



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 3/2019

NEWSLETTER

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of our next Annual General Meeting has not yet been established. This may take place during June 2019, as the TASA delegation will attend the International Thatching Society's Congress in Japan during May 2019 and we would like to hear their feedback

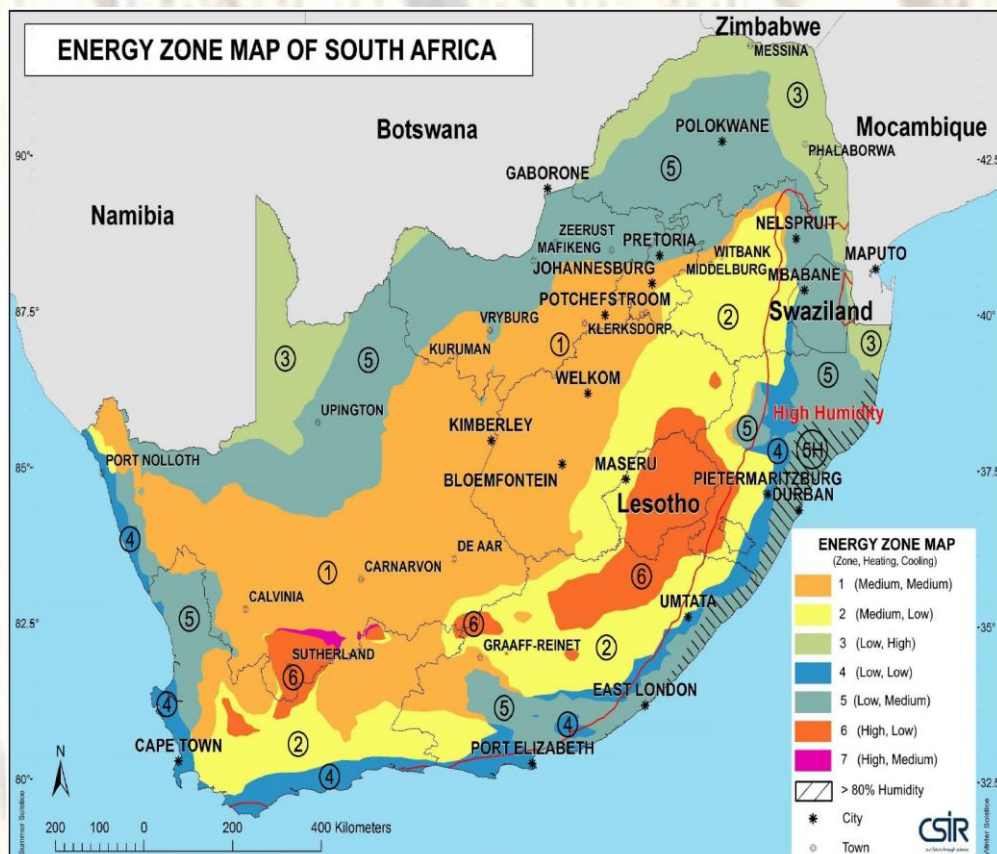
Please send discussion points that you would like to post on the Agenda to the TASA office.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY (SANS 10400 PART XA)

This document will be sent out soon for public comment. It has not yet been finalized and therefore the change in the thickness of thatch cannot be enforced.

In a roof assembly that consists of thatch the thickness of the thatch shall be as follows:

1. Fine thatching grass or reed in all zones except 5H:
210 mm or R value of 3.7
2. Fine thatching grass or reed in zone 5H:
175 mm or R value of 2.7
3. Coarse thatching grass or reed and water reed: 300 mm



A list of Cities and Towns by Energy Zones is included in this SANS 10400-XA document and will be made available to our members as soon as the document is published.

THE THATCHERS ASSOCIATION'S PUBLICATIONS

Encouraging and positive responses are received from institutions to which our publications are sent. Below is an example.

Subject: PUBLICATIONS: PROS & CONS IN THE THATCHING INDUSTRY AND A GUIDE TO THATCH CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for this excellent document.
I will circulate it to the Pretoria Institute of Architecture and South African Institute for Architects.

Regards
Braam

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We trust that as more people become aware of the existence of the TASA and see for themselves what requirements our members meet, more job opportunities can be created for our members.

TASA's DELEGATION ATTENDS THE INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY'S CONGRESS DURING MAY

A taste of what they can experience.



Plumes of water mark fire drill in a traditional Japanese Village

As many as 60 water cannons, which are always at the ready, produce plumes of water arches when they are tested around the village's 38 thatch-roofed houses.

The exercise is conducted in both the spring and autumn for the inspections of the cannons.

The village, set among opulent mountain greenery and rice paddies, is designated one of the nation's Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

THE HOSTS: THE JAPAN THATCHING CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Print



Thatching in Japan was used commonly for the roofs of traditional houses, temples and shrines. It adapted to the climate and nature of a region. Thatching adds to the variety and local characteristics of traditional houses and rural landscapes.

The material was not only for the roofing but it was also used as a precious plant resource, which supported the life in rural districts as manure or fodder for the sericultural and expands livestock industries. However, as modernization and urbanization increases, thatching is considered a past thing, and has been rapidly disappearing.

On the other hand, in recent year, traditional house with thatched roofs and the resulting rural landscapes have been revalued as an archetypal image in Japan. This should be retained as a local resource and a basis to advance village revitalization and community development.

In addition the livability of thatched roofs, which have both heat-insulating properties and air-permeability has been revalued. Thatching material is also given attention as a sustainable, recycleable plant resource that can be used instead of petroleum.

Today there are approximately 100.000 thatched buildings in Japan, which makes the country one of the bigger, talking about numbers of thatch. There are around 300 thatchers working to maintain and renew this cultural heritage. In this context, the Japan Thatching Cultural Association (JTCA) has a proper understanding of the history, culture and skills involved in thatching. Through this association, we hope to understand and actively engage in the process of maintaining traditional houses with thatched roofs and the resulting rural landscapes.

We hope to share the information in order to plan the succession and promotion of the culture and skills involved in thatching.

Japanese thatchers mainly use eulalia and water reed to thatch with. They also use rice straw, wheat straw ,bamboo grass and cedar bark as thatching materials. All of these materials have been chosen because they can adapt to the specific climate and nature.

JTCA members consist of thatchers, material producers, architects, researchers, owners of thatched roof, photographers, painters, artists, local government, NPOs, foundations, private companies, etc.

More information about JTCA

<http://www.kayabun.or.jp>

Kind regards

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NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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