

INVITATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY OF EVALUATION EXPERTS (COE)

This is an invitation for Evaluation Experts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who think it is important to contribute to the theory and practice of Evaluation in South Asia and beyond. The invitation is to become a member of a Community of Evaluation Experts (which is to be constituted) who will engage with each other in person and through electronic medium in seminars, trainings and discussions and exchanges through internet and emails.

This invitation is given by Association for Stimulating Know-How (ASK), an intermediary level NGO based in New Delhi, India, dedicated to the Mission of Capacity building together with the support of International Development Research Center (IDRC), a Canadian Crown Corporation, that supports the creation of local research community whose work will build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies. ASK, with the support of IDRC has conceptualized a project titled "ADVANCING EVALUATION THEORY AND PRACTICES IN SOUTH ASIA - BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF EXPERT".

This project aims to facilitate a systematic and dynamic exchange amongst evaluation experts in the South Asian region expanding the knowledge and experience base of individuals and of the region as a whole and provide opportunities to share these experiences with the International Evaluation community.

By becoming a member of the proposed Community of Evaluation Experts (COE), you can benefit by getting the following opportunities:

- Interact and engage with expert evaluators from across the South Asian region – develop new perspectives and methods
- Share own experience of theory and practice of evaluation and learn about the experiences of other expert evaluators in seminars (up to two events in a year for next three years)
- Receive peer feedback and acknowledgement for the work done by you, develop publishable material and get it disseminated through the network developed by the project
- Engage with International experts on new evaluation approaches and methods – develop new learning (be a part of trainings conducted by international experts (one every year for next three years)
- Get connected to international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies with your work and experience being shared with them and possibilities of interacting with them
- Gain access to regular supply of information on new publications, events, announcements related to evaluation in South Asia and other parts of the globe through list serves and access to web space with specialized information

- Get responses to the professional queries that you may have on the work you are doing or some conceptual, methodological or ethical issues by raising these queries in the available exclusive and public web space
- Get to know and interact with new evaluators in the region during the trainings where, besides the COE, new practitioners of evaluation will also take part – build alliances, share your own experiences to build capacities of upcoming evaluators.

Please note that the invitation is for experts in evaluation and not the experts in monitoring. If you have worked both on monitoring and evaluation, then your stand alone experience on evaluation should be substantial.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this Community of Expert Evaluators, please send in your expression of interest in a simple mail together with your CV to the address mentioned below. Please also send any one report of the evaluation conducted by you and one article of yours that has been published.

The minimum eligibility criteria are as below:

- A Citizen of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan or Sri Lanka
- Have at least 10 years experience in the field of Social Research or Development
- Have conducted evaluations at least for last 10 years (are expert level practitioner), are continuing to do so as part of an Institution or on a free lance basis
- Are an experienced trainer, currently involved in training others in evaluation approaches and methods
- Are an evaluation theorist / researcher – with a track record in publishing on evaluation issues
- Are willing to participate fully and in the total process
- Are interested in the concept of improving Evaluation theory and practice through discussions and exchange and are willing to share and learn
- Are Connected / networked within your country on evaluation and are able to bring other evaluation researchers / practitioners / trainers into the community, connect them into training programs and resources, and contribute back to the field through publications, presentations

We would expect your letter conveying the expression of interest together with the evaluation report and published work to reach us by September 6, 2008 at the following address:

Soft copies to Khilesh@askindia.org

Hard copies to:

Khilesh Chaturvedi, Deputy Director and Team Leader,

Evaluation and Studies Division,

Association for Stimulating Know-How, V 30/3, DLF – III, Gurgaon – 122002, Haryana

For clarifications, please write at above email address to Khilesh Chaturvedi

The mobile phone number of Khilesh is 9810128942

The expressions of interest received will be screened based on selection criteria by a selection committee for developing a long list. Persons included in the long list may be requested for an interview telephonic or in person. We hope to complete the process of finalizing the members (25 in number) by the end of October, 2008 and invite them for the inaugural seminar by second or third week of December, 2008.

The specific criteria for assessing the expressions of interest to develop the long list are:

- Conducted Evaluations
- Expertise in using social science research methods
- Published on Evaluation
- Quality of Evaluation reports
- Training expertise in Evaluation
- Provided evaluation support to organizations through mentoring or any other method
- Part of an evaluation unit of any organization

Certain secondary criteria, which will place you at an advantage, if all other things are equal, are:

- Work with multiple stakeholders (Government, NGOs, Multi and Bilaterals)
- Work in various sectors (Agriculture, environment, livelihoods, education, health, Governance etc)
- Work in various countries

We expect that the persons who become a member of this Community of Evaluation Experts (COE) should be willing to invest their time as per agreed terms to the processes related to the project. This willingness to invest time and energy will reflect the shared objective of wanting to learn and also contribute to the agenda related to enhancing the theory and practice of Evaluation in South Asia.

The project will be able to support your participation as a member in the COE in the following ways:

- Contribute an amount of INR 14,000 (USD 300) per year to offset some costs related to your work
- Pay you the travel reimbursement amount for visits made to attend seminars and meetings of the COE
- Take care of your board and lodge during the periods of your stay for the seminars or any other events organized by the project wherein you may be invited

About ASK

Association for Stimulating Know-How (ASK) is a Non Government Organization (NGO), working with a mission to build capacities of development organizations and projects including communities at the grassroots. It is based in the National Capital Region of Delhi in India. ASK has its reach expanding to the entire South Asian region and beyond. ASK has worked for the past 15 years with international and national organizations of repute including International Development Research Center (IDRC). The organization has been active in conducting evaluations and also building capacities for evaluation.

About IDRC

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a Crown corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems they face. IDRC support is directed toward creating a local research community whose work will build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.