



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?

International Conference on Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience towards Climate Adapted and Resilient Regions

2. The DATE attended:

24/02/2014 to 25/03/2014

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Bremen Town Hall, Germany. Bremen and Durban are sister cities.

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Sean O'Donoghue

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

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

Other: Climate Change adaptation

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

During travel to Bremen for the 1st Africa Congress in September 2012, Manager: Climate Protection Branch, Dr Sean O’Donoghue, had an opportunity to participate in a knowledge-sharing workshop between eThekwini Municipality and Project NordWest 2050 officials. The latter have extensive experience in the development of adaptation strategies, and provided valuable insight from their own experience towards the development of Durban’s combined mitigation and adaptation climate change strategy. At this workshop, eThekwini Municipality officials provided an outline for the development of the strategy. The Project NW2050 officials committed to providing further input into the strategy during its development stages. This input was planned to include an exchange visit between Durban and Bremen. The first leg of this exchange visit was held in early February, when a select small group of Project NW2050 officials visited Durban. The visit will provided the small group with a detailed understanding of the challenges faced by city residents in terms of climate impacts and how these affect livelihoods.

EThekwini Municipality officials committed to travelling to Bremen during late February 2014, in the second part of the exchange visit, to present on progress made with the strategy at CLARR 2014. This provided for a wider audience for a critical review of the progress made with the development of the strategy. In terms of progress made with the development of the strategy thus far, the theme reports for the seven themes of the strategy have been compiled, and these were subjected to a cross-cutting review to streamline these themes into a comprehensive climate change strategy. This draft strategy will now submitted to all stakeholders for comment by early April. Having a willing, experienced and expert group of academics and practitioners from Bremen review the Durban Climate Change Strategy was very valuable, especially in terms of making recommendations for the DCCS.

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?

It was interesting to see how a very developed region in a very advanced country like Germany is only just now getting to grips with the issue of climate change adaptation. Once again, I was struck by how far advanced Durban is in its efforts to tackle climate change adaptation. Durban's reputation in this global arena is immense. Again, there were very little natural ecosystems that can be used within the Bremen region for free ecosystem services, unlike Durban, where our ecosystems remain fairly resilient.

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?

A closer alignment in reporting mechanisms between the different tiers of government, in terms of climate change adaptation, will be pursued following the instructive feedback received during the strategy review. The Bremen – Durban sister-city partnership will be the framework within which the climate change collaborators aim to do research on the similarities and differences in approaches adopted in their efforts to tackle climate change. This collaboration should result in a peer-reviewed paper that will help guide similar developing nation cities in their efforts to tackle climate change.

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

There were a number of key useful contacts, not least of which were the Bremen City officials that participated in and organised the Congress. I was also invited to present Durban's climate change work at an upcoming Resilience Congress in Bonn, Germany.

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