



## 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?

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Resilient Cities Congress Asia-Pacific 2015

### 2. The DATE attended:

11 – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Hotel Nai Lert, Bangkok, Thailand

#### 4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Manager Climate Protection Branch, Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department

#### 5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

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

Other:

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

The Durban Adaptation Charter was signed in 2011 during Durban's hosting of COP21. As the leader of the DAC, and an ICLEI Vice President, Mayor Nxumalo was invited to attend this conference to present the DAC to the Asian-Pacific delegates attending the Congress, and to invite participants to become involved in the implementation of the Charter. Mayor Nxumalo was not able to attend, but Dr O'Donoghue attended on His Worship's behalf. The purpose of the Resilient Cities Congress is to advance climate change adaptation in the region through stimulating dialogue, networking and the launch of a number of tools for effective implementation. This Resilient Cities Congress is an annual event that is held in Bonn, Germany (mid-year), and always features the Charter as one of its key pillars (given that ICLEI are a key implementing partner). This year, the first ever Asian-Pacific Congress was hosted by Bangkok to extend the reach of ICLEI's advocacy in the run up to COP21 in Paris. Dr O'Donoghue also contributed towards the drafting of the Bangkok Call For Action, which was announced at the congress plenary.

**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?**

Firstly, the Congress attracted three times more participants than the ICLEI organizers were expecting. This tells me that the region is taking climate change very seriously, especially efforts to build resilience and adapt to climate change impacts. There were also a number of tools and networks that were launched, which shows that the region is making a substantial effort to address this global challenge. For the DAC, this was less about "aha" moments, and more about making progress with implementing the DAC in the Asia-Pacific region.

**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?**

There are a number of outcomes from this trip which has made it a success:

- 1) A DAC signing ceremony was conducted before the final closing plenary. This resulted in the first DAC signing of signatories from a number of countries in the region (including Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands from the Pacific). A total of 16 new signatories joined the DAC, and a final photograph of the signatories was taken during the plenary session.
- 2) The DAC reached an agreement to partner with one of the new networks that were created (Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network), which will effectively extend the reach and publicity associated with the implementation of both organisations.
- 3) A key implementing partner, the International Cities/ Counties Management Association was present at the Congress, and the DAC was a key feature of their presentation booth. An agreement was reached for the DAC to remain an integral part of their new call for partnerships in their CityLinks exchange programme. To date, the DAC (and Durban) have benefited greatly from engaging in this programme.
- 4) Follow up effort will be required for a number of mayors that expressed an interest in pursuing knowledge exchange visits to the city of Durban to understand the ecosystem-based adaptation work of the city.
- 5) I was, again, struck by how similarly a range of climate challenges are being experienced around the world, and how the recognition of the importance of green spaces as protection from climate impacts continues to grow (alongside Durban's growing reputation in this field of work).

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

For a list of new DAC signatories see [www.durbanadaptationcharter.org](http://www.durbanadaptationcharter.org)

**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**