

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA HOSTS REGIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

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→ Mr Mosibudi Mangena, Minister of Science and Technology, delivers the opening address at the conference.

The University of Pretoria hosted a significant regional engineering conference on its campus on 26 and 27 September 2006. This major event was aimed at promoting economic advancement by exchanging ideas on engineering education in the African and world contexts. The opening address was delivered by the Honourable Mr Mosibudi Mangena, Minister of Science and Technology.

The conference combined the 3rd African Regional Conference on Engineering Education and the 4th Southern African Conference on Engineering Education. It provided an excellent opportunity for engineers, both in practice and in academia, to learn about new developments in engineering education in order to advance engineering as a profession on the continent.

More than 50 papers were accepted for presentation, which were presented in a combination of plenary and parallel sessions. Themes of the conference included the current state of engineering education, engineering education for sustainable development, foundation courses, student learning and success, and the interface with industry.

Two workshops followed the conference: one on enhancing engineering education, and the other on women in engineering.

Given the low number of engineers in Africa, this conference addressed a very important issue that would make an impact not only locally, but across the entire continent. ➔