



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

Bearing the brunt of Environmental Change: Understanding Climate Adaptation and Transformation Challenges in African Cities” Benchmark International Workshop

2. The DATE attended:

16-17th April 2013

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Royal Holloway University of London, Egham Surrey.

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Culture, heritage and sport | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering and the built environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | IT and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development and Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> | City strategy and planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Good governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other: Climate Change Adaptation in Africa

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

While rapid advances are now being made in understanding the current and likely future dynamics of urban environmental/climate change under different scenarios, the evidence base remains highly uneven. The most extensive and robust evidence exists for OECD countries and other selected hotspots, such as Rio de Janeiro, Durban and the urban areas of small island developing states. The knowledge and understanding of the processes of change as they are already affecting many African urban areas, and will continue to do so increasingly through this century, remain seriously inadequate and patchy. Not only does this represent a major opportunity to learn across the diversity of Africa's 54 countries straddling very different environmental and linguistic-cultural regions, but the ability to formulate and implement appropriate climate change mitigation (CCM) and adaptation (CCA) initiatives depends on appropriate evidence and understanding of the underlying drivers and processes. Accordingly, the objectives of this workshop, were:

- (a) to draw together leading academics and others engaged in urban environmental/climate change research and practice in different parts of Africa to share

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

Important messages to emerge were that the arrival of the “Urban Planet” and the emergence of Megacities have exacerbated the impacts of global environment change such as climate change. Within the context of global environmental change Africa plays a particularly important role, both as the world’s most vulnerable continent, but also a locale where - if adaptive capacity is increased - there is potential to leap frog to a new more sustainable development path. It is clear, however, though that the challenges are large as the climate change process is creating a situation where extreme events move from acute incidents to part of a more chronic process. This dynamic, non-stationary climate requires flexible adaptation pathways. The example Durban’s reforestation and of the floating school in Makoko informal settlement in Lagos were regarded as examples of this out of the box thinking was an illustration of the kind of the out of the box thinking required. Makoko Floating School is a prototype floating structure, built for the historic water community of Makoko, located on the lagoon fringe of Nigeria’s largest city, Lagos. As a pilot project, it has taken an innovative approach to address the community’s social and physical needs in view of the impact of climate change and a rapidly urbanizing African context. Its main aim is to generate a sustainable, ecological, alternative building system and urban water culture for the teeming population of Africa’s coastal regions.

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

Commitment was received from a Professor from Central University of New York to assist in developing the scientific elements of the Durban Adaptation Charter monitoring system. This is a critical step forward in operationalising the Charter.

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

It is not appropriate to provide the names of individual researchers contacted on a public website.

10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to mile@durban.gov.za so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION