



Concept Note of IsDB Group Symposium 2023

Theme: The Future of Development Evaluation: Adapting to a Changing Landscape

Dates: 2nd & 3rd of October 2023

Venue: Tent Hall - IsDBG Headquarters, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Background

Today's world faces multiple intersecting crises, from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to climate change, rising conflicts, and exacerbated social inequalities. These rising challenges often exacerbate existing development challenges, such as food insecurity, failing health infrastructure, and gender-based violence, in new and unanticipated ways. While every crisis brings unique challenges, lessons learned from past crisis responses can help inform future interventions and enhance the impact of these efforts. This makes the generation and use of evidence even more important in today's world. Evaluation has a critical role to play in improving crisis responses by ensuring that available evidence is timely and relevant. However, for evaluation to rise to the needs of today, the practice of evaluation must learn from current challenges and embrace forward-looking, innovative, adaptation, and inclusive practices to stimulate transformation in a meaningful way. Part of this work is learning from the recent experiences of partner organizations, countries, and contexts where strategic planning mechanisms have efficiently aided pandemic management and recovery; another key aspect is leveraging innovative methods and technologies to enhance evidence generation from evaluation.

Symposium Objectives & Expected Outcomes

The theme of the 5th Evaluation Symposium is “**The Future of Development Evaluation: Adapting to a Changing Landscape**”. The overall goal of this Symposium is to leverage future innovations in development evaluation that will contribute towards accelerating development effectiveness within institutions and at country levels. The Symposium will enable the dissemination of evidence-based best practices that promote development effectiveness and assimilation of innovations in key functions (data analytics, corporate performance, country strategy, operations efficiency, results management, etc.).

The **specific objectives** of the Symposium are as follows:

- Enhance the learning culture within the evaluation community and within the IsDB Group,
- Boost the quality and speed of the Realigned IsDB Strategy 2023 - 2025,
- Support institutional readiness and governance oversight, and
- Strengthen the IsDB Group's external credibility.

The **expected outcomes** of the symposium are as follows:

- Creating conducive spaces for debates and enlightenment on evaluation.
- Advancing knowledge and understanding of what works, and what does not, in evaluation practices.
- Sharing insights on the future of innovation and adaptive evaluation
- Strengthening future operations design, delivery, and efficiency through incorporating best practices
- Sharing corporate-level knowledge to guide continuous improvements, organizational change, and learning
- Keeping abreast of the latest advancements in evaluation practices and ensuring their use in addressing the development challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing world.
- Promoting collaboration via networking and collaboration among evaluation professionals other business units and key decision makers.

Keynote Speakers (External)

The event will mobilize worldwide-known development experts who will share their knowledge and insights. The tentative lists are as follows. They are being contacted currently to confirm their attendance and contribution.

No	Speakers	External	Position
1	Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez	External	Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, ADB
2	Dr. Indran Naidoo	External	Director, Independent Evaluation, IFAD
3	Dr. Joerg Faust	External	Chair OECD-DAC & Director DEval, Germany
4	Dugan Fraser	External	Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), World Bank
5	Dr. Jos Vaessen	External	Deputy Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), World Bank
6	Badr Al Khanbashi,	External	Board member of Al Athar Center for Impact, Saudi Arabia
7	Mohameden Sidiya	External	Former Director, GOED
8	Dr. Abdel Hameed Bashir	External	Evaluation Advisor, BADEA
9	Dr. Aref Ben Abdallah	External	International Affairs Advisor, ENAP, Canada
10	Dr. Mohamed El Fouly	External	President Eval MENA
11	Mr. Fahad Albassam	External	Senior Evaluation Specialist _ SFD

Keynote Speakers (Internal)

No	Targeted Speakers	Internal	Position	Speaker Role
1	H. E Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser	Internal	President IsDB and Chairman IsDB Group	Opening Remarks – Opening Ceremony
2	Dr. Mansur Muhtar	Internal	VP Operations / IsDB	Opening Remarks – Session I
3	Dr. Zamir Iqbal	Internal	VP Finance & CFO / IsDB	Closing Remarks – Session III
4	Oussama Kaissi	Internal	CEO ICIEC	Opening Remarks – Session III
5	Eng. Hani Sonbol	Internal	CEO ITFC & Acting CEO ICD	Opening Remarks – Session II
6	Anasse Aissami	Internal	DG CP / IsDB	Panelist

