

Exciting new network celebrates women's role in energy sector

21 July, 2014 – Gauteng - The launch of the newly formed SA Women in Energy Network (SAWIEN) is set to take place on Tuesday, 26 August 2014 at the Forum Homini Hotel and Roots Restaurant, Letamo Game Estate in Mogale City, Gauteng.

South Africa is set to celebrate the unique and defining roles that women play in various industries throughout the country, be it as leaders, professionals or nurturers. In keeping with the Women's Month celebrations in August, *25Degrees* in Africa will acknowledge the critical role women continue to perform in the energy and climate change sectors by launching a network specifically aimed at women in this sphere. The first South African Women in Energy Network, SAWIEN, has been created in order to provide networking opportunities for women, by women, while concurrently showcasing the valuable contributions of women in the energy field.

SAWIEN provides a unique platform for connection, conversation, growth and knowledge sharing.

The SAWIEN initiative is supported by the British High Commission in Pretoria and it is facilitated by leading energy publication, *25 Degrees in Africa*, who advocates and supports the powerful role women play in this sector "The network will open opportunities for women in energy by providing a platform for networking with like-minded persons," says Marlene van Rooyen, Editor of *25 Degrees in Africa* before explaining that SAWIEN is a networking organisation that focusses on unifying women in the energy sector and promotes the advancement of women by capacity building, information sharing and creating a network of valuable "Our goal is to give exposure to individuals of all levels who are helping our country overcome energy and sustainability challenges. Not only will we be giving up and coming talent a platform where they can showcase their ideas, innovations and projects, but we are also focussing on career and leadership development.," says van Rooyen.

The network will bring women from all energy sectors, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, engineering and petrochemicals together to provide a space where they can network with peers and gain access to people, information and career opportunities.

"Women in the energy sector are making great leaps and strides. With the SAWIEN network, we will be able to give the much-needed exposure to projects and individuals," says van Rooyen, a two times winner of the South African National Energy Journalism Award and the ETA Women In Industries Award in 2008.

SAWIEN members can look forward to increased participation by women in the energy industry, engaging with various stakeholder groups in the sector simultaneously as well as learning from one another. Membership benefits include a

range of networking opportunities, facilities and resources as well as news about progress and developments in the energy field.

SAWIEN members will further be able to participate in luncheons and networking events to connect and expand their particular industry objectives, attend and partake in speaking engagements on topics of mutual interest and benefit and share in the SAWIEN voluntary outreach initiative.

“We decided to launch the network in August, during women’s month. In the near future, we will be sending out monthly newsletters relating to energy, career advancement, law, finance and human capital development. SAWIEN will also have an independent, online database of the energy professionals in our country as well as providing exposure to sponsors and donors who are supporting women in South Africa’s energy sector,” says van Rooyen.

The launch event includes a high tea with women from various sectors of the country’s energy industry. The cost of membership for the year is R1250, but in recognition of Womens’ Month, members can join during August for a mere R 750.

For more information about the event or to discuss opportunities for exposure, contact Marlene van Rooyen on 083 327 3746 or marlene25degrees.net.

- ENDS -

Contact details:

Marlene van Rooyen or Zuerita Gouws

Tel: 012 347 7530

Cell: 083 327 3746

Email: marlene@25degrees.net / zuerita@25degrees.net

Website: www.sawien.co.za

Twitter: @women_energy

Facebook: sawomeninenergy