

Training Programme Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policies (DEIP), New Delhi, Februari 2-7, New Delhi.

The India DEIP was organised jointly by three organisations, UNU-MERIT, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum and the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS, CSIR). The contact persons were Prof. Adam Szirmai and Eveline Indebraek (UNU-MERIT), Prof. Sunil Mani (CDS) and Dr. Partha Banerjee and Dr. Naresh Kumar (NISTADS).

Considerable efforts were made to tailor the programme to the Indian situation and requirements. This resulted in an interesting mix of lecturers, combining lecturers from UNU-MERIT (Szirmai, Mohnen, Nauwelaers, Goedhuys) with speakers of Indian origin Padmashree Gehl Sampath (open University, UNU-MERIT), Sunil Mani (centre for development studies, formerly UNU-MERIT), Rakesh Basant (Indian Institute of Management), Jajeswari Raina, Centre for Policy Research) and Partha Banerjee (NISTADS).. In the final programme space was also reserved for presentations by participants. The programme is enclosed below.

NISTADS was responsible for the local organisation and did an excellent job. Lunches and catering were provided in house. All participants received a CD-ROM with all the presentations and the literature on the last day of the course.

There was great interest in the programme. There were 72 applications, of which 56 were accepted as participants and six as auditors. There were also some last minute cancellations. In the end, 49 participants and five auditors joined the course. 42 participants completed the full course and received a certificate. Seven participated for only one or two days and did not receive a certificate.

The level of the participants was extremely satisfactory. They included senior representatives of various departments of the ministry of science and technology, 8 participants from state councils of science and technology, policy researchers at NISTADS, members of prestigious research organisations such as the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Senior members of the department of science and Technology (DST), responsible for the collection of statistics on science and technology. There were also several participants from Chambers of Commerce, consultants and private sector organisations. This is in line with our policy to broaden participation to the private sector and not to limit it exclusively to senior policy officials. Finally, there were also a few participants from other countries (Malaysia, Netherlands). The level, competence and high motivation of the participants resulted in very lively exchanges and discussions during the presentations.

The participants responded very positively to the programme. They found it highly relevant to their concerns and commented favourably on the quality of the programme. The evaluations (enclosed) were very positive and many constructive suggestions were made.

One potential drawback was that the programme was very overloaded. Five full days of four lectures a day, lasting approximately 9 hours, plus another half day was very taxing and exhausting. As the programme was held in New Delhi, there was a strong temptation for participants to skip some presentations and go to their respective offices to get some work of their own done. This resulted in somewhat lower participation in the middle of the week. But to our surprise and relief, attendance improved substantially in the second half of the week

and 42 people completed the full course. We discussed the length of the programme with the participants. Most of them indicated that they found the programme so valuable and of such quality that they would prefer not to shorten it. Nevertheless, I believe we might consider somewhat shorter programmes in the future, especially if we do not have the course in a location with a captive audience.

Two suggestions made by participants were: 1. that there was a need for a DEIP website where names and addresses of all present and participants in the programmes are posted so as to contribute to a policy community. We were already working on this and will implement this in the near future. 2. there is a need for an introductory session where participants introduce themselves and their organisations, so as to create better communication between the participants. This suggestion is very much worth implementing.