



MEDIA RELEASE

IWMSA Training geared towards positive change

Immediate Release

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Caption: Waste Management Training has for many years been high on the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa's (IWMSA) agenda and 2013 saw a record number of delegates attending training workshops across South Africa, and even beyond the country's borders. 2014 started out no different, with successful training executed at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), in Mpumalanga from 03 – 08 March 2014.

Training offered by the IWMSA is focused on providing education on sustainable environmental best practices, promoting the science and technology of waste management and supporting international, national and regional trends in waste management. According to IWMSA President, Dr Suzan Oelofse, training is geared towards improving the overall delivery of waste management services in South Africa, so that the South African waste management industry can become world class. "The more people we can reach through our training programmes, the sooner we will witness positive changes within the industry," says Oelofse. "We are very pleased with the quality and depth of training that took place in 2013. Our footprint is spreading and we are seeing a new level of commitment and interest from delegates as well as very exciting partnerships with training providers." The IWMSA receives numerous requests for tailor-made training sessions, and is able to assist with both accredited and non-accredited courses.

The IWMSA was contracted by the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) in Mpumalanga, a regional training institution that has been in

operation for 16 years, to present accredited waste management training to 50 unemployed youth from the Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu municipalities. The training is part of a three year project, now in its second year, funded by the national Department of Environmental Affairs, under the Youth Environment Service programme. “Now that the training is complete, the learners are ultimately expected to participate in theory contact sessions arranged by SAWC, complete workplace assessments and also participate in community service activities within Bushbuckridge or Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The community services will include collecting recyclable waste, sorting waste, packaging the waste for collection through a buy-back programme, reducing waste going to landfill sites and establishing SMME Cooperatives in waste management,” says Oelofse.

“With the assistance of our facilitators we were able to provide world-class training where learners actively participated in discussions, group work activities and question and answer sessions. Although learners indicated that they have limited knowledge about waste management, most of them were interested in knowing more about the field in order to make a positive contribution. It definitely was very encouraging,” explains Oelofse.

“We have outstanding non-accredited material, excellent training tools and highly skilled trainers and facilitators,” says Oelofse. “Our training department is expanding and this means we can reach a much wider audience and make a larger impact on the environment.”

“The SAWC training session is the first of many to be held in 2014. The IWMSA is currently preparing for training sessions to be held in Randburg, Midrand, Durban and Cape Town. We urge members – new and old – to contact us regarding the many programmes we offer to meet their Waste Management Training needs,” concludes Oelofse.

For more information on the IWMSA visit www.iwmsa.co.za. IWMSA is also on Facebook www.facebook.com/IWMSA

The IWMSA is a multi-disciplinary non-profit association that is committed to the protection of the environment and people of Southern Africa from the adverse effects of poor waste management by supporting sustainable best practical environmental options.

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