



SA LED Network

NEWSLETTER

SA LED Network

3rd Issue 2009

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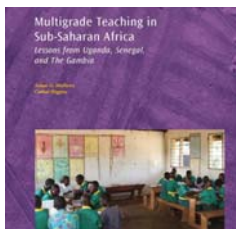
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NEWS FROM "INSIDE" THE NETWORK

New members for the SA LED Network Executive Committee

"It is a new start" Dawn Malotane-Lindsey, CEO of the SA LED Network says. "Our main objective is, to involve all the relevant LED stakeholders to get a well represented Executive Committee. With the new members, the

ExCO has representatives from almost all relevant institutions involved in LED: Neels Vermaak from DBSA joined as well as Lorain Greyling from University of Johannesburg, Phila Xuza from ASPIRE development

agency and Evelyn Masotja from the DTI. (The Department of Trade and Industry) are currently members of the Executive Committee.

Eve Chavalala joins the operations team

Eve Chavalala is our new graduate assistant, recently appointed to support the operations team of the SA LED Network. She is in her final year of studies (town and regional planning). Originally from Giyani in Limpopo she is

now based in Pretoria and busy with keeping the SA LED Networks' website up to date: New Jobs tenders and interesting documents are edited and uploaded. She fast became passionate about LED: She changed the topic of her

final thesis to: LED strategy for township Tourism—unleashing Mabopane. Of course she will give the Network an insight in her studies. The final paper will also be available on the website later.



Eve Chavalala recently joined the operations team

Dr. Mark Staiger returns to Germany



Mark Staiger has left the SA LED Network and moved back to Germany.

We would like to express our deep thanks to him. During his time with the SA LED Network he was involved in building a new strategic approach to the Network. He took charge of the process of hiring our CEO, Dawn Malotane-

Lindsey and initiated the development of the new knowledge & information platform. In the relatively short time of his tenure at the SA LED Network he helped to professionalize the appearance and the structure of Network. "To build an independent and self sustainable structure that welcomes every LED practi-

tioner from all the different sectors" This could be the summary of his joint effort. Dear Mark, thank you very much for your hard work and your consistency even in some of the (not very rare) moments of frustration. We wish you the very best for your personal life and your career in Germany!

A new international advisor for the SA LED Network

The SA LED Network has sent a request to the DED (German Development Service) for placement of another international advisor on LED for

the Network. The new advisor will assist on LED specific topics for the public sector and will most probably travel a lot to South Africa's Provinces. If all goes well

the SA LED Network will welcome the new colleague from next year and we look forward to building LED capacity at local government level.

1 year CEO: "12 months between heaven & hell"

If Dawn Malotane-Lindsey, CEO of the SA LED Network looks back, it has been a very interesting journey with many challenges. She started on 3rd of October 2008 at a time when the Network was pretty much busy with defining its new self. A lot of things had to be done: Organizing a

first Annual General Meeting, development of a new marketing and fundraising strategy, development & support of regional and topic orientated chapters, evaluation and improvement of the value offerings. A lot of hard work! One year down the road there is still a lot of work ahead but

the Network is also able to see the success of hiring a professional manager: Participation of all major LED role players on the SA LED Networks board, cooperation with SALGA, LMRF, LEDNA IDC and DBSA, establishment of the new knowledge & information platform,

creating a one-stop-hub for LED related knowledge, bringing LED practitioners together to exchange their knowledge.

Thank you Dawn for putting all your positive energy and your belief into the SA LED Network and good luck for the next year. May it be as successful as the last one!



NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

Gauteng: Tertiary Education & LED

What's the status of LED in Tertiary Institutions?

GTZ's LED component of the Strengthening Local Governance Program in partnership with InWent Capacity Building International and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs invited academics and LED practitioners to the Wanderers Club at Illovo, Johannesburg on the 20th to 21st of July. About 30 representatives from almost all major Universities came to

discuss about the topic of the professionalization of the LED career.

