IPDET 2009 in Review

Since its inception nine years ago, IPDET has been bringing together a diverse network of evaluation professionals from a wide range of countries. IPDET 2009 was no exception. Those who attended work in more than 60 countries and hold citizenship in more than 75 countries:

Close to half (42%) of the participants in 2009 came from low-income countries and women slightly outnumbered men in attendance. Forty-five per cent of participants came from government, but other sectors were still well-represented. Eg. 12% NGOs, 10% multilateral agencies:

Core Participants by Work Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building Capacity and Community

At the end of the 2009 program, many participants wrote to let us know how valuable their IPDET experiences had been. Here is some of the feedback we received:

“This has been a challenging, stimulating and inspiring experience. The whole program was very well-organized, courses were interesting and discussion was vivid. I really believe that development evaluation can play a crucial role in improving decision-making in whatever organization or system. I am also sure that IPDET is a very important element towards a strengthening of development evaluation capacity.”

-- Tommaso Balbo di Vinadio
Consultant, Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office
Washington, USA

“The course has offered me a chance to upgrade my knowledge in development evaluation, which is very crucial for my work. … I also had a chance to meet so many people from various countries and shared ideas on several issues. As an M&E officer, definitely this training has strengthened my ability to perform better.”

-- Zeytuna Feyissa
M&E Officer, African Women’s Development Fund
Accra, Ghana

Special Thanks to Scholarship Donors--
We would like to thank our sponsoring agencies—CIDA, Danida, DFID, IDRC, SDC, Dutch IOB and Sida—for helping us award more than 50 scholarships this year to candidates from the public and not-for-profit sectors in low-income countries.

The strong support we continue to receive from these organizations enables us to bring in a large number of participants from the developing world each year.

A collaboration of IEG and Carleton University
www.ipdet.org
New Textbook Inaugurated during 9th IPDET—
All those who took part in the 2009 core program received copies of *The Road to Results*, a pioneering textbook in the field of development evaluation written by IPDET co-directors Linda Morra Imas and Ray C. Rist. The book, which reflects the culmination of their nine years of experience leading IPDET, was officially inaugurated during this past IPDET by Dr. Michael Q. Patton (centre). Dr. Patton, who has led a workshop for IPDET since its inception, is a world-renowned specialist in evaluation and the former head of the American Evaluation Association.

*The Road to Results* offers useful concepts and comprehensive procedures for policy, program, and project evaluation in a development context. Visit the World Bank Publications website for information on how to order the text.

Alumni Webpage Update—
All IPDET 2009 participants have recently been granted access to our online Alumni Area, a secure section of the IPDET website containing a collection of photos, slideshow presentations from IPDET graduation ceremonies, and small group presentations from the last few years. New employment and consultancy opportunities, which you will receive via the IPDET Listserv, will remain posted in the Alumni Area until their application deadlines expire.

To access the Alumni Area, you will need to login with the email and password you entered when you first applied for the program. If you have not previously registered on the IPDET website or if you are experiencing any other difficulties, please email paul_glover@carleton.ca so that he may assist you with the process.

Help us keep the mailing list accurate and up-to-date:
While visiting the Alumni Area, please take a moment to update your personal contact information.

→ Click “MyIPDET,” a link located inside the brown bar on the left side of the screen.
→ Select “Account Information” from the drop down menu that should open with the new page.
→ If you would like to amend any of the information we saved about you, simply click the “Edit” button at the bottom of the page—just don’t forget to click, “Update” when you finish making changes.

New features on the way …
Soon we will launch a searchable Consultants’ Corner to help connect you with IPDET graduates and instructors available for hire. Details will be provided shortly.

Speaker Highlights

An impressive array of speakers share their expertise with IPDET participants each year through guest lectures. This year’s guest speakers included Suresh Balakrishnan who spoke about citizen report cards, and Sarika Abbi, who spoke about RCTs. Maria Barrados and David Maloney, senior officials from the Canadian Public Service Commission and CIDA, spoke about implementing a new evaluation policy and enhancing accountability in the government of Canada.

Indran Naidoo, who was recently appointed Deputy Director General in the Office of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of South Africa, talked about the challenges of implementing a national M&E system and overcoming inertia and corruption.

Michael Bamberger, who has been a familiar face at IPDET throughout the past decade, spoke about the importance of watching out for positive bias in evaluation results.

Looking ahead to our 10th Annual IPDET—
Help us mark this special anniversary by celebrating the role IPDET has played in advancing development evaluation as a respected and dynamic discipline internationally. We look forward to strengthening our professional community and developing new training and professional development activities to benefit alumni and future participants. Send your ideas to info@ipdet.org. We would love to hear from you!