

## **SAMEA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2013**

### **Emerging evaluator scholarship report – 5 October 2013**

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It gives me great pleasure to report on the outcome regarding my experience at the M&E conference under the theme: Meaningful evaluation: improving use & results. The knowledge acquired through various sessions and forums of the conference will help me further monitoring and evaluation. Below are key areas that I learned in the conference.

First, I was able to appreciate Monitoring and Evaluation in the public sector. The presentations by various leaders in the public sector for instance Commissioner Ben Mthembu and Ms Phelele Tengeneni were quite paramount. I was able to understand that Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) have long been important in South Africa's public sector to assess actual change against stated objectives, and therefore judge whether development projects are successful or not. The Director General in the DPME, Dr. Sean Philips was also able to clarify Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) offers governments a host of opportunities for improving the performance of poverty alleviation programmes while focusing on service delivery. The placing of M&E in the public domain has made me appreciate the role building an M&E systems in Africa's governance since M&E systems gives decision makers an additional public sector management tool.

Second was position of M&E in Africa and Made in Africa Evaluation. Dr. Sulley Gariba underpinned the role of having and training African Evaluators. The emergence of a strong academics and professionals in the field of M&E in Africa and implementation of good M&E practices dictates the future of evaluation in Africa. I found this interesting, since there is a huge potential for scholars in the field to gain career experience. Graduates and emerging evaluators can be able to learn and receive mentorship from established professionals. This resonates with me as an emerging evaluator, professional mentorship is what I need to kick start my career in M&E.

Third, the presentation of academic papers by different emerging evaluators was exciting and a great learning experience under the leadership of Prof Christo. I was able to network effectively with my fellow emerging evaluators and learn new concepts especially on how to make M& E participatory. Jennifer Bisgard motivational talk to emerging evaluators on M&E associations and e-learning resources was awesome. I am working on my PhD proposal in Monitoring and Evaluation in Sport and Development and I plan to use these resources in my literature review and conceptual framework for my study. I want to express my sincere gratitude to SAMEA board for awarding me with this prestigious scholarship. It means a lot and has helped equip me with knowledge to practice good quality evaluations and further my education in the field.