The second International Conference on Competitive Manufacturing (COMA’04) took place from 4 to 6 February this year. The theme of the Conference was Progress in Innovative Manufacturing.

The main objective of COMA is to present current developments, research results and industry experience related to the improvement of competitiveness in the field of manufacturing. The Conference strives to be an initiator of innovative ideas and successful collaboration on national as well as on international level. COMA covers four main areas, namely Rapid Product Development, Agile Manufacturing, Operations Management, and Enterprise Design and Integration.

Indutech presented four papers, covering a wide spectrum of research topics ranging from the impact of HIV and Aids in the workplace to the effective sharing and retrieval of information by means of taxonomies. A summary of each of these articles will be published in future issues of this publication.

The Conference Dinner was held on 5 February at the Neethlingshof Wine Estate. The highlight of this event was the launch of the Community and Business Development Consortium.

During the week of the Conference Indutech (Pty) Ltd was privileged to be involved in various mini-workshops with several of its international research partners, like Erik Lutters, Henk Kievit, Volker Wittberg, Wim Post, Nicolas Perry and Alexandre Candlot. The outcomes of these discussions were fresh ideas and initiatives, renewed vigor and reinforced collaboration ties.

COMA’04 proved to be an enormous success and paved the way for increased levels of international research collaboration. The extensive interest this Conference received from various international institutions was especially encouraging.

Wilhelm Uys
Efficient project management at AngloGold is becoming increasingly difficult with each new project undertaken. Because of the wide geographical dispersion of projects, it is difficult to efficiently manage project knowledge. Typical problems experienced are:
- Capturing and utilising knowledge from past Projects/Programmes;
- Project Management process knowledge distribution (only a few people understand the process completely);
- Non-standard Project/Programme reporting.

In order to address these concerns, Fritz Neethling, head of the International Project Management Office, approached Indutech to demonstrate the use of their Roadmap Methodology for AngloGold’s Project Management Process. A roadmap was developed by the Indutech team for the Feasibility Study phase of AngloGold Project Management Process. Functional specifications were also defined for a software environment to assist in solving the aforementioned problems. The following process was followed in building the roadmap:

- Modelling and analysing AngloGold’s processes
- Identifying processes suitable for roadmapping
- Building a roadmap for the feasibility study phase, consisting of the feasibility study process steps (guiding structure)
- Capturing relevant company project knowledge and linking it in context with the roadmap structure
- Packaging the roadmap in html format

The Indutech Roadmap Methodology will provide the following benefits for AngloGold Project Management Process: a structured uniformed approach; better guidance through guiding information that are linked to the roadmap; to better capture and disseminate the knowledge and experience gained from past projects; and improved project control. For more information on this Case Study and other projects, visit www.indutech.co.za

Ted Boezaart
Launch of the Community and Business Development Consortium

On the 4th of February 2004 the Indutech team enjoyed a special occasion. Not only were we able to enjoy a dinner together at the Volkskombuis Restaurant in Stellenbosch, but also we were able to share the evening with all four of Indutech’s directors. Niek du Preez, Elna du Preez, Paul Baan and Henk Kievit joined us for dinner. Paul Baan and Henk Kievit had flown in from The Netherlands to enjoy the beautiful Cape summer, attend the COMA’04 Conference and to carry out some business. Paul Baan was accompanied by his wife, Mineke, and their daughter, Johanneke.

While in Stellenbosch, Paul Baan and Henk Kievit, along with members of the Indutech team, initiated a project in which Indutech would assist the Noaber Foundation to structure and manage their strategic processes. The project is now well on its way and more information about the outcomes will be provided in future issues of Indutech’s Newsletter.

A large part of Paul Baan and Henk Kievit’s time in Stellenbosch was taken up with preparations for the launch of the Community and Business Development Consortium. The vision of the Consortium is to make a meaningful contribution towards social and economic development by investing in Enterprise Development with a specific focus on under-invested communities. The strategy of the Consortium is to bring different disciplines and resources together within a collaborative structure to ensure a holistic and inclusive approach to economic development that is relevant to the target communities.

The Global Competitiveness Centre (GCC), the Noaber Foundation, as well as several of Indutech’s team, will be involved in this exciting consortium. Other consortium members include Lingu Lethu Business Support, Woord en Daad, Oikocredit, City of Cape Town, Directorate Economic Development and Mfesane. The visit of our Dutch connection was both enjoyable and stimulating. We look forward to many more future visits.

Bernard Katz
Kevin Podratz is from the department of Innovation Management at Aachen University. Kevin’s field of interest is business engineering.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

Bouwer van Niekerk got engaged to Carlien Cornellisen.

Congratulations to Ted Boezaart and Johke Koornhof on their engagement.

In November 2003 Marc-Allen Johnson got engaged to Sannelize de Villiers.

Conratulations to Ursula and Quentin Isaacs who are expecting a baby in August.

The IVGI (French acronym for Virtual Engineering for Industrial Engineering) Team of the Research Laboratory called IRCCyN (Institut de Recherche en Communications et Cybernétique de Nantes, France) and the GCC, over the past 30 months developed research questions of common interests. After a visit of Professor Alain Bernard, several overseas discussions and student exchanges, the interaction has found a new momentum with the acceptance by the NRF and its French-equivalent, CNRS of funding for a two year collaboration. Four missions, two from France to South Africa and two from South Africa to France, are financed in order to build and consolidate the links between the two laboratories.

Dr Nicolas Perry and Mr Alexandre Candlot visited the GCC (Global Competitiveness Centre in Engineering) in Stellenbosch from the 25th of January to the 10th of February. The GCC people, linked to Indutech (Pty) Ltd, presented the different areas they are working on. After each discussion, interactions were made to clear each other’s understandings of issues. The following collaboration areas of different abstraction levels emerged:

1) Knowledge Definition, 2) Knowledge-Management-Tool Deployment and User Methodology - Performance management and improvement during project deployment, 3) Collaboration Management, 4) Ontology.

The second point, that requires the first and induces the last two, is the main federator. The GCC Team and the IVGI Team both aim at providing a scientific approach to industrial users to solve the knowledge management issues that are continuously becoming more critical. As a matter of fact, when the size of the information flow toward each person is always growing, a scientific company-engineering method is obviously needed to optimise the analysis faculty of unchanged human capacities.

Indutech (Pty) Ltd, the GCC’s industrial partner, will provide the two teams with the market feedback of full-scale deployed analysis cases to assess conclusions during the progress of the teams. In an academic perspective, the research results realised in the EIRC can also be very valuable and could be a source of profitable exchanges.

The next exchange from South Africa to France should occur before the end of June. Between these two exchanges, South African and French researchers will be matched according to their research topics and new internships will start to extract, from existing experiences and materials, the spine of this prospective knowledge-management methodology.

Alexandre Candlot