



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Gender, Water and Development Conference in full swing

4 November 2014

Yesterday, 3rd November, marked the first day of the much awaited inaugural Gender, Water and Development Conference. Under the theme “*the untapped connection*”, this weeklong and very significant occasion is being held in East London’s International Convention Centre, Eastern Cape South Africa.

Hosted by the South African Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in partnership with the Research Water Commission of South Africa, African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Women for Water Partnership, the event has attracted delegates across the water sector and from various institutions across the continent. The main aim of the conference is to debate the challenges and successes inherent in mainstreaming gender across water policy.

Delegates wasted no time as they quickly tapped onto numerous issues concerning water security and management in relation to gender equality through different dialogues. These dialogues will be summed up in presentations towards the end of the conference. Some of the issues raised encompass the future faces of water management and what the world would look like in the coming years if all gender dimensions of water management were to be addressed.

Clear objectives to be met through the gathering have been identified and the collaboration between stakeholders present in the conference is seen as the best method to achieve these objectives.

The delegates kicked off the summit with a tour of the Amatola Water-Amanzi water treatment plant, water resources management institutions and water related women run projects around the Eastern Cape Province.

There was also a gender and alliance training course to support technical water professionals (water managers and engineers) with mainstreaming gender in their work.

The conference will run for this whole week, 3 – 7 November. Great strides in ensuring a world where water is shared and allocated sustainably, equitably and efficiently, making it



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universally available to meet everyone's basic needs regardless of gender and social standings.

The hosting of this conference at this time is quite apt as it coincides with South Africa's celebration of 20 years of democracy. Our Constitution emphasizes equitable access to basic resources such as water. The consideration of gender in service delivery programmes and project work is believed to ensure a stronger focus on the most vulnerable.

Maseda Maduvha

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For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau at 0828742942, Director: Media Liaison

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