



## AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) OPERATIONS EVALUATION DEPARTMENT (OPEV)

*Fourth Conference of the African Evaluation Association*  
January 15-20, 2007  
Niamey, Niger

### CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

#### BACKGROUND

Since the inception of the African Evaluation Association in 1999, the Operations Evaluation Department (OPEV) of the African Development Bank (ADB) has been viewed upon as a strategic player in charting the future course of development evaluation interventions in Africa. As part of OPEV's Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development (M&ECD) mandate, the Department has sponsored various technical strands in each conference. In 1999, OPEV sponsored sessions on the development and conduct of evaluations on the continent. In 2002, OPEV organized technical strands on statistical capacity development, poverty reduction, gender, among several others. In 2004, OPEV organized strands on strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism as a tool for cooperation and change, strengthening NEPAD's M&E activities, and on ensuring continuity of the association's evaluation mandate.

#### ADB-SPONSORED TECHNICAL STRANDS

As a member of the Program Committee for the 2007 AfrEA Conference in Niamey, Niger, OPEV invites proposals for papers and presentations for the two Technical Strands being organized in support of the conference:

- (i) A *Core Technical Strand* on: **"M&E for Poverty Reduction, Conservation, and Sustainable Development"** (SESSION CODE: 15.TS7). This strand includes presentations of M&E Systems in PRSPs and involves country case study presentations. It will be organized on **Wednesday, January 17, 2007** between 2:00 and 6:00 pm (exact timing to be confirmed).
- (ii) A *Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshop* on **"M&E Methods for PRSPs and MDGs"** (SESSION CODE: 36.W9). This session includes a lecture presentation and debate on the effectiveness of M&E systems in PRSP countries. This session is scheduled on **Monday, January 15, 2007**, between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm (exact timing to be confirmed).

#### PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE ADB

The specific areas of interest to the African Development Bank revolve around these issues:

- (i) Methods and practices of M&E initiatives in PRSP countries.
- (ii) Coordination of M&E processes and procedures within PRSP countries and across agencies, partners, and donors.
- (iii) Utilization of M&E data in decision-making including analytical capabilities in PRSP countries.
- (iv) Practical and targeted performance indicators that are realistic and meaningful to measure, especially for the measurement of progress toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- (v) Data collection and measurement issues to ensure timely and useful data.
- (vi) Leadership commitment and valuing of M&E data, information, and results.
- (vii) Civil society and stakeholder participation.

## GUIDELINES FOR PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS AND PRESENTERS

Interested presenters in the ADB-sponsored sessions (noted above) are invited to submit an abstract of their proposed conference paper and presentation (i.e., a summary of the contribution or paper) as soon as possible. The specific requirements are as follows:

- The summary of the contribution (i.e., abstract) should not exceed one page in length.
- A one-page CV should be attached to the abstract.
- The abstracts and CVs should be submitted in English and/or French.
- Abstracts are to be submitted by email (either as a WORD or PDF document) to Ms. Islem Absi at [i.absi@afdb.org](mailto:i.absi@afdb.org) no later than **5 October 2006**.

## PRESENTATION FORMATS

For the *Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshop* on “**M&E Methods for PRSPs and MDGs**” (SESSION CODE: 36.W9) on **Monday, January 15, 2007** between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm (exact timing to be confirmed). The African Development Bank shall provide sponsorship of one facilitator and a few other presenters. The facilitator will be paid a standard fee and will be expected to provide workbooks, notes, and other learning materials for participants. Proposals should include a statement of the benefits for the participants, timing and the target group (e.g. beginners, intermediate or advanced). We are seeking presentations that promote discussion and debate and link to one of the priority issues mentioned above. Presenters will have up to 15 minutes presentation time plus 30 minutes discussion time to present their papers. Proposals should reach us by 5 October 2006 and must include an abstract of no more than one page as well as the CV of each presenter. The **final paper must be submitted by 15 November 2006** and must be no longer than 15 pages (single-spaced) **together with the outline of the Power Point presentation.**

For the *Core Technical Strand* on: “**M&E for Poverty Reduction, Conservation, and Sustainable Development**” (SESSION CODE: 15.TS7). This strand will include presentations of M&E Systems in PRSP countries and will involve specific Country Case Studies. This session is scheduled on **Wednesday, January 17, 2007** between 2:00 and 6:00 pm (exact timing to be confirmed). As with the *Pre-Conference Professional Development Workshop*, the facilitator will be paid a standard fee and will be expected to provide workbooks, notes, and other learning materials for participants. Proposals should include a statement of the benefits for the participants, timing and the target group (e.g. beginners, intermediate or advanced). We are seeking papers and presentations that promote discussion and debate specifically focusing on poverty reduction issues. Presenters will have up to 15 minutes presentation time plus 30 minutes discussion time to present their papers. Proposals should reach us by 5 October 2006 and must include an abstract of no more than one page as well as the CV of each presenter. A panel within OPEV will review the quality of the papers and notification of selection will be issued by October 15, 2006. The final paper must be submitted to us by 15 November 2006 and must be no longer than 15 pages (single-spaced) **together with the outline of the Power Point presentation.**

## CRITICAL DATES

Deadline for submission of abstracts/proposals: **5 October 2006**

Notification of selection of contributions: **15 October 2006**

Deadline for submission of final papers: **15 November 2006**

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

All proposals must be submitted via email by **5 October 2006** to Ms. Islem Absi at: [i.absi@afdb.org](mailto:i.absi@afdb.org).

