



## President’s Message

It gives me great pleasure to see the progress of the IOCE Newsletter in terms of the coverage of news from its members. Our first newsletter was a four pager confined to a few events such as the Annual General meeting. A year later, this third Newsletter brings you a much wider coverage of events and news of a cross section of the members of IOCE from different geographic regions. It also reflects the many activities that the IOCE Board members have been engaged in to promote the cross fertilisation of ideas, high professional standards and an open and global perspectives among evaluators.

I hope you will find the news reported here informative and useful in your efforts to strengthen the evaluation field and look forward to receiving news of your associations and networks for publication in the future issues of the newsletter.

Soma De Silva, IOCE President



## IOCE’s new collaboration with the OECD/DAC EvalNet and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG)

*Nermine Wally and Burt Perrin*

In early 2011, the OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation (EvalNet) and IOCE agreed to explore areas for collaboration for mutual benefit of their members. Such collaboration is in line with OECD’s recent policy of engaging in new forms of partnerships and cooperation with civil society as well as with EvalNet’s desire to engage with evaluation networks such as members of IOCE.

As a first step, IOCE was invited to attend the meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network in June 2011 as an observer. Nermine Wally (IOCE Secretary) and Burt Perrin (IOCE

immediate past Vice President) represented IOCE.

The outcomes of the meeting were quite positive with several areas for working together identified. A few of the topics of discussion of likely interest to members of IOCE are given here. More information will be presented on the EvaLeaders Forum.

*Communication of evaluation findings* is a major topic of interest to DAC/EvalNet members and to most evaluators. It was noted that communication, with a focus on utilization, needs to start early in the evaluation process and that long technical reports have major limitations, especially in their utility for action. Several innovative communication means such as very short and attractive *highlights*, brochures, and podcasts were discussed. IOCE could contribute to promote effective communication through its resources such as its website, webinars, and regional and national associations’ communication channels, while supporting their effective utilization.

*The evaluation of the Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness* (second phase). The main report of this evaluation, one of the largest ever undertaken, had been released. Briefly, the evaluation identified the way in which the PD has been able to contribute to development effectiveness, with partner countries often going further than donor countries towards implementation of the PD principles. A variety of dissemination methods to communicate the findings and implications are being developed.

IOCE made a presentation reflecting on the added value it can bring to the DAC Evaluation Network and the potential for further cooperation. IOCE can i) provide one-window access to the world-wide community of evaluators represented through the 123 (and growing) evaluation organisations represented in IOCE’s network ii) assist in disseminating DAC/EvalNet’s resources, making connections

with evaluators globally iii) contribute to work of the DAC professional competencies for evaluators and capacity development which are areas of common interest.

IOCE is also in the process of forming a collaboration with UNEG. IOCE will attend the UNEG Task Force on National Evaluation Capacity Development. Following three areas identified for initial collaboration to advance the objectives of the Task Force and to provide means of engagement of IOCE's members:

1. Disseminating selected UNEG materials (e.g. UNEG Evaluation Norms and Standards) to members of IOCE's network and disseminating selected IOCE materials to the UNEG membership
2. Facilitating the requests for assistance from IOCE members to UNEG and UNEG requests to IOCE member organizations
3. Sharing the [www.MyMandE.org](http://www.MyMandE.org) portal by IOCE to support knowledge management related to monitoring and evaluation

Discussions are underway to broaden the cooperation between IOCE and these two global organizations.

Through this collaboration of IOCE with OECD/DAC EvalNet and UNEG it is expected that IOCE's membership would benefit in gaining increased access to current developments in evaluation, and have greater opportunities to participate in them.

For information on the OECD/DAC and to access its resources (e.g. reports of the PD evaluation, *Evaluation Quality Standards*, the DERE database of completed evaluations), visit: [http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en\\_21571361\\_34047972\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_34047972_1_1_1_1_1,00.html).

For information on UNEG, visit: <http://www.uneval.org/>

## **IOCE's engagement with impact evaluation dialogue**

IOCE Vice President Jim Rugh and the Secretary Nermine Wally participated in the NONIE conference in Paris in March and presented the IOCE perspectives on the need

for more holistic impact evaluation. Murray Saunders has prepared a short paper on IOCE perspectives on impact evaluation and called for observations from the EvaLeaders.

