

# WORK2001

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# *BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

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## **An Internet-Based Course And The Application Of Employment-Based Methods In Civil Engineering Projects**

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### **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