



## Winner of SWHAP Achievement Award 2011

- *Category for Best Progress*

The Board of Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is proud to announce the winner of the SWHAP Achievement Award 2011 in the category for best progress. The award goes to Metso Minerals South Africa in recognition of the remarkable results the company has reached in its workplace programme during a short period of time.

Metso launched their HIV/AIDS programme during May 2010 and thanks to dedication and huge efforts by the HIV/AIDS committee, management and workers, an impressive workplace programme was in place within a year. The programme at Metso has included management and shop steward training, policy formulation, awareness raising, training of Peer Educators, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV and support to HIV positive employees. The programme and policy is jointly developed by the management and employees through the company's HIV committee. Since the inception of the programme a number of activities have been arranged to assess the needs of the employees and monitor the progress of the programme.

HIV has a considerable impact on Metso in South Africa with around a quarter of the employees tested being HIV positive. At two sites, however, around 40% of the tested employees were found to be living with HIV. Metso therefore had to take urgent steps to get an employee support programme running, and VCT uptake was very high – for example 85% in Isithebe which is the worst affected site. Additionally and quite uniquely, VCT has been supplemented by CD4 testing to ensure immediate support and treatment where required.

Metso then quickly expanded the programme to spouses. The spouse programme was shortlisted for the 2011 Most Innovative Award as it not only gives the spouses of workers an opportunity to test but uses them to encourage predominantly male workers to also test. This is an excellent example of how the HIV/AIDS committee has used cultural sensitivity and innovative methods to reach as many workers as possible.

Due to the concerted efforts made by Metso, SWHAP approved an extension to their programme towards the end of 2010. The Board congratulates Metso for the progress it has made and for the excellent results as a worthy winner.

---

The SWHAP Achievement Award has been given out since 2008. In 2011 the four categories for the award are Most Comprehensive Workplace Programme; Best Progress in Workplace Programming; Peer Educator Achievement Award; and Most Innovative Intervention. The assessment for the Best Progress category was carried out through an extensive questionnaire of 17 questions and 68 benchmarks. For more information on the award, please contact [info@swhap.org](mailto:info@swhap.org). For more information on the Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme, please visit [www.swhap.org](http://www.swhap.org).