to the Stellenbosch organising committee as well as everyone at the national office who stayed committed and worked so diligently this year! Your contributions ensured that the show could go on!

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation and admiration to Priscilla who made a huge contribution to Expo over many years! Your unwavering dedication and high standard of professionalism will remain an example to all of us in time to come!



Erika Hoffman
(RSFD, Stellenbosch)
December 2016

PHOTOS



Stellenbosch Town Hall served as venue for the Stellenbosch regional competition



Judges at work at the Stellenbosch regional competition!



An educational excursion at the Cradle of Humankind before going to ISF



The Stellenbosch group at ISF – all dressed up and ready for action!



A very enjoyable drumming session changed learners' perceptions and improved their coordination



Fransie Streicher won the Derek Gray memorial award and will represent SA in Sweden.