

# SAIP 2011



Contribution ID : 17

## **Lightning – Scientific knowledge versus mythological beliefs**

Thursday 14 Jul 2011 at 08:00 (00h15')

### **Content :**

Lightning has in recent times wreaked havoc during the rainy season in several parts of South Africa and this prompted the physics community under the auspices of the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) to devise meaningful strategies for promoting public awareness. In response to this call, first year physics students at the University of Johannesburg responded to a carefully designed questionnaire that seeks to probe students' level of understanding of lightning. Analysis of responses reveals lack of scientific understanding of lightning as a natural phenomenon. Amongst others, this can to some degree be attributed to superstitious or cultural beliefs.

### **Level (Hons, MSc, PhD, other)? :**

other

### **Consider for a student award (Yes / No)? :**

No

### **Short Paper :**

Yes

**Primary authors :** Mr. RAMAILA, Sam (University of Johannesburg)

**Co-authors :** Dr. REDDY, Leelakrishna (University of Johannesburg) ; Dr. NAIR, Padmanabhan (University of Johannesburg)

**Presenter :** Mr. RAMAILA, Sam (University of Johannesburg)

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