



## 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](http://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?

India-Brazil-South Africa Local Government Forum

### 2. The DATE attended:

8/04/2013 to 9/04/2013

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

International Centre, New Delhi, India

**4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?**

Bongumusa Zondo

**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 | x                        | Good governance                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                            |                          |

Other:

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

The New Delhi meet in April will focus on the following questions: Does democracy guarantee responsible growth? Can good governance alleviate poverty and ensure equitable growth? Can inclusive growth be achieved through inclusive governance? The deliberations in Delhi will be on six thematic issues: (1) Participatory Local Democracy, (2) Poverty, development and decentralization, (3) Empowerment through equity and inclusion, (4) Streamlining service delivery, (5) What IBSA has to offer to Global South?, and (6) Democracy promotes development. Besides, there will be special sessions which will be addressed by Ministers and senior officials.

**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?**

I noted with great appreciation how Brazil and India have maintained to create necessary strategic partnerships with NGO and Civil Society with an aim to improve both representative and participatory democracy virtually in everything that government does in three levels, of course with greater emphasis on local government. It was very interesting to note that when government work with its people there are greater opportunities to reduce dependency and unleash local innovation in dealing with community needs. There is greater emphasis on the efficiency and effectiveness of local structures such as Panchayat Raj as 'honest brokers' between government and its people. It was obvious that such structures are continuously capacitated to understand government processes so as to help people know and understand what could be done and what is honest a right or privilege. I was very inspired to note that Brazil and India is making concerted effort to implement true and meaningful participatory democracy as compared to some cosmetic participation we have observed in our City and the country. The other important point is the effort to go beyond what is legislative requirement bringing together formality and informality in participatory democracy, thus accepting that not only formal structures and formal sessions are accepted when the spirit of good governance prevails.

**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?**

It is pretty clear that we need to revisit our relationship with non government sector and acknowledge that is through partnership whether institutionalise or not that we can achieve great results. This takes time but when it finally works it works for good. Institute of Social Sciences in India has agreed to send about ten women to Durban sometime in June 2013 to meet women around self help initiatives which seem to be very successful in India. It was presented during one session that through stockvels women are now in a process of opening their own bank which will promote the culture of self help and targeted savings. The other interesting matter that was revisited was the commitment which was made by IBSA countries to open either, a university / centre / institute in one of the countries with local chapters in other two countries to promote research and documentation of best practice within IBSA. When such commitment was made it was recommended that such a training institution should be in RSA which is at the centre of both India and Brazil. This will be revisited in the coming June 2013 Summit.

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

In the most my participation reinforced the relationship that already exist between the three countries and our mission was very happy since it was for the first time that RSA had a great visibility in the local government forum of IBSA. We have an opportunity to engage Institute of Social Sciences in India which was requested by India Foreign Affairs Ministry to facilitate the hosting of IBSA LGF and will be supporting the hosting of IBSA Summit in June especially on the Local Governance matters as discussed. I did speak to the Director regarding further engagement.

**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](mailto:mile@durban.gov.za) so that it can be uploaded onto our website.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION**