

# The Evaluation Conference

Exploring New Frontiers

23 July 2010  
Indian Habitat Center New Delhi, India

Collective quest  
for enhanced effectiveness  
in evaluation studies

Organised By :  *Sambodhi*  
Knowledge for change

The thrust towards performance management, accountability and learning in development initiatives has brought Evaluation at the forefront of implementation strategies. The role of Evaluation as a critical management function with maximum bearing on the outcomes has been underscored by success stories across the world. This has led to development of evaluation science with methodologies being innovated, experimented and standardized. The field of evaluation has developed diverse methods to cater to the spectrum of development policies, and programmes, and has applied these methods on the ground. The development and application of evaluation methods have led to deeper insights into development processes, improving programs and subsequent efforts. These factors, combined with growing demand for performance and accountability have brought evaluation to the centre-stage of development and hence emphasis on building evaluation capacities and fostering innovation in evaluation design and methodologies.

The key to innovative evaluation is in development and deployment of project management systems. Further, systems which support rather than limit methods of evaluation can help analyse variances from envisioned goals and objectives in an effective manner. Seeking synergies of agencies, institutions and programmes on standardizing these approaches and disseminating to a larger audience of practitioners is the next key question that needs to be answered in our collective quest for enhanced effectiveness of developmental imperatives.

In this context, Sambodhi Research & Communications is organizing a one-day Evaluation Conference on July 23, 2010 in New Delhi. The conference would seek synergies from leading development actors and practitioners for knowledge sharing, perspective building and defining the next-age evaluation agenda.

## Objectives

In the quest for new frontiers, the conference objectives are:

- Sharing of Evaluation approaches, experiences and perspectives of various development actors
- Facilitating shared understanding of 'state-of-art' evaluation approaches
- Outlining action agenda for concerted action to realign Evaluation with emerging development perspective

## Participants

The event solicits participation from leading development agencies, projects, institutions and practitioners of Evaluation approaches. With cross-sectoral focus, participants from an array of sectors would be attending the event. Participation to the event is by invitation.

## Outcomes

The envisioned outcomes of the conference are:

- Knowledge sharing on Evaluation approaches being practiced across the region
- Perspective building on emerging Evaluation approaches
- Initiation of concerted action for knowledge-building and dissemination

# Conference Agenda

## **Inaugural Session**

**0930-1100 hrs**

### **Evaluation: Exploring Current Trends and Scenario in South Asian Perspective**

*The session presents an overview of current trends and scenario specifically with reference to the evaluation framework and methodologies being practiced in the region.*

***(Launch of Book)***

## **Networking Break**

**1100-1130 hrs**

## **Conference Session**

**1130-1300 hrs**

### **Treading the Middle Path: Experimental and Quasi Experimental Methods**

*The session explores the feasibility of treading the middle path while exploring the entire range of evaluation methodologies from Observational to Experimental Methods viz. Descriptive Studies, RCT, Quasi-Experimental Studies such as PSM and RD.*

## **Lunch**

**1300-1400 hrs**

## **Conference Session**

**1400-1530 hrs**

### **Challenges and Innovation: Exploring Emerging Trend and Methodologies for Evaluation**

*The session explores the emerging methodologies and conceptual construct for evaluation viz. Most Significant Change, Outcome Mapping, Gender Based Evaluation, etc.*

***(Launch of Working Paper Series)***

## **Networking Break**

**1530-1600 hrs**

## **Conference Session**

**1600-1730hrs**

### **Building Evaluation Capacities: The Way Forward**

*In order to keep up with the need and demand of robust evaluation of development interventions, it is imperative to invest in developing and fostering indigenous evaluation innovation. The session explores the existing capacity building initiatives to suggest the way forward for building a culture for evaluation practice.*

## **Concluding and Valedictory**

**1730-1800 hrs**

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