

## **RTD Evaluation Topical Interest Group (TIG)**

Notes from Business Meeting – November 8, 2007

As each of the 40 or so people attending introduced themselves, we saw again how international the RTD TIG is. The U.S., Canada, Austria, United Kingdom, the European Commission in Brussels, Ireland, Japan, and Korea were represented. The group re-elected the current TIG officers (see below) with the understanding that involving new people in leadership positions is desirable and transition plans will be developed this coming year.

People expressed their satisfaction with the quality of this year's sessions, and the usefulness of the hand out summarizing the schedule of RTD TIG sessions. A request was made to have the names of presenters at the conference available in advance to help people decide whether or not to attend. We are proud to have, beginning Fall 2007, an issue of *Research Evaluation* dedicated to our AEA sessions each year.

The main topic of discussion was how to reinvigorate the WREN – the Washington Research Evaluation Network and the World Research Evaluation Network which was declared at a symposium in Korea in June 2005. The RTD TIG sessions at AEA were to be one of two annual meetings, with the AEA being the more academic and open meeting, and a second meeting each Spring in different countries that was sponsored by and aimed more at government managers of evaluation. A group volunteered to investigate champions and sources of funding, and to examine again the World Research Evaluation Network charter drafted by Peter Johnston at the 2005 meeting. Members of the group are Cheryl Oros (Veterans Administration), Connie Chang (Formerly NIST/ATP), Dale Pahl (EPA), and Nick Vonortas (GWU). DG IST and DG Research expressed interest in helping, as did colleagues from Japan, who will soon declare J-WREN.

Volunteers were requested in two areas, and six or more people signed up in each area. A **Program Committee** will be organized to make next year's conference in Denver even better than this year. Prior to the mid March AEA deadline for proposals, Program Committee members will recruit panels and papers (1) from their countries and regions, (2) with co-sponsorship of related TIGs, and where possible, (3) with persons active in other professional groups such as the Tech Transfer Society and Economics Associations. Volunteers, including a "director", will help with **TIG Communications**. In addition to emails to the TIG core list related to the AEA conference, we will establish a web page on the AEA site, and post AEA presentations and links to related pages. The TIG will edit a special issue of *Research Evaluation* again from the 2007 presentations.

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