

The Australian Power Institute is working to enhance the education and professional development of power engineers in Australia in conjunction with university partners.

our vision is to create
'sustainability and excellence in
australia's power engineering'.

Key Achievements:

- 42 Power Engineering Bursaries Award to First Year Engineering Students across Australia
- API Funding of \$470,000 to Universities to improve power engineering capability
- Three successful API Masterclass on power engineering topics held in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney
- API sponsor for Residential School in Electrical Power Engineering at UTAS, 4 - 22 February 2008
- API successful in acquiring \$400,000 funding from Australian Government Department Education Service and Training (DEST) for the project Collaborative Power Engineering Centres of Excellence (Pilot)
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with Power Engineering Alliance (Qld) with \$100,000 of funding for Queensland activities with universities

ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Executive

Calendar Year
2007



The last 10 months have seen considerable progress made in establishing API as a national organization which is increasingly representing all sectors of the electricity power engineering sector, in all states, to advance the objects/vision of the organisation, this being:

“sustainability and excellence in Australia's power engineering”

Pleasingly the membership of API has grown from 8 members at the beginning of the year to 16 members today, however the representation of the generation sector in the membership is an area that is lower than the other sectors of the industry. More efforts will be needed to attract generation companies to join API in 2008.

The engagement between API and universities with power engineering schools has been actively pursued during 2007 and I have been very pleased to visit power engineering academic staff at the following universities throughout Australia:

- NSW – UTS, USyd, Newcastle Uni, Uni of Wollongong, UNSW.
- VIC – Monash, Victoria Uni, RMIT
- QLD – QUT, UQ
- SA – Adelaide Uni
- WA – UWA, Curtin Uni, Murdoch Uni
- TAS - UTAS

The reception has generally been very positive towards the aims and objectives that API is trying to achieve. Some concern was expressed regarding the bureaucratic, overly

cumbersome nature of the previous request for proposals from Universities but an acceptance that the proposed process going forward will be more streamlined and focused.

The participation of a number of these universities in the CASR Project “Collaborative Power Engineering Centers of Excellence (Pilot)” has been very positive with good commitment to finding a pragmatic approach which will endeavor to achieve the project aims. The only disappointment in this regard was the withdrawal of one university from this project based on their stated belief of divergence between the API proposal and what the university is able to offer. During 2008 the CASR Project and the API Request for Funding proposals for Financial Year 2008/09 will further enhance the engagement between API and Power Engineering Universities. It is also proposed to investigate in 2008 the possibility of API facilitating ARC Linkage Funding Grants with a consortium of universities.

The promotion of power engineering to young students at university has been significantly enhanced by the inaugural National Power Engineering Bursary Program with 42 bursaries to be awarded at ceremonies in December 2007. In 2008 we will seek to commence the call for applications for bursaries earlier so that the bursaries can be awarded to students during October, 2008. An added benefit to the bursary program has been the engagement between industry and the coordinating universities, with a greater understanding by

industry of university capabilities and commitment to power engineering. In 2008 more work will be done to promote power engineering to secondary school students through the development of website material targeted at 15-19 year olds. This will be a joint project between API and the PEA (Qld).

The success in being awarded a Australian Government Grant of \$400,000 from the Department of Education, Science and Training under the Collaborative and Structural Reform (CASR) Fund was significant in assisting API achieve its strategy of leveraging the specialist skills and expertise of individual universities to develop and deliver curriculum to students on a national basis. In 2008 significant work will be undertaken in this project to deliver 8-9 undergraduate course modules and 3-4 postgraduate courses in power engineering. Once again the model of a lead university with a support university and 1-2 industry experts being involved in curriculum development will increase the engagement between industry and universities. This will result in a greater alignment between industry graduate/postgraduate student skill expectations and those delivered by universities.

The API has modestly continued to support and provide continuing professional development opportunities for industry professionals to assist their career development. The API has successfully taken over the professional development activities of the esaa. The API and UTAS will be running

the API 2008 Residential School in Electric Power Engineering in February 2008 and API has committed to sponsoring the bi-annual Power Station Chemistry Conference in May 2008. A Masterclass in Reactive Power Management and Voltage Stability was run successfully in July 2007 with 2 Masterclasses run in December 2007 on Reliability Evaluation of Electric Power Systems.

The governance and financial management of API has been sound and is now on a strong footing to allow API to implement its major strategies. In 2008 it is proposed to further explore how the Memorandum of Understanding with the PEA in Queensland can bring the two organizations closer together.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the 2007 API Board and partner Universities for their support and efforts during 2007 to establish API as an organization that is action orientated towards addressing the skills shortage in power engineering. Also, my best wishes to everyone for the festive season and a great 2008.

Mike Griffin
Chief Executive

GOVERNOR MEMBERS



PRINCIPAL MEMBERS

