



*"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."<sup>1</sup>*

*- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as Sherlock Holmes*

## Headlines

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Dear Members,

Greetings from the Secretariat!

We hope that you have had a fruitful month and we are happy to bring you another edition of the CoE Newsletter. We would like to thank the readers who sent us contributions; knowledge exchange is an integral component to making the CoE a vibrant community!

In this month's conclave update, we announce new Early Registration prices, and bring you more information about our knowledgeable panel and workshop leaders.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Face-to-Face meeting and Regional Event will be held next month. The registration process for CoE Bangladesh is nearly complete, giving us a chance to discuss the future role of the formal national chapters. We are also eager to discuss outreach possibilities for CoE members and regional organizations.

CoE members have been busy with attending and participating in international evaluation conferences, while we continue to build bridges with other organizations and individuals.

We hope this auspicious time brings you and we welcome all ideas and suggestions on improving the CoE Newsletter.

In the honour of Evidence

Sincerely

Sandip Pattanayak

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<sup>1</sup> Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Scandal in Bohemia* (1891).

## Evaluation Conclave 2013 Update

With only four months to go until the Evaluation Conclave, preparations have moved into high gear. The programme schedule has been drafted and we are working on putting together a stimulating and invigorating programme for the conclave.



### Early Registration Pricing

Register soon to take advantage of early registration! **Early Registration prices are now in effect**, until 15 December 2012. Early registration prices can be found on our website, along with information registration, at <http://evaluationconclave2013.org>. Fees are as below:

Categories of Participants	Early Registration: until 15 December 2012		Late Registration: 15 December – 15 January 2013	
	Amount in USD	Amount in INR*	Amount in USD	Amount in INR*
Multilateral / Bilateral / Donors / Companies / Corporate Organisations / Government	\$ 585	₹ 32,175	\$ 650	₹ 35,750
NGOs / CBOs / Local Organisations / Individuals	\$ 495	₹ 27,225	\$ 550	₹ 30,250
Students – Participants must be regular / full time students. Proof of the same needs to be attached with the registration form.	\$ 405	₹ 22,275	\$ 450	₹ 24,750

\*using a conversion rate of USD \$1 = INR ₹55

### Panels and Workshops

As we get closer to finalizing the programme for the conclave, we want to give you a sneak peek into the topics of the panels and workshops that you can look forward to attending. Leading up to the conclave, we will feature a couple of workshops in each issue of the Newsletter. To see a tentative list of speakers and leaders who will be leading panels and workshops, please visit <http://evaluationconclave2013.org/programme>.

**Real-World Evaluation Workshop - Jim Rugh**

Many evaluators may find themselves to be under pressure by some donor agencies to conduct research using randomized control trials (RCTs). However, when asked to design an evaluation of a 'real' program they often find that no baseline data had been collected on the project participants, much less data on a comparison group, to say nothing of randomly assigning people from the same population to the treatment and control groups! And then the client did not allocate sufficient time or budget to conduct what the evaluator felt would be a properly rigorous evaluation. How can you conduct



**Jim Rugh** has over 41 years of professional involvement in rural community development in Africa, Asia, and Appalachia. He has specialized in evaluation for 25 years—the past 10 years as head of Design, Monitoring and

Evaluation for CARE International, a large nongovernmental organization (NGO). His particular skills include promoting strategies for enhanced capacity for evaluation throughout this worldwide organization. He is a recognized leader in evaluation among colleagues in the international NGO community, including InterAction. He has been an active member of the American Evaluation Association since 1986, currently serving on the Nominations and Election Committee. He was a founding member of the Atlanta-area Evaluation Association.<sup>2</sup>

adequately valid evaluations under such circumstances? More than that, are RCTs really the “gold standard” for impact evaluation? Welcome to the real world! Through participatory processes we will explore techniques that help evaluators and clients ensure the best quality evaluation under real-world constraints like those described above.<sup>2</sup>

**Equity Focused Evaluation – Marco Segone<sup>3</sup>**

**Marco Segone** worked in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Uganda and Albania in integrated development projects. In 1996 he joined UNICEF working for the Regional UNICEF Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. From 1999 to 2001 he worked

as Monitoring & Evaluation officer for UNICEF Niger, where he founded and coordinated for 2 years the Niger Monitoring & Evaluation Network. Since 2002, he has been working for UNICEF Brazil, where he founded the Brazilian Monitoring & Evaluation Network and convened the Monitoring & Evaluation Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. He is Vice President of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE).<sup>3</sup>

The push for a stronger focus on equity in human development is gathering momentum at the international level. Its premise is increasingly supported by United Nations reports and strategies as well as by independent analysis. More and more national policies and international alliances are focusing on achieving equitable development results. While this is the right way to go, it poses important challenges – and opportunities – to the evaluation function. How can the capacity of governments, organizations and communities to evaluate the effect of

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.crop.org/storypg.aspx?id=328&MenuNode=633964837658369422&zone=17>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ioce.net/overview/profiles\\_past\\_board/marco\\_segone.shtml](http://ioce.net/overview/profiles_past_board/marco_segone.shtml)

interventions on equitable outcomes for marginalized populations be strengthened? What evaluation questions can be used to assess whether interventions are relevant and are having an impact in decreasing inequity, are achieving equitable results, and are efficient and sustainable? What are the methodological implications in designing, conducting, managing and using equity-focused evaluations? The workshop will equip you to address these challenges.

