



## 6<sup>th</sup> IsDB Group Evaluation Symposium

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# Cherishing Learning and Charting out the Future: Strategic Value of Evaluation in Decision-Making

8-9 October 2024

(including Pre-symposium Seminar Series: 25 September & 01 October)

IsDBG HQ, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Independent Evaluation Department - Islamic Development Bank Group

## 1. Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving world, organizations face unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The ability to navigate these complexities hinges on a commitment to continuous learning and systematic evaluation. IsDBG's upcoming 6th Evaluation Symposium on the theme "**Cherishing Learning and Charting Out the Future: Strategic Value of Evaluation in Decision-Making**" aims to explore the indispensable role of evaluation in shaping strategic decisions and fostering organizational success.

Institutional learning is crucial for enhancing IsDBG adaptability, innovation, and resilience in a dynamic global environment. This continuous process of acquiring, disseminating, and applying knowledge significantly contributes to improving IsDBG practices and outcomes. Evaluations play a pivotal role in this learning journey by offering empirical evidence and insights that inform IsDB's decision-making processes. When well-designed and executed, evaluations can substantially enhance both institutional learning and performance improvement. Furthermore, systematic evaluations help identify successful strategies and areas needing improvement, ensuring that IsDB's operations remain aligned with its evolving long-term development objectives.

## 2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The symposium will provide a platform for professionals, experts, and practitioners to discuss and share insights on the value of evaluations in informing future planning and improving decision-making processes. By highlighting real-world examples and best practices, we aim to underscore the strategic value of evaluation in enhancing the effectiveness of organizational strategies, adapting to changing environments, and aligning actions with long-term goals. Specifically, the symposium aims to:

- Enhance the learning culture within the evaluation community and the IsDB Group.
- Boost the quality and speed of the Realigned IsDB Strategy 2023 - 2025.
- Support institutional readiness and governance oversight.
- Strengthen the IsDB Group's external credibility.

The symposium aims to achieve the following outputs:

- Create conducive spaces for debates and enlightenment on institutional learning.
- Advance knowledge and understanding of what works, and what does not, in evaluation practices.
- Share insights on charting out future based on evaluation of the past and present
- Strengthen future operations design, delivery, and efficiency through incorporating best practices.
- Share corporate-level knowledge to guide continuous improvements, organizational change, and learning.
- Keep abreast of the latest advancements in evaluation practices and ensure their use in addressing the development challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing world.
- Promote collaboration via networking and collaboration among evaluation professionals, other business units and key decision makers.

### 3. Pre-Symposium Seminar Series: 25 September-01 October 2024

#### September 25 (WEBINAR)

14h:00-15:30	<b>The role of IFI in promoting evaluation for accountability and learning in development financing</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>  <i>Mr. Nur Abdi, Independent Evaluation Department, IsDB</i>	<p>The webinar will explore how international financial institutions (IFIs) leverage evaluation frameworks to enhance accountability and foster a culture of learning within development initiatives, hence driving transparency and continuous improvement in global development efforts.</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD), IsDB</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Daouda Sembene, CEO &amp; Managing Partner, AfriCatalyst, Dakar. Senegal</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Dirk-Jan Koch, Professor International Trade and Development Cooperation, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands &amp; Director of the Advisory Council of International Affairs of the Dutch Government</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks:</b> Dr. Areef Suleman, Group Chief Economist, IsDB Group</p>

#### October 01 (IsDB HQ – The Glass-Room)

10:00-11:30	<b>Charting out the Future of IsDB Group Private Sector Strategy</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>  <i>Mr. Talal Karim Alobayd, Development Effectiveness Office, ICD</i>	<p>The session will discuss how the IsDB Group can remain responsive in the face of rapid technological, societal, and economic changes.</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD), IsDB</p> <p><b>Opening Statements:</b> Dr. Zamir Iqbal, VP Finance &amp; CFO, IsDB</p> <p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Kashif Iqbal, Division Manager, Strategy and Corporate Performance, ITFC</li> <li>- Dr. Elvin Afandi, Division Manager, Corporate Strategy &amp; Research, ICD</li> <li>- Mr. Bakkar Ali Maasher, Manager, Strategy, Budget and Corporate Performance Department, IsDB</li> <li>- Mr. Lotfi Zairi, Associate Manager, Operations/Sovereign Risks, ICIEC</li> </ul>

## 4. Symposium 8-9 October 2024 (The Tent Hall, IsDBHQ)

October 08, 2024 (Day 1)

Country Operation Day. *Sub-theme: Enhancing Efficiency, Strategic Programming, and Impact*

