



## 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?

2014 Local Action for Biodiversity Symposium on BiodiverCities without Boundaries Science, Policy, and Local Governance

### 2. The DATE attended:

20/06/2014 to 28/06/2014

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Garden Villa Kaohsiung, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, China

**4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?**

Bheka Memela

**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	x
Energy and the natural environment	x	Good governance	x		

Other:

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

The themes of the Symposium were around making urban biodiversity and ecosystem services count through acknowledging the inextricable link between cities and the ecosystems which sustain them and through acknowledging the importance of the conservation of ecosystem services in cities (Socially, Economically and Ecologically). From eThekweni Municipality side, the event provided a platform to share innovations with international biodiversity experts and an opportunity for learning and networking

**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. Georgina Avlonitis, from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI), gave an enlightening presentation about roles of local governance in biodiversity management
2. It was also quite interesting to observe that Kaohsiung City's Protected Areas were highly visited by local people of different age groups and security was not a concern
3. The Non-Governmental Organizations in Kaohsiung City were working closely with the Kaohsiung City officials in addressing environmental issues, especially volunteering in wetlands rehabilitation
4. Although Kaohsiung City has more thirteen tribes those tribes are not involved in land administration
5. It was also a good opportunity to share ideas with the City of Cape Town's Mr Cliff Dorse, especially about proclamation of Nature Reserves and Biodiversity Stewardship partnership

**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?**

1. Play a role in ensuring that the eThekweni Municipality's Nature Reserves are safe for the public to use
2. Improve collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organizations, especially around eThekweni Biodiversity Stewardship implementation
3. Put more efforts in working with the traditional communities in eThekweni Municipal area
4. Explore opportunities of collaborating with other South African municipalities, especially around the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

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

1. Georgina Avlonitis and Elizabeth Jane Metcalfe, from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI), interacting with them gave a broader perspective about what local governments are doing in terms of biodiversity management
2. The City of Cape Town's Mr Cliff Dorse, mainly around sharing ideas about proclamation of Nature Reserves and Biodiversity Stewardship partnership

**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**