



## 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?

Sustainability Science Congress 2014

### 2. The DATE attended:

22-24 October 2014

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Copenhagen Denmark

#### 4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection

#### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Health and Safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | City strategy and planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment |                                     | Good governance                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                            |                          |

Other:

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

This international and solutions orientated congress invited experts across disciplines to break down academic barriers and jumpstart a broader collaboration on sustainable solutions relevant for society. Also targeting businesses and policy makers, the congress aimed to provide a platform for science-policy interface relevant for global challenges. The congress was organised by the International Alliance of Research universities.

**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?**

- Current global political agreements do not acknowledge sufficiently that there are global environmental limits. The greatest challenge in 21<sup>st</sup> Century is that there are limits to global resources and to determine politically how we share the remaining resources in a sustainable and equitable manner. Like a bank account can't use more capital that we have in the bank. Sustainable Development is not a nice to have but a need to have.
- Must link science to policy to business to ensure sustainable growth.
- To deal with the world's challenges two areas where there must be action to improve the sustainability of global urbanization and the world's food system.
- Urbanisation offers us opportunities to find new solutions – we must pave way for smarter and greener cities. This requires that stakeholders are engaged; that the education system must produce innovative thinkers; that we engage the private sector as there is no green transition without them.
- The Brundtland definition is now history (i.e. balance between the three separate three pillars of economy, environment and society) we need economy that serves society that respects planetary boundaries. Cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet. Global business now has

**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?**

See below.

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

Made contacts the person now overseeing ACCCRN (Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network) and have negotiated the potential possibility of linking that network with the Durban Adaptation Charter initiative championed by the Mayor - providing links to the first Asian cities that may be able to act as regional hubs.

**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**