



As part of the global activities for the International Evaluation Year 2015 The Israeli Association for Program Evaluation (IAPE) held its 13th annual conference. The theme this year was Advocacy for Evaluation. The one day conference took place at the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev, in Beer Sheva Israel, on March 2, 2015.

In Israel , evaluators come from a variety of disciplines and are engaged in learning what works and why, and where there are failures and how to deal with them in programs run by the government and its agencies, as well as other organizations and civil society bodies.

This impressive events included speakers from Israel and the States. We opened with an inspiring talk by Eliad Shraga - Chairman of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel. For 25 years Mr. Shraga has been advocating successfully for improvements in government and society. This lecture was followed by a video lecture by Rakesh Mohan, director of the Office of Performance Evaluations, in the state of Idaho and a staunch adavocate for evaluation. After the video lecture, we communicated with Mr. Mohan by Skype (even though it was 3:00 am in Idaho) for a scintilating discussion of the main ways to conduct advocacy.

After a much coffee break we continued with talks by advocated in different fields, Allan Barkat, Allan Barkat - founder and director of Duelis, an NGO that seeks to make a positive social impact by building and investing in social businesses that train and employ disadvantaged populations, Prof. Jack Habib - director of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, an advocate for evaluation use, and Dr. Haya G'mshi – director of the Shahaf and Oren Foundations that support community building. All three are experienced advocates of their causes.

The day ended with workshops for planning for advocacy efforts based on the UNPD Advocacy Toolkit and additional future actions of the Israeli Association for Program Evaluation. We invite those interested to visit the website of the Association in three languages , Arabic, English and Heebrew. www.iape.org.il