7	Eng. Mohammad Jamal Al Saati	Internal	Senior Advisor to IsDB President	Session Chair
8	Zaher Rebai	Internal	Director, HRMD / IsDB	Panelist
9	Mohamed Hedi Mejai	Internal	Director, Investments Dept. IsDB	Panelist
10	Mohamed Sharaf	Internal	Director Treasury Dept. / IsDB	Panelist
11	Salah Jelassi	Internal	Director, PGARM / IsDB	Panelist
12	Dr. Syurkani Ishak Kasim	Internal	Director, SBCP / IsDB	Panelist
13	Ibrahima Dit Thierno Lo	Internal	PEA Corporate Governance, EOP	Panelist
14	Dr. Mohammed Alyami	Internal	Director, Development Effectiveness Office / ICD	Panelist
15	Mahmud Hussein Khalif	Internal	General Manager- Underwriting Operations / ICIEC	Panelist
16	Mohamed Emrith Hafez	Internal	General Manager Finance & Strategy, ITFC	Panelist
17	Hamdi Ahmedou	Internal	Senior Manager- M&E/ ITFC	Panelist
18	Dr. Muhammad Jameel Yusha'U	Internal	Acting Director of Communication & Outreach Department, Directorate General of Corporate Services / IsDB	Moderator
19	Mohamed Moutassim	Internal	Senior Interpreter & Translator, LSD – GGS / IsDB	Panelist
20	Talal Karim Alobayd	Internal	Head, M&E Unit, ICD	Panelist
21	Syed Hussein Quadri	Internal	Director, Resilience & Climate Action	Moderator
22	May Ali Babiker	Internal	Head, Cairo RH	Panelist
23	Ibrahima Shoukry	Internal	Head, Almaty RH	Panelist
24	Dr. Walid Abdelwahab	Internal	Director, Ankara RH	Panelist
25	Aamir Ghani Mir	Internal	Manager Project Procurement & Financial Management	Panelist
26	Osman Buyukmutlu	Internal	Director Strategy Department, ICD	Panelist
27	Bakkar Ali Maasher	Internal	Manager Strategy, IsDB	Panelist

Expected Participants

The primary targeted audience is all IsDB Group staff, including those in regional hubs. Then, some in-depth technical sessions will target mainly staff working in self-monitoring, quality assurance, results measurement, and evaluation functions within IsDB Group. Evaluation practitioners from other peer MDBs will be also invited as well as Saudi-based partners.

Agenda of the Symposium

▶ DAY 1: October 2nd, 2023: Subtheme: Evaluation Contribution towards Transforming IsDB Group into an Agile Learning Institution

09.30-10.00 **Arrival of Guests and Participants at the Tent Hall**

10.00-10.15 **Welcome:** Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD)

Opening Remarks: Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice President, Operations (VPO)

10.15-11.25 **Session I: Future Solutions of Development Operations Efficiency**

IEvD will present a thought-provoking summary of its recent evaluations of operations efficiency

Chair: Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez, Director General, Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Presenter: Amin Abdullahi / Ehtisham, IEvD

Panelists:

- Dr. Indran Naidoo, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD
- Dugan Fraser, Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), World Bank Group
- Anasse Aissami, Director General, Country Programs, IsDB
- Aamir Ghani Mir, Manager, Procurement and Project Finance Management (PPFM), IsDB

11.25-11.40 **Coffee Break**

11:40 -12.40 **Session II: Country-Level Development Solutions**

IEvD will present a thought-provoking summary of its recent evaluations of country programming and strategies

Chair: Dr. Indran Naidoo, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD

Opening Remarks: Eng. Hani Sonbol, CEO ITFC & Acting CEO ICD

Presenter: Oguz Ceylan / Dr. Baffa / Mortaza Golam (IEvD)

Panelists:

- Prof. Dr. Joerg Faust, Chair of OECD-DAC EvalNet & Managing Director, Deval - Germany
- May Babiker, Head of Cairo Regional Hub of IsDB Group, Egypt
- Dr. Syurkani Ishak Kasim, Director Strategy, Budget and Corporate Performance (SBCP), IsDB
- Mahmud Hussein Khalif, General Manager, Underwriting Operations, ICIEC
- Osman Buyukmutlu, Director of Strategy Department, ICD

12.40 -14.00 **Lunch Break**

14:00-15.30 **Session III: Finance Solutions for Development**

IEvD will present a thought-provoking summary of its recent evaluations in Development Finance (Resources Mobilization, Partnerships, Equity Financing, Awqafs, LoFs)

Chair: Dr. Joerg Faust, Chair of OECD-DAC EvalNet & Managing Director, Deval - Germany

Opening Remarks: Oussama Kaissi, CEO of ICIEC

Presenter: AAA/ Oguz/ Dr. Ahmed/ Bashirullah, (IEvD)

Panelists:

- Salah Jelassi. Director Partnerships, Global Advocacy and Resources Mobilization (PGARM), IsDB
- Mohamed Hedi Mejai, Director Investments, IsDB
- Mohamed Sharaf, Director of Treasury, IsDB
- Ibrahim Shukri, Head of Almaty Regional Hub of IsDB Group, Kazakhstan
- Bakkar Ali Maasher, Manager Strategy, IsDB

