

## **SOUTHERN AFRICAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (SARIMA)**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2001 South African research managers established, in Hout Bay, the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA). SARIMA perceives its primary responsibility as the enhancement of research administration, management, transfer of research findings and the creation of intellectual property not only South Africa but also throughout the SADC region. SARIMA has dedicated itself to:

- Use appropriate rewards to promote the professional development of research faculty and staff
- Accelerate the institutionalisation of a culture of using best practices in research management and administration; and
- Advocate for the institutionalisation of policies to support research and the generation of intellectual capital

Several speakers expressed their support for the launching of SARIMA and considered its establishment as a beginning of a new era in the history of the South African research management and administration. The Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane, said that SARIMA must, among others, strive to elevate the status of research management into a respectable profession through the enhancement of research management efficacy and efficiency. While his department is doing everything in its power to steer national resources toward the improvement of research and its management in South Africa, SARIMA must, in turn, contribute towards the:

- development of a research policy framework;
- improvement of the research profile in South Africa; and
- enhancement of intellectual property management, including the utilisation of research findings.

The Chief Economist of the Department of Trade and Industry, Prof. David Kaplan, added that research must be managed well and its output must be useful.

The first board of SARIMA consists of the following persons:

- Dr Tony Heher: President,
- Dr Adi Paterson: Vice-President for International & Policy Affairs,
- Prof. Johann Mouton: Vice President for Research Management and administration,
- Dr Mandi Mzimba: Vice President for Innovation,
- Ms Diana McCann: Vice President for Administration, and seven additional members.

An interim constitution has been approved to guide the affairs of the association while members make an input to improve it. The final constitution will be adopted at the official launching in June 2002.

NACI welcomes the formation of SARIMA whose main agenda is not only to enhance the quality of research products but also the institutionalising the best practices in the administration and management of research in Southern Africa.