



ReportAGE

March 2018

RISE commences with on-the-ground planning for 9th AfrEA conference



In February, an AfrEA delegation met with the Cote D'Ivoire government and the local VOPE, RISE, to commence with planning of the 9th AfrEA Conference. Venues and dates would be available soon.

AfrEA is starting the planning and preparation of its 9th Conference well ahead of time to ensure strong participation from local role-players in Cote D'Ivoire as well as establish multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the African evaluation agenda.

During a first visit by delegated AfrEA Board members, Government agencies assured their commitment to partnering with RISE and AfrEA to organise the conference. The Ministry of Planning and Development led by Minister Hon Antoine Bouhon Bouabre and Marcelin Cisse, Director General of Planning, Development and Aid Coordination, is leading the Ivorian government and intends to set up an inter-ministerial steering committee to plan all aspects of the conference.

Other development partners such as the African Development Bank and UN agencies pledged technical and financial support. Over the next couple of weeks, AfrEA and RISE will finalise the concept notes and budget for the conference and begin follow up meetings to press ahead of preparations.

The first elective General Meeting of the Réseau Ivoirien de Suivi et d'Evaluation (RISE) took place on 29 October 2008. Ten years later, AfrEA looks forward to plan the 9th AfrEA Conference with one of our member VOPEs.



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EEvA holds 9th conference in Addis Ababa



The Ethiopian Evaluation Association (EEvA) has conducted its 9th General Assembly and Conference on March 24, 2018

With the theme, *Contextualising Evaluation for Sustainable Development Goals in Ethiopia*, the conference aimed to promote exchange of ideas between government officials, researchers, academia, emerging evaluators, practitioners, non-governmental organisations and development partners.

Ethiopia has conducted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR 2017) on the SDGs by the National Planning Commission. However, there are questions regarding how it was conducted. What was the role and participation of stakeholders in the process? What are the gaps? The conference explored answers to these questions.

In the event, a presentation about the SDGs was made by a representative from UNDP's Ethiopia office. Moreover, a full panel discussion was held with panelists from the National Planning Commission, Addis Ababa University and UNDP discussing the status of SDG evaluation in Ethiopia, including the critical gaps in SDG evaluation practice and recommendations to address them. This forum created debate to understand the role of VOPEs in the matter.

Two scientific papers were presented:

- The first paper assessed how the national framework for evaluation in the era of the SDGs is being implemented using the case of Ethiopia. To achieve this objective the researcher used the guidance implementation matrix developed by the Independent Evaluation Office of the UNDP. It outlined 20 steps with a rating scale from 0 (stagnant) to 2 (good). This tool is used to facilitate country-led evaluation in the SDGs era through exploring the link between SDGs and national systems; national systems and evaluation and evaluation and the SDGs

- The second paper reviewed the recent challenges and demands of evaluating the SDGs through the contextualisation of evaluation for the SDGs in Ethiopia. It mainly focused on the problems of evaluation, the indicators to apply and how and what should be measured in national development efforts

Thorough discussions have been undertaken on the papers presented and lessons and learning areas have been identified.

The conference created a platform for EEvA to promote knowledge, practice and use of evaluation in the SDG era among relevant actors and to strengthen the Government of Ethiopia to advance the evaluation agenda nationally.

At the end of the conference, the election of the EEvA executive board members took place, governed by an election committee. Three of the past executive board members were elected to continue and new members were democratically elected.

New positions filled were the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and auditor assigned for the coming two years.

EEvA was established in 2009 and currently have more than 200 registered members .





Reflecting on a good year at AfrEA

Since the 8th AfrEA Conference that took place in Uganda in March 2017, AfrEA moved swiftly to achieve several institutional milestones. The 2017-2018 Annual Report, to be shared with members shortly, speaks of some of these achievements. Here are a few highlights:



New AfrEA Board induction and board meetings

AfrEA appointed a new board member in March 2017. An induction workshop was used as the first board meeting of the reporting year



Secretariat Restructuring/Human Resources

New resources were appointed. Secretariat currently employs three regular staff: an executive director, operations manager and office assistant, plus an intern who assists the operations manager



AfrEA Membership subscriptions

The Secretariat made efforts to update its database in order to easily communicate with its members and follow up with pending payments



AfrEA's Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual

The AfrEA P&P manual was updated and sent for final approval by the Board



AfrEA Registration as a Non-Profit Organisation

All necessary legal registrations required by Ghanaian laws commenced and were completed within the year



VOPE membership at AfrEA

To update the AfrEA VOPE database, the Secretariat sent out emails requesting VOPEs to send an updated membership list and their executives in order to update information with the name of its VOPE members and their executives.