"The landscape of professional LED education is still a bit blank" said one of the participants. At the moment planning a professional career as LED practitioner is not possible. There are a number of classes and courses with an LED focus but those are embedded within studies of economics or planning. There will have to be a new degree programme on

LED. University of Johannesburg is willing to champion this development :

The Department of Economics and Econometrics is currently planning a Center of Local Economic Development (CENLED) Dr. Marius Venter and Prof. Loraine Greyling are the drivers behind the idea. A working group has already been established that includes all relevant stakeholders in LED. A key action plan was the result of the meeting.



EC: ASPIRES' 4th Small Town Conference

Small Towns-Great Opportunities! This could be the underlining theme of ASPIRE'S 4th Small Town Conference held in East London on 10th and 11th of September 2009.

About 100 delegates from metro's, provinces, district and local municipalities as well as representatives from IDC, DTI, DBSA, Treasury, and the rarely seen private sector came to discuss the potential of Small Towns.

Phila Xuza, CEO of ASPIRE, Amathole's economic development agency, highlighted the need for the regeneration of small town economies, which serve as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. For example the lack of transport linkages: "Changing taxis 5 times from Butterworth to Bedford to get to a doctor can be a major obstacle for people: time and money wise." The increase of infrastructure and services in Small Towns has a direct effect on the economy as it attracts people from areas around

the town. ASPIRE has developed a 4 phase model as a starting point for small town regeneration:

1. Developing a Small Town Regeneration Strategy which includes a status quo analysis, data gathering, identification of possible interventions, & scenario development.
2. Detailed feasibility analysis for identified interventions.
3. Business Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment if required.
4. Implementation & exit of identified interventions

The aim is to identify the "uniqueness" of a small town. What does it offer compared to other small towns? What is the "pulse" of the city? What is the competitive advantage? "And you really have to look closely at the town!" says

Cara Jordan from ASPIRE. There is no such thing as a one -fits-all approach. Each town is different! And therefore so will be the strategy. And so are the projects that ASPIRE is busy implementing now: an artist's residency in Hamburg, a new central business District in Butterworth, the establishment of a commercial community park and bridge linking Mlungisi Township to

Stutterheim. Six small towns in the Eastern Cape are ready to take off. ASPIRE is very proud to be able to share their implementation knowledge with other stakeholders: A small Towns SA network is planned and they even managed to get the topic addressed in the presidential inauguration in June 2009. If this model proves to be successful, there is a lot of potential in South Africa as nationwide about 500 towns are classified as "small". This concept could be used as a very concrete LED strategy! Find more information :

www.aspire.org.za



ASPIRE's CEO Phila Xuza presenting the Small Towns Regeneration Model



Conference participant in vibrant discussion

SPECIAL FEATURE

ABOUT JOBS & DREAMS: A Study Tour on Job Centers for Dr. JS Maroko Municipality in JHB

It is the morning of the 1st of September, Spring Day in Johannesburg! About 20 people are gathered in a meeting room of the City of Joburg to exchange their knowledge on different models of job centers in South Africa.

The Initiators of this meeting are Jacqui Boule and Karen Harrison (INDEGO Consultancy) who developed a 2-year Local Economic Support Program for the Municipality of Dr. JS Maroko in Mpumalanga with the financial support of The Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The methodology used to analyse potential fields of intervention is PACA (Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantage). The PACA exercise discovered a couple of hindering factors that kept the municipality from developing further. The main obstacle revealed was significant youth unemployment. The project so that no costs accrue for the actual applicants. As a result it was decided to develop a Skills Centre that focuses on job placement as well as on personal development of the job seekers.

Ronald Bownes' organisation **DREAM-WORKER** was contacted to present their successful model of job placement & personalized service. The community based non profit organisation's motto is: "Working for the unemployed".