## **AEA launches an International Listening Project**

*Jim Rugh*

The Board of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) has launched an International Listening Project to solicit suggestions on for AEA to more proactively engage in collaborative efforts to promote evaluation internationally. For this purpose, AEA is seeking input from not only AEA members but also colleagues in other countries. As AEA President Jennifer Greene pointed out in her invitation, the Board sees this initiative to be in line with AEA's mission and values, specifically commitment to *valuing a global and international evaluation community and understanding evaluation practices*.

Suggestions have been received from 362 colleagues. The next phase, based on an analysis of the suggestions, is to prepare a proposal by mid-October for the AEA Board on policies to strengthen its role internationally.

Though the main purpose of this project is to provide policy suggestions to the AEA Board, the ideas generated are relevant to many organizations engaged in evaluation internationally.

During AEA's *Evaluation 2011* conference in California, in November, a Think Tank discussion will follow up the findings and recommendations of the International Listening Project. We hope many of you will join us there. Check it out at [www.eval.org](http://www.eval.org).

You can watch the progress of this process, and contribute your comments, by checking the Wikispaces blog at <http://bit.ly/AEAILP-IOCE>. As an IOCE newsletter reader you are welcome to check out the comments already posted and to add your own.

## **IPEN introduces Transformative Mixed Methods Evaluation to CIS**

*Natalia Kosheleva*

International Program Evaluation Network (IPEN), with assistance from UNWOMEN, launched a project to introduce Transformative Mixed Methods Evaluation (TMME) to CIS countries. In July, 23 evaluation professionals from nine CIS countries came to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to learn TMME from US professor Donna M. Mertens, the author of the TMME concept. These professionals are now spreading this knowledge in their home countries through educational activities and use of TMME.



*Participants of TMME seminar in Almaty, Kazakhstan.*

The project will also launch an on-line resource featuring reading materials on TMME theory and cases based on its application by project participants in CIS region.

The TMME concept will be presented at the IPEN-GEA Conference in Batumi on September 29-30. The project is offering small grants to NGOs in working in the areas of gender equality and human rights to attend the conference.

IPEN is a network of evaluation specialists working in CIS countries, established in 2000. Currently the network has more than 500 members.

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## **Brazilian Monitoring and Evaluation Network holds its 3rd seminar**

*Marcia Joppert*

The Brazilian Monitoring and Evaluation Network (BMEN) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar in Brasilia on 1-3 June 2011. IOCE collaborated with BMEN with its Vice President Jim Rugh conducting a workshop on RealWorld Evaluation and making a presentation on "The role of networks and associations as a means of strengthening country M&E systems". (It is available on the [www.IOCE.net](http://www.IOCE.net) website under IOCE Documents.)

The keynote address by the Executive Secretary of the Social Development Ministry (MDS), Romulo Paes de Sousa, noted the growing demand for evaluation in Brazil and gave an overview of the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation systems of the Federal Government. He identified the lack of specialists in government and suitable training, institutional instability and corporative conflict (accountability versus learning use of M&E) as challenges that the system faces.

The seminar was structured in four panels. The first panel looked at the value of national databases for the formulation and evaluation of policies. The second panel "Monitoring and Evaluation at the implementation stage" looked at two case studies: the monitoring system of the actions of the Growth Acceleration Plan (PAC), and "Seal of Approved Municipality" which is a UNICEF supported program in more than 2000 municipalities in the semi-arid and Amazon regions. .

At a Roundtable, a representative of the Planning Minister led a discussion on the new model of the Federal PPA with the participation of two state governments: São Paulo and Minas Gerais.

The third panel "Use, consumption and ownership of evaluation results: communication and transparency" reflected on the use of evaluation results and the conceptualization of evaluation as a public good.

The fourth panel: "Evaluation and its importance to society: who is interested in evaluating?" discussed the "operational audit" that has been performed for more than 10 years, and its challenges.

Community of Evaluators, South Asia plans to scale up

Kultar Singh

Community of Evaluators (CoE) initiated in 2008 is a regional platform of evaluators in South Asia mandated to facilitate exchange of experiences, practices, methods and concepts related to evaluation with a specific focus on the region, but building on the global experiences. CoE since its inception with a group of 36 evaluators from the South Asian countries, hosted by ASK and supported by IDRC, has made rapid strides in meeting its core objective of "promoting and enhancing the quality of theory and practice of evaluation in South Asia through reflection, networking and learning, from a South Asian perspective".

