



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?

World Conference Disaster Management

2. The DATE attended:

23/06/2013 to 26/06/2013

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Toronto Metro Convention Centre, Canada

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Councillor: Muriel Lindiwe Ntaka- Mhlongo

V Ngubane: Head Disaster Management and Emergency Control

S Hendrikse: Acting Deputy Head Disaster Management

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other: Disaster Risk Management

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

The focus of the conference was on four primary areas, namely, Business Continuity – Emergency Management Crisis Communications and Resilience and Risk.

The conference provided unparalleled depth and quality with over 72 sessions and workshops, and networking opportunities with over 1 000 international professionals from over 35 countries. What were particularly beneficial were insights into examining risk reduction methods used in developing countries, providing opportunity to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of our own programmes.

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?

Recognizing changing risk and threat environments. Recognizing how digital and social channels are increasingly becoming a first point of contact for many people during a crisis. Recognition that a government-centric approach to disaster management will not be enough to meet the challenges posed by catastrophic disaster events, and the need to fully engage societal participation in developing resiliency and capacity. Models for managing incidents at multiple locations. Using failure analysis to better design organizational resilience capability. This included gaining an understanding of the concepts of disaster pathology as an analytical tool to improve resilience. What technologies can assist crisis managers to play a more effective role in incident response management. Increased awareness of community vulnerability to climate change and adaptation strategies. Preparing for climate change impacts will be a test of good governance in the future. Nobody has a monopoly on good ideas. Global networking and knowledge sharing is essential. Give your disaster management officials the tools they need. Do not wait for a crisis to give them the tools.

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?

One of the major challenges is to change the mindsets from the traditional view that disaster management is simply a line function aimed at managing the consequences of a disaster once it has already occurred to understanding that its purpose is integrated risk assessment, reduction and management. Another mindset that disaster management is a social welfare department only to provide relief through blankets and foodpacks will find us unprepared to manage emerging crisis, catastrophic or disaster events.

The critical need to have political sphere and executive corporate management having a deeper understanding of the full spectrum of the disaster management function. Flowing from the conference the Unit resolved to conduct a Councillor Workshop in order to engage and discuss the legislative responsibilities as encapsulated in the Disaster Management Act and National Framework.

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

The valuable lessons and networking opportunities have provided a mirror image for us to undertake a comparative analysis of our programmes and methodologies, which we have adopted. Looking through a global lens creates a much wider horizon vision, which will positively affect our attempts to find sustainable solutions for many of our complex challenges.

All attendees have been provided with a web based online user code to access session presentations which serves as a source of reference for ongoing research.

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