

## **SAMEA BIENNIAL PRE-CONFERENCE**

### **EMERGING EVALUATOR SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

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I am grateful that Wits P&DM School introduced me to SAMEA and even awarded scholarship to attend the event in reference. I was afforded the opportunity to attend both the pre-conference and the main conference to the end.

What stood out for me was that monitoring and evaluation are two separate fields that use similar tools and systems within an organisation. These two fields are bringing an expansion of international development. I see my contribution in these fields by undertaking further academic research for corporate and provide strategic dialogue platforms with scientifically found knowledge on monitoring and evaluation practices.

This conference has initiated and fired-up my participation in forthcoming SAMEA events. They are worth budgeted for.

What I learnt out of the pre-conference that data management is strategic component of monitoring and evaluation system within an organisation. Secondly, development intervention should consider being outcome and impact focused. Such practices make development interventions strive to be relevant to the complexities and complications of the environment within which they are being implemented. Data management and change theory are building blocks towards improving use and results of monitoring and evaluation by organisations.

Africa region with influence of donor drive is embracing monitoring and evaluation though the institutionalisation thereof in government is very minimal and very slow. There are other factors influencing the institutionalisation of monitoring and evaluation such as constituency demand for service delivery and accountability. Monitoring and evaluation is predominantly embraced by a country leader of which this is not sustainable since their office tenure is limited. Thus increasing scientific knowledge of monitoring and evaluation assist government machinery in their diverse to yearn for performance culture and accountability thereof.

The other issue that stood out at plenary which was in synch with the conference theme was our understanding and institutionalisation of change out of evaluation results. What this means to me the manner or language we the monitoring and evaluation practitioners use may be far from being operationalised. That as practitioners we should be mindful of context within which monitoring and evaluation is undertaken.

Department of performance, monitoring and evaluation's progress to date is pleasing. What I observed that the department's presentations both at plenary and parallel sessions that there is inefficiencies in synchronising policy making, planning, budgeting, operational, monitoring and evaluation even at intergovernmental levels.

In conclusion and as recommendation going forward SAMEA even at chapter level requires to be a collaborating platform for spheres of government, NGOs, private sector, donors and public entities on monitoring and evaluation practices.