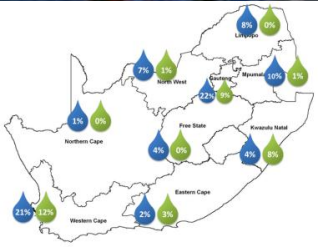
iWETs

The Dutch training institute for water management

World Water Academy

Improving Water Education and Training skills in South Africa



Context

Currently 2,4 million people are without access to a basic level of water supply; a further 3,3 million people have access to water supply but the water obtained does not meet the basic services standard. The water provision and sanitation for households is not reliable and sustainable and therefore the quality of life and of education is affected. This situation is the result of a complex set of circumstances but an important element of this is the technical skills levels of the staff responsible for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure of the treatment plants and the associated infrastructure. The economic grow could be stimulated by a better provision of water and a good sanitation.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA VA) has requested technical assistance from the Dutch Government to deal with the challenge of Water Education, Training and Skills Development in South Africa.

Proposal

The project, 'Vision for Water Capacity Building in South Africa', focuses on an implementation plan and to set priorities and to focus on the implementation of possible solutions.
The focus areas in this report are:

- Water: the twenty-four hour provision of water and sanitation,
- Education: scholar system according to the NQF (South African standard), for pupils and students, and
- Training: on the job and lifelong learning for employees

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Realization

So far, the South African government has put a lot of effort in analysing the actual situation in the water sector. The tasks of the institutions are clear and an appropriate number of frameworks, regulations and quality systems are available. This report draws together various reports and analyses already available in South Africa. The independent recommendations are based on what is best for the water sector to meet the challenge of non-sustainable water provision for all households as related to education, training and skills development. The existing policies and strategies have to be executed and an alignment between the water sector and education and training provision has to be created.

The following areas require specific attention:

1. the role of the water sector and the SETA's,
2. the link between the water sector, Higher Education, FET colleges
3. the coordination and quality assurance of the training on the job and lifelong learning programmes

Location:
Mitrand, Cape Town, South Africa

Period:
2011-2012

Partners:
Development Bank of Southern Africa (SA / *financer*) and Dutch Embassy in Pretoria & Transition Facility (NL / *financer*)

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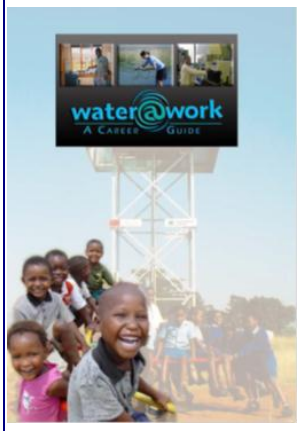

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