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ISBEE Newsletter

International Society of Business, Economics, and Ethics

Vol. 4 • N° 9 • June 2005

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ISBEE goes to Africa in 2008

The ISBEE Executive Committee has unanimously approved the Team Africa bid to host the 2008 ISBEE World Congress. The bid was jointly prepared by the Business Ethics Network of Africa (BEN-Africa) and professional conference organiser, Rouge Communiqué. The beautiful city of Cape Town has been selected as the host city for the Congress. This will be the first time that the continent of Africa will host the ISBEE World Congress.

As Pan-African organisation, BEN-Africa represents the continent of Africa. South Africa is home to the African Parliament, birth-place of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the major driving force behind the African Renaissance. "Holding the ISBEE Congress in Cape Town will add impetus to the goal of finding African solutions to African problems, while also attracting foreign direct investment for Africa and South Africa", says Cape Town Routes Unlimited CEO, Nokuthula Dube. The Congress will also provide a productive shared learning experience amidst the unique African sustainability, governance and ethics landscape.

The Congress organising team will consist of three committees. They are:

- The global programme committee who will oversee the congress theme, session topics and congress dates.
- The international organisation committee will finalise the congress programme and be responsibility for the quality control of the event.
- The event organising committee will be responsible for the event organisation, logistics and running of the event.

Some of the first discussion points on the agenda of the organising team will be to select a suitable Congress date, decide on the main themes of the Congress and drafting time lines for various activities.

We wish to call on our ISBEE members to make an early commitment to attend this Fourth ISBEE World Congress and to use their personal networks to inform others about this important event. It is only with your assistance that we can turn this congress into a truly global event.

Please contact Saret Britz (saretbritz@telkomsa.net) from Rouge Communiqué or Prof. Piet Naudé (Piet.Naude@nmmu.ac.za) President of BEN-Africa if you are interested in becoming involved. They are inviting involvement from:

- Global ethics network organisations
- Continental ethics network organisations
- Country ethics networks
- Major commercial corporations who will make financial contributions towards staging the event in return for marketing exposure
- Specialised products/service providers to the business ethics community wishing to gain market exposure and make contact with the participants

ISBEE MISSION 2005-2008



The newly elected Executive Committee of ISBEE has completed their first (virtual) meeting and formulated their vision for the organisation for the next four years. From this meeting a very strong commitment to facilitate a truly global perspective on ethics in economics and business emerged.

The main point on the agenda for the ISBEE over the next four years will be our 2008 World Congress. I am glad and excited to announce that the Executive Committee has approved the bid of the Business Ethics Network of Africa (BEN-Africa) to host the Fourth World Congress of ISBEE in 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read more about the bid committee's plans for this event.

It was also resolved that ISBEE will strengthen its ties with continental, regional and country networks of business ethics. Since its inception ISBEE has always worked closely with business ethics networks from all regions of the globe. In North and Latin America as well as in Europe and Africa there are well-established continental networks of business ethics. On the rest of the globe, there are a number of country business ethics networks, such as in Australia, India, China and Japan. Over the next four years ISBEE wishes to interact regularly with all of these networks. We will gather information from them on what is happening with regard to ethics in business and economics in their respective parts of the world and then communicate it to our members around the world. At the same time we will also inform them about the events and publications that ISBEE are involved in with the expectation that they will communicate it with their membership. Obviously their newsletters and websites as well as ISBEE's newsletters and website will play a central role in disseminating this information.

We also intend to involve the presidents of continental, regional and national networks of business ethics in our planning for the 2008 ISBEE World Congress. Together we will decide on the most suitable date for the congress, so as to ensure global participation. Furthermore their assistance will also be called upon to determine a theme, relevant to business leaders and business ethicists around the globe, for the congress.

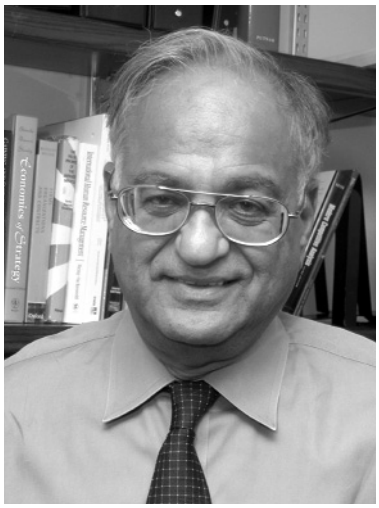
The ISBEE Executive Committee also decided to organise itself into various task teams that will focus on a number of areas that we deem important in our mission. Task teams have been established to work on the following areas: our ISBEE book and publication series, networking with business ethics networks and organisations, expanding the ISBEE membership, global research projects and the development and maintenance of the ISBEE website. All of these task teams are in the process of developing strategies and plans for the next four years and the first fruits of their work are already to be

seen in this newsletter. As their reports become available over the next months, their strategies and plans will be published in the forthcoming editions of the ISBEE newsletter.

