WORK 2001

First International Conference on Employment Creation in Development

2-5 April 2001, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

BOOK

OF

ABSTRACTS

Compiled by: F. Taylor Parkins, March 2001
The materials and information contained herein consist of the abstracts of papers presented at WORK2001, The First International Conference on Employment Creation in Development, which was held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 5 April, 2001.

Neither the University of the Witwatersrand, nor the Research Centre for Employment Creation in Construction, nor the WORK2001 Organising Committee accepts responsibility for any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this publication. They are solely those of the authors and/or their organisations.

© 2001 Research Centre for Employment Creation in Construction. All rights reserved

Publications of the Research Centre for Employment Creation in Construction enjoy copyright under the Universal Copyright Convention. No part of these proceedings may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, digital or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Applications are welcomed by the Research Centre for Employment Creation in Construction and can be addressed to the address below.

Published by

Research Centre for Employment Creation in Construction
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand
Private Bag X3, WITS 2050, South Africa

This book of abstracts is complementary to the WORK2001 Conference Proceedings (ISBN: 0-620-27353-4), and should be used as a guide to the full papers and presentations.
An Internet-Based Course And The Application Of Employment-Based Methods In Civil Engineering Projects

Sirp J. de Boer, Technology and Development Group, University of Twente, NL
Dimitri van de Vis, Civil Engineering & Management, University of Twente, NL
Lars P.J. Mosch, Keypoint Consultancy, Enschede, NL

Abstract

The paper addresses the question of how educational activities in civil engineering in the Netherlands can contribute to the application of employment-based programs in developing countries. National policy makers and international donor representatives acknowledge the various advantages of employment-based programs. However, for a number of reasons the implementation of such programs generally forms a severe bottleneck. Because of the limited number of implemented programs the employment-based methods have not been sufficiently tested and improved, which in turn inhibits reaching the full potential of the employment-based policies.

The University of Twente (UT) has developed a modest program to assist interested governmental and private organisations to enhance the scope and quality of implementation of projects. Based on the existing body of knowledge - to which in particular ILO, WORK and IHE have contributed - a course has been established that can be followed via the Internet. This course offers the basic principles of employment-based civil engineering as well as a framework to develop and implement project proposals. Each of the three modules consists of course material (texts, pictures and films) and an individual assignment that the student submits to the lecturer.

Next, the University's internship and traineeship programs provide interested candidates an opportunity to render practical assistance at the spot while at the same time collecting and processing data. After their preparation at the UT the students normally spend 3 to 4 months abroad, frequently in outlying areas. The preparation and execution are carried out under supervision of University staff, while the University also provides financial support by paying for the international travel. Besides their direct contribution to development activities, the students' experiences and reports form the input for improvements in implementation and policy making. So far over 20 students have executed such assignments, mainly in South Africa.

The oral presentation of the paper includes a demonstration of the Internet-based course and a discussion with participants on concrete project ideas.

Keywords: education, employment-based, application, Internet