Get ready for IPDET 2011!

Mark these dates for registration & scholarship applications—
Information on the coming program will be posted to the website in December and applications can be submitted after mid-January. For those seeking financial assistance, please note that this year’s scholarship application deadline will be March 11, 2011, so apply early! Check the website www.ipdet.org for the latest information.

Special note to previous participants—
Recharge your batteries: plan to come back to IPDET for a week of professional development! Program alumni are always welcome back and are eligible for a 5% discount for their 2nd visit and a 10% discount for their 3rd or more visits. This includes individuals who have participated in a “mini-IPDET.”

Time to revisit the website—
Have you seen the newly launched, Reference Centre on the IPDET website? Visit www.ipdet.org and scroll your cursor over “Resource Centre” in the main navigation bar. Videos of the tenth anniversary panel and several guest speakers are posted there.

New feature for alumni: The complete directory of IPDET participants is also now available in the Alumni Area of the site. You can update your contact info yourself by clicking on the link and following the directions.

Workshop spotlight—
Longstanding IPDET instructor, Michael Patton, will offer a new workshop next summer, titled Developmental Evaluation: Applying Complexity Concepts to Enhance Innovation and Use. This new two-day workshop will be held in addition to Dr. Patton’s successful workshop on qualitative methods and analysis for development evaluation. Check the website later this fall for more news on workshops to be offered in 2011.

Highlights from last summer—
Two hundred and eighteen individuals from over 65 countries attended the tenth session of IPDET on Carleton University’s campus this past June. Here is what a few participants had to say about their experience at IPDET 2010:

“Trainers as well as trainees of the programme brought tons of knowledge to share… As a result I could learn many things through formal and informal sharing in and out of the classrooms.”
-Sajeeed Majid
Manager, South Asia Partnership, Pakistan

“For those with no exposure to the international development field, IPDET is an excellent primer. It brings donors, development partners and international institutions in one place and provides a broad introduction to M&E. It is an excellent start for international development managers and aspiring evaluators as well as a good re-fresher for practitioners regarding new developments in the field of evaluation.”
-Satianan Debidin
Canadian International Development Agency

“I shall make sure that [SDC’s investment] does not serve only an individual but [my] organization (UNICEF contributing to the well-being of children in Rwanda), the United Nations in Rwanda as well as the country.”
-Pacifique Ruty
UNICEF, Rwanda

We marked the tenth anniversary with our longtime partner, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), by organizing a joint panel on the future of development evaluation.

“The training helped me not only to refresh my knowledge but also learn new theories and techniques that are essential to the work that I do in the Cabinet Office. As a Principal Policy Analyst… I am now in a better position to evaluate policy proposals and loan portfolios whose review comments help ministries, departments and agencies to improve on their submissions to Cabinet.”

–Sarah Batuska Kiggundu
Cabinet Secretariat, Uganda
IPDET 2010

Evaluating IPDET

Annual evaluation—
The findings of the 2010 annual evaluation provide really useful feedback—thanks to all participants for filling out all those questionnaires and forms while you were at IPDET! As in prior years, t-testing revealed significant growth in development evaluation knowledge from pre to post test intervals. About 90% of participants said that (1) they expect to use their skills from IPDET and (2) they would recommend IPDET to a colleague. Your feedback, both positive and critical, assists in determining which workshops are repeated, revised, or replaced. In addition, your comments help us plan next year’s Core program as well as speakers’ events, social activities, roundtables and more.

Findings of the impact evaluation—
Thank you also to all those alumni who took the time last winter to respond to the online questionnaire, which provided much food for thought to the evaluators. Based on your feedback as well as the results of five case studies and other data sources, Brad Cousins and Catherine Elliott of the University of Ottawa concluded that:

- IPDET is a very successful program that is unparalleled in its ability to develop foundational knowledge and skill in development evaluation;
- there is a fairly high degree of knowledge transfer of M&E skills learned at IPDET to the participants’ home work environment;
- IPDET is helping to build local capacity and an appetite for development evaluation. Through the efforts of alumni who are ‘championing’ M&E, IPDET is also helping to make inroads in contexts which have a readiness for development M&E.

Both reports will be posted to the IPDET website later this fall.

Alumnus puts IPDET skills to good use—

Samuel Amanquah (IPDET alum, 2007) moved from Accra to Nairobi in September 2009 to take up the position of M&E Program Officer at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. AGRA works in 13 sub-Saharan African countries and offers Samuel “a continental platform to apply the skills and expertise he gained from IPDET 2007.” Samuel felt that knowledge gained from the program was “critical to his performance during a very competitive interview” and that he continues to find the training valuable.

IPDET at AEA—

If you’re willing to volunteer an hour or two to speak with prospective/interested conference participants, please drop by and see Linda and/or Paul Glover at IPDET’s exhibit table. Of course, you’re more than welcome to simply stop to say hello!

Attending the AEA conference in San Antonio (Nov 8-13)?

Linda Morra Imas, co-creator and co-director of IPDET, will be chairing a session entitled, “Building Capacity to Monitor and Evaluate Development Policies, Programs, and Projects: Everyone Wants to Do It, but How Should It Be Done to Ensure High Quality?” at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association.

The session, which will feature four types of M&E capacity building efforts, is scheduled for Friday, November 12th, from 1:40 pm to 3:10 pm in the Republic A room. More details on this session, along with panelist information, can be found at http://www.eval.org/search10/session.asp?sessionid=7106&presenterid=1613. Following the session, these presentations will be made available on the site.

Comings and goings

- Ghada Abdeltawab (IPDET alum, 2010) has recently left her position as a gender equality advisor with the Canadian International Development Association (CIDA) and is moving on to join the New Regional Program for Economic Integration of Women, a program of Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).
- Samuel Chekpeche (IPDET alum, 2010) has been moved to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to join the Tax Revenue Policy Unit in Ghana. He is now involved in the evaluation of the nation’s tax system and the distributional effects on various income groups.
- Maliha Dost (IPDET alum, 2007), whom previously worked as Program Evaluation & Research Manager with Afghanaid, is now with the Afghan Task Force at CIDA in Ottawa, Canada.
- Patrick Egli (IPDET alum, 2009) recently joined the family at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Patrick previously served in the Division for Oversight Services of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- Sompit Punyaratabandhu (IPDET alum, 2004), whom served in the Office of Agricultural Economics at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, is now working as a freelance M&E consultant. Sompit recently performed an Impact Evaluation for Mae Lao Project in Thailand funded by International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

Member of the IPDET family is honoured—

Congratulations to Marie Komer, graduate of CzzechDET 2009, who won the “best paper” award at the European Evaluation Society (EES) conference in October 2010 for her paper “Participatory Monitoring for Improved Sustainability: Sharing experience from rural drinking water supplies project in Kyrgyzstan.” The award was presented by the EES president, Ian Craig Davies.

You are welcome to submit brief articles or items. Please send them to Paul Glover at paul_glover@carleton.ca.