

# WELCOME to SASTA Congress 2013

**O**N BEHALF OF THE SASTA COUNCIL WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL DELEGATES TO THE 2013 CONGRESS. TWO OF THE OBJECTIVES OF SASTA, AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION, ARE TO "PROMOTE THE INTERCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF AND THE DISCUSSION AND INVESTIGATION OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF SUGARCANE PRODUCTS" AND TO "ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY". WE BELIEVE THAT THESE OBJECTIVES ARE MET BY THE ANNUAL CONGRESS.

We trust that you will embrace the objectives outlined above as you participate fully in the proceedings of the 2013 Congress. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of all those presenting at the Congress, as well as encourage everyone to participate in the formal discussion times and the informal networking opportunities over tea, lunch and other functions.

A new feature of Congress 2013 is availability of the Congress Proceedings via the SASTA website for all registered delegates. This replaces the traditional DVD format that has been in place for many years. We believe that this innovation will be a user-friendly and effective way to access the Proceedings. Further information regarding specific login access to the Proceedings is included in the delegate bags and at the SASTA stand in the Exhibition Hall.

Another major development is the change in venue for Congress 2014 to the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg. This decision was taken after extensive research and consultation with representatives of the local sugar industry. The SASTA Council is excited about the benefits and opportunities that the new venue



#### SASTA Congress Organising Committee 2013

*Standing (L-R): Paul Schorn, Warren Lawlor, Danile Macdonald, Keith McFarlane. Seated (L-R): Helene Uys (The Conference Company), Sizile Dimba (The Conference Company), Deborah Sweby, Kerry Redshaw. Inset: Steve Peacock, Sumita Ramgareeb, Jacki de Beer (The Conference Company).*

has to offer for both delegates and exhibitors. Updates and information will be made available on the SASTA website ([www.sasta.co.za](http://www.sasta.co.za)).

Thanks are due to the Congress Organising Committee for their hard work in the time leading up to the Congress. The Congress Committee is made up of members of the SASTA Council, all of whom are volunteers. The SASTA Congress would not be the successful event it is without the commitment and dedication of the committee members.

We trust that you will all enjoy your time at the Congress and please feel free to provide us with any constructive feedback that will enable us to keep improving the Congress. ✍

Gavin Smith

SASTA President 2012-2013

Deborah Sweby

Chair: Congress Organising Committee