



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?

Poverty Environment Partnership: 18th Annual Meeting 2013

2. The DATE attended:

13/05/2013 to 16/05/2013

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Germany,

The meeting took take place in Berlin, at the headquarters of the 'Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit' (GIZ), or 'German Society for International Cooperation'.

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Errol Douwes

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	x	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 Poverty Environment Partnership is an informal network of development agencies, established in September 2001, which seeks to improve the coordination of work on poverty reduction and the environment within the framework of internationally agreed principles and processes for sustainable development.

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- build a consensus on the critical links between poverty and the environment, particularly that better environmental management is essential to lasting poverty reduction
- review the activities of development agencies to build on common themes and address gaps in knowledge

The focus of the partnership is on four broad areas of collaboration:

- knowledge management and the exchange of expertise on mainstreaming of the environment within the participating agencies
- conceptual and analytical work on the links between poverty and the environment
- coordinated support to partner countries and regions
- development of indicators and more effective monitoring and evaluation of poverty-environmental trends and performance

Membership is open to development agencies and development banks with an interest in the relationship between poverty and the environment.

The topic for this meeting was as follows: "Building an Inclusive Green Economy for all and moving towards Sustainable Development Goals, with special focus on urbanization and employment".

At the PEP 17 meeting last year, members agreed on the development of a joint agency paper “Building a Green Economy for All”, with the principle objective to contribute to the Rio+20 Conference that was held in June of 2012. This paper identified and discussed the key building blocks for an effective society’s transition to a green economy. According to decisions taken at the PEP 17 meeting, discussions of this year’s meeting were based on those building blocks, with a special focus on urbanization and the creation of new jobs in a greening economy. Senior representatives in most of the major international funding agencies were invited to grapple with current issues.

It was anticipated that the meeting would provide a clearer definition for ‘green jobs’, and PEP members were invited to exchange their success stories in creating green jobs. In addition they were requested to provide and discuss available evidence of the positive effects of the green economy on employment.

The roles and experiences from public-private partnerships were investigated, and the success of local government projects was interrogated. It was recognised that much of the current global green economy discussion is unrealistic and unrelated to current issues. It was considered important to get clarity on the most productive way forward.

The role of Green Accounting, as a potential input to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was discussed, as was the question of how to strengthen rights-access to natural resources (such as land, water, energy) for poor people.

The proposal to include the mainstreaming of biodiversity in development (and options for getting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 recognised) was particularly important for Durban given that our municipality is situated in a biodiversity hotspot.

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?

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) invited a representative from Durban (Errol Douwes) to present in a session on the first day of the meeting, as a means to gain insight into the challenges, successes and innovative examples, of implementing green economy measures in both urban and rural areas.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to interrogate the broader understanding of what the green economy is, what it does (in terms of meeting needs/demands and in local, regional and global impacts) and how it is encouraged and nurtured. The opportunity to network with members of most of the major international funding agencies was also useful.

The 'greening' that many local governments implement, within general operations and construction, is often easy to see. However, the framework by which private capital is encouraged/persuaded/regulated to shift towards greener projects is not clearly defined, and the means to enhance the demand for green economy goods and services within cities is not clear. As such, the meeting provided a sounding board for innovative city governments - such as the eThekweni Municipality - who, in the absence of any guiding national policies and global agreements, are at the forefront of driving this shift.

A large focus of the meeting was on urban environments, which is a new development for PEP, given that previous meetings have focussed on partnerships to combat rural poverty and environmental degradation. It was recognized that by 2030, approximately 60 % of the world's population will live in cities. This will bring novel dependencies and resource conflicts as well enhance the rural-urban dynamics. Key elements identified for green, urban economies include:

- Inclusive economic growth
- Ecological compatibility
- Poverty reduction

Furthermore, increased and improved partnerships (including multi-disciplinary, multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder) and a focus on developing a functional green urban 'avant-garde' were considered essential for successful and sustainable urban governance.

The wealth disparity currently observed globally was considered pertinent for future planning. It was explained that 82% wealth sits with 20% of population. Some discussion about how PEP should incorporate the following took place:

- Development of new Sustainable Development Goals (a new set of goals to succeed the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 as proposed during Rio +20) was held.
- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The soon to be launched network, which will be led by Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, consists of research centres, universities and technical institutions to "help find solutions to some of the world's most pressing environmental, social and economic problems."

There was discussion about the planetary boundaries, and in particular, that planetary boundaries are not fixed 'supply limits', but are set within a safety margin around complex thresholds that are intertwined at regional and global scales. As expressed in the Ecology and Society- version of the original article: "The planetary boundary framework... suggests the need for novel and adaptive governance approaches at global, regional, and local scales."

For example, loss of biodiversity can increase the vulnerability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to changes in climate and ocean acidity, thus reducing the safe boundary levels of these processes. The strong link between local loss of biodiversity and global trade was also recently highlighted by Lenzen and colleagues (2012). The following questions were posed and discussions followed:

National economies

- Can they account for natural capital?
- Key information about natural capital is missing or invisible in the system of national accounts (GDP) - how can this gap be filled?

Sustainable development and wealth:

- Why do we assess country economic progress on the basis of national income, GDP alone (e.g. see the work of Nobel Prize winner J. Stiglitz)?

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 important to work closely with the agencies represented at PEP as they have a huge influence globally, particularly in the sphere of improving the coordination of work on poverty reduction and the environment. The presentation about Durban's work was well received and a proposal made that the next PEP meeting could take place in Durban. This would allow the city to showcase its work at an international level, and this would likely have significant benefits, particularly in terms of leveraging additional funds for green economy projects.

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

The following organisations were represented at the meeting: the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, CBD, IIED, WWF, GIZ, OECD, EIF, BMZ, ILO, BMU, UNITAR, WRI, IUCN, TARA, DEVCO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, CIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland, The Nature Conservancy in Europe, Australian Agency for International Development, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Environmental Investment Fund and Ministry of Environment and Tourism for Namibia, Fonerwa Rwanda, University of Gothenburg, and eThekweni Municipality South Africa.

Useful contacts were made with people at IIED, GIZ, OECD, and UNEP.

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