Closing Remarks: Dr. Zamir Iqbal, VP of Finance & CFO

15.30-15.45 **Coffee Break**

DAY 2: October 3rd, 2023: Sub-Theme: Development Evaluation Journey of MDBs: From Past Achievements to Future Aspirations

09.30-10.00 Arrival of Guests and Participants at the Tent Hall

10.00-10.45 Opening Ceremony of the 5th IsDB Group Evaluation Symposium

Welcome: Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD)

LEARN Video (2mn max)

Opening Remarks: H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Chairman of IsDB Group

Awards for Best PCRs

Awards for Best Contributors to the Systematic Tracking of the Execution of Evaluation Recommendations (STEER)

STEER Video (2mn max)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez, Director General, Independent Evaluation – Asian Development Bank

10.45-11.30 Session IV: Looking Forward – Future Frontiers of Development Evaluation in MDBs

How can the MDBs' independent evaluation functions confront the development challenges they will face over the coming decade? What can IsDB Group learn from the work of other evaluation offices?

Moderator: Dr. Muhammad Jameel Yusha'U, Acting Director, Communication & Outreach, IsDB

Panelists:

- Dr. Indran Naidoo, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD (IFAD),
- Prof. Dr. Joerg Faust, Chair of OECD-DAC EvalNet & Managing Director, Deval - Germany
- Dr. Jos Vaessen, Deputy Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) & Advisor for Evaluation Methods, Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), World Bank Group
- Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD)
- Dr. Mohammed Alyami, Director Development Effectiveness Office, ICD
- Dr. Walid Abdulwahab, Head of Ankara Regional Hub of IsDB Group, Turkiye

11.30-11.45 Coffee Break

11.45-12.30 Session V: Looking Back – Third Decade (2013-2023) of Development Evaluation in IsDB Group

To what extent has the IEvD helped the IsDB Group edge closer to achieving development effectiveness over the past decade? What lessons can be learned?

Moderator: Dugan Fraser, Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), World Bank Group

Presenter: Oguz Ceylan / Amin Abdullahi / ABM

Panelists:

- Anasse Aissami, Director General, Country Programs, IsDB
- Mohameden Sidiya, former Director, IsDB Group Operations Evaluation Department (GOED)
- Zaher Rebai, Director, Human Resources Management Department (HRMD), IsDB
- Dr. Mohammed Alyami, Director Development Effectiveness Office, ICD
- Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD)
- Syed Hussein Quadri, Director of Resilience and Climate Action, IsDB

12.30-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-15.00 Session VI: Tackling the Challenges for Evaluation in the Coming Decade

How to strengthen the overall contribution from evaluation at the IsDB Group? The development industry is an ever-changing landscape. What are the most pressing challenges for our stakeholders (i.e., lack of evaluation culture, digital divide, etc.)?

Moderator: Dr. Baffa Keita, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD), IsDB

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Indran Naidoo, Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD

Panelists:

- Dr. Jos Vaessen (GEI), Deputy Head of Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) & Advisor for Evaluation Methods, Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), World Bank Group
- Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez, Director General, Independent Evaluation – Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Dr. Mohammed Alyami, Director Development Effectiveness Office, ICD
- Ibrahima Dit Thierno Lo, Principal Executive Assistant, Executive Office of the President, IsDB
- Hamdi Ahmedou, Senior Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation, ITFC
- Dr. Abdel Hameed Bashir, Evaluation Advisor, BADEA

15.00-15.15 Coffee Break

15.15-16.30 Session VII: Road Towards Standardization in Evaluation Arabization: Localizing the Development Narrative in the MENA Region

IsDB and its partners are currently preparing the launching of the Arabic Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management in continuation of a successful partnership with OECD-DAC EvalNet.

Moderator: Eng. Mohammad Jamal Al Saati, Senior Advisor to IsDB President

Presenter: Dr. Ahmed Abdelgawad, Senior Evaluation Specialist (IEvD), on the Evaluation Arabization Journey

Panelists:

- Dr. Joerg Faust, Chair of OECD-DAC EvalNet & Managing Director, Deval - Germany
- Zaher Rebai, Director of Human Resources Management Department, IsDB
- Badr Al Khanbashi, Board member of Al Athar Center for Impact, Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Aref Ben Abdallah, International Affairs Advisor, ENAP, Canada
- Talal Karim Alobayd, Head Monitoring & Unit (M&E) Unit, ICD
- Fahad Albassam, Evaluation Department, Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)
- Dr. Abdel Hameed Bashir, Evaluation Advisor, BADEA
- Mohamed Mouatassim, Senior Interpreter, Language Services Division, IsDBG General Secretariat

NB: Simultaneous translation will be provided in Arabic, French, and English for all sessions.

End of the Symposium