



4th APEA CONFERENCE

Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for
Equitable Development in Asia Pacific

4-7 December 2023 | Manila



CONFERENCE REPORT



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Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific

Fourth APEA Conference
& EvalvisionAsia 2023

Manila, Philippines | 4 – 7 December 2023

CONFERENCE REPORT

Asia Pacific Evaluation Association
December 2023

Forward

The 4th APEA Conference and EvalVisionAsia 2023 organized by Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) with its partners was a great milestone in the evaluation field for the Asia Pacific Region. The joint organizers of the conference included the Congress of the Philippines, EvalYouth Asia and the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation and several organizations supported the success of the conference. The conference theme: '*Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific*' was truly meaningful with the partnership showcased by the joint organizers and stakeholders.

The conference was attended by over 200 diverse participants including members of Parliaments, VOPE members, young and emerging evaluators, academia, governments, representatives from United Nations/ development banks/ international organizations and civil society. One of the key highlights of the participation was that of regional VOPE leaders from Africa, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, America, Canada, Eurasia and South Asia. The four-day conference featured workshops, keynote speeches, panels, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities to participants. The culminating activity of the 4th APEA Conference was the *Parliament Day* at the Congress of the Philippines, chaired by the Honourable Speaker, being the most successful Parliament event on evaluation. The Manila Declaration was signed at the Congress making commitments to institutionalize evaluation at national levels.

APEA appreciates the Congress of the Philippines, our partners, sponsors, theme leaders and speakers/ panelists who supported for the conference a success. We also take this opportunity to thank volunteers, secretariat staff and APEA Board for tireless efforts to organize the conference.

Finally, thanks to all our participants for making the conference a vibrant and a learning space.

Let's walk the talk in promoting evaluation in the region.

Dr. Asela Kalugampitiya, PhD

President of APEA

Abbreviations

AEA	American Evaluation Association
AfrEA	African Evaluation Association
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action
APC Hub	Asia Pacific Communication Hub
APJE	Asia Pacific Journal of Evaluation
APEA	Asia Pacific Evaluation Association
APPFE	Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum For Evaluation
APRES	Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy
CES	Canadian Evaluation Society
CEval	Center for Evaluation
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CFfE	Competency Framework for Evaluation
COE-Nepal	Community of Evaluators – Nepal
DMEO	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
ECOI	Evaluation Community of India
EYA	EvalYouth Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPFE	Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
IEG	Independent Evaluation Group
IDEAS	International Development Evaluation Association
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
IEO (NDB)	Independent Evaluation Office of the New Development Bank
IIT	Indian Institutes of Technology
NECD	National Evaluation Capacity Development
NEPS	National Evaluation Policies and Systems
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NDB	New Development Bank
OPI	Outreach Philippines Inc.
PHD	Participatory Human Development
PHILDEV	Philippine Evaluators for Development
PFDE-SA	Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation—South Asia
PROSPER	Programme for Strengthening the Public Role in Evaluation
ReLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Monitoring, Evaluation and Systematization Network
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEDAP	United Nations Evaluation Development Asia Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VOPEs	Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews
WFP	World Food Programme
YEEs	Young and Emerging Evaluators

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Introduction

Overview

The **Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)**, established in 2011, is a key organization dedicated to enhancing the socio-economic and political landscapes of Asia and the Pacific. With a focus on developing countries within these regions, APEA plays a crucial role in advocating for effective, results-based performance in public sector management. Recognizing the diverse challenges these countries face—from economic stagnation to environmental degradation—APEA is committed to fostering transparency, accountability, and sustainable development. Through its efforts in capacity building, particularly in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), APEA aims to translate the region's unique strengths and challenges into actionable, positive outcomes, contributing significantly to collective well-being and shared progress across Asia and the Pacific. APEA's influence spans across more than 40 countries in the region, with 15 national evaluation associations currently enlisted as members. This broad network highlights APEA's commitment to fostering a community that elevates the standards and application of evaluation in diverse contexts.

APEA's history of organizing influential conferences is notable, with two significant regional in-person conferences successfully conducted in 2016 and 2019. Adapting to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, APEA, in partnership with the Evaluation Community of India, masterfully transitioned to a virtual platform for "[The 3rd APEA Conference and EvalFest 2022](#)," showcasing resilience and adaptability in continuing its mission amidst global disruptions.

