

# r&d techtalk



Page 2

*international  
pittsburgh coal  
conference*



Page 5

*interview with Prof  
avelino corma*



Page 8

*office politics*

## 50 year celebration at r&d



On 12 October 2007, R&D celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was an occasion where people and technology development were commemorated. The current R&D employees were the principal guests and enjoyed this auspicious event with some of the retired employees, ex-Sasol Group Executive Committee members and Sasol Technology Management



The programme of the day, entitled "Back to the Future", provided a trip down memory lane and gave the

guests a taste of what lies ahead in the future with the programme theme being "The R&D of Yester Year, The R&D of here and now and Beyond R&D".

Prof. Mark Dry and Dr. Ben Jager shared some of their thoughts on the days when they were still part of R&D. From their reminiscing, it seems that some of the issues of yester year are still alive and kicking today! It was also encouraging to hear that the Sasol we have today did not happen overnight - it took many years of hard work, failures and successes to get us to 2007.



Prof. Burt Davis from the University of Kentucky (top photo on the left with Mark Dry on the right) had the room captivated when he shared an outsider's view of R&D. It was such a privilege to be addressed by a person of his stature. He also presented an interesting look into a possible future scenario for R&D.

The "R&D of here and now" session was concluded with a presentation from Alex Vogel who

discussed what consumes most of our days currently in R&D: CTL & GTL.

The programme ended with a few messages from our own employees in R&D as to what lies ahead in the next few years. Very insightful!



*Peter Lekhooa on the left with  
Frans Bolder*

The day was concluded with a delicious lunch and the sharing of stories about the good old days amongst the retired and current personnel. Truly a birthday celebration of note for a division that triumphed over numerous technical challenges over the past 50 years!



*Tania Crous*