### *Partnership with CLEAR*

CoE is very happy to be in a partnership with the Regional Centre for Learning on Evaluation Results (CLEAR). CLEAR will be providing support to CoE for the conclave, and the two organisations have made a commitment to collaborate on producing the following:

- Knowledge products such as manuals, guidelines, protocols
- E-learning modules that can be widely disseminated and used
- Training activities and M&E round table events/webinars



Through this partnership, we hope to target the areas of Professionalization of evaluation, New Knowledge in evaluation, and Capacity Building.

### *CoE Regional Event and Face to Face Meeting*

Preparations are under way for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Face-to-Face meeting and the Regional Event in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The face-to-face meeting will provide an opportunity to finalize arrangements for the conclave, and plan for developments in the areas of knowledge sharing, capacity building, and professionalization. We will also look at ways to promote CoE Bangladesh, and discuss the role of CoE national chapters.

#### **Tentative programme for the Event:**

Date	Day	Programme
20-Nov-12	Tuesday	Introduction, Progress of Evaluation Conclave
		Discussion by Task Teams
		Progress of Phase - II work
		Review and planning
		Induction of new members into the CoE Board
21-Nov-12	Wednesday	Meeting with Bangladesh CoE
		Promotion strategy for evaluation conclave
		Meeting with Donors, Partners

## *Postgraduate Diploma in Programme Evaluation*

Himgiri ZEE University in collaboration with Teaching Evaluation in South Asia (TESA) has developed a new Diploma in Programme Evaluation. The Himgiri ZEE University is based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This course in Programme Evaluation seeks to offer opportunities to strengthen evaluation capabilities, and to address the lack of high-quality courses and training available in South Asia. You can access the complete informational flyer from our conclave website at <http://evaluationconclave2013.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/PG-Diploma-in-Program-Evaluation-2012-13.pdf>.

## *The Status of Evaluation in Africa - from Pelican Listserv*

An interesting discussion regarding Evaluation in Africa is taking place on the Pelican Listserv ([pelican@dgroups.org](mailto:pelican@dgroups.org)). The Pelican Initiative is a platform for Evidence-based Learning and Communication for Social Change. The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) is conducting a reflection on evaluation in Africa, and has put forward the following points for discussion:

1. What influences progress of evaluation as a profession in Africa, positively or negatively? Where are these influences manifested? (e.g. institutionally, politically, societal, community?)
2. What linkages do African evaluators have with national policy processes? Are we perceived as technocrats, experts, economists, sociologists, practitioners, specialists? Are we influential?
3. What linkages do African evaluators have with regional and global policy processes? Are we perceived as authoritative voices? Do we make an impact on processes at that level?
4. Can you provide examples and key resources that can help us with evidence about these issues?

We invite you to take part in this discussion by joining the listserv, and also to consider these questions regarding evaluation in South Asia.

## *Welcome to the CoE!*

A warm welcome to our newest members!

Name: **Alan MacKenzie**  
**Senior Training Consultant at the British Council**  
 Country: **Scotland**  
 Area of Expertise: **Teacher Development**  
 Years in Monitoring and Evaluation: **5**

Name: **Shruti Joshi**  
**General Manager-Programs at Child Rights and You**  
 Country: **India**  
 Area of Expertise: **Child Rights**  
 Years in Monitoring and Evaluation: **13**

Name: **Chittaranjan Mishra**  
**Senior Manager at NR Management Consultants India Pvt Ltd**  
 Country: **India**  
 Area of Expertise: **M&E, Project Management**  
 Years in Monitoring and Evaluation: **9**

## Recommended Resources

This month, we have two recommendations from CoE member Shruti Joshi and workshop leader Donna Mertens. Don't forget to send in *your* recommendation, along with some information about you and why you think the resource is useful to [aditi@cms-india.org](mailto:aditi@cms-india.org)!

### Shaping International Evaluation: A 30-year Journey

CoE member Shruti Joshi of CRY India has recommended this publication by Universalia, Canada. She writes that it is, "A very interesting book which reviews the journey of international evaluation from 1980 - 2010."

Universalia released this book on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as something that underscores their commitment to sharing what they have learned with professional colleagues in international development and evaluation from around the world. In celebrating their golden anniversary with this publication, Universalia hopes that it will stimulate your thinking and make a lasting contribution to the fulfilment of their motto: Improving performance to make a difference!

The book is available at

<http://documents.reflectlearn.org/Recent%20OA%20Publications/SIEa30YearJourney.pdf>.

### Program Evaluation Theory and Practice - A comprehensive guide



Donna Mertens, who will be conducting a workshop on Transformative Evaluations at the Evaluation Conclave, has recently published a very useful guide on evaluation theory and practice. The guide was written in collaboration with Amy T. Wilson. We would like to extend our congratulations and thanks to Donna Mertens!

*Featuring helpful checklists, procedural steps, provocative questions that invite readers to explore their own theoretical assumptions, and practical exercises, the book provides concrete guidance for conducting large and small – scale evaluations. The book shows how theory informs methodological choices and offers balanced coverage of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.*

Further information is available on the flyer for the book, available on our conclave website at

<http://evaluationconclave2013.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/MertensWilsonFlyerEvalBook.pdf>.