



SAIMC ANNUAL GALA DINNER

INSPIRING AUTOMATION

Under the skies of the most beautiful Johannesburg evening, the 2023 SAIMC gala dinner kicked off with champagne on the deck of the Fairway Hotel and Spa. Accompanied by musical notes from renowned saxophonist Femi, people dressed to the nines in keeping with the Great Gatsby theme, and an air of uncontained excitement that this prestigious occasion was again held after the COVID-19 hiatus, the stage was set for another glittering occasion.



The proceedings were again led (and kept on track) by MC Robert Wright (Managing Director of RJ Connect), who was as usual funny, enthusiastic, and energetic. The objective of the evening was to have fun, celebrate the year, meet up with friends old and new, and so the formalities were kept to a minimum, starting off with a video from Chair of the Board of the SAIMC, Marc van Pelt, who was having a well-deserved family vacation in Belgium. Marc's message highlighted the achievements of the SAIMC in bringing the message out and

promoting automation to the market. It included interaction with government, educational and industrial sectors. The world is moving to an all-electrical society, and South Africa needed to jump on the bandwagon to be competitive in the global market. He ended off by wishing everybody a splendid evening.

SAIMC CEO, Johan Maartens was next and he highlighted important changes that came from the SAIMC 2026 Strategy Meeting held at Lapp HQ. Changes included the 'long name' of the SAIMC changing to Society for Automation, Instrumentation, Mechatronics and Computer Engineering. He also welcomed Tshwane University of Technology and

Nelson Mandela University as the first educational institutions joining the SAIMC as Didactic Members. Joining the SAIMC as a Didactic Member confirms that the institution commits to working with the SAIMC to produce "products" that industry requires, and provides the institution with free membership seats for all their automation lecturers, and final-year students and above. His talk culminated in revealing the new and fitting slogan for the SAIMC – 'Inspiring Automation'.



Femi took up his saxophone again during dinner, which was a relaxed and delicious occasion. You had to be there to believe the ambience: the décor was stunning, everybody looked glamorous, and the room was buzzing with conversation, laughter, and relaxed conviviality. The laughter soon escalated once comedian Joey Rasdien took the stage with his clever and whacky brand of humour, weaving threads of comedic magic throughout his routine. Joey has earned the title of 'the thinking man's comedian' so he appealed to the audience, especially those of an engineering persuasion.

And all that remains is to start planning the 2024 event, which promises to be bigger, better and even more glamorous.



The SAIMC would like to thank all the table sponsors on the evening, and those companies who took additional sponsorships:



Proconics
Welcome drinks



RX
Décor



RJCONNECT
Photography



ifm
Dessert chocolate



LAPP
Table wine

To view all the photos from the evening please go here: <https://johanspiesfotografiebk.shootproof.com/gallery/22817234/>



