Advanced Concrete Technology Training Now in Modular Self-Study Form

Cement & Concrete SA's School of Concrete Technology has announced that it will next year again offer the internationally-recognized Advanced Concrete Technology (ACT) diploma course, the concrete industry's most sought-after qualification.

John Roxburgh, the senior lecturer at the School of Concrete Technology, said the "SCT50" course would, for the first time, be presented in a modular, self-study format instead of the former classroom/lecture system.

"The decision to shift towards modularisation was made to attract potential delegates who lack time for a classroom-based course and accommodate site staff experienced enough to enroll for this highly coveted diploma. In addition, uncertainty about the future of pandemic lockdowns is also eliminated by the new format", Roxburgh explained.

He said the School of Concrete Technology (SCT) had for the past 30-years worked closely with the Institute of Concrete Technology (ICT) in London to locally provide the SCT50 Advanced Concrete Technology program in preparation for the ICT Stage 4 Diploma examinations. As a result, dozens of South African students had excelled in the course and now hold top academic and industry posts in various corners of the world.

Next year, training for the ACT course will consist of five modules, with a textbook book based on the structure of the highly-acclaimed 10th edition of Fulton's Concrete Technology, the SA "concrete bible" launched by CCSA earlier this year. Delegates will also be supplied with supplementary reading material to ensure all topics in the ICT Stage 4 Diploma examinations are covered.

"Each of the first four modules of the training will have a workbook for delegates to complete. The workbooks - designed to challenge the students, and provide practice in technology-based writing and thinking, will then be assessed by a lecturer at SCT with satisfactory completion providing a pass to the next module", Roxburgh stated.

Delegates can enroll for up to two modules, and the entire course can be completed within two years.
Roxburgh said the only essential entrance requirement for admission to the Advanced Concrete Technology program would be a pass in both the ICT State 2 (SCT14) and Stage 3 (SCT42) examinations. Both courses are presented online by the School of Concrete Technology.

"The modularised self-study approach will ensure a better quality of concrete technology education and allow more time to study each topic in detail while reducing the impact on delegates' work commitments. It will also be more affordable as students can now pay per module, without the need for a large upfront payment".

The modules cover the following topics:

- Module 1: Materials and mixes;
- Module 2: Concrete properties;
- Module 3: Concrete manufacture, site practices, quality control, and non-destructive testing;
- Module 4: Special concretes and techniques; and
- Module 5: Concrete sustainability, statistics for concrete, and a selected Advanced Technology project.

Roxburgh says the new self-study approach, which can be started any time in 2022, will offer the following benefits:

- More time to study, with the delegate setting their pace;
- More detailed study of each subject;
- Stimulation of curiosity and a questioning approach to the various topics;
- Encouragement of resourcefulness in finding answers;
- The use of a structured and logical approach to answering scientific questions; and
- Increased personal confidence in the application of concrete technology.

The ICT website can download full details about the program's learning objectives under the 'qualifications' button on https://www.theict.org.uk/qualifications.asp.