



Co-operation SSACI News Update News



December 2010

Newsletter

▶ *2010: The Year that Flashed Past*

Mission

The aim of this newsletter is to inform readers about what SSACI does and why. It presents information about our projects and highlights issues in education, training and skills development that affect SSACI's work.

This newsletter is published electronically on our website and distributed via email. You are welcome to send it to other people who might be interested. If you would like to subscribe or give us feedback please send an email to info@ssaci.org.za

2010 was our busiest year ever. We made good progress towards our goal of achieving systemic impact through closer cooperation with government departments and programs, including:

- A review of the public Further Education and Training (FET) college sector on behalf of the national Department of Higher Education & Training (DHET), leading to a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to the Minister that was endorsed by delegates to the national FET Summit in September
- Input to the DHET on amendments to regulations governing Employment and Skills Training Agencies
- Full integration of our FET college project into the operations of the DHET
- Direct funding from provincial governments for our Human Resources for Rural Health project in North West and Mpumalanga provinces
- Adoption of our Hospitality Skills for 2010 project by the national Department of Tourism



We also strengthened our working relationships with other development agencies and industry bodies by, for example::

- Expanding our cooperation with the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation on artisan training
- Participating in a working group on artisan training convened by Business Leadership SA
- Launching a joint project with the National Business Initiative, the Joint Education Trust and MerSETA on internships for FET college graduates

Through our projects, we:

- Trained doctors, pharmacists, radiographers and other health professionals for rural hospitals and clinics North West province and KwaZulu-Natal
- Trained engineering-trade artisans in Gauteng and gave engineering students at 10 colleges in six provinces practical experience in industry
- Trained bird watching tour-guides in Limpopo Province and hotel staff all around the country
- Piloted university qualifications for college lecturers in the Western Cape and Free State provinces
- Conducted research into youth entrepreneurship around the World Cup tournament

... and a good deal more besides!

Our finances weathered the international storm with flying colors. Despite extremely difficult economic conditions throughout 2010, we were able to retain all our corporate sponsors and even add two new ones: City Lodge and the Elea Foundation.

Not bad for just 365 days! We'll tell the whole story in our 2010 Annual Report early next year.



Success: Going Farther with Further Education and Training

SSACI's joint FET college project with the Department of Higher Education and Training is bearing fruit. Initiated in 2008, the project aims to align training in engineering at public FET colleges more closely with the needs of industry through periods of workplace-based experiential learning for learners and in-service professional development for teachers. A secondary objective was to develop long-term partnerships between colleges and local companies.

The project has just been externally evaluated. A team of researchers concluded that, in the 10 pilot colleges, the project has achieved its objectives of:

- Putting in place an organized system of workplace experience for students
- Improving students' performance in their studies
- Improving students' readiness for the workplace
- Improving industry's perception of the national curriculum and its graduates
- Establishing sustainable partnerships between colleges and local industries that serve the interests of both partners
- Making a positive impact upon the wider FET college system



DHET is encouraging the expansion of this project. Another 16 colleges will join in 2011, bringing the total number of participating colleges to 25, i.e. just over half of the 50 public FET colleges in the country. Each of the 16 new colleges will receive what has become SSACI's "standard support package":

- Our manual on implementing workplace experience
- Samples of students' logbooks
- Training
- Telephone "hotline" support for 1 year

Together with our internships project for FET college graduates and our training module within the professional qualification for college lecturers at two universities, all this adds up to a meaningful contribution by SSACI to improved technical and vocational skills training in South Africa.



Our Trade Secrets: Got a little Skills Training in Ya?

Small enterprise development is high on the national agenda, and on SSACI's, because of its potential to create much-needed new jobs. In our November "Trade Secrets" pocket-book, we shared a few lessons we have learned on implementing technical skills-training projects, which included:

- Five reasons to support skills training beyond your own company
- Four things you need to do right with skills training
- Five ingredients of good skills-training
- Four ways you can add value to skills training projects
- Five common pitfalls to avoid
- Seven useful measurements of effectiveness in training

In our December pocket-book, we turn to enterprise-development projects and give useful pointers on:

- Why young entrepreneurs need more help
- Useful inputs for emerging enterprises
- Best targets for start-up training
- Best practices in entrepreneurship training projects
- Why "Go Formal"
- Measurements of success in enterprise development

The December pack includes a copy of the book “**Tracking Entrepreneurship in South Africa**”, a summary of ten years of research into entrepreneurship conducted by the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town. SSACI has participated in this research for five years, and SSACI’s CEO, Ken Duncan, was a peer-reviewer of this consolidated report. If you want to know the state of emerging entrepreneurship in SA – the whats, the whos, the hows, the whys and the implications thereof – this book is the quick way to find out.

Look out for our final Trade Secret in January 2011, showing how you can make a systemic impact with SSACI as partner.

▶▶▶ *Season’s Greetings*

The Swiss-South African Co-operation Initiative (SSACI)
hopes that 2011 will be like this for you!



In 2010 SSACI was supported by

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Many thanks for your goodwill in 2010