Dreamworker uses extended personal interviews to identify skills of the future employee. "We reference check and make sure that each applicant gets a proper mentorship through his job finding process" says Ronald. How to write a CV or how do I communicate with an employer and what documents do I need to bring? These are common questions where Dreamworker assists. Running 3 offices in the Western Cape all close to previously disadvantaged areas the successful concept is about to expand to other provinces. Besides the Department of Social Development as the principal funder, Dreamworks has a couple of private sector companies that support .



Jabulani Civic in Soweto - Step 1 of Job Pathways Programme: Obtaining data from the job seeker with latest technology



Interested Study Tour Participants at Jabulani Civic Center

A different approach is realized by the **City of Johannesburg** with its pilot of the **JOB PATHWAYS PROGRAMME**. It uses the government frontline to link citizens with specific programme options based on their aptitudes, background and skills level. In so called Customer Service Centers applicants can register for the programme. A categorisation of the candidates helps to channel the applicants: For example people with very low literacy appear as amber and therefore qualify for ABET (a numeracy and literacy training), "Job ready" people are marked as green and can immediately be put into the system for job placements. There will be two streams of activity, Stream A will focus on accepting job orders from companies and Stream B will screen jobless and underemployed candidates. The City of Johannesburg contracted the **WORK-FORCE GROUP** via an open tender process to professionally train jobless unskilled and semi-skilled people and make them able to meet specific business needs. Ten Job Pathway Centres are planned.

surrounding the community. The following services will be offered: Recruitment & Employment, Business Linkages, demand driven Training, Mentorship for SMME's and social Benefit Advocacy.

Hot temperatures are awaiting the participants of the study tour. It is afternoon and the day is going by quickly. A bucket of water gets poured over a young man on the street in Soweto. It's Spring Day and there is the air of hope! The hope that those aspiring initiatives will be fruitful and will help a lot of people to move out of poverty and unemployment.

Links:
www.dreamworker.org.za
www.joburg.org.za
www.workforce.co.za
www.worldvision.org.za

World Vision the Christian humanitarian charity organization is taking a different direction: Traditionally focused on working with children, the South African footprint has decided to draw more attention to local economic development in order to tackle the causes of poverty. With their **EMBO Business Employment Hub** World Vision reveals an ambitious programme that is actually a result of another PACA exercise. The hub is based in the Embo Community West of Durban and although the community is situated within three growing commercial and industrial areas, the unemployment and poverty levels are very high. The Hub is planning partnerships with the local municipality, provincial government, the business community and NGO's. The aim is to make job seekers from Embo, final year students, businesses and artisans "visible" to the formal markets



LED PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Amathole Blueberries

A quick interview with PHILIP HOWES, CEO of Amathole Blueberries

Name of the project

Amathole Berries (PTY) Ltd

What is it about?

Blueberry Farming & All berry fruit marketing

Who is involved?

A highly committed & ever-increasing team of people – Management & Staff

Where is it located?

Thornhill Farm, Stutterheim

When did it start?

August 2007

This is the culmination of 15 years of perseverance & determination to “make a difference” using farming skills in a rural setting. Not from an AID or charity perspective but via a corporate approach to agriculture that is based on a sustainable high value suitable crop, driven by bottom line & profit considerations.

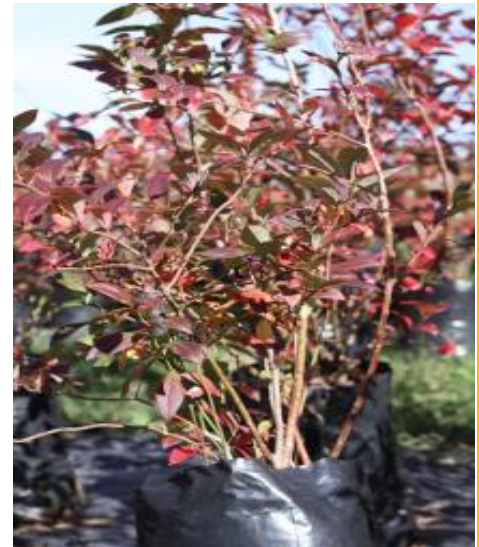
It all started with...

