



**REPORT ON THE
PARTICIPATION OF MR IA
NAIDOO AT THE GLOBAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(IDEAS)**

HELD IN AMMAN, JORDAN

11-15 APRIL 2011

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LIST OF ANNEXURES

Tag A1:	IDEAS Global Assembly Programme 2011
Tag A2:	Competencies for Development Evaluation Evaluators, Managers and Commissioners
Tag A3:	Jordanian Print Media (The Jordan Times)
Tag A4:	The Use of Evaluation in Public and International Governance: Evidence for Decision Making
Tag A5:	International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities

LINKS

www.IDEAS-INT.org

www.IOCE.net

www.UNDP.org.za

RESOURCES SUBMITTED TO THE LIBRARY

Rist, RC., Boily, MH., and Martin F., (2011). *Influencing Change: Building Evaluation Capacity to Strengthen Governance*. Washington, D.C. World Bank Publications.

1. BACKGROUND

This report presents the experience of Mr. IA Naidoo, Deputy Director-General: Monitoring and Evaluation, at the Global Assembly held in Amman, Jordan, between 11-15 April 2011. He attended as an IDEAS Board member. A full programme is attached at **Tag A1**, and can also be accessed on its website: www.IDEAS-INT.org.

1.1 IDEAS IN THE CONTEXT OF EVALUATION BODIES

The IDEAS is one of two international bodies which serve as umbrella bodies for all continental and regional evaluation associations. The other body, the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), accepts membership from evaluation associations, which receive recognition and guidance from it. The South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) is a member of the IOCE, website, (see www.ioce.net).

The IDEAS is complementary to the membership benefits offered by the evaluation associations, and offers an opportunity for international sharing of practice amongst evaluation professionals. Whilst it holds regional events, most of its events seek to draw in as many nationalities as possible, as the express purpose is to share country and institutional practice across geographic boundaries.



Above: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Director, Ms Saraswathi Menon, makes her key note, and announces the PSC partnership for the co-hosting the next Conference in South Africa.

The IDEAS mission is 'to advance and extend the practice of development evaluation by refining methods, strengthening capacity and expanding ownership', with a particular focus on developing and transitional economies. It aims to promote and advance evaluation as a key tool for development effectiveness, transparency and accountability in policy-making, social and organisational learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has organised events that support such capacity building, which it has done around three major themes:

- Enhancing Conceptual Thinking in Development Evaluation
- Governance and Accountability for Development
- Strengthening Development Evaluation Practice

The IDEAS is different in that it allows individual and institutional membership, and has the express purpose of promoting the professionalization of evaluation, which is done through seminars, webinars, workshops, and once in every two years, the

Global Assembly. The last Global Assembly was held in Johannesburg in 2009, and was supported by the Public Service Commission (PSC) which offered a session on its work. This was video-recorded and is part of the global evaluation resources, and can be found on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website, (see www.undp.org.za).

The current membership of IDEAS is 1090, which is drawn from 110 countries¹. There are also institutional members, listed in the programme at **Tag A1 (p. 19)**. The PSC is an institutional member of IDEAS since 2010. It should be noted that there is consistent acknowledgement of IDEAS institutional members at its events, where such institutions are marketed. Staff within institutions that enjoy institution membership enjoy full access to its knowledge products, most of which may be accessed on the website of IDEAS.

1.2 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ACCRUED TO INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The key benefits of IDEAS membership, apart from the discounts received, are the right to vote for its Board, thematic and interest groups. The interest groups serve as on-line forums for evaluators to share thoughts, usually around an evaluation question, methodology and dissemination strategies.

Several working groups have been in operation thus far, and the one of relevance to debates in South Africa is the “Working Group on Evaluator competencies”. The PSC co-hosted an event last year with SAMEA where the subject was discussed, and a report approved. The issue of evaluator competencies will be discussed at the SAMEA III Conference in September this year, and for purposes of information the document is attached at **Tag A2**. The issue of evaluator competencies is a critical subject given the increased uptake of evaluation as a profession, and is important that the PSC take leadership on the matter.

The other benefits which members receive are access to copies of all publications, including reports on conference and seminar proceedings and access to all of IDEAS’ electronic knowledge base and communications, including e-News. There are also occasional scholarships, enabling selected applicants to attend development evaluation conferences or seminars. Alerts have been sent from the Office of the DDG: M&E to PSC staff on a regular basis, informing them of new listings. Negotiations are underway to explore questions of cross-posting and shared links.

1.3 IDEAS AND THE PSC

The PSC, apart from holding institutional membership of IDEAS, has also supported it previously and received exposure through the platforms and opportunities for sharing good practice around M&E. The most recent experience with the Global

¹ Figures announced in April 2011.

