



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?

International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) 2016 Conference

2. The DATE attended:

9-14 May 2016

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

The Conference was held at the Nagoya Congress Centre in Aichi, Nagoya.

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Mr Sabelo B Nkosi

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: The focus of the event was on environmental impact assessments.

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

The theme of the conference is environmental “Impact Assessment: Resilience and Sustainability”.

The IAIA 2016 conference has secured a range of environmental practitioners from various backgrounds to share their experiences on the theme. The conference was designed and structured in a way that it provides further training opportunities. Various sessions and platforms were created for global debate on many environmental resilience and sustainability issues that will be central to realising the development aspirations of the developing world in a sustainable and environmentally resilient way.

Some of the sections to be covered at IAIA16 that are relevant include:

- 1) Impact Assessment Law, Policies and Practice;
- 2) Biodiversity and Ecology;
- 3) Climate Change;
- 4) Strategic Environmental Assessment.

IAIA16 Conference provides opportunities for networking with experienced and passionate professionals. It presented a learning platform, which also inspires those who attended so that they are able to come up with innovative solutions to day-to-day tasks.

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?

The key learning from the event were the meaning of environmental resilience and sustainability. I learned that resilience is a pathway towards sustainability.

Environmental resilience is always context dependent and it may mean different things depending on the environmental aspect that one is engaged on such as biodiversity, risk reduction, social, etc.

I also attended a course on quality assurance and review of environmental impacts assessments (EIAs). On a daily basis, I get to review various EIAs and the course has improved my approach to reviewing the EIAs.

Such that my role in reviewing EIAs is to help the decision maker to make a good decision and that the input that I provide as a reviewer is very important for improving environmental decision making.

The experience of others who attended the course was important and how they approach reviewing EIAs from the various perspectives.

Some key observations included that biodiversity offsets are used universally for various EIA projects. However, some of the case studies were focused on individual species and not habitats as in our South African context.

Also that offsets in other countries include biodiversity and a strong component of ecosystem services, which is not the current practice in South Africa for terrestrial ecosystems.

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?

I am considering to make contributions at future events by presenting some of eThekweni Municipality's EIA projects.

This can be done by critically analysis outcomes from various EIAs to determine how the involvement of the Municipality has improved environmental decision making.

Such as outcomes on biodiversity conservation and on the general EIA process.

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

Dr Peter Tarr (peter.tarr@saiea.com) from the Southern African Institute of Environmental Assessment in Namibia who advocates for quality assurance in EIAs.

Mr Ntsako Baloyi (nbaloyi@slrconsulting.com), who is currently the President of IAIAAsa, is an important contact since he has been instrumental in bring IAIA18 to Durban's ICC.

Therefore, continuous dialogue with him and other role players in IAIAAsa are important so that we can showcase some of eThekweni Municipality's environmental assets and arrangement of technical tours.

Dr Vincent Onyango (V.Onyango@dundee.ac.uk) from the University of Dundee, since he teaches and undertakes research on planning and how environmental issues are considered within planning. His work is similar to the current work of my Department.

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