A dream 15 years ago that we can build a business that will be internationally recognised for its holistic approach – including rural communities, Organic production principles, Sustainable energy sources & Corporate approach to Profit margins & Balance sheet growth.

We got funding from...

Our 4 shareholders - IDC, ECDC & two private investors

Our biggest challenge was... & still is proving to “experts” that it will succeed



Blueberry Plant at the Thornhill Farm



Preparing the blueberry seedlings for planting

Our most positive experience in the process was...

How unassuming people came alongside us to provide advice, support & guidance that was very welcome & has been proven to be invaluable. They continue to appear whenever we have needed them.

To get a project going it is essential to...

see it as a business, a long term business that requires a long term mind body & soul commitment to making it work.

This person (s) helped us a lot...

Over 15 years there are too many to mention, but they know who they are.

What we'd do differently next time...

Be less tolerant of poor advice, not try to accommodate everyone's point of view from the outset. We spent a lot of time trying to please certain people who will never be pleased.

We are very proud of...

the small differences we have made to date in many peoples lives.

I want other people to know about my project our business! They get more information at...

www.amatholeberries.co.za

It is our mission - To be a major Southern African producer of organically & sustainably produced Blueberries, meeting international quality standards, while creating wealth in a safe, sustainable manner for all participants in the value chain. That includes all who work for us, all who produce for us on contract, all who live, work & do business in our communities.

Personal Details

Name: Philip Howes

Position in the project: CEO

Email address: info@amatholeberries.co.za

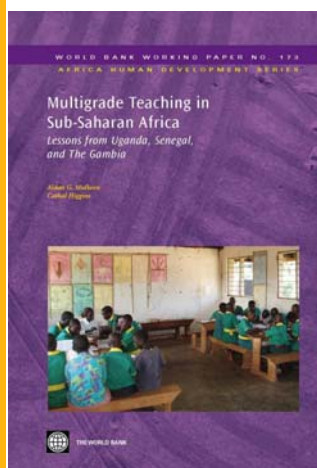
Thank you for this interview Philip!



Bio degradable plant protection— produced by worms!

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Multigrade Teaching in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Uganda, Senegal, and Gambia



In Africa, with the expansion of coverage of primary education in recent decades, many of the remaining out-of-school children are in hard to reach areas, with low population density and poor transport.

Providing access to education is challenging in such contexts, as the population in any village is often too small to support a conventional primary school. One of the answers is the use of multigrade teaching, where one teacher works with students of two or more

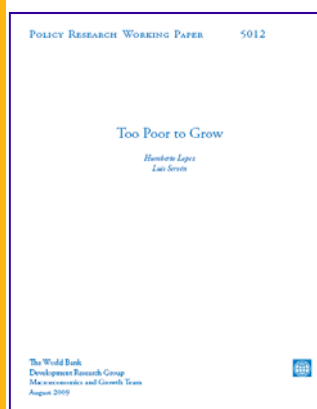
grades. This paper examines the practice of multigrade teaching in three African countries, Uganda, Senegal, and The Gambia.

Although these three cases had very different approaches to multigrade, their experiences suggest that multigrade teaching is a promising and cost-effective option, but that successful implementation requires sustained support from policymakers, adequate training of teachers, and careful explanation of

the approach to parents and the communities. To find more information on the publication and to order it please click here:

http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=9266676&cid=EXT_WB_Pubs_An_nounce_BW_EXT

To poor to grow?



Recent theoretical literature has suggested a variety of mechanisms through which poverty may deter growth and become self-perpetuating.

A few papers have searched for empirical regularities consistent with those mechanisms such as aggregate non-convexities and convergence clubs. However, a seemingly basic implication of the theoretical models, namely that countries suffering from higher levels of poverty should grow less rapidly, has remained untested.

