Influential Evaluation

ADB’s Experience on the Role and Influence of Evaluations

Joanne Asquith

Principal Evaluation Specialist: Independent Evaluation Department, ADB
Influential Evaluation

Outline of presentation

• IED Role and Function
• Influential IED Evaluations
• Conclusions – critical factors
Evaluation Role and Function in ADB

- Evaluation supports better accountability and learning
- Main aim: strengthen development effectiveness
- Two parts: self evaluation (ADB) and independent evaluation (IED)
- Independence: freedom from material threats to objectivity
- Multiple levels of evaluations and mixed methods
- Core evaluation work + knowledge and outreach = higher influence and impact
- Evaluation capacity development in IED, ADB, and countries im
Influential Evaluation - Timing

Asian Development Fund Evaluation
• Informed important decisions
• Well established audience
• Demand from the client (ADB)
• Results delivered at major events
• Outreach with key partners
Influential Evaluation - Audience

Policy-Based Lending Evaluation

• Internal Influence
  • Board
  • Management
  • Operations
  • IED

• External Influence
  • Joint MDB publication
Influential Evaluation - Message

- Message – supported by quality
- Powerful game changing message
- Finance ++ or Knowledge ++
- Focus of board retreat
Conclusions: Critical Factors

- Powerful messages supported by convincing evidence
- Timed to coincide and firmly attached to a decision-making process
- Valued by decision-makers – supports decision-making
- Recommendations inform key decisions
- Audience – influence, influence, influence
- Leadership – ability to challenge the status quo