08:30-09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00-09:30	<b>Opening Ceremony of the 6th IsDB Group Evaluation Symposium</b>
<b>emcee</b>  <i>Ismael Koroma, Communications and Outreach Department</i>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Acting Director, IEvD, IsDB</p> <p><b>Opening Statement:</b> H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Chairman of IsDB Group</p> <p><b>2024 Evaluation Awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Best Project Completion Reports (PCRs) and</li> <li>b) Best Contributors to the Systematic Tracking of the Execution of Evaluation Recommendations (STEER)</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote Speech:</b> Dr. Sabine Bernabè, VP &amp; DG, Evaluation, World Bank Group</p>
09:30-10:45	<b>Session I: Leveraging Evaluation for Strategic Insights</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>  <i>Mr. Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine, Independent Evaluation Department, IsDB</i>	<p><b>Scene Setting:</b> IEvD Presentation on evaluations strategic insights</p> <p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Anasse Aissami, OiC VP Operations, and Director General, Country Programs, IsDB</li> <li>- Dr. Khalid Khalafalla, OiC CEO, ICIEC</li> <li>- Dr. Sabine Bernabè, VP &amp; DG, Evaluation, World Bank Group</li> <li>- Dr. Mohammed Alyami, Development Effectiveness Office, ICD</li> </ul>
<b>10:45-11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 -12:30	<b>Session II: Responding to Global Shifts and Charting out the Future of Country Demands</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>  <i>Dr. Jos Vaessen, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank</i>	<p><b>Opening remarks:</b> Mr. Anasse Aissami, OiC VP Operations, and Director General, Country Programs, IsDB</p> <p><b>Scene Setting:</b> “Unintended effects of development interventions” by Prof. Dr. Dirk-Jan Koch, author of the Book “Foreign Aid and Its Unintended Consequences”</p> <p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Issa Faye, Director General, Global Practices and Partnerships, IsDB</li> <li>- Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General, ISFD</li> <li>- Dr. Areef Suleiman, IsDB Group Chief Economist</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Dirk-Jan Koch, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands, Director of the Advisory Council of International Affairs of the Dutch Government</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 -14:30</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; lunch</b>
14:30-16:00	<b>Session III: Corporate Evaluation – Learnings from IsDB Experiences</b>
	<p><b>Opening remarks:</b> Dr. Rami Ahmad, Senior Advisor to HE the President, IsDB</p> <p><b>Scene setting:</b> IEvD presentation on evaluation findings from “Corporate Evaluations”</p>

<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p>Mr. Nur Abdi, Independent Evaluation Department, IsDB</p>	<p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eng. Dhari Alshammary, Director, Administrative Services Department, IsDB</li> <li>- Mr. Zaher Rebai, Director, Human Resource Department, IsDB</li> <li>- Dr. Abdourabbih Abdouss, Director, Risk Management Department, IsDB</li> <li>- Mr. Farhan Rashid, Manager, Strategy, Budget and Corporate Performance Department, IsDB</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Reinhard Stockmann, Professor for Sociology; Founder and Director of the Center for Evaluation (CEval) at Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany</li> </ul>
16:00-16:15	<b>Closing of day one</b>

## October 09, 2024 (Day 2)

Private Sector Day. *Sub-theme: Adaptive Evaluation: Meeting the Demands of a Transformative Era*

08:30-09:00	<b>Arrival of Guests and Participants at the Tent Hall</b>
09:00-10:30	<b>Opening Ceremony of the Private Sector Day</b>
<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Alyami, Development Effectiveness Office, ICD</p>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Hamdi Ahmedou, M&amp;E Senior Manager, ITFC  <b>Opening Statement:</b> Eng. Hani Sonbol, CEO, ITFC &amp; Acting CEO, ICD</p> <p><b>Fire Chat Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General, ISFD</li> <li>- Dr. Sami Al Suwailem, Acting Director General, IsDBi</li> <li>- Dr. Khalid Khalafalla, OIC CEO, ICIEC</li> <li>- Dr. Issa Faye, Director General, Global Practices and Partnerships, IsDB</li> </ul>
10:30-12:00	<b>Session IV: From Strategy to Impact: How M&amp;E Drives Sustainability and Impact in the Private Sector</b>
<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p>Mr. Hamdi Ahmedou, M&amp;E Office, ITFC</p>	<p>This session will explore the crucial role of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) in translating corporate strategies into tangible, sustainable outcomes within the private sector. By focusing on impact management and integrating Environmental and Social (E&amp;S) considerations into business operations, M&amp;E serve as a key driver for achieving long-term sustainability goals. The discussion will also address the industry's challenges, including the lack of standardization and harmonization in measuring and reporting impact, which often hinders effective alignment with global standards.</p> <p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Walid Abdelwahab, Head of IsDB Regional Hub, Türkiye, IsDB</li> <li>- Dr. Mohammed Alyami, General Manager, Development Effectiveness Office, ICD</li> <li>- Mr. Mahmud Hussein Khalif, General Manager, Underwriting Operations, ICIEC</li> <li>- Dr. Moses Obinyeluaku, Senior Manager, Development Impact Assessment, AFREXIM Bank</li> <li>- Dr. Salam Al-Khateeb, MENA Director, The Social Investment Consultancy</li> </ul>
12:00-12:15	<b>Closing of day two and the Symposium</b>
12:15	<b>Prayer and Lunch</b>