

CBE BULLETIN

APRIL 2019



for a better built environment

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Dear Reader

The Roman calendar may herald in the New Year on 1 January; however, it is rather interesting to note how different religious faiths observe their new year at different times. In the same vein, Government's new financial year kicked in on 1 April 2019, four months later than the traditional New Year festivities. Good wishes for all your new year projects.

April is dotted with public holidays and long weekends, bringing on the added dangers associated with travel and leisure pursuits. Our appeal is to prioritise safety everytime, everywhere, endlessly.

Earth Day was observed on 22 April. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is "Protect Our Species". It aims to draw attention to the rapid extinction of species in our world today, which is linked to human activities,

encouraging introspection into our behaviour. These include climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution, and pesticides.

The feature article in this issue has been contributed by CBE Council Member, Dr Claire Deacon on her area of passion, health and safety on construction sites. There is a glimpse into the Maths and Science support programme, and in the Out-and-About section we take a shot left to see what the career gurus have been up to.

**Enjoy your read,
Evelyn Bramdeow**

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." - Aristotle

Disclaimer

We welcome your comments and contribution to this publication. Views expressed in this newsletter, specifically in articles that profile other built environment stakeholders, are not necessarily those of the CBE.

Email us on newsletter@cbe.org.za

SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK



*Dr Claire Deacon PhD Construction Management
CBE Council Member*

Each year we commemorate those who died or became injured during the course of their employment; this year World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed on 28 April 2019. This year also sees the International Labour Organisation (ILO) celebrate 100 years, and the focus is on the way work has changed, and how change has influenced work. The ILO has published 33 original articles from experts worldwide that focus on facets that make up work (<https://www.ilo.org/safework/events/safeday/33thinkpieces/lang--en/index.htm>). I have selected one issue that has an effect on worker well-being – the work environment.

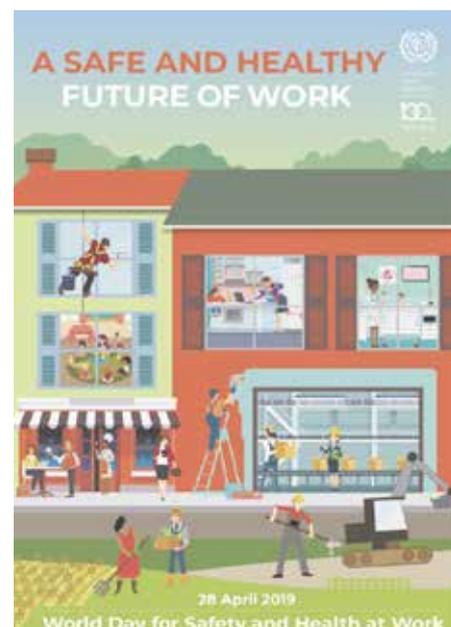
It is quite evident that the world of work has changed - through aspects such as digitalisation, platform work, automation and robotics. Each of these aspects has further been affected by demographics, globalisation, and climate change, among others. One would expect that the more automated life becomes, the less the risk. However, the advancement of technology introduces new risks, and we need to understand what these are in order to mitigate them.

Making work 'easier' by using technology, well-maintained equipment that is appropriate for the job, and using 'high' or 'low' technology could be deemed as creating a better environment, and ultimately reduce stress. Aspects such as virtual reality have yet to arrive on site at the work face but it does, at least, enhance the ability of the design team to reduce the

risks that workers could be exposed to on-site if used in this manner. Decent work and respect for workers are issues that can be applied to any project with careful thought and planning.

The negative outcome of poor working conditions is most easily recognised by the softer issues such as absenteeism of one form or another. Absenteeism is challenging to manage in the main. Current practice is to employ staff using short term contracts, or multiple contractors with minimal contract staff on site. The use of untrained workers increases risk - workers arrive on site with no understanding of construction work and are initially at high risk of being injured or dying at work. Such practices increase stress. Stressors on workers' well-being are getting more attention, but is it enough? Those who find their working environment too difficult to manage leave, and many years of experience and training could be lost in the sector. The influence on work by the general environment and vice versa is most underrated and could be the cause of the accidents that need to be prevented. Burnout from such stressors is a reality among workers and management alike.

The use of technology could enhance the project not only in terms of the typical project parameters, but consider how work could be done, and address risks with positive outcomes.



<https://www.un.org/en/events/safeworkday/>

Maths & Science Snippets



The CBE's Maths and Science support programme has held pride of place among CBE's community initiatives. Mangaliso Mbambosi, who attended the programme in 2015, completed his National Diploma in Industrial Engineering at the Nelson Mandela University. Not only did he complete his studies in record time, he also received the Best Final Year Student Award from Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering. Mangaliso is currently employed at Transnet.



The CBE intends strengthening its partnership with Coega Development Corporation (CDC) in this new 2019/20 financial year. CBE's Chief Executive Officer, Priscilla Mdlalose seals the deal with Coega's General Manager: Corporate Services, Bonginkosi Mthembu.



All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Coega's Maths Masterminds take on the CBE at chess.

Out-and-About

It was a busy time out of the office with career expos around the country.



Khayelitsha (Western Cape)



George (Western Cape)



Ingwavuma (KwaZulu-Natal)



Secunda (Mpumalanga)



Grahamstown (Eastern Cape)