

Editorial

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What is the *South African Planning Journal*, and what will it strive to achieve?

The *SAPJ* is the journal of the South African Planning Institution (SAPI). SAPI is the successor both to the South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners (SAITRP), which has had its own journal, and to the Development Planning Association of South Africa (DPASA). SAPI's journal - the *SAPJ* - should be seen as the continuation of the SAITRP's journal, *Town and Regional Planning*, but also as a vehicle which brings the concerns associated with the DPASA to the fore.

The SAITRP's journal was published by the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Stellenbosch. The publication of the first issue of the journal as a forum of the new planning organisation, SAPI, under its new title, *South African Planning Journal*, is a fitting moment to express admiration to the former editor, Professor Colin Todd Welch, and those who assisted him in long years of sustained commitment to serving the planning professions through production of *Town and Regional Planning*. This journal will strive to build on the successes of the previous publishers, and develop new directions which reflect both institutional changes (the formation of SAPI) and new directions in planning theory and practice.

With this issue, the place of publication shifts to the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. After responding to SAPI's call for proposals, the editorial team was appointed to produce the journal a matter of a few months ago.

We intend to further the Aim and Objectives of SAPI by

- * 'enhancing the art and science of sustainable ... development planning, and

the theory ... relating thereto' (from the Aim of SAPI)

- * 'maintaining the standard of knowledge ... of the membership (Objectives, (b))
- * 'promoting interdisciplinary and inter-skill discussion' (Objectives, (c))
- * 'fostering awareness among the public with regard to matters concerning planning' (Objectives, (e))
- * 'ensuring representivity ... by promoting opportunity enhancement' (Objectives, (g))
- * 'introducing proactive initiatives in addressing issues of social, economic, spatial and environmental concern as they relate to all communities' (Objectives, (I))
- * 'establishing and maintaining clear ethical standards and moral values within the planning profession' (Objectives, (I))
- * 'promoting local and international contacts and interactions' (Objectives, (n))

We intend to further these aims and objectives by attracting and publishing scholarly papers from a wide range of authors. We will promote planning, as well as bringing the concerns of related disciplines to the fore. In addition to the scholarly content of the journal, we will publish (as we do in this issue) other sections, dealing with *professional matters, contemporary policies and plans, debate, and reviews*.

We are grateful to all members of our new editorial board for accepting appointment. We will continue to seek advice from the board in the formulation of the policy of the journal. The board will also provide the core pool of referees for the

assessment of articles submitted for the scholarly section of the journal.

For many years, the journal *Town and Regional Planning*, as the journal of the former SAITRP, has appeared twice per year. Initially we propose to maintain this frequency. However, should both the quantity and quality of submissions permit - and we will pursue a vigorous policy of encouraging more submissions of quality - it would be our intention to increase the frequency of publication as rapidly as circumstances allow. We hope to improve the quality of production as we proceed, but the quality of content will remain the most important criterion. We anticipate that a much larger proportion of the content of the journal than hitherto will come from outside South Africa - though planning for change in our country will remain central to the concerns of the journal.

A key issue which comes under some scrutiny in this issue, and which we hope will continue to attract submissions, is that of *change*. We do not intend to pursue change for the sake of change, but rather because the world and southern Africa are indeed changing - and we believe that planning must respond to change, whether it be the pressures of globalising markets or the recognition of the needs of those long excluded from the benefits of development in this or indeed any other part of the world.

The *focus* of the journal will be *planning* - specifically planning in the sense of 'local, regional and national human and physical

development planning, and the theory and practice relating thereto', as stated by the Aim of SAPI. SAPI clearly has a special interest in questions of development; thus the focus of the journal as will include *planning in relation to development*. By comparison with past practice in *Town and Regional Planning*, this focus will draw on more material from the wider development planning field, without neglecting the existing concern with 'town planning'. It is considered important to make the journal interesting to the international audience as well as the South African audience.

It should be noted that the intention is not to supplant the function of a newsletter for SAPI. The journal will appear less frequently than a newsletter, and the journal's more substantial contributions can be expected to appear in print with greater delay; thus the focus of the professional sections of the journal will be on review and debate, rather than on news and current events.

The *language of the journal*, as agreed by the Council of SAPI, will be English. Authors will be invited to submit abstracts of their contributions (short or long) in any of the official languages of South Africa, as well as in English.

We hope to make a modest contribution to strengthening planning in South Africa and elsewhere. We invite all readers to respond, particularly by submitting material for publication in the journal.¶

Alan Mabin