



## 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?

THE 34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 2. The DATE attended:

07/04/2014 to 11/04/2014

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

VINA DEL MAR, Chile

#### 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?

PURPOSE: The theme of the conference was "Impact Assessment for Social and Economic Development".

The aim of the IAIA14 conference was to look at the role of the various instruments of impact assessment on the promotion of social and economic development, considering the importance of the assessment process itself as well as its results. At the Conference, experiences and ideas were shared on how impact assessment outcomes could include efficient and innovative ways to promote social and economic development to benefit quality of life, for the present and future generations.

Miss Thengwa's attendance at the conference was seen as valuable because of the role she plays in ensuring the effective undertaking of the impact assessment required by legislation for all municipal infrastructure projects. This work can only be achieved with the right capacity i.e. experienced practitioners, guiding legislation, specialist knowledge and best practise. IAIA brings together environmental impact assessment experts from all over the world and this would provide essential cutting edge impact assessment theory and practise from around the world that eThekweni Municipality would benefit from through Miss Thengwa's attendance.

**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?**

1. Cumulative Impact Assessment at a regional level has been done by some governments in planning for regional industrial corridors, similar to what South Africa is envisaging with SIP2. Most importantly is that the cumulative impact assessment process was initiated and funded by the government in realising that economic development could have significant negative impacts on the environment if not planned appropriately.
2. An increased move towards incorporating impact assessment in National Development Plans in developing countries was a message that resonated throughout the conference.
3. Ecosystem Services Impact Assessment is an important component of the impact assessment process and is entrenched in legislation in some developed countries.
4. Some businesses are increasingly striving to be "good corporate citizens" and are engaging in voluntary self-monitoring and auditing of their environmental performance.
5. Impact assessment is critical at all levels of decision making, starting from policy development, not just at project implementation stage.
6. Biodiversity consideration for Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning

**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?**

Champion the move away from project based impact assessment on projects that are addressing national imperatives and use all opportunities to ensure that impact assessment is done at policy development / strategy formulation level for major projects.

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

**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**