



POST-EVENT PRESS RELEASE

**SAVA HOSTS GLOBAL VINYL COUNCIL (GVC) BOARD MEETING AND
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VINYL SA 2014 CONFERENCE**

Johannesburg, October 22, 2014. The Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA) was proud to have hosted the bi-annual meeting of the Global Vinyls Council (GVC) on Tuesday, 21 October 2014, followed by a hugely successful Vinyls SA 2014 Conference on Wednesday, 22 October 2014.

According to SAVA's CEO, Delanie Bezuidenhout, the GVC meets twice a year to share updates and pertinent information with partners all over the world, and to distribute these details to its members.

SAVA has been a member of the GVC since 2011 and therefore shares its objectives of building an awareness of the various benefits that vinyl products bring to society, correcting misinformation about the health and safety of vinyl, and defending the local industry and its products from unwarranted attacks.

"Being part of the GVC has allowed us to be part of an international network of experts that encourage knowledge transfer and international cooperation," Delanie says.

Proof of this, was the willingness of 11 international experts to share the stage and their expertise on various matters relating to PVC manufacturing, use and recycling with the South African community through the Vinyls SA 2014 conference, organized and hosted by SAVA.

"This is the first time the Council has met on the African continent. Not only were its members very excited to visit our beautiful country, but they were also keen to share ideas and create an opportunity for learning from each other's best practices and experiences," Delanie says.

More than 100 delegates attended the Vinyls SA 2014 conference and were treated to a full and varied programme of original papers. Topics covered all aspects of PVC - ranging from formulation through to recovery and recycling.

Peter Willis, Senior Associate of the University of Cambridge's Institute for Sustainability Leadership, delivered the opening address. He reminded the conference delegates of the reasons why global society is placing increasingly stringent demands on a widening range of products, including PVC, and will continue to do so far into the future.

"All industries are having to adapt to powerful new environmental, social and economic constraints. This conference highlights the interesting fact that PVC is by nature a potentially troublesome substance, if poorly managed. Thankfully, however, the global PVC industry has taken up the challenge of making sure it is managed safely. In doing so, it has solved problems many other industries have yet to face," Willis said.

Rishi Madho of SASOL was the second keynote speaker, and delivered a paper entitled, " The South African PVC Industry" in which he highlighted the growth, challenges and opportunities facing the local vinyls sector.

The rest of the day's presentations were divided into three sessions, during which local and international experts shared the stage and their expertise around central and pertinent topics:

- **Session 1** was a presentation and panel discussion by the four members of the Global Vinyls Council Members, namely Dr Brigitte Dero (VinylsPlus - Europe), Sophi MacMillan (Vinyl Council of Australia - Australia), Shigetaka Seki (Vinyl Environmental Council - Japan) and Delanie Bezuidenhout (SAVA – South Africa) and focused on the role of the GVC and regional trends and challenges.

This discussion was followed by a detailed presentation by Dr Dero who delivered an update about the progress being made by Europe's VinylsPlus to improve the sustainability of PVC, and Ole Grøndahl Hansen of Denmark who spoke about the latest developments and successes of the PVC Medical Alliance.

- **Session 2** saw Nigel Sarginson of ExxonMobil Europe, Dr Martin Stimpson of Eastman Company in the United Kingdom and Carlos Casas and Luis F. Shilton (Varteco Quimica Puntana) present their views on global regulatory developments, PVC plasticisers, and non-ortho-phthalates.
- **Session 3** looked at global trends, developments and innovations in the use of PVC in pipes and building and construction, with presentations by Stuart Hope and Ian Sewell of Baerlocher and Dr Arjen Sevenster of the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers.

Concluded Delanie: "Today's conference was a huge success and an important step in establishing South Africa as one of the leaders on the international stage. Although we might be geographically far removed from the rest of the global PVC roleplayers, it has become abundantly clear that we facing the same issues and challenges. We have much to learn from each other, and it is only through the sharing of ideas that we will be able to continue to develop the industry in order to meet the challenges of business, sustainability and innovation".

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