

IM4DC Action Research Report SUMMARY

Researchers:

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School/Centre:

Accelerated Learning Laboratory

University/ Institutions:

The University of Western Australia

Key themes:

Governance and Regulation
Community and Environmental Sustainability
Operational Effectiveness

Key Countries:

General application

Completion:

February 2014

Research aims:

This research aimed to:

- Undertake a systematic evaluation of the impact of IM4DC courses, workshops and study tours on the practices, policies and culture of targeted developing nations, by conducting in-depth, semi-structured interviews with IM4DC alumni.
- Provide rich data for IM4DC to review the impact of their past programs, understand the extent to which intended outcomes have been achieved through these programs, and conduct strategic planning for the future.

For further information on this action research:

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IM4DC Evaluation of Impact

This project aimed to assist the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) in understanding how its educational and developmental programs have contributed to the improvement of the practices, policies and cultures of targeted developing nations. In consultation with the IM4DC, the Accelerated Learning Laboratory (ALL@UWA) designed an interview protocol for program alumni to systematically address the key questions posed in the IM4DC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Contact was made with 73 alumni and interviews were successfully conducted with 25 alumni. Twelve countries were represented in this sample, with relatively balanced representation of organisations (university, government, and NGOs). The results were mapped onto the key questions in the IM4DC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and are summarised in this report.

Overall, the interviews suggested that IM4DC programs have enabled the alumni to apply their learning into practice and to bring about changes to their work and organisations. The analysis suggests that participants have developed leadership capability, initiated innovative activities and changes, strengthened their networks, and can potentially contribute to the improvement of the social, economic and environmental status of their home countries. Recommendations for further enhancing impact include: involving key personnel and decision makers in the IM4DC training; providing focused, systemic training to develop participants' change management skills; following up with alumni to support their change initiatives; and creating platforms to share innovative and effective practices among alumni.

The information generated through this project will assist IM4DC to engage in systematic reviews of previous programs and strategic planning for the future.