We as Executive Committee can not reach our mission alone. We therefore call on our members to assist us in our mission of building a global network of business leaders and business ethicists who are dedicated to improving the ethics of business and economics on a global scale. It is only through our regular networking that we will unleash the synergy that is required to meet the challenges of ethics in business and economy on a global scale.

Prof. G J (Deon) Rossouw
President of ISBEE

A New Vice-President for ISBEE – Prakash Sethi



On the June the 15th 2005 the election process for a new Vice-President was completed. We are glad to announce that Prakash Sethi was elected as Vice-President of ISBEE. A total of 71 out of the 73 votes received were in support of his candidacy. Dr. Sethi is University Distinguished Professor at the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College at the City University of New York. He has been a member of ISBEE since its inception and has regularly presented papers at its various conferences.

He has three focus areas for his term as Vice President.

- To diversify and improve the quality of scholarship generated by ISBEE members. His experience as member of the editorial boards of academic and professional journals will allow him to assist members in preparing their papers or articles for publication.
- To explore with the Publications task team, the possibility of starting a new journal, or developing a cooperative arrangement with some other academic/professional organization to becoming a joint sponsor of an existing journal.
- As member of the Networking task team, he will continue to actively seek new members for ISBEE as well as expand the scope by bringing in more academic and executive members. Sethi envisions a truly multi-stakeholder organization that will include corporations (individual and institutional members) and NGOs.

Task Team Reports www.ISBEE.org

ISBEE regards its website as one of its primary tools to networking with and disseminating information to members. It is therefore important to have an interactive website where members can communicate freely and quickly as well as receive relevant information.

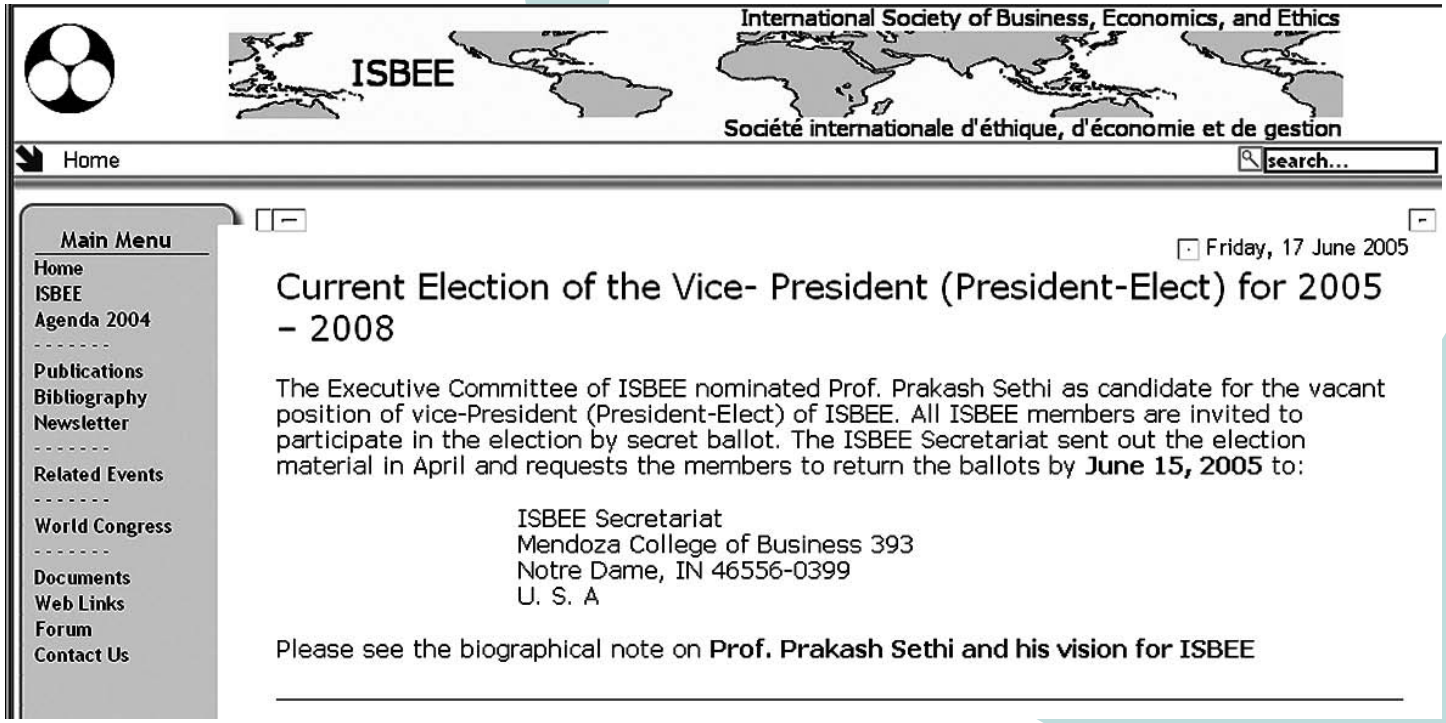
In order to achieve this, the new ISBEE website was installed at the end of May 2005. The new site has several new features, including a forum, a picture gallery and a new menu entry called 'related events'. The forum will serve as a platform to exchange ideas and respond to emerging issues or concerns. To participate on the forum, users must request a login password, which will allow them to submit entries or responses to the forum.

