

# IOCE 2009 Annual General Meeting

## Meeting Summary

December 2009

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### Background

The 2009 IOCE AGM was held in two phases, using two forms of communication platforms: a one-hour webinar and a one-week discussion forum via e-mail. These formats appeared to encourage participation and active discussion.

A summary of the webinar will be posted on the IOCE website at [www.ioce.net](http://www.ioce.net). Highlights included the annual report by President Oumoul Ba Tall and the financial report by Treasurer Jim Rugh, both posted on the website. Some time was also provided for comments from the participants on topics that included the IOCE response to the NONIE guidance on impact evaluation, promoting partnerships among evaluation associations, strengthening IOCE and adding value for members, and supporting capacity building in developing countries.

The discussion initiated on the webinar continued for approximately one week through email on the EvaLeaders Discussion Forum at [IOCE-EvaLeaders@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IOCE-EvaLeaders@yahoogroups.com). Forty-four (44) individuals registered for the discussion forum; 26 individuals contributed to the discussion.

### Discussion on the Forum

The Forum was opened by a posting from President Oumoul Ba Tall who once again reminded us of IOCE goals and described the discussion topics for the AGM.

**NOTE: The Discussion Forum participants agreed with the Board of Trustees proposal to extend the term of President Oumoul Ba Tall and Vice-president Burt Perrin to December 2010 in order to develop a succession plan and continue growing IOCE.**

The notes below summarize the discussion during the week. It was evident from the transcripts that the topics are related and the notes reflect this.

#### *1) Facilitating better communication*

**The IOCE Board** acknowledged the need to do a better job of keeping IOCE members and others informed about what IOCE is doing. It also believes it has a role in communicating news about other global evaluation organizations. Challenges to this role include lack of financial resources, time zones and languages.

**Participants** supported the publishing of an IOCE e-newsletter for members and others and the use of webinars.

➔ Marco Segone offered to coordinate an information hub using Wiki and other Web 2.0 technology to facilitate shared communications as well as evaluation-related resources from many sources.

→ Soma De Silva volunteered to edit the newsletter with Victor Manuel Quintero volunteering to provide Latin American content. Barbara Rosenstein volunteered to assist.

2) *IOCE agenda on Impact Evaluation and next steps to the NONIE guidance*

**The IOCE Board** is represented on the Network of Networks on Impact Evaluation (NONIE) along with UNEG (UN agencies), OECD/DAC (bilateral aid agencies) and the ECG (representing multi-lateral development banks). Due to resource constraints IOCE has not kept its members up-to-date on issues such as the recently published NONIE guidance on Impact Evaluation. While the Board acknowledges the hard work put into composing the document, it feels that the guidance does not adequately reflect the diversity of perspectives and methodologies on important components of evaluation, especially in developing countries, and believes resources should be allocated by IOCE to allow it to respond in appropriate and effective ways. The Board is committed to collecting inputs from the larger IOCE membership, so that the next iteration could reflect the views of those who have had a chance to actually "practice" and share their experiences.

3) *Promoting partnerships among evaluation associations*

**A participant** suggested that IOCE needed to identify priorities, and that supporting the networks in the regions should be one of those priorities. IOCE could do this by entering into agreements that make technological resources available for the use of regional networks, by developing cooperative frameworks with organizations, banks and international cooperative agencies to enable the local networks direct access to regional representatives of these entities and by synthesizing knowledge generated from exchanges, meetings, conferences and books.

4) *Strengthening IOCE*

**The IOCE Board** believes it has a strong volunteer base and commitment but lacks financial and human resources to complete much of the work to strengthen IOCE and broaden its reach that has been identified on the workplan and by members.

**A participant** suggested that a process for leveraging more human resources could be to approach member organizations to work in pairs to undertake projects that IOCE Board has identified as priorities.

5) *IOCE value added to its membership*

a) **Participants** identified professionalization of evaluation as an area where the IOCE should show leadership and provide value to its members. One member suggested creating a committee to report to the Board in 2011 on the following: existing endeavours related to professionalization including a survey to identify current ethical and evaluation standards, competency profiles and competency-based educational opportunities. Other members supported the proposal and contributed examples of where this work has already begun – South Asia, IDEAS, CES.

Some participants reminded IOCE that this is an area where politics may have an impact and where evaluation organizations may feel ownership. It was suggested that the identification of existing standards and work being done in this area would be a good first step.

→ Jean Serge Quesnel volunteered to lead the project; Ada Ocampo volunteered to assist.

- b) **Participants** provided suggestions of how IOCE could demonstrate its value through participation at various levels in developing quality products for the international evaluation community. The following were suggested:
- Book on Country Evaluation Capacity, *From Policy to Results* (in progress; President Oumoul writing preface)
  - Book on the politics of evaluation capacity development in an international context
  - Paper coordinated by IOCE on a general analysis of evaluation institutional frameworks that would allow an analysis of existing models across countries and their evolution
  - Wiki on Monitoring and Evaluation (joint initiative between IOCE and UNICEF with several other associations)
  - Books and videos related to evaluation associations (including updating current IOCE book on evaluation associations edited by Segone and Ocampo)
  - Live webinars on IOCE-relevant topics
- ➔ Pablo Rodriguez Bilella volunteered to assist with the Spanish version of the Book on Country Evaluation Capacity and the books and videos on evaluation associations.
- c) **The IOCE Board** initiated discussion on the demand side of evaluation. It was suggested IOCE might begin this by identifying what is currently happening among IOCE member organizations and then identifying some challenges and solutions.

**Participants** reminded us that, while concrete products are important and useful, demand issues, many in a political context, abound around evaluation. IOCE should continue its role of advocacy and assist in demonstrating that institutionalized evaluation supports program development. However, it was recognized that products can also support advocacy.

#### 6) *Supporting capacity building in developing countries*

**A participant** raised the issue of accessing funding to enable IOCE to support capacity building in developing countries. A suggestion was made that IOCE should develop a membership strategy to widen its membership so that IOCE can apply to potential funders for funding to an organization with a broad-based membership.

#### 7) *IOCE Governance*

- a) **The IOCE Board** believes that, although the election of IOCE Officers is actually the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, the broader membership should have the opportunity to comment on the planned extension of the terms of President Oumoul Ba Tall and Vice-president Burt Perrin to December 2010.

**Participants** supported the Board in its decision. But, the Board was reminded that others leave the Board at various times, depending on the organizations they represent, and an effort must be made to retain their expertise as was done in late 2009 when two former Board members agreed to act as Senior Advisors to the Executive Committee.

- b) **The IOCE Board** has determined that the by-laws (posted on [www.ioce.net](http://www.ioce.net)) require revision now that IOCE has been operational for several years. However, the Board does not believe

this would be an efficient and effective way to spend its limited volunteer resources in the immediate future.

**Participants** agreed the by-laws should reflect practice.

➔ Bali Andriantseheno volunteered to review the bylaws and return his assessment to the Board.

President Oumoul Ba Tall closed the virtual AGM on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, thanking all participants and committing IOCE to considering all their ideas.

For more information about the IOCE, including the 2009 Annual Report and the minutes of this AGM and other meetings visit [www.IOCE.net](http://www.IOCE.net).