CoE has engaged in peer learning, invited experts to make presentations, explored key areas of common concern and connected with other evaluators in the region.

The most significant achievement of the CoE is the assumption of leadership of CoE and its different tasks by its members. The members have volunteered to work on four tracks: (i) Writing Track, (ii) Training (iii) Practice (iv) Institutional Development. CoE has been a pioneer in organizing first of its kind of event "The Evaluation Conclave 2010" bringing together thought leaders, development theorists, activists and policy makers ([www.evaluationconclave.com](http://www.evaluationconclave.com)). Currently it is working on a South Asia Volume on Evaluation, a compilation of experiences and perspectives from evaluation practitioners in South Asia.

CoE is in the process of being registered and plans to scale up its outreach to meet its core objective: 'Improve quality of evaluation in South Asia' with continued vigor and passion.

IOCE Collaborates with SLEvA

Soma De Silva

IOCE tested a mode of collaboration with national evaluation associations through the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference. IOCE Board members offered three preconference workshops. These are "Developing an effective M&E manual: key steps to bear in mind" by Issaka Herman Traore, "Increasing the developmental impact of evaluation outputs" by Prof. Murray Saunders and "What is new in RealWorld evaluation?" by Jim Rugh.



Board members of IOCE at the panel discussion on 'Global networking to promote evaluation profession' included (left to right) Nermine Wally, Jim Rugh and Natalia Khosheleva.

In addition, the board members chaired a number of sessions and presented several papers. These included "Evaluating networks and partnerships" by Natalia Kosheleva as theme paper in the session "Global networking to promote the evaluation profession" which was moderated by Jim Rugh.

At the SLEvA conference a number of IOCE Board members met with organizers of the Thai Evaluation Network to share ideas of how evaluation associations have been established. The Board members in turn took the opportunity to have one day face to face meeting on its strategic plans.

The collaboration proved to be a great success and of mutual benefit.

## Thailand Evaluation Network is launched

*Kanda Sutthanut*

A first seminar towards creation of a national evaluation network in Thailand was co-organized by Thailand Research Fund (TRF), Knowledge Network Institute of Thailand (KNIT) and UNICEF in Bangkok on 25 November 2010 and was attended by 250 participants representing academia, civil society, government, and private organizations. The participants shared experiences and exchanged knowledge from international and national experts on the role of evaluation networks in supporting government for quality enhancement of evaluation for better program and policy development. The seminar was a success in that a more than 40 participants signed up to become core members and approximately 80 participants registered as general members.

Since then, the group has held monthly meetings and elected a board of directors and committee members who will develop a strategic plan and implement activities.

Thailand Evaluation Network (TEN) can be contacted through Dr. Piyawat Boon-Long, President, at [piyawat@knit.or.th](mailto:piyawat@knit.or.th). For more information on TEN, visit <http://ten.trf.or.th/> which has links to websites of TRF, KNIT and UNICEF Thailand.

## The “Evaluation Spring” kicks off in the Middle East and North Africa

*Ziad Moussa*

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has been a focus of news in the first half of 2011 with the winds of change blowing from Tahrir Square in Egypt to Pearl Square in Bahrein and from downtown Tunis to downtown Sana’a and beyond.

While most evaluations, impact studies and “indexed” reports just a few months ago showed Tunisia and Egypt as “best practices” provides capacity development, small Research of the developmental sphere, the crude reality



looked more like a whirlwind, blowing away the prevailing effectiveness and efficiency discourse under the impulse of “the street”.

Yet, MENA evaluators are organizing themselves slowly but surely. Morocco’s dynamic evaluation society formed in 2008 has made a great stride in helping make evaluation of public policies mandatory under the new Moroccan constitution. In Jordan, a group of evaluators kick-started in July 2011 an M&E working group which is expected to become the umbrella organisation for the evaluators in the country. In Egypt, two evaluator groups are in the final stages of formalization: the Evaluation and Research Network of Egypt (EARNE) and the Egypt Development Evaluation Network (EgDEval). EARNE will be launching in September 2011 a formal Masters level course on Research and Evaluation in collaboration with two Egyptian universities. Interesting initiatives are also emerging in Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

The IDEAS General Assembly for 2011 in Jordan dedicated a full day to MENA evaluation experiences that highlighted most of these efforts. Evaluation in the MENA region is witnessing its own constructive “Spring”.

