

**Report on Emerging Evaluator Scholarship for the 6<sup>th</sup> SAMEA Biennial Conference Attendance**  
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Thank you to the sponsors of the Emerging Evaluator scholarship for the 6<sup>th</sup> SAMEA Biennial Conference and all the organizers of the conference. I cannot express how fortunate I feel to be a beneficiary of the scholarship as well as an attendee of the conference. This conference was one of the best. It was very well run and the educational sessions were informative and entertaining.

The conference has enhanced my understanding of current issues in Monitoring and Evaluation. The experience I had gave me the tools to be a better professional. I learnt more about M&E profession especially evaluation ethics, standards and competencies of M&E profession. Learning more in these areas has equipped me to be professional in all circumstances of my work. The topics that were presented at the conference were very relevant to monitoring and evaluation. I liked the option that we were given to choose the strands that one felt the need to attend, there were so many options of topics for one to choose to attend. The presenters were well prepared and encouraged participation.

Not only did I learn new things from the many interesting presenters, but I also got an opportunity to interact with established professionals as well as fellow emerging evaluators. I was introduced to the field and to important people working in the field both nationally and internationally. Interacting with established professionals in this area is a stepping stone in my professional development.

The gained knowledge will be used for the completion of my studies and publication of papers. I intend to share the information with my fellow students through our chat network and presentations, with the intention of motivating them to participate in future SAMEA conferences. Looking to the future, the information that I have acquired from the conference will raise my awareness for quality evidence to proper decision making. This will help me become a better M&E professional and also engage in research of my own in this area for publication and presentations at other SAMEA events.

Without the scholarship, I could never have afforded to attend. Thank you!

The SAMEA conference was a great experience for me. The first two days consisted of pre-conference workshops which I took part. I took up the “A systems thinking approach to results based M &E for Social Development Projects’. This workshop provided me with an overview of using a systems thinking approach towards M &E. The second workshop that I attended was “An Introduction to M &E for Social Development and Education programmes.