

NOVEMBER 2008


**KZN CTC**  
 KZN CLOTHING AND TEXTILE CLUSTER

### Special Points of Interest

- ◆ *Developments emanating from CEO Strategy Session:*
  - › *Cape Union Mart Meet and Greet Session*
  - › *WCM Training Programme*
- ◆ *A Note on the Customised Sector Programme*
- ◆ *Update of other activities:*
  - › *International benchmarking – China, Vietnam and more!*
  - › *Commercial Profile of members on website*
  - › *KZN CTC publicity – ATF show*
- ◆ *Looking towards 2009*



be customised. According to Cape Union Mart, “the arrangements were well organised and we found the suppliers well prepared. Our buyers have found some potential suppliers across some of the areas and I have already seen some follow-up meetings set in Cape Town”. This is the first of what will hopefully become an annual series of “Meet & Greet” sessions with the different retailers facilitated by the KZN CTC, thereby supporting the retailer interface for our members.

### Outcome of the CEO Strategy Session

The CEO Strategy Session was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2008 at the Hilton Hotel. During this session, senior executives of KZN CTC member firms brainstormed opportunities for growth and clustering. Two of the key strategic opportunities identified were to enhance the interface of member firms with the major retailers, and to develop more practical World Class Manufacturing training. To this end, the KZN CTC has already made some significant inroads with the facilitation of the Cape Union Mart “Meet & Greet” Session and the development of a formal WCM training programme that will commence in February 2009.

### Cape Union Mart Meet and Greet Session

Three senior Cape Union Mart buyers were brought up to Durban on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October by the Cluster, with the explicit purpose of assisting them in identifying new sources of merchandise. They met with eleven member firms which they had selected from the KZN CTC member list. Members were able to showcase their wares and discuss their capabilities, including lead times, flexibility capabilities and the degree to which products can

### Update of other activities

- ◆ Our **international benchmarking database** has been significantly bolstered through the collection of 10 clothing datasets from Swaziland, Lesotho and China! Furthermore, we have established relations with a PhD student who is in the process of collecting 6 textiles datasets and 6 clothing datasets from Vietnam.
- ◆ The KZN CTC has begun loading all the **commercial profiles** of member firms onto the KZN CTC website ([www.kznctc.org.za](http://www.kznctc.org.za)). If you have not provided yours **please do so as soon as possible!**
- ◆ The KZN CTC, together with the CCTC, currently has a stand at the **International Apparel, Textile, Footwear and Machinery exhibition**. This is being held at the International Cape Town Convention Centre from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

## World Class Manufacturing Training Programme 2009

NEW

In response to the CEO strategy session request for more practical WCM support, we have developed the all new **2009 WCM Training Programme**. The objective of the programme is to develop skills and support implementation in member firms. Set to launch in February 2009, firms are requested to:

- › Select two project champions of a suitable decision-making level to attend 8 training sessions of 1.5 days each over the year
- › Send the same two champions to all 8 training sessions

Following each training session, **mini-projects** (homework) tasks will be set, focussing on implementing the knowledge gained during the training session in a specific area of the factory, thereby setting up a sustainable system over the year.

- › All coursework will be **marked** and certified by the Cluster. NQF accreditation is being sought for this course.

**Printed templates** (charts, posters etc) for those that require these will be provided by the Cluster. These will cover all the basic elements required to develop teams, collect quality and output data, analyse the data and track progress over time.

The success of this programme is contingent upon management commitment and support. As such, four **management workshop sessions** of half a day each will be held over the year in order to create the support and accountability structure for the participants.

All participants who pass the course will receive a **certificate of completion** and the top achieving champions will receive an **award at year end**.

**Seats are limited** at present, so please **confirm your firm's participation for 2009** as soon as possible in order to provide your champions with the best start possible.



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## A Note on the CSP

Despite ongoing delays and frustrations, implementation of elements of the Customised Sector Programme (CSP) appears to be gaining some momentum. The DTI have been interfacing with various industry stakeholders to raise awareness and get input. The capital upgrading element, (the EIP) and a competitiveness upgrading programme are the two streams that are set to be used to channel support to industry. It has been announced that both will be managed via the IDC and clarity is currently being sought around specific contact persons within these offices. The KZN CTC is working as closely as possible with the DTI to support and inform the rollout wherever possible, and is encouraged that progress is being made, albeit slowly.

## Looking Towards 2009

While tight economic conditions are clearly here for some time, 2009 appears to be, as forecast two years ago, a year of great challenge, but far greater opportunity. Increased availability of National Government funding, evidence of evolving and increasingly successful world class value chain models, the weak and volatile currency, and industry transformation opportunities are increasingly becoming a reality. However, weakening and fractured representation at the manufacturing link in the value chain, whilst the ability and willingness amongst many businesses to improve their operational capabilities must be addressed as a matter priority in order to take advantage of these opportunities. This is in essence the role of the KZN CTC. How does the regional industry work in collaboration with one another and develop its competitiveness capabilities to world class levels?

## Upcoming Activities

- ◆ *Mr Price is hosting a special Quarterly Best Practice Forum. This will focus on Exploring Supply Chain Management Principles at Mr Price Group's Distribution Centre. Date: 19 November 2008. Space limited to 20*
- ◆ *The KZN CTC's Annual Celebration Dinner will be held from 5pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 at Emakhosini Conference Centre. All attendees will also receive the revised Manufacturing Excellence Resource Package CD! Please RSVP by the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008*

*The KZN CTC wishes you a safe and joyous festive season and an opportunity filled 2009!*