This year, APEA hosted the much-anticipated "**Fourth APEA Conference**" from December 4th to December 7th in Manila, Philippines. This event marked a significant milestone as it was orchestrated in collaboration with the **Congress of the Philippines, Philippine Evaluators for Development (PHILDEV), EvalYouth Asia (EYA), and the Asia Pacific Communication (APC) Hub**. The conference was not just a singular event but a part of the larger **EvalVisionAsia 2023 initiative**, designed to celebrate the accomplishments within the Asia Pacific region throughout 2023 and to pave the way for a dynamic and progressive 2024. This conference was a testament to APEA's unwavering commitment to advancing the field of evaluation, fostering a culture of learning, and promoting best practices across the region. This conference offered a significant collection of sessions, workshops, and keynote addresses. These were meticulously planned to cover various facets of evaluation, ranging from national evaluation policies and community engagement to professionalization and indigenous perspectives in evaluation practices.

With a total of 381 registrants and 203 participants from 39 countries, the 4th APEA Conference was a **landmark event, bringing together a diverse array of experts, practitioners, and supporters in the field of evaluation**. It served as a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and the advancement of evaluation practices across the Asia Pacific Region.

Theme of the Conference

The theme of the 4th APEA Conference was “**Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific.**” This theme was a reflective and forward-looking lens focusing on the critical role of evaluation in shaping a sustainable and equitable future in the Asia Pacific Region. This theme was highly relevant given the region's diversity, encompassing over 50 nations and sub-regions, each with unique challenges and opportunities. APEA, EvalYouth Asia, the Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation–South Asia (PFDE-SA), and other partners developed the [Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy](#) (APRES) in December 2020. The overall goal of the strategy was to **realize greater use of evaluation, contributing positively to the achievement of national development goals and SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region.** The underlying principles of gender equality, women's empowerment, human rights, and leaving no one behind also served as a guide for the strategy.

Central Theme: Addressing Diverse Challenges through Evaluation

The Asia Pacific Region, home to 60% of the world's population, is grappling with pressing issues such as income inequality, poverty, conflict, climate change, and food insecurity. The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 presented a global agenda aimed at tackling these challenges. The central theme of the conference underscores the necessity of using evaluation as a tool not just for assessment but as a transformative agent to improve lives and ensure inclusivity, aligning with the ethos of “leaving no one behind.”

Sub-Themes:

Within the ambit of this broad theme, the event provided scope for deliberations on the eight themes of the Regional Evaluation Strategy as sub-thematic strands:

- 1. Professionalizing Evaluation:** This sub-theme emphasized the need to enhance public recognition and trust in the evaluation profession. It aimed to develop a competency framework and standards for evaluators, ensuring high-quality, credible evaluations that were respected and utilized in policymaking across the region.
- 2. Developing Partnerships for Evaluation Capacity:** Collaborative efforts were essential for building evaluation capacity, especially among young and emerging evaluators. This theme advocated for partnerships with organizations, institutions, and networks to provide education and training in M&E.
- 3. Strengthening Community Ownership in Evaluation:** By working with NGOs, CBOs, and other partners, this theme sought to empower communities and citizens to take ownership of evaluation processes. This approach was crucial for ensuring evaluations were grounded in local contexts and needs.

4. **Promoting Young and Emerging Evaluators:** Recognizing and empowering young and emerging evaluators was vital for sustaining and innovating the evaluation ecosystem. This theme focused on building their capacity and ensuring their voices were heard in the evaluation process.
5. **Strengthening Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs):** They played a critical role in institutionalizing and sustaining the evaluation profession. This theme aimed to support VOPEs in becoming strategic partners in their respective countries.
6. **Engaging Parliamentarians for Demand and Use of Evaluation:** The engagement of policymakers, particularly parliamentarians, was crucial for ensuring that evaluations informed policy decisions. This theme focused on enhancing their understanding and use of evaluation.
7. **Promoting National Evaluation Policies and Systems:** Developing or strengthening National Evaluation Policies and Systems (NEPS) was a strategic approach to institutionalizing evaluation. This theme involved raising awareness and providing technical support for NEPS development.
8. **Using Evaluation to Report on the SDGs:** Evaluation played a critical role in assessing progress towards the SDGs. This theme emphasized the need to raise awareness and promote the use of evaluation in SDG reporting.



Acknowledgment

The 4th APEA Conference was a collaborative effort that united diverse stakeholders in the field of evaluation