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2007 AFREA CONFERENCE**

The Fourth African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference will be held in January 2007 in Niamey, Niger. Since its inauguration in 1999, AfrEA has held three international conferences, in Kenya and South Africa, the last one bringing together 550 participants from 56 countries. Following the 2004 AfrEA Conference in Cape Town, the upcoming conference will focus on evaluation and development in Africa. The purpose of the conference is to strengthen capacity in M&E for improved policy development and program performance in Africa. It will provide opportunities to participants to strengthen their competencies and networks. The conference is expected to have a major impact on the building of an Evaluation culture in the African mindset. It will culminate in a joint communiqué from African national leaders in: the "Niamey Declaration". This declaration will set up the future of evaluation in Africa and promote the use of the African Evaluation Guidelines. The conference will bring together a broad range of participants from all over the world: government representatives, decision makers, parliamentarians, development partners, researchers, practitioners, networks, associations, etc.

### **GENERAL PROGRAM**

The general program for the Fourth AfrEA Conference is structured around the problem of the dynamics and interrelationships between development and evaluation, and four priority areas including themes which are in turn sub-divided into discussion points which will serve as guidelines for the discussants during the Conference. The four priority areas are:

- Evaluation of Development in Africa : Practices and Challenges
- The Quality of Evaluation in Africa : Realities and Prospects
- Capacity-Building in Evaluation
- Governance, Evaluation and Development Challenges in Africa

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

The main objectives of the Fourth AfrEA Conference are as follows:-

- To broaden public debate on the practice of evaluation and its impact on human development in Africa, especially in poverty reduction and the fostering of good governance ;
- To create awareness of the decisive nature of monitoring and evaluation in public development policies and strategies ;
- To endow the African evaluation community with specific skills in monitoring and evaluation (concepts, methods, procedures, etc.) in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);
- To improve the management of evaluation missions, internally and vis-à-vis decision-makers, planners, heads of public and private enterprises and major development partners ;
- To find out about international experiences in the area of monitoring and evaluation and lessons to be drawn in order to develop better evaluation practices in Africa.

The conference is expected to have a major impact in the building of an Evaluation culture in Africa. In particular, it is expected that:

- African national leaders will adopt the "Niamey Declaration" which will highlight their commitment and engagement to promote evaluation as a tool to strengthen democracy and governance in their respective countries.
- Conference participants will further develop their competencies as evaluation practitioners and managers, in order to strengthen the evaluation function in their organizations and societies.
- The conference participants will be better equipped to use evaluation as a way of accelerating the achievements of local, national, regional and global development.

## **COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Fourth AfrEA Conference will take place in the form of plenary and thematic sessions, preceded by professional development workshops. The conference will begin with the professional development workshops (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2007) intended to update the knowledge base and practice of monitoring and evaluation in Africa and the world at large. The conference will comprise plenary sessions and thematic sessions from the 17 to 19 January 2007. Each plenary session will be organised as a panel to enable speakers and participants to enjoy fruitful interaction and to discuss the main themes of the conference. The thematic sessions are intended to:

- i) contribute to reflection on the themes and sub-themes of the plenary sessions;
- ii) define new guidelines in matters of monitoring and evaluation in terms of vision, methods and tools;
- iii) make recommendations and proposals to the various players and participants in the areas of development and evaluation.

At the conclusion of the deliberations of the conference, it will be proposed that participants representing national associations should adopt a document entitled «the Niamey Declaration » which will focus on the undertaking of mandated associations to inform their authorities about evaluation with a view to bringing them to formally recognizing the importance of evaluation in public development policy and to strive towards strengthening it. The AfrEA Executive Bureau will submit the constitutive texts of the association to the participants, and the revised version of the AfrEA norms and standards, for their adoption. Social events and exhibitions will be accommodated as part of the Niamey conference.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

This conference forms part of a movement towards communication and sharing of experiences in the field of monitoring and evaluation in Africa and in the world. It will bring together various players and institutions, namely:

- Regional and international development organisations;
- National and regional evaluation networks and associations;
- Specialised monitoring and evaluation institutions;
- Representatives of public and private enterprises;
- Political decision-makers, elected personalities and local authorities;
- African and foreign experts;
- Representatives of civil society;
- Researchers;
- Students;
- Individual participants.

The Niamey conference will bring together almost 500 participants.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

The Fourth AfrEA Conference in Niger is organized by the African Evaluation Association, in collaboration with the Niger Monitoring and Evaluation Network (ReNSE), the first M&E network in francophone Africa.

### **CONFERENCE LANGUAGES**

English and French will be the two working languages with simultaneous translation in the plenary sessions; thematic sessions and professional development seminars will be translated as resources allow.

#### **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK:**

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For more information about the conference, visit the 2007 AfrEA website at:

[www.afrea.org/conference2007](http://www.afrea.org/conference2007)

(information available in French)