The picture gallery will work in much the same way. Registered users can post pictures of for example conferences and other related events on the gallery. Registered users can also get editor rights, which will allow them to add, delete and change the ISBEE website within their browsers. You can also register online to receive the free electronic version of the newsletter.

The 'related events' entry will inform members of the various events related to business, economics and ethics around the globe.

Most of these features are made possible through the new OpenSource based website.

Webmaster: Thomas Hodel-Widmer



An ISBEE Book Series and Special Issues

To date there have been number of ISBEE publications arranged on an ad hoc basis. These ISBEE publications consist of papers presented at the three world congresses of ISBEE that was held in 1996, 2000 and 2004 respectively. In the interest of ensuring ISBEE publications of a consistent high quality with some internal coherence, we suggest establishing an ISBEE Book Series with a single publisher. We have interest from Palgrave Macmillan and Edward Elgar (through the New Horizons in Leadership series edited by Joanne Ciulla). A series would need to offer a minimum of one book every two years to be viable. The series would have a series editor responsible for identifying volumes, with the responsibility for each volume held by the volume editor. The series editor would have to undertake to ensure a supply of books and work on behalf of ISBEE avoiding a one-sided agenda. The task team will take on the task of identifying a publisher and writing a proposal.



In the first instance, possible publications would include themed papers from the 2008 conference and the Agenda 2004 topics.

1. Corporate Governance and Trust in Business
2. Globalization and Business Ethics
3. Fairness in International Trade and WTO
4. Place of Institutional Actors
5. Ethical Implications of Contemporary Technologies

Some of these topics may, however, be more suited to journal's special issues. We would encourage targeting different journals according to the specific topic, in order to reach beyond the established business ethics audience. The authors of the Agenda 2004 topics and the programme organizers of the 2008 conference will be the initial points of contact to discuss this further.

An ISBEE journal?

We are hesitant to add yet another journal to the Business Ethics arena which would inevitably take some time to become established and build a reputation and quality publications. There may be some opportunity to link up with an established journal; we suggest targeting the Journal of Business Ethics as the most international in the field. We will undertake to investigate this further.

Publication Language

In the case of both books and journals, language of publication is an issue which an international society like ISBEE needs to consider carefully. We support the establishing of an ISBEE Fund for Translation and Language Support. This might be useful in helping those who write in English as a second language to improve the quality of their submissions, and also to translate between languages as appropriate.

Report by Laura Spence

Task Team Reports

Networking

In keeping with our mission of establishing a global network of business leaders and business ethicists, a networking task team was created. The team was assigned the responsibility of defining our role as well as proposing specific actions that we wish to undertake to strengthen ISBEE's interactions with other regional organizations.

The following proposed actions resulted from the team's deliberations:

- The distribution of a generic marketing flyer communicating ISBEE's vision, objectives and activities along with a membership form, to regional networks and at regional meetings.
- Providing links to partner organizations' websites on the ISBEE website and also ensure that partner organizations have a link to the ISBEE website.
- Identify contact persons in the Executive Committee of ISBEE and outside who would be charged with the specific responsibility of networking with the regional networks. Attempts should be made to identify one person from the partner organizations also who would be responsible for interfacing with ISBEE.
- One or more regional workshops should be organized in collaboration with regional business ethics networks between the quadrennial world congresses of ISBEE.
- A directory of names, affiliations, contact details and areas of interest of all ISBEE members should be made available to all members.
- Research collaborations between ISBEE and regional networks should be done. This research agenda will broadly be driven by the ISBEE Agenda 2004.

