

SAMEA CONFERENCE 2017 REPORT

Venue: Hilton Hotel Johannesburg

Dates: 23-27 October 2017

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Introduction

I was one of the Emerging Evaluators based in Swaziland, who was sponsored to attend the Conference. The Conference was a huge success and an eye opener for me. I attended 2 pre-conference workshops and 6 sessions in the main conference.

Pre Conference Workshops

I attended two preconference Workshops, namely, 1) Creative Data Visualisation 2) How to improve Quality of your Evaluation.

- The workshops were a big learning opportunity for me. It gave me skills and resources on data presentation and how to write reports that are easy to read and that effectively communicate with audience through the use of appropriate data Visualisation.
- Workshop introduced to how to effectively commission , plan, and implement evaluations

Main Conference

Inspired: The main conference was really an inspiration for me as an emerging evaluator. The theme of the Conference was Purpose driven Monitoring and Evaluation and really seen in the conference.

Challenged: The main Conference, challenged my understanding and practice of M and E. Key take homes , was how to make sure Evaluation is as big a deal as Monitoring. It was clear from speakers and sessions that monitoring dominates the profession and evaluation was really still lagging behind in both public and non-profit sector

Learning: I see the Conference as a big learning for me. I learnt about data visualisation, monitoring systems, evaluations, where to get resources, good practices in evaluation and available technologies in M and E

Connected: I saw the Conference as a platform to network and connect with other professionals. I have made new connections from different countries, organisations and sectors which I have followed up with after the conference. I have also got new information about resources

Emerging Evaluator Experience

It was an awesome experience and am so grateful to be part of this exciting, mentorship program. The opportunity to exchange ideas with my peers and interact with seasoned professional was great.

Next steps

- ✓ Sharing with my workmates and classmates on my experiences,
- ✓ Drawing my plan for learning and mentorship with my mentor and execution of my plan.
- ✓ Continue to learn and join the global emerging Evaluators network
- ✓ Practice what I learnt from the conference
- ✓ Encourage my classmates and peers to join SAMEA for their own development