

Japan Evaluation Society: Pilot Test of an Accreditation Scheme for Evaluation Training

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The Japan Evaluation Society (JES) has conducted a pilot test of an accreditation scheme for short-term evaluation training programs. The program chosen for this test was a 4-day school evaluation training course organized by a public teacher training center in cooperation with Hiroshima University. The course was designed to impart functional competence to school teachers for co-ordinating self-evaluation exercises in their schools. The course contents were adapted from the ‘Essential Skills Series (ESS)’ program of the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES), which provided technical assistance for the formulation of the course design, preparation of the textual materials and actual conducting of the course, including on-site guidance and evaluation of its results on the basis of a formal agreement with JES. The course was given twice—first in July 2003 and then in August 2004. A special committee established in JES elaborated tentative procedures for accreditation and examined reports submitted by the course organizer and a JES member dispatched to observe the course. The committee has judged that the course cleared the hurdle for accreditation and, based on this pilot test, is making a recommendation to JES Board that an Accreditation Scheme should be formally established. JES believes that its accreditation scheme will, by virtue of the norms it sets for evaluation training, have a direct impact on the quality of the short-term evaluation training programs conducted by public sector bodies and specialized training organizations. It also hopes that the scheme will lead to multiplication of evaluation training programs by providing qualification incentives to individuals

interested in evaluation training. In addition to school evaluation, aid evaluation and government performance evaluation are considered target areas for the accreditation scheme.

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