

THE SABO AWARD AT THE INTERNATIONAL BALLISTICS SYMPOSIUM

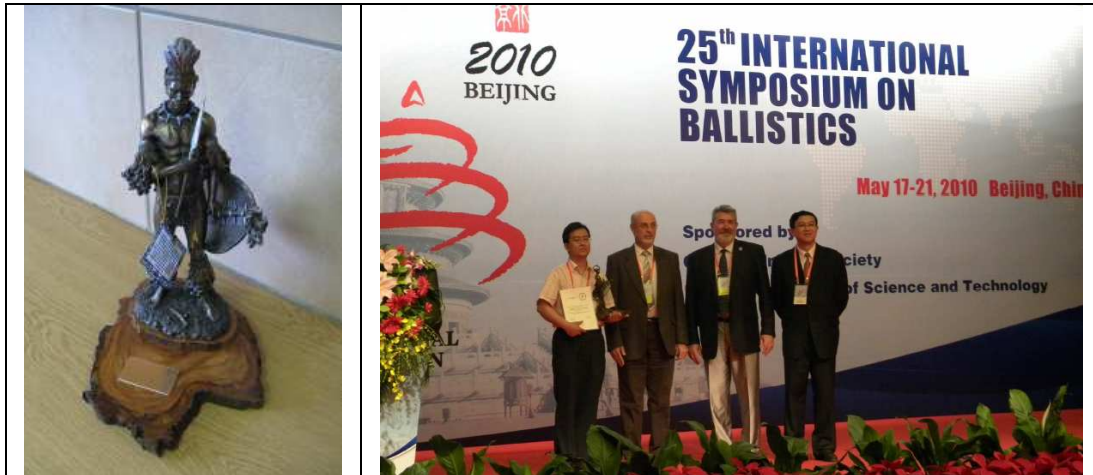
The South African Ballistics Organisation (SABO) Award was instituted for the first time at the 25th International Ballistics Symposium (IBS) in Beijing as an incentive measure for presenters of poster papers at the IBS. The idea of the award sprung from an earlier discussion between members of SABO (after attending the 23rd IBS in Spain) on the topic of informal interaction at the poster presentation sessions at the IBS. Whereas a formal code of conduct was in place at the IBS for the oral presentations, the poster sessions were a relatively informal affair. Consensus was that some incentive needed to be found to entice poster presenters to be present at their posters for the duration of the poster sessions in order to maximise the potential interaction during these sessions. It was also noticed that some of the posters were of exceptional visual quality that displayed creativity and dedication from the presenters. It was decided within the SABO group to propose an award at the IBS to, firstly, give recognition to authors who wrote an excellent paper but not have had the opportunity to orally present it, but also secondly, who created a good quality poster and then presented it with clarity and dedication at the scheduled poster session.

The proposal for the SABO Award was made in September 2008 at the International Ballistics Committee (IBC) meeting in New Orleans by Drs. Pieter Nel and Frikkie Mostert on behalf of SABO. The IBC agreed in principle to the institution of the award and sanctioned the drawing up of the award guidelines. At the paper selection meeting in Nanjing in 2009 the IBC approved the guidelines and ruled that the award will be instituted at the 25th IBS in Beijing. The guidelines of the award are shortly summarised below :

- (a) the award will be in the form of a single statuette on which an engraved plaque with the names of the authors will be attached
- (b) each author will receive an additional certificate endorsing the award
- (c) the award will firstly be adjudicated on the quality of the written paper
- (d) the clarity, layout and visual quality of the poster will be important adjudication points
- (e) the presence of the author for the full duration of the dedicated poster session at his/her poster is a prerequisite for the award
- (f) each poster session chairperson team nominates up to three candidates for the award from the poster session for which they are responsible. It is also the responsibility of the poster chairs to monitor the presence of the authors at the poster during the session
- (g) The final selection of the award winning poster is made by a committee consisting of the SABO chairperson or his authorised representative, a representative of the International Ballistics Society (IBS) executive committee and two additional members chosen from the designated poster chairpersons.

The award procedure was instituted at the 25th IBS in Beijing with Dr Izak Snyman of SABO the award committee chairman. The other award committee members were Drs Ake Person, Pierre-Yves Chanteret, Frikkie Mostert and Prof. Youwei Dai. The award procedure worked relatively smoothly

with the excellent support from the poster session chairpersons at the symposium (Prof Manfred Held, Drs. Meir Mayseless, Wessel Rossouw, Ed Schmidt, David Davison and Bill Gooch) and the first winner of the SABO award at the 25th IBS was Mr Chen-li Tao and co-authors, for their poster paper entitled “Mechanism of Interior Ballistics Peak Phenomenon in Guns and its Effects”. Below is a photograph of the 2010 SABO award and of the presentation of the award to the winner at the post symposium award ceremony.



SABO Award 2010

Chen-li Tao, Dr Izak Snyman, Jack Riegel and Prof Zhongyuan Wang

The SABO award is envisaged to be a permanent addition to future symposiums and is hoped to recognise poster presenters for fully participating in the symposium proceedings by writing good quality papers and for designing their posters with creative flair and scientific clarity.