# EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (EASA) Chairperson’s report 2022

It was almost a year ago that the EASA EXCO came to Cape Town for the conference site visit. We are thankful that the date has finally arrived and we are all here.

We are thankful that life has gradually returned to normal after over two years of social distancing! We are also thankful that the Association is moving from strength to strength due to the commitment of the Executive Committee who have maintained their consistent hard work on the various portfolios. EASA has continued in strengthening its position in establishing networks with international peers who do research in the field of education.

We continue to make our presence known internationally as a member of the World Education Research Association (WERA). In this forum, we have access to International Research Networks of colleagues working in various fields and across disciplines. Our members also have access to Doctoral and Early Career (DEC) networks. Prof Ruth Mampane maintains our collaborative relationship by representing EASA on the WERA Council. In 2022, Prof Raj Mestry represented EASA at the WERA Council Meeting in San Diego, USA.

We are proud that our past Chair, Prof Liesel Ebersohn is now the President Elect of the association. We want to congratulate her and wish her well during her tenor.

Thanks to the hard work of Prof Ronel Ferreira and her team, our internationally accredited South African Journal of Education has continued to maintain its high standing as leading journal in Education research in Africa. The impact factor of the journal has risen steadily and now stands at 0.853. We look forward to the regular publications special issue planned for 2023.

Dr Fumare Khanare is charge of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and has continued to encourage EASA members to join SIG in their fields. This is an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues with similar interests across institutions and internationally. We look forward to the collaborations and partnerships that will emanate from the SIGs. Visit EASA website for more information on how to join a Special Interest Group.

Despite emigrating to Canada, Dr Sameera Ayob-Essop continues to hold the portfolio for Internationalisation and Postgraduate Student Development. She is working hard on extending EASA’s social media presence. We now have an Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Please remember to follow us on these platforms.

A special word of thanks to prof Raj Mestry, our Treasurer, who has consistently maintained the finances of the association exceptionally well. We are happy to report that the finances are still stable and positive.

We have all through the year received communications from Prof Johnnie Hay who has tirelessly overseen the functions of the Secretariat with such excellence. We held our regular meetings during the year. Prof Hay has kept us updated on the all the issues concerning EASA and its networks.

We have kept out website up to date with the hard work of Prof Elize du Plessis and her team. Prof du Plessis has been in charge of our website and has done an amazing job. We appreciate her efforts in ensuring all the relevant information are visible and up to date. All information relating to the Association’s operations, activities and membership details are available on the website. Please visit the website. We would love to hear from you.

Despite all the good news and achievements we do have to acknowledge with sadness that Prof Gouws resigned. We appreciate all contributions she has made to the association over the years and she will be missed. We are glad that she has described her experience with EASA as a member and EXCO as enriching. We wish her the very best for the future.

Reflecting on the 2023 EASA annual conference, Cape Town, the conference theme, “*OCEANS OF WISDOM, MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE, WINDS OF CHANGE”* was in itself appealing and generated interesting topics for delegates. The need for change in the education sector was consistent among the delegates.

The keynote speakers were Prof Thuli Madonsela (University of Stellenbosch), Prof Mbulungeni Madiba (University of Cape Town), Prof Irma Eloff (University of Pretoria) and Prof Piet Van Avermaet (Ghent University, Belgium). The keynote addresses generated robust thought-provoking discussions and motivating ideas for education future studies, Delegated were afforded the opportunities for further engagements with the speakers.

We had the privilege of welcoming international WERA delegates for a WERA Invited Symposium. The delegates were Prof Geovana Lurnard-Mendes from the State University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, Prof Ingrid Gogolin, University of Hamburg, Germany and Prof Woon Chia Liu, National Institute of Education, Singapore. The symposium was titled *Global winds of education change that matter for regional wisdom and knowledge*.

Other presentations covered basic, higher and teacher education, as well as Open Distance Learning, technical and vocational education. The topics included social justice in education, literacy in diversity, language-in-education, multilingualism, identity, assessment, technology, digital literacy, education innovation, community-based research and transformative leadership. It was a memorable occasion with ample opportunities for networking and collaboration.

It is noteworthy that the recipients of EASA awards over the past three years also received their physical awards during the award ceremony at the conference. Congratulations to everyone!

We want to thank Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and Two Oceans Graduate Institute for hosting the 2023 EASA Conference. We also want to thank Prof Candice Livingston, the conference chairperson, and her team for all the hard work put into the organisation and coordination relating to the conference; supported by Narina Basson and Marian Louw from Event Behella as conference coordinators.

We welcome Dr Eugene Machimana and Prof Candice Livingston as an Additional Members of the EASA EXCO.

It has exciting to serve the association as Chair this year and I want to use this opportunity to thank the EXCO for their support during my tenure as Chair and looking forward to serving in the capacity of Out-going Chair.

I am proud to welcome Prof Elize du Plessis as In-coming Chair and wish her the very best in the role.

Thank you everyone!

Kind regards

Prof Funke Omidire