1. The Computer Society of South Africa (CSSA)

The CSSA is the official South African member to IFIP. The CSSA presently have about 3000 individual members, and is the major society representing IT professionals in SA.

The present President of the CSSA is Mrs Moira de Roche (moirad@laragh.com), and the Executive Director is Mr Roger Dawes (rogerd@cssa.org.za). Ms de Roche was elected in July 2004.

2. Representation on Technical Committees (TCs)

The CSSA has the following representation on IFIP TCs:

TC 2: Prof Judy Bishop
TC 3: Mr Peter Waker
TC 6: Mr Koos Koen
TC 8: Prof Dewald Roode
TC 9: Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka
TC 11: Prof Rossouw von Solms & Prof Jan Eloff
TC 13: Prof Janet Wesson

The CSSA does not at present consider appointing representatives on any other TCs (because of financial limitations), but may reconsider at a later stage.

3. Important IFIP events in SA

3.1 Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka organized a preparatory workshop for WITFOR 2005 in Pretoria in May 2005.

3.2 The 2005 IFIP TC 3 World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE 2005) took place at the University of Stellenbosch (near Cape Town) in July 2005. According to all reports, it was a big success. The ICOOL 2005 Conference (International Conference on Open and Online Learning) was combined with WCCE 2005.

3.3 An IFIP TC 2 Summerschool event had been organized for January 2006 in Gordon's Bay, near Cape Town.
3.4 The 2007 TC 11 IFIP/Sec Conference will take place in SA, and the Organizing and Program Committees are in the process of being appointed.

3.5 The CSSA is taking the initiative to establish a regional Computer Consortium for Sub-Saharan Africa. A number of regional countries had been invited to attend an initial discussion during the IFIP Afternoon@WITFOR on September 2, 2005.

3.5 ICDL

The Computer Society of South Africa is still committed to offering the ICDL

For more info, see www.icdl.org.za

3.6 Khanya

"By the start of the 2012 academic year, every educator in every school of the Western Cape will be empowered to use appropriate and available technology to deliver curriculum to each and every learner in the province."

This is the ambitious target of Khanya! And all indications are that this target will be reached. Starting with the poorest of the poor schools, Khanya aggressively works towards eradicating the digital divide and striving towards racial and gender equity.

(See www.khanya.co.za)

3.7 Open Source

A private foundation, the Shuttleworth Foundation, has taken initiative to place networks in a number of schools using Open Source applications.

(See www.tsf.org.za)

3.8 Black Economic Empowerment

The Empowerment Charter for the ICT Sector is an industry-driven document being put together by major stakeholders in the ICT sector, together with valuable input from government represented, in part, by the Department of Communications and the Department of Trade and Industry. Currently, the
working group involved in the development of the document comprises members of numerous related associations like the Black IT Forum (BITF), the SA Communications Forum (SACF), the Computer Society of South Africa (CSSA), the Electronic Industries Federation (EIF), Information Industry South Africa (IISA), Information Technology Association (ITA) and the South African chamber of Business (SACOB

The latest and final version is available at www.ictcharter.org.za

3.9 The Convergence Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to:

‘To promote convergence in the broadcasting, broadcasting signal distribution and telecommunications sectors and to provide the legal framework for convergence of these sectors; to make new provision for the regulation of communications and network services; to provide for the granting of new licences and for new social obligations; to provide for the control of the radio frequency spectrum; to provide for the continued existence of the Universal Service Agency; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.’

The document can be accesses at www.doc.gov.za

3.10 IOI – INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS

The International Olympiad in Informatics will take place in Poland in August 2005. A team of 4 SA school children will take part. These 4 were selected from a total of 15000 students who took part during the initial rounds. The sponsor is Standard Bank of SA.

Prof SH von Solms
National Representative to IFIP GA