

Third issue of the *KM4D Journal*

The third issue of the KM4Dev e-journal will deal with ‘Understanding the role of culture in knowledge sharing: Making the invisible visible’ and will be co-edited by Peter van Rooij (ILO), Rohit Ramaswamy (Service Design Solutions), Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme (Centre international de solidarité ouvrière) and Lucie Lamoureux (Bellanet).

By engaging cultural processes at all levels, development practitioners can encourage local initiative and better understand social change.

(Rob Vincent, *Culture key in developing HIV communication strategies*, Healthlink Worldwide, 2005)

Culture has many definitions. One of these refers to culture as ‘a particular society at a particular time and place’. A related word, acculturation is defined as ‘all the knowledge and values shared by a society’. Different cultures, with diverse knowledge and values, can be important sources of knowledge for development. Exchanges between cultures offer opportunities to find and share the local knowledge more broadly.

The purpose of the third issue is to present recent experiences of the influence of culture in knowledge sharing by practitioners who have been involved in planning, introducing and mainstreaming knowledge sharing approaches in development organizations. This topic was also the theme of the KM4Dev annual meeting, which took place at the ILO in Geneva on 20-21 June 2005.

Among others, the 3rd issue will include the following papers:

- An article by Sebastiao Darlan Mendonça Ferreira on the challenge of KM in the social realm, and its similarities and differences compared to KM inside organisations.
- Dr. Ceaser McDowell from MIT will be using cases from Latin America to discuss how a methodology has been used to support the generation of local knowledge, including some of the challenges when trying to support this generation as well as attending to cultural issues and the pressures of development interest.
- Chris Burman will reflect on his experiences with addressing the cultural dimension of knowledge sharing in a cross-cultural context, through a case study of a series of horizontal exchanges between two rural women’s associations in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

- Anne Trebilcock, Rafael Diez de Medina and Barbara Collins will present a case study by on the cultural lessons they learned while organising a Knowledge Fair at the ILO.
- Deborah Macan Markar and Petra Karetji will outline BaKTI's approach (Eastern Indonesia Knowledge Exchange) in development, within a context of change and the role of knowledge in this 'Journey of Change'.
- Julie Ferguson on overcoming cultural barriers when a development organization teams up with a research institute, in this case in a Hivos-Institute of Social Studies' knowledge network.

The issue will also include a story from Camilo Villa on his research project on the role of regional culture and collective learning in Colombia, and an interview with Dr. Clive Holtham on his work with knowledge spaces and indigenous knowledge.

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