

The Performance Conference

NAPA's 5th Performance Conference

Abstract Title: Annual Planning

Annual planning grows out of effective strategic planning. The elements of successful strategic planning will be reviewed briefly, focussing on issues of establishing attainable strategic objectives, and the development of longer term management plans that reach the established goals.

In this view, annual planning is an essential component of strategic planning. Annual planning is a corrective for strategic planning—it asks the question whether there are five—or seven or three—annual ‘steps’ that can be taken to reach the strategic plan’s objective. If not, the strategic plan itself must be revised to make it attainable.

The annual plan is also linked closely to indicators. The plan asks the question “What will be different at the end of one year?” knowing that the answer provides the indicators for that year’s accomplishments. If there is no difference from one year to the next, both the strategic plan and the annual plan may both need further adjustment.

There will be NO PowerPoint presentation. Instead, the discussion will be highly interactive, with issues raised by the audience being discussed by both the presenter and others present.

Brief Bio: Dan W. Blumhagen, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Blumhagen has been with the Agency for International Development for fourteen years. Following eight years working in Africa (Ghana, Burundi, Niger) on health and population issues, he returned to Washington five years ago to head the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Division in the Center for Development Information and Evaluation. His office is responsible for all aspects of Agency performance management and reporting, including Government Performance and Results Act requirements for Annual Performance Plans and Annual Performance Reports. USAID has an unusual portfolio for a Federal agency, supporting essentially all activities that governments normally do, in more than seventy countries around the world. Although he comes out of the health sector, his team works with all sectors, many other donor agencies and many individual countries. Current activities include developing a new education strategy for the Agency, developing monitoring systems for the Food for Peace development assistance, and developing indicators for managing humanitarian emergencies. He has recently led a team restructuring the Agency strategy for annual planning.

In this position, he travels widely, teaching and consulting with USAID missions worldwide on how to do effective strategic planning and performance management. He has worked or traveled in more than fifty countries on four continents.

In a past life, he was an emergency room physician until his love for international development got the better of him. In off-hours he scuba dives, works in stained glass, and is just completing remodeling a house built during the Harding administration.