

My correspondence with Frans:

1) Dated: 11 December 2015

Hello Frans,

Will you please inform me on ISIAME2016. Up-to-now I have got no information, hence I do not know whether or not this event will take place.

Thanks in advance,

Stanislaw Dubiel

2. Frans' answer e-mailed 5 January 2016:

Dear Dubiel

Hope all is well and all the best for 2016

We are busy organising ISIAME and we would like you to give an invited talk at ISIAME2016 in Cape Town. As soon as our sponsorships are known we would let you know about rebates available.

I trust that you would be able to come and if you have a preliminary title ready it would be very good.

Hope to see you in South Africa

Frans

3. My e-mail to Frans dated 2. February 2016:

Dear Frans,

I would like to book my flight, so I would like to have your confirmation on my talk.

Thanks in advance,

Stanislaw

4. Answer from Frans E-mailed on 3. February 2016:

Hi, this will come out in the next week or so. I am preparing the 2nd flyer where invited speakers names will appear

All the best and thanks

Frans

3. My e-mail to Frans dated 29. February 2016

Dear Frans,

I have made reservation of my ticket to and from Cape Town, and have to make decision by March 3. I would like to hear from you that the event will take place as announced.

Thanks in advance,

Stanislaw

4. Frans's answer dated 29. February 2016:

Yes it will take place and I am just waiting for the final alterations to the flyer, but here the one with your name as invited speaker and also the latest list where I still wait for replies

Frans

5. My e-mail to Frans dated 10. March 2016

Dear Frans,

I wanted to register and found there was no item "invited speakers" to choose for fee. Should an invited speaker be free from the fee? If not what should be chosen?
Thanks in advance for your instruction,

Regards,

Stanislaw

6. Frans's answer dated 10. March 2016

Stanislaw at this stage we cannot waiver the fee for invited speakers. I have applied for addition funding from our National Research Foundation and if this comes through we will let you immediately know.

I have asked my lady to look into this what we can do and I would suggest to register with the fee given and as soon as we know about additional funding we will let you know. I have asked the ISIAME panel and they said that registrants from Europe and USA should pay the normal fee - but we will come back

Frans

7. My e-mail to Frans dated 15. June 2016:

Dear Frans,

There is some problem with the registration viz. Despite I have registered as retired, 450 Euro as the fee was indicated.

In any case, I want to pay via bank transfer, but no appropriated bank data are given. How to proceed?

Regards,

Stanislaw

8. Frans's announcement to all dated 16. June 2016:

Dear all

It is with regret that I have to cancel the upcoming ISIAME2016 symposium that was to be held in the Lagoon beach Hotel Cape Town

The main reason to me is the lack of interest;

We have at the deadline for abstracts (today) only received 27 abstracts of which 7 are to be presented as posters. I have extended the deadline for abstracts with a month and only a few extra abstracts were submitted, mainly in the last 2 days. Some of the Invited speakers have not yet sent any abstract and others have sent more than one but due to financial constraints only one person can come and 2 Invited speakers have canceled their contributions due to legitimate reasons. I used the mix email as well as some 180 names I had on the lists of persons that attended ISIAME in the past of which only a handful responded and I am trying to answer each person that has sent an email regarding ISIAME2016

At this stage we only have 11 paid registered persons for the conference.

The next problem is funding:

Some people suggested that the conference venue is very expensive but the request was made in China that we should hold it in Cape Town and both Raquel and myself looked for the cheapest option and clearly from the registration fee it is not that expensive. For the Pittsburgh Coal Conference (to be held in August 2016 in Cape Town) the registration fee is \$800 and we have over 200 participants already from all over the world. We wanted more than 300 for this conference but clearly the economic atmosphere must play a role.

Sponsorship:

A successful conference or symposium is based on sound sponsorship. I have obtained sponsorship from my own university (euro800) and from Sasol the same amount and I used some euro3000 from my own research funding and did not receive any sponsorship from overseas or Moessbauer industrial persons. I paid the initial deposit with this money and today was the deadline of paying the next deposit or we will incur fines. We spoke with the people from the venue and they were prepared to not charge us a fine for cancellation and even suggested we reduce the amount of delegates to 40 without additional costs and cheaper rates - thanks to all the efforts by Raquel.

I had many discussions with Raquel who assisted me on the whole organization of the symposium and it is her experience and my belief that with 11 registered delegates to date we will not even have 40 people in the next month or so to have the symposium going further - let alone in the next day!

I am thus very sorry for people who have already paid or booked flights but the registration fees will be paid back as soon as possible

I am very sad to have made this announcement but I am not prepared or able to carry any extra costs and I trust that everybody will understand my reasoning and final decision