



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?

THE 33RD CONFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPACT ASSESSORS

2. The DATE attended:

13/05/2013 to 17/05/2013

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Calgary Stampede BMO Centre, Alberta, Calgary, Canada

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Ms Chumisa Thengwa

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 theme of the conference was “Impact Assessment: The next generation”. This referred to both a new generation of practitioners and new approaches to impact assessment practice internationally to address issues of global concern. Global drivers of change such as biodiversity loss and climate change are likely to impact cities the most under the current and projected rate of urbanisation. If by 2050, about a third of the human population will be living in cities, local governments will carry the responsibility of responding to these impacts as well as other global challenges. Local governance and the next generation of decision makers will need to be adaptable and able to cope with uncertainty. Impact assessment is central to this action and ensures responsible decision making on mainstream functions.

Why was it of importance?

Impact assessment at local government is an emerging discipline that is gaining recognition as local authorities begin to see the value of delivering sustainable services that do not compromise the natural resource base. This year’s conference theme therefore provided a platform for a global discussion on how local governance and the next generation of impact assessors will need to adapt and be able to deal with uncertainty.

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?

KEY LEARNINGS

Developed countries do not have the same challenges as we do in terms of implementation of environmental legislation and as such, things like compulsory registration of professionals in the impact assessment field are not seen as necessary. This for me drove home the fact that we cannot continue looking at first world solutions to our third world problems.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

Governance in impact assessment in developed countries is held accountable to the people as a result, decision makers understand that they cannot get away with bad decisions. To me this brought home the reality that literacy is a key that cuts across all disciplines and determines how far democracy can work for the people. As it stands in South Africa, people are busy with bread and butter issues and are not bothered with governance which is why our environmental legislation does not seem to be achieving what it is supposed to achieve.

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?

Not a change as such but the useful insights around assessment of cumulative impacts will be a great advantage when my team and I engage in impact assessment at a strategic level.

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

The most important contacts that I have managed to make are actually South African ones that I wouldn't have managed to make had I not attended the conference. Because of the session that I chaired at the conference, the presidential elect of the South African IAIA is now aware of the robust impact assessment team we have at local government and will certainly be making sure that we are consulted in all the important interventions by IAIA South Africa.

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