



URBAN SETTLEMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE
Water & Sanitation Unit

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ANNEXURE TO ITEM
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Mr Peter Flower
 Director: Water & Sanitation
 Utility Services Directorate
 City of Cape Town
 9th Floor, Civic Centre
 Cape Town

Dear Peter

CENTRE OF EXPERTISE INITIATIVE

This is the formal letter to invite you to join the Centre of Expertise initiative (as we discussed during various previous engagements at the WISA and IMESA conferences and then in your offices). Thank you also for participating in our 'launch' of the Centre of Expertise in Durban on the 14th of November last year.

The Centre of Expertise opens the doors to new technology that have the potential to assist us in meeting our service delivery options. We see this transfer of expertise happening through showcases (pilot projects) that would be implemented through our existing capital budgets and supply chain management regulations. It has put some additional pressure on our staff in Durban, but the benefits of collaboration between South Africa and the overseas partners outweigh these initial hurdles. The Dutch government has been very supportive of this initiative and has provided grant funding to set it up. This funding though, will end in 2016.

Our strategy in making the Centre of Expertise sustainable for a longer period of time is first of all to establish a legal entity for the Centre of Expertise. This will be a not for profit organisation under municipal law. This NPO will be guided by a board of directors and I would like to formally invite the City of Cape Town to become a member of the Centre of Expertise. Every member of the Centre of Expertise NPO can appoint one board member to oversee the activities of the Centre of Expertise. We are aiming to finalize the approvals and registration of the company before the WISA conference and then announce its establishment at the conference.

With the legal entity in place the Centre of Expertise can start generating revenue by offering the lessons-learned in the show-cases to the various training providers in our country. The preliminary discussions with your technical training centre showed that there could be a synergy. This should create a revenue stream for The Centre of Expertise and allow the City of Cape Town (and all the other members) to purchase the lessons-learned from the other members in customised training courses.

If we can make this mechanism work we can avoid membership fees and grant (or donor) funding altogether and make it really 'our own'.

The impact for the City of Cape Town is therefore an increase in the training budget to be able to purchase this customised training. The City of Cape Town can then offer this training to other (neighbouring) municipalities at a nominal fee or request reimbursement from other (national) initiatives for these customised training courses.

These training courses will target – generally – the higher level staff on very specific technology. These courses will focus on exchanging the knowledge gained about the new technology and provide a sound technological/scientific background to that new technology. After such a course the participants should be able to include this new technology in tender specifications for capital projects, provided that the technology has an added benefit to the municipality.

In short, I believe that your participation in the Centre of Expertise would be of benefit to the City of Cape Town, Durban and the other (proposed) members in the Centre of Expertise and the wider South African water and sanitation community.

Yours sincerely



N.A. MACLEOD
HEAD, WATER AND SANITATION