



Winter 2009 Newsletter

International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)

Carleton University | Ottawa, Canada | June 8 – July 3, 2009

Registration Open for IPDET 2009

Registration is open at www.ipdet.org for the 9th annual offering of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) in Ottawa, Canada which will be held from June 8 to July 3, 2009. This year's Core Course will be followed by 30 workshops for professional growth, all taught by a dynamic group of international faculty.

New Workshops and Instructors for 2009–

New this year are workshops on evaluating governance and applying the theory of change to environmental and sustainable development impact evaluation. A warm welcome goes to our new faculty members:

Harry Garnett, former World Bank, USA

Marie Laberge, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, Norway

Rob Malpas, Conservation Development Centre, Kenya

Marc Robinson, former International Monetary Fund, USA

Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy, Ministry of Plan Implementation, Sri Lanka

David Todd, UNEG, USA

If you have questions or experience difficulties with the application process, contact Mary Dixon, IPDET Registrar, at mary_dixon@carleton.ca.

"Besides the knowledge gained, I have met friends and development colleagues from all over the world, particularly those from Africa, with whom we shared experiences and formed networks."

—Grace Akandru (IPDET 2008)
Chief Executive Officer/Coordinator
Koboko Civil Society Network, Uganda

Deadline to apply for Scholarship Assistance–

Every year the Secretariat is flooded by scholarship applications. Last year over 600 applicants requested assistance to attend. Thanks to the generosity of numerous donor agencies, we were able to award 60 full and partial scholarships, our highest number ever. Regrettably though, we never have enough scholarship funds for the hundreds of well-qualified applicants.

Deadline for receipt of completed applications for a scholarship is March 13, 2009. The earlier you submit your application, the better. If you experience difficulties or seek more information regarding scholarships applications, please contact the IPDET secretariat at scholarships@ipdet.org.

The Road to Results: New Textbook from IPDET Curriculum

IPDET co-directors, Linda Morra Imas and Ray C. Rist are co-authoring a new evaluation text: *The Road to Results: Designing and Conducting Effective Development Evaluations*. The textbook, which will be published by the World Bank, provides a comprehensive look at development evaluation with discussion of best practice methodologies and results-based monitoring and evaluation. The textbook is drawn from IPDET's Core curriculum, which has been continually revised over the last 8 years. Elements of the curriculum have been used in mini-IPDETs around the world, as well as by the US State Department in their training and on their website to provide the foreign assistance community with resources related to evaluation.

The Road to Results is scheduled for release in May and will be used by participants in the coming 2009 Core Course.

A collaboration of IEG and Carleton University

www.ipdet.org

"The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works- whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

–Barack H. Obama, President
United States of America
(Inaugural Address, 2009)

Recent Activities: Strengthening Our Networks

Alumni Get-Together in Botswana–

Seventeen former IPDEters recently gathered in Gaborone, Botswana along with a couple of individuals interested in applying to the program. Karen Ginsberg (former Carleton program manager of IPDET 2002-05) reported that people were delighted to reconnect with one another. Many did not know each other and were pleased for the opportunity to meet other program alumni. Collie Monkge (IPDET 2005) put out the idea of starting a Botswana Evaluation Society for which there was lots of interest. We look forward to getting updates from the Botswana group!

Collaboration with IGAD on upcoming training in Ethiopia–

With funding from CIDA and GTZ, Drs Linda Morra Imas and Ray C. Rist will lead an evaluation training workshop for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. IGAD is based in Djibouti and was created initially through the United Nations as an intergovernmental body for development and drought control in the seven countries of the Horn of Africa. The training will take place from May 17–23, 2009 and will involve participants from IGAD and other multilateral agencies in the region.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ahmed Habbane at IGAD (ahmed.habbane@igad.org).

Reuniting on Facebook–

A number of you asked for it and now it's here. Andrea Rossi — instructor of the IPDET workshop, "Evaluation with Hidden and Marginal Populations" — has recently created an alumni group on the social networking website, www.facebook.com. To date, the group has reached 35 members. Several individuals have posted greetings, uploaded web-links and shared information regarding similar networks. If you have a Facebook account and would like to join, simply type "IPDET Alumni" into the search field of the site and select the appropriate group.

Study Tour in Sri Lanka–

Organized by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Plan Implementation, a study tour to learn about the successes and challenges of Sri Lanka's new national-level M&E system recently took place. The idea for the tour was first hatched at IPDET 2008 by one of the Sri Lankan participants and it was proposed to fellow IPDEters.

The tour was held from February 17–20 and we are pleased to report that it was a success! A total of 23 individuals from 9 countries participated, including Drs Linda Morra Imas and Ray Rist. Whilst there, the IPDET co-directors organized an additional small gathering for alumni to share memories and further establish their networks.

IPDET ListServ–

We have heard you. In response to formatting issues with earlier digest versions of the IPDET ListServ, we have recently switched to new software. Mime Digest has proven to be quite user friendly in obtaining messages in exact format. Thus, members receive a daily email containing all message contributions for that day as individual attachments, without unwanted html code! Alumni currently on our ListServ wishing to receive messages in this unique digest format are asked to please send a blank email to listmanager@lists.worldbank.org, with a subject line that reads, "set IPDET mimedigest". Please note that only former participants of the program may access this ListServ.

Upcoming Conferences–

IDEAS Global Assembly

"Getting to Results: Evaluation Capacity Building and Development"

Johannesburg, South Africa – March 18–20.

<http://conference2009.ideas-int.org/>

AfrEA/NONIE/3IE Conference

"Perspectives on Impact Evaluation: Approaches to Assessing Development Effectiveness"

Cairo, Egypt – March 29 – April 2

<http://www.impactevaluation2009.org/>

IPDET Happenings

Job changes/promotions–

Current co-director of IPDET, Linda Morra Imas has recently retired from her post as Chief Evaluation Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank. Linda has assured us that though she leaves the Bank, she will "...long be part of IPDET and SHIP-DET and IDEAS and so forth!"

You are welcome to submit brief articles or items (e.g., promotions). Please send them to Paul Glover at paul.glover@carleton.ca.