In parallel to these national efforts, a regional project was launched in April 2011 by the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the American University of Beirut with support from IDRC. The project: “Mainstreaming Evaluation Theory and Practice in the MENA Region” runs until June

2013 and aims at enhancing both the supply and demand side of evaluation in the region. It and Development grants for MENA-specific evaluation research and publications, "Arabization" of evaluation methodologies and publications as well as virtual and face-to-face meetings and networking opportunities.

The kick-off meeting took place in Beirut in June 2011 bringing together about 35 evaluators from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Syria. Following 3 days of debates and an advanced training on Evaluation and Complexity, and Developmental Evaluation, the group proposed to focus on gender equality in evaluation, making evaluation more participatory, involving the "awakening" media and reaching out to policy makers as the 4 main axis/preferences for the work of the group.

The group has by and large the geographic and linguistic legitimacy to put MENA on the global evaluation map and IOCE has already acknowledged the group as one of its members.

The EvalMENANet D-group is the main tool of networking and exchange and can be accessed at <http://dgroups.org/dgroups/evalmenanet>

Membership of the group stands at around 70 from 14 countries with a marked presence from Egypt and Jordan followed by Lebanon and Morocco.

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**Events in CIS Region**

*Natalia Kosheleva*

**IPEN Conference**

International Program Evaluation Network (IPEN) and Georgian Evaluation Association (GEA) will hold IPEN 2011 Conference on 29-30 September 2011 in Batumi, Georgia. Conference theme is "Results-Based Management and Evaluation". Conference languages are English, Georgian and Russian.

Pre-conference workshops will be held on 27-28 September .

For more information: [www.eval-net.org](http://www.eval-net.org)

**M&E School in Kazakhstan**

In June 2011 Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan conducted a five-day M&E School for Kazakhstan NGOs and state agencies. Forty participants selected through an open competition participated.



*Participants at the M&E School in Kazakhstan in June 2011*

The training gave the participants both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience based on real programs. All training activities were designed and delivered by local specialists, which, according to Jamila Asanova, IPEN Board member, is an indication of the maturity of evaluation profession in Kazakhstan.

M&E School was conducted as part of the Public Monitoring Project implemented by Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan with financial support from European Union. At present, M&E School participants are working on their own evaluation projects.

**Civil Society Evaluates Restoration Efforts in Southern Kyrgyzstan**

In late 2010, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Network in the Kyrgyz Republic launched the project "Building Evaluation Capacity of NGOs to Monitor and Evaluate the Donor Assistance in Kyrgyzstan" with financial support from Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan.

The project aims to build evaluation capacity of members of NGO Coordination Council that

was created to address the consequences of the violent conflict in Southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 where more than 400 people were killed, many were wounded and hundreds of houses were destroyed. International donor community has committed to support restoration and development efforts of the government.

The project worked with 25 NGOs in Southern Kyrgyzstan. In November 2010 their representatives attended the seminar on monitoring and evaluation of state and donor agencies' performance conducted by Georgian civil society experts Tamar Kordzaya and Revaz Sakevarishvili.

The project participants, with technical assistance from the National M&E Network, conducted the evaluation of the performance of the State Directorate for Reconstruction and Development of the cities of Osh and Jala-Abad and Osh Water Company, and the provision of social benefits to victims of the conflict.

In May 2011 project participants submitted the findings to the respective state and municipal agencies. The experts of the National M&E Network, based on an analysis of the lessons learned, will forward recommendations to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on developing regulations and mechanisms to facilitate the use of findings of evaluations conducted by civil society organizations.

For more information, visit [www.evaluators.net.kg/](http://www.evaluators.net.kg/).

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## **ReLAC plans a master's programme**

*Pablo Rodriguez-Bilella*

ReLAC, the Latin American and the Caribbean network of monitoring, evaluation and systematization was established in 2004. Its 2011 annual assembly was held in August with representatives of more than twenty organizations or national networks. Last year ReLAC held its 3rd International Conference: "Evaluation and Systematization in Latin America: current situation, trends and perspectives" in Costa Rica. The proceedings can be accessed at [www.relacweb.com](http://www.relacweb.com).

The newest member is the Red Paraguaya de Evaluación, chaired by Pablo Beniteza, and integrated by colleagues from the public sector, universities and NGOs.

