



MILE Inaugural Built Environment Seminar

Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2011	
City, Country	Durban, South Africa
Event	MILE Inaugural Built Environment Seminar
Topic	South Africa's Built Environment : "What has been done? What more can be done?"
Summary of Experience	<p>The City Manager's welcome was followed by the opening and inauguration of the seminar series. He acknowledged the role of MILE in its endeavour to foster constructive academic-practitioner collaboration.</p> <p>The Seminar facilitated a significant engagement between academics and local government practitioners within the Built Environment field. The central theme of the seminar related to the spatial form of South African cities, post 1994, specifically at reshaping cities. The thought leader for the session was Professor Ivan Turok from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) who authored <i>The State of South African Cities Report, 2011</i>. Recognised internationally as a highly experienced urban specialist, Professor Turok was able to deliver a comprehensive presentation on the Built environment. His simple to follow presentation also included 3D GIS maps.</p> <p>The session was guided by the Mr Frikkie Brooks: Head of Secretariat, KZN Planning Commission who agitated and stimulated the discussions after breakfast. Panel members included Soobs Moonsammy, Prof. I. Turok, Prof. T. Xaba and Dr. R.A Hayangah provided direct responses to issues raised during plenary.</p> <p>After a lively round of questions, comments and lesson-sharing, the deliberations were crisply summarised by the facilitator, Mr Frikkie Brooks.</p>
Applicability of Lessons	The lessons learned from the Seminar have been derived from the Thought Leader, Participants and the Panel. Professor Turok's presentation highlighted that a thorough research agenda needs to be applied throughout the country, encouraging a more creative use of planning and infrastructure.

	<p>The main lesson learned was to raise people's awareness of the plights and possibilities by using eThekweni as a demonstrative pilot.</p> <p>The panel has highlighted that an academic-practitioner relationship is essential for a consistent relationship between theory and practice.</p>
Overall theme applicability	The theme of the Seminar proved to be significant and applicable to every participant's profession; fundamentally increasing discussion around elements such as transport, water, energy, people and space.
Note questions?	<p>Are we expecting more than what is possible?</p> <p>Could we have done more over the past 17 years?</p> <p>What would you like to have done in the next five years?</p>
Outcomes and proposals	The seminar has successfully sparked a wealth of interest and discussion around factors relating to the Built Environment. This is the first of a series of seminars to follow under various themes within a South African context.
Thought Leader	<p>Speaker : Professor Ivan Turok</p> <p>Email : ITurok@hsrc.ac.za</p>
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