



Fall 2009 Newsletter

International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)

Hold the date!

June 7 – July 2, 2010 Carleton University Ottawa, Canada

10th Annual IPDET!

Spotlight on New Workshop–

Longtime IPDET instructors, Michael Bamberger and Frans Leeuw will be teaming up next summer to present a workshop on the use of counterfactuals (CFs) in evaluation. CFs generally involve the use of statistical control or comparison groups in an effort to eliminate bias. The workshop will discuss conventional CFs and introduce participants to alternative approaches for projects where it is not possible to apply a statistical method. Further detail on this and other 2010 workshops will be available soon!

Registration–

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 12, 2010, so apply early! Please continue to visit the website, www.ipdet.org, for the latest information.



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.

"The training was of great importance, especially for countries like Mongolia where evaluation is still a new concept."

–Buyandelger Ulziisaikhan (IPDET 2009)
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Millennium Challenge Account, Mongolia

"The four weeks at IPDET were an invaluable experience that exposed me to an incredible diverse network of people from all over the world and facilitated the development of professional friendships and linkages for future collaboration."

–Felicitas Chiganze (IPDET 2009)
Deputy Executive Director (Policy)
South African AIDS Trust Fund

Evaluating IPDET

We are expecting the first draft of the annual evaluation by the end of November (Dr. David Trumpower of Ottawa University is our external evaluator for the second year). Beginning this autumn, we are also undertaking an impact evaluation of IPDET over the past 5 years. Some of the primary evaluation questions that will guide the inquiry by Dr. Brad Cousins, professor at University of Ottawa and well-known editor of the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation, are as follows:

- To what extent has IPDET met its objectives of building capacity in the broader evaluation community?
- To what extent are IPDET clients able to apply learned knowledge and skill in the context of their home workplace?
- What features of IPDET do participants consider most important to its potential impact?
- What impact on sending organizations can be attributed to IPDET?

Sometime in the new year, alumni will be invited to respond to an on-line questionnaire survey that would require no more than twenty minutes to complete. We hope all alumni will take the time to respond. The inquiry will offer considerable insight into the effects of the program and implications for ongoing planning and delivery, and your input is key. Future cohorts of IPDET stand to benefit!!

A collaboration of the World Bank and Carleton University

www.ipdet.org



Five graduates of the 2009 program proudly pose with their certificates.

IPDET Happenings

Keynote Address at CES Ontario–

IPDET co-director Linda Morra Imas was invited to provide the keynote address to the Canadian Evaluation Society-Ontario Chapter conference on October 1, 2009 in Toronto. Her presentation titled “*Embracing Evaluation in Tough Economic Times*” is still very relevant. In it she made the following points:

1. economic crises sometimes can be an impetus for evaluation, but there are other factors that come into play;
2. often demand is for performance monitoring systems that can be linked to budgets; but
3. effective response to crises requires sound data from integrated systems of monitoring and evaluation;
4. integrated M&E systems must take into account incentives to use the data; but
5. a decade of lessons learned on promoting evaluation use points to need for new strategies.

The entire presentation can be found at <http://www.evaluationontario.ca/Events/documents/LindaMorraImas-KeynoteAddress.pdf>. Let Linda know if you have any comments or questions by emailing her directly (Lmorra@worldbank.org).

Webcast–

Ray Rist, IPDET co-director & president of IDEAS, and Jody Zall Kusek of the World Bank were recently featured in a webcast, entitled, “*Ten steps to a results-based M&E system*” as part of the monthly [Knowledge Sharing Webcasts on Country-led M&E systems](#). The series is jointly sponsored by UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, DevInfo, and in partnership with IDEAS and IOCE.

In the last few months, Ray has also provided training or policy advice in: Norway, Czech Republic, Canada, Philippines, China, Trinidad/Tobago, Portugal, UK, and South Africa. He notes only two more trips between now and the end of next month... Ray will actually be home for American Thanksgiving and then Christmas this year!

Job changes/promotions–

- **Ishwar Awasthi** (IPDET alum, 2009), was awarded a Ph.D. from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Dr. Awasthi’s work involves Livelihood Issues in the Mountain Economy of India.
- **Ann Good** (IPDET alum, 2003 & 2006), is taking a well deserved break after retiring from CIDA as a senior analyst. Although retirement won’t last long as Ann now has plans to perform consultancy work.
- **Sompit Punyaratabandhu** (IPDET alum, 2004), just retired from the Office of Agricultural Economics in Thailand and is now serving as Deputy Director for the Siam Business Administration College.
- **Gita Sabharwal** (IPDET alum, 2009), has recently joined the Asia Foundation in Sri Lanka as the Deputy Country Representative.



IPDET alumnus graduates with Carleton’s Diploma in Program Evaluation

Michele Tarsilla (IPDET 2008) recently completed Carleton University’s Diploma in Program Evaluation (DPE). Launched in 2007, the DPE is an accredited six course graduate

-level diploma that provides advanced understanding of both the methodology and management of evaluation.

Michele has recently been working with the World Bank performing evaluations of health programs that include strong community participation components and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Evaluation at Western Michigan University. We contacted Michele for a brief interview and here’s a bit of what he had to say:

IPDET: What sparked your initial interest in the field of evaluation?

Michele: After receiving some formal training in evaluation at Georgetown University and working on HIV/AIDS projects for the World Bank in 2003, I decided that evaluation would become my field of specialization.

IPDET: Why did you choose to enroll within the DPE?

Michele: I believe in fact that it is extremely important for all evaluators to step back from their practice every now and then and take some time to learn about the theoretical frameworks and the large variety of existing evaluation models and method.

IPDET: Now that you have completed the DPE, what are your future career plans?

Michele: I hope I will be able to continue designing and conducting international development evaluation projects either at the World Bank, the UN or some other large foundations around the world. My interest is also to help build technical capacity in the field where the resources and time constraints do not facilitate any explorative study of evaluation topics.

Everyone at IPDET congratulates Michele and wishes him all the best. If you want to learn more about the DPE, please visit the school’s website at www.carleton.ca/sppa.