This paper attempts to fill that gap and provide a direct empirical assessment of the impact of poverty on growth. The paper's strategy involves including poverty indicators among the explanatory variables in an otherwise standard empirical growth equation.

Using a large panel dataset, the authors find that poverty has a negative

impact on growth that is significant both statistically and economically.

This result is robust to a variety of specification changes, including

1. Different poverty lines
2. Different poverty measures
3. Different sets of control variables
4. Different estimation methods
5. Adding inequality as a control variable; and
6. Allowing for nonlinear effects of inequality on growth.

The paper also finds evidence that the adverse effect of poverty on growth works through investment: high poverty deters investment, which in turn lowers growth.

Further, the data suggest that this mechanism only

operates at low levels of financial development, consistent with the predictions of theoretical models that underscore financial market imperfections as a key ingredient of poverty traps.

Click here to download the working paper:

<http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/08/05/00015834920090805131938/Rendered/PDF/WPS5012.pdf>

(2 MB)



UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS

IDP Skills Programme: Implementation and Procedures

2nd to 6th of November 2009, 195 Umhlanga Rocks Drive, Durban North, KwaZulu-Natal

This Skills Programme is a building block towards the IDP qualification on NQF 5 and is targeted at currently employed staff working in the field of Integrated Development Planning with the purpose of promoting development of IDP related knowledge and skills, closing identified knowledge and skills gap and promoting the professional development of municipal staff. The IDP Skills Programme has been designed for municipal officials as well as national and provincial departmental officials tasked to oversee and participate in municipal IDP processes.

Accredited MXA Training: 8 credits, For more information contact Mbali Mngoma on mbali@mx.co.za

Third World Forum on Regional Economic Development

23th to 25th of November 2009, Funchal, Madeira/Portugal

EURADA, the European Association of Development Agencies, in partnership with ADERAM, the Development Agency of Madeira (Portugal), will organise the Third World Forum on Regional Economic Development. The Forum's topic will be "Towards a World Competition based on Innovation for Economic and Social Wellbeing".

For more information on the event click here:

<http://www.led.co.za/content/third-world-forum-regional-economic-development-towards-world-competition-based-innovation-e>

Workshop: Creating an Enabling Environment for Small Enterprise Development

30th of November to 11th of December 2009, Turin, Italy

Small enterprises are recognised as significant generators of employment in both developed and developing countries. Their ability to quickly adapt to changing circumstances, and to find niche markets, along with their potential to innovate, have given them a critical edge in the market place. As a result, the number of small enterprises has grown, as has the employment they provide. However, this view is juxtaposed by the growth in small enterprises as a consequence of unemployment and poverty that has forced many women and men into this sector as a means of survival. Small enterprises can be difficult, dangerous and insecure places of employment with low financial rewards. The ILO has been working with its members and constituents to assist the growth and sustainability of small enterprises, and improve the quality of employment they provide. The ILO places emphasis on sustainable small enterprise development, which embraces economic, social and environmental goals. The course will be structured around five key modules and an action plan: 1. Introduction to enabling environments for sustainable small enterprise development 2. Assessing the business environment 3. Designing a business environment reform programme 4. Implementation of a business environment reform programme 5. Assessing the impact of policy reforms in the business environment

Application Deadline: 30 October 2009

For more information click here: <http://www.led.co.za/content/creating-enabling-environment-small-enterprise-development>

Implementing the Public Finance Management Act PFMA

Various dates, in all provinces

The programme aims at bringing awareness and understanding of the key statutory requirements and obligations of financial and non-financial personnel with respect to the Public Finance Management Act. It looks at the PFMA as it relates to specific individuals. Program outline will be that at the end of the programme the participants will know; The PFMA, goals, implementation and implications, How the PFMA affect the specific individual, Individual roles and responsibilities as per the PFMA, Individual risk assessment, Individual compliance check, An assessment of organisational or divisional compliance

For more information, dates and places contact: albert@peakford.co.za