

# A LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP

BY VIRESH SINGH

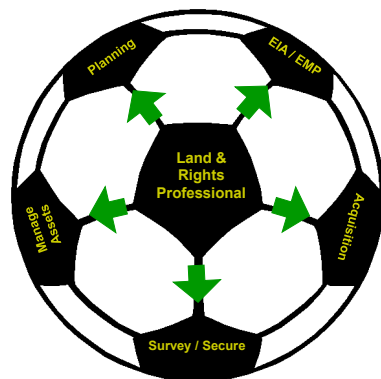


In March 2008, SARWA celebrated their milestone anniversary during their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar at Gallagher Estate.

It was back in September 1997, when a group of forty South African right of way practitioners got together in Mabalingwe, South Africa, to discuss the various disciplines associated with the acquisition of property rights in their county. It had been determined that a higher standard of professionalism would be beneficial in facilitating their property transactions.

Delegates representing Rand Water, Sasol, Eskom, Spoornet (now Transnet) and other companies agreed that there was an essential need for education, training and networking between the many professionals associated with property negotiations.

By November 1997, a Steering Committee had been assembled to facilitate the formation of the South



In recognition of the World Cup, SARWA employed a soccer ball to illustrate the right of way process from project initiation to completion.

African Right of Way Association (SARWA). A draft constitution was submitted to the delegates for approval, and in April 1998, SARWA was formally established.

Five delegates representing the SARWA Executive Committee attended IRWA's 1998 Annual Education Conference in Indianapolis to discuss a potential affiliation. SARWA's goal of becoming an affiliate of IRWA became a reality in February 2000. That's when the formal agreement was signed by two of their executive committee members, Carl Visser and Bobby Richardson, during IRWA's 2000 Annual Education Conference in Orlando. The beginning of a prolific and longstanding relationship, SARWA representatives have attended every IRWA Annual Conference since.

The three key objectives of SARWA have been established as:

- 1) Facilitating the networking of the different practitioners and disciplines involved in and associated with the acquisition of property rights.
- 2) Promoting the development of its members through education and training.
- 3) Underwriting the fair, ethical, transparent and professional conduct of its members.

Every year, SARWA holds an annual educational seminar and general meeting to present relevant topics affecting property acquisition in their country.

In 2010, their two-day educational seminar focused on the "Process of Rights of Way" in South Africa. Speakers from various disciplines presented interactive sessions on the topics of survey (cadastral and engineering), environmental, public infrastructure, property valuers and asset management. The speakers highlighted the legislative and technical areas that are required to ensure compliance with authorities, as well as improving efficiencies and productivity.



**Viresh Singh**

Viresh is the Chief Surveyor with Rand Water's Strategic Asset Management Division and oversees SARWA's annual meetings. For more information, visit [www.sarwa.co.za](http://www.sarwa.co.za) or email [vr Singh@randwater.co.za](mailto:vr Singh@randwater.co.za).