Several responses came in from a number of VOPEs. The aim behind the exercise was to obtain accurate information on the number of VOPEs whose payments were up to date, and to get an update list of VOPE executives.

The Secretariat redefined its subscription packages

Old subscription packages

Association Bronze

Association Silver

Individual Bronze

Individual Gold

Individual Silver

Student Bronze

New subscription packages

Individual

National Associations

Other Institutions

At the end of the reporting period, AfrEA's membership indicated the following numbers:

35 VOPEs

12

Institutions

113

Individuals

Country programme evaluators trained in Cote D'Ivoire



Evaluators were trained in country programme evaluation methods in Cote D'Ivoire recently. Thirty evaluation experts and emerging evaluators participated at the Pulaarku Welly space in Abidjan on 27 January 2018 for a training session organized by the Ivorian Initiative for Evaluation (2IEval).

The event titled "Country Program Assessors: Approaches and Methodologies" took on the format of an Eval Café and aimed to strengthen the expertise of Ivorian evaluators in the field of projects and public policies. In addition, the meeting aimed to better equip Ivorian practitioners to



appreciate the implementation of the projects of partners working in the country.

The training session was moderated by Mr. Mirianaud Oswald Agbadomé, Senior Evaluation Officer at the Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

During the Eval-Café, the speaker shared with the participants his experience on the subject and answered questions. All strategies for evaluating country programs were unveiled by the AfDB expert.



Former AfrEA Presidents joins IDEAS leadership

A heartfelt congratulations to one of AfrEA's early Presidents, Zenda Ofir for being elected as the new Vice President of IDEAS.



“This is an excellent time to be involved in IDEAS. Together with the Board I will do my best to contribute in a way that serves the objectives of IDEAS, all its members, and development in all our countries” – Zenda Ofir

Impact evaluation training

The Devimpact Institute is providing partial scholarships for Impact Evaluation for Evidence-Based Development training

When: 23 to 27 April 2018

Where: Nairobi, Kenya

Apply here:

http://www.devimpactinstitute.com/index.php/training-courses/research-monitoring-evaluation/43-training-on-impact-evaluation-for-evidence-based-development?utm_source=ZohoCampaigns&utm_campaign=Training_2018-01-08&utm_medium=email

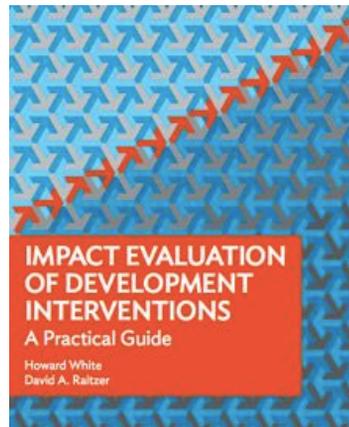
Online EGM platform now open source

3ie's evidence gap maps (EGMs) help inform and improve research investments and identify evidence for programming decision-making. In addition to developing the EGM methodology, 3ie has now developed an accessible online platform for displaying map information in an interactive format.

“A great free resource for researchers and research on impact!” – Ian Davies

<http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/evidence/gap-maps/egm-open-access/>

Impact Evaluation of Development Interventions: A Practical Guide



<https://www.adb.org/publications/impact-evaluation-development-interventions-practical-guide>



Clear-AA training

The Development Evaluation Training Programme in Africa (DETPA) is presenting training in South Africa in August.

DETPA's vision of an **African approach to evaluation** acknowledges that context, culture, history and beliefs are critical to the way we shape evaluation in response to the diversity and complexity of development in Africa.

Participants can choose between the Foundation and the Advanced Track. The two courses are presented in parallel over a period of two weeks.

For more details visit: <http://clear-aa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/DETPA-2018.pdf>