



15 August 2009

PORT ELIZABETH 2009 NATIONAL CONGRESS (Edited version)

The 2009 OTASA Congress that was held in Port Elizabeth for the first time ever, was a great success. We had a total of 225 delegates.

The Eastern Cape branch of OTASA is a small branch, and most of the members are novices when it comes to organising or attending OTASA congresses. However, we accepted the challenge of organising a National Congress, and our determination and commitment yielded positive results.

1. We presented a pre-Congress workshop at the 2009 Congress, to all first-time speakers and attendees. This workshop was presented free of charge, and provided helpful information on all Congress procedures, as well as to all details pertaining to speakers. This was well attended, and yielded positive comments. It is recommended that it became an institution in future Congresses, as it is immensely beneficial to all first-time presenters and delegates.
2. It made a significant difference working with an events company, and the standards and quality of the 2009 Congress confirmed the importance of having such a company on board. It is recommended that all future Congress organizing committees make use of an events company, and we thought it would be beneficial to OTASA to appoint one company for the future, e.g. on a 10-year contract, to ensure continuity and easier transition from one Congress to the next. Eastern Sun Events work nationally, across South Africa. As organizing committee we were really impressed with their skill, dedication and expertise, and would most definitely recommend they be considered for such an appointment.
3. We received feedback from the delegates at Congress by means of a questionnaire/feedback form. The following is a summary, and some extracts, from the evaluation forms submitted by delegates:

OVERALL CO-ORDINATION OF THE CONGRESS				
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELL ENT
Advertisement of the Congress		10	55	33
Registration of the Congress	4	4	17	74
Audio Visual Services		2	15	82
Content of the Academic Programme		6	55	37
Quality of the speakers		2	55	46
Venue		7	35	57
Meals	2	11	27	59
Welcome Cocktail Function (Tuesday, 30 June 2009)	1	7	24	33
Gala Dinner (Thursday, 2 July 2009)	11	10	20	16

Extracts from evaluation forms:

- The Congress was well organized and the programme was well co-ordinated and the speakers were amazing.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Letitia Strauss (Chairperson), Clare Hubbard, Almarie Jansen van Rensburg, Alet van Niekerk, Sarita Nell, Debbie Pretorius

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT:

Eastern Sun Events

Tel: +27 41 374 5654, Fax: +27 41 373 2042, Email: info@easternsun.co.za



- I am so proud of the Eastern Cape! As a local OT, Eastern Sun Events put us on the map. It was done very professionally – thank you.
- Excellent. My first Congress – totally exceeded my expectations. Love it being practical.
- The standard of the Congress was very high and very interesting. It was every penny worth.
- Speakers were inspiring and gave me new inspiration to do more in my community and inspire me to perform research. The theme always came through in all the lectures and also in speakers.
- The programme was excellent. I now have the Congress Bug!
- The catering should be regarded as the new minimum standard for OT events. Healthy and nice.

The information from the delegates raised issues which will be used to plan the next OTASA Congress such as the academic content, advertising of the Congress to non-OTASA members, the use of Events Planners and inclusion of the Vona du Toit Memorial Lecture into the general proceedings of the Congress.

Thank you again for the privilege of hosting the 2009 OTASA National Congress in our beautiful province! It was an honor and a pleasure, and we look forward to hosting this prestigious event again in the future.

Kind Regards

Letitia Strauss
Chairperson: Organizing Committee

PS. The next OTASA Congress will take place in 2011 – venue not yet established.

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