Assembly in Amman meant that the work of the PSC was shared with its 220 participants, drawn from 71 countries. The concentration of participants was from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and there was much appreciation for the PSC work based on the more informal feedback from participants at the training workshop and paper sessions.

The PSC has engaged with the President of IDEAS to explore the possibility that it supports the SAMEA III event. The Conference Announcement has been shared with all IDEAS participants at Amman, and also through links on its website and direct posting through the IDEAS and International Programme for Development Evaluation (IPDET) secretariat.

2. THE GLOBAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

2.1 PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSORS

The Global Assembly drew 220 participants from 71 countries. It was co-hosted by the Government of Jordan, and more specifically the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and reported on extensively in the Jordanian TV and print media (**Tag A3**).

The event also received support from the UNICEF, the Department for International Development (DFID), Norad, Universalis, IDEA International, Confederation Suisse, the Islamic Development Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation. There were 6 representatives from South Africa, which included academia, government departments and the NGO sector.

2.2 CONFERENCE FORMAT

2.2.1 Pre-conference workshops

The conference was made up of 6, one-day, pre-conference workshops, which participants could choose to attend. The topics were:

- Case study methods for Development Evaluation
- Designing and Building Results-based M&E Systems (Ray Rist)
- Building Evaluation Capacity within Ministries: Lessons learned in Industrialised and Developing Countries (Frederic Martin)
- Gender and Human Rights Responsive M&E (Florence Etta)



Above: Dr Rist (IDEAS President) introduces Rob D. van der Berg, Director of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) who co-taught a course on governance, and spoke on global environmental issues.

The specific course co-taught by Indran Naidoo and Rob van den Berg was ‘*The Use of Evaluations in National and International Governance: Evidence for Decision-making*’. It is a condensed version of the 2-day course taught at the International Programme for Development Evaluation (IPDET). Materials were sent to participants in advance, and also handed to them on memory sticks. As one would note, the PSC is being presented as an example of good practice, see **Tag A4**. Questions and comments around this presentation, and responses thereof, are contained in the table below:



Above: Dr Ray Rist speaks to His Excellency, Dr. Jafar Hassan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan, as he prepared to make his opening address.

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS IN RELATION TO THE PSC PRESENTATION OR GENERAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS	RESPONSE WHERE APPLICABLE
What was the reason for a Minister for Performance Evaluation being appointed, and what impact has it had on the work of the PSC?	The distinction between oversight by the President of the Executive, focusing on outcomes, and oversight of a Constitutional body was explained. There was no contradiction, and the high profile afforded to M&E through this initiative was welcomed, as it supported the work of all oversight bodies.
Is there any tension between the work of the PSC and Ministry for PM?	No, there is on-going collaboration through task-teams, so as to avoid duplication and synergise efforts.
What systems are used to verify the update of recommendations? Is this similar to the one of the Global Environmental Fund, which Rob presented.	The PSC Tracking of recommendations systems, as well as the letters to the executive for follow-up was discussed. Yes, it is similar to the GEF, which terms this Management Action reports (MAR).
We enjoyed the YouTube of videos on the PSC? We also found the website easy to access. How do you manage to get the media interested in evaluation, when in most countries, especially ours, it is a side issue?	Thank you. The content of the work of the PSC is such that it is of public interests. We manage through a sound communication strategy to provide the public with regular updates on matters of oversight, and most certainly it is not a side issue in SA.
What training do you offer your staff? Are evaluators in SA accredited?	We offer in house training, and also send staff on appropriate seminars and training sessions. This is an on-going process. No, M&E staff in SA is not accredited, and the issue is still being debated within the broader issues of evaluator competencies which SAMEA

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS IN RELATION TO THE PSC PRESENTATION OR GENERAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS	RESPONSE WHERE APPLICABLE
	has taken the lead on.
We are impressed with your relationship with SAMEA, and would like to get more information on the forthcoming conference. Are there bursaries for attending?	This will be posted on the SAMEA website. Yes, there would be bursaries, and the criteria will be announced shortly. We need to note that the funds are limited, and we part-support deserving attendees.
Some of your reports, like the consolidated governance one and the State of the Public Service report, show very show change? Are you making an impact?	Change in the Public Service is generally gradual and incremental. We are encouraged that the trend is upwards. The impact question is complex, but we do believe that we have introduced a level of scrutiny and probity on the SA Public Service that is probably in the top third globally. This not only helps to improve governance, but also serves to deepen our democracy.
Does the PSC have a Facebook and Twitter link?	No, but we are constantly exploring this matter, as we seek to make our reports more accessible.

The course was well received by the 52 participants, most of who were from the MENA region and is evaluation managers in their respective countries.