ReLAC has plans for developing a Master programme in evaluation. Using the NING platform, several working groups have been constituted. The most recent and active are Evaluation, Gender and Human Rights, Systematization and Evaluation, Logic Models. You can join these groups by visiting [www.noticiasrelac.ning.com](http://www.noticiasrelac.ning.com) and also by sending a blank email to [relac-subscribe@gruposyahoo.com.ar](mailto:relac-subscribe@gruposyahoo.com.ar).

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## **Forthcoming ISO International Workshop Agreement on Evaluation Capacity Development**

*Natalia Kosheleva*

International Workshop Agreement (IWA) is an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) document produced through workshop and meetings. Any interested party can propose an IWA and participate in developing one. IWAs can be used as precursors to International Standards. Compliance with IWA is voluntary but the ISO brand gives IWA international recognition and credibility.

An IWA on evaluation capacity development (ECD) is proposed by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) and the Evaluation Capacity Development Group (ECDG). This IWA on ECD is to be developed at a five-day seminar from 17 to 21 October 2011 in Geneva.

IOCE has asked workshop organizers some questions. The Questions and responses:

1. Why do you think that the world needs an ISO International Workshop Agreement on evaluation capacity development?

According to Ad Melkert, UN Under-Secretary General, "The issue and concerns of capacity development are no longer a matter of debate nor limited to a conversation on concept and theory. Capacity development is the business

of all governments, NGO entities, civil society and the UN" While there is agreement on the pressing need to develop evaluation capacity, there is no agreement on how to do it.

2. Who will the ISO International Workshop Agreement on ECD benefit? Who may be hurt?

The ultimate beneficiaries would be people who are better served by projects that are more relevant, efficient and effective because of improved evaluation. The intermediate beneficiaries would be governments, non-government entities, civil society and the UN agencies that have an interest in developing evaluation capacity.

The ISO IWA may hurt one who might have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

3. Who are the expected users of the ISO IWA Agreement on ECD?

There is no consensus on how ECD is conceptualized. Three common strands of thought are individual evaluators should be trained through workshops and seminars, organizations should be redesigned to enable a shared vision for evaluation, and evaluation should be institutionalized in governments to promote accountability. The drafting workshop will use a systems approach to unify these perspectives and bring conceptual clarity.

4. Why should an ISO International Workshop Agreement on ECD be made now?

The response: "If not now, When? If not you, Who?"

For more about IWA on ECD, visit [www.ecdg.net](http://www.ecdg.net).

**UNICEF and partners launch new series of webinars on "Equity Focussed Evaluations"**

UNICEF, UNWOMEN, the Rockefeller Foundation, Claremont Graduate University and IOCE, in partnership with IDEAS, OHCHR, UNEG Task Force on National Evaluation Capacities, UNDP, ILO, IDRC and PAHO announce a series of live webinars on "Equity-focused Evaluations". This new series

will address the challenges and opportunities in evaluating the effects of policies, programmes and projects to enhance equitable development results, with a focus on the effects to the most excluded, marginalized and deprived groups.

The first webinar will be on 6th September with Colin Kirk, Director, UNICEF Evaluation Office. The second will be on 21st September with Belen Sanz, Chair, UNEG and Chief, UNWomen Evaluation Office, and Flaminia Minelli, Evaluation Office, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

For details: MyM&E [[http:// mymande.org/index.php?q=equity\\_focused\\_evaluation&x=cl](http://mymande.org/index.php?q=equity_focused_evaluation&x=cl)]

**Some current activities of IOCE**

New collaborations are being established to enhance members' access to evaluation findings and resources.

The by-laws of IOCE are being amended to enable more inclusiveness. The proposed changes will be presented during the IOCE AGM in December for approval.

An interactive world map of IOCE members is under construction and will be available on the IOCE website.

A series of webinars is planned, with assistance from UNICEF to promote discussions among members on evaluation topics of interest. IPEN will host the first webinar on September 15. To attend use the following link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/dropin.jnlp?sid=vclass&password=J26K7V9DN1UCZT0K0MXU>.

Evaluation associations seeking assistance in conducting conferences or other events are provided assistance in the form of professional development workshops, panel discussions, and guidance on setting up new associations. A presentation based on 14 case studies has been prepared.

IOCE Board of Trustees invites your suggestions to help better serve its members.