An issue that emanated from the deliberations was defining ISBEE's unique proposition or contribution to regional business ethics networks and organizations. The dominant identity of ISBEE that emerged through the discussions pertaining to networking was one of a virtual group with the primary responsibility of disseminating information and knowledge on ethics in business and economics in the global arena.



What we then have to offer to regional organizations is the significant academic contributions of our members in this area. We could also propose and pioneer multi-region research projects. This would allow cross pollination of ideas and the outcome thereof could be fed into the quadrennial world congress.

In order to help us define our unique proposition to regional networks, we would like to know what you as a member of ISBEE expects from the organization.

Please send any comments or suggestions to: Vasanthi Srinivasan.
vasanthi@iimb.ernet.in

Ethics Events

Events Highlight

Doctoral Workshops

Studying for any kind of PhD is a solitary task, writes Laura J Spence, Brunel University, UK. One way to overcome this isolation is specialist Doctoral Workshops. These are designed for people at early stages of their Academic careers with a common subject interest to help them better to understand the field to which they are contributing. Workshops also give students the opportunity to meet and get to know senior members of the academic field in an informal environment.

- Social Issues in Management Division 2005, Doctoral Consortium
  Academy of Management Annual Meeting,
  Honolulu Hawaii
  5-6 August 2005
  Co-chairs: Douglas R. May, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, dmay1@unl.edu
  Andrew Crane, Nottingham University, Andrew.Crane@nottingham.ac.uk
  Information at
  www.pitt.edu/~rorst6/sim/docconpage.htm

- 2005 EBEN Doctoral Workshop
  21- 22 September 2005,
  prior to EBEN Annual Conference 2005,
  22-24 September,
  Bonn Germany
  Co-chairs: Dr Laura J. Spence, School of Business and Management, Brunel University, London. Laura.Spence@Brunel.ac.uk
  Dr. Andreas Suchanek, Leipzig Graduate School of Business and Wittenberg-Center for Global Ethics. Andreas.Suchanek@hhl.de

The Workshop is designed to give Doctoral students in the area of Economic and Business Ethics the opportunity to present their work in an international, supportive environment before their peers. This is an opportunity to develop their network of those working in the field of Business Ethics and to gain exposure to the key academic conference in this field in Europe.

The two best papers presented during the Doctoral workshop will also be integrated into the main conference of EBEN in the special session "Doctoral Workshop Papers of excellence".

EBEN Annual Conference

22-24 September 2005, Bonn, Germany
EBEN Annual Conference is entitled, "***State, Business and Stakeholders:*** Ethical Perspectives on Balancing Business and Public Interests."

BEN-Africa Annual Conference

31 August-2 September 2005, Kasane, Botswana
The Annual BEN-Africa Conference will be structured around four main themes:

- Managing Business Ethics
- African Business Ethics Case Studies
- Ethics and Globalisation
- Teaching Business Ethics

ALENE Eighth Annual Congress

11-12 August 2005, Chile
The Annual ALENE Congress is entitled, "Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility and Globalization."

Annual Meeting of the (American) Society for Business Ethics

4-7 August 2005, Honolulu, Hawaii
The annual meeting provides a forum for members to present their own research, discuss the latest developments in teaching business ethics and emerging business ethics issues. The event also gives participants the opportunity for networking and enjoying the fellowship of scholars and professional in the field of business ethics.

Bibliography of Business Ethics Articles

by Georges Enderle, Xiaoqing Feng, Rosemary Guillette, Donna Kamm, and Allie Wilkie.

This unique bibliography contains the references of all articles published in the major journals on business and economic ethics over the last 20 years until May 2005. It includes more than 4,000 items (author, title of article, journal, year, number, pages). The journals are:

- African Journal of Business Ethics (since 2005)
- Business Ethics - A European Review (since 1992)
- Business Ethics Quarterly (since 1991)
- Business and Society (since 1994)
- Business and Society Review (since 1999)
- Economics and Philosophy (since 1985)
- Journal of Business Ethics (since 1992)
- Journal of Human Values (since 1995)
- Teaching Business Ethics (1997-2003)
- Zeitschrift für Wirtschafts- und Unternehmensethik [Journal for Business, Economics, and Ethics] (since 2000)

An outstanding research tool offered by ISBEE and readily accessible on the ISBEE website www.isbee.org!

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