Above: Attendees at the IDEAS workshop.

2.2.2 Conference programme

The conference was structured over the 3 days to include plenary addresses, paper sessions, meetings and networking and social events.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Opening and plenary session Day 2, 12 April 2011

The Conference was introduced by the IDEAS President, Dr Ray Rist. Opening remarks were made by His Excellency, Dr. Jafar Hassan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan.

The opening plenary address was delivered by His Excellency, Dr Ibrahim Saif, the Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council, Jordan. The speakers

alluded to the changes occurring in the region, and the critical role required of governments to advance services to citizens.

Plenary session Day 3, 13 April 2011: Ms Saraswathi Menon, Director, UNDP Evaluation Office, New York

Ms Menon spoke about the rapidly changing role of evaluation, and how technology was changing how information was generated and received. She used the opportunity to announce the forthcoming UNDP conference which is being co-hosted by the PSC. She directed delegates to Mr Naidoo with a request for them to follow-up on discussions around this event **(Tag A5)**.

Plenary session Day 4, 14 April 2011: Mr Rob D. van den Berg, Director, Evaluation Department, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Washington, D.C.

A case study was presented on the work of the GEF, in relation to international governance. The focus was on how the current economic crisis has led to challenges in managing the environment. The presentations shall be posted onto the intranet with the report.

PAPER AND PANEL SESSIONS

All papers were accepted on the basis of a review process, which was co-ordinated by different IDEAS Board members. Mr Naidoo was responsible for reviewing the submissions for the different panel sessions.

The Presidential panels focused on priority evaluation issues, and looked at, amongst others, the:

- Impact of Food, Fuel, and Financial Crisis on Children`s education
- Evaluation of Law and Policy Initiatives in Turbulent Times
- Evaluation in Turbulent times
- The challenges of evaluation in country contexts
- The complexity of assessing evaluation approaches
- Evaluation in the MENA region

These panels were well attended, due to the experts invited to make presentations. Ensuring discussions were also vibrant. Apart from the panels, 38 papers were delivered. The PSC was represented on a panel sessions put together by Stephen Porter of Wits University, which was awarded the grant from the World Bank to manage the Centre for Learning and Action Research (CLEAR).

2.2.3 Meetings and networking

The IDEAS Annual General Meeting

This meeting provided an overview of the finances of IDEAS, its progress to date and the election process. It should be noted that Board positions have become vacant (due to the process of rotation, like SAMEA has for its Board members), and elections will soon be held for a new President and board members.

The next Global Assembly shall be held in 2013, and the current Board will begin planning shortly for this event. Mr Naidoo formally announced the SAMEA III conference at this meeting.

Planning Meeting for the next African Evaluation Association Conference



Above: Debazou Yantio, a Board member of AFREA, addresses African delegates about the next AFREA Conference.

Members from Africa, who attended the last African Evaluation Association (AFREA) Conference in Cairo, Egypt, in 2009, reflected on progress since the last election of the AFREA Board. It was noted that there was not much activity between the Biennial AFREA meetings, and the President asked for suggestions on how to improve upon this. The lack of a secretary, due to the resignation of the SAMEA nominated secretary, created an administrative vacuum, and SAMEA would be approached to make a new nomination.

The President announced the next AFREA conference, which would be held in Ghana in January 2012.

Meetings with the UNDP Director

Mr Naidoo held a productive planning meeting with the UNDP Director, where amongst others, the Concept document, Draft Terms of Reference for members of the advisory group, and general planning issues for the forthcoming UNDP conference that the PSC was co-hosting were finalised. A submission has been approved for co-hosting this event which shall be held on 12-14 September 2011.

Meeting with delegates to solicit support for the SAMEA III event

Several meetings were held throughout the week with potential participants, sponsors etc. for the forthcoming SAMEA III event.

Networking

Networking was held through different social events that were merged into the conference programme. This included an excursion to the Dead Sea and a day trip to Petra.

2.3 Resources

The PSC shall be alerted once the papers have been loaded onto the IDEAS website. Materials obtained at the event, including the book [Rist, RC., Boily, MH., and Martin F., (2011). *Influencing Change: Building Evaluation Capacity to Strengthen Governance*. Washington, D.C. World Bank Publications.] which has the proceedings of the last global assembly have been submitted to the library for recording, and can be accessed by all staff.

2.4 Way forward

An article shall be prepared for the internal newsletter of the PSC, and staff alerted once all the presentations and papers from this conference are loaded onto the IDEAS website.

The PSC shall also engage more actively with the administrator of IDEAS to ensure that its reports form part of the resources of IDEAS.



Above: The Ministry of Planning hosted delegates to a Jordanian evening, where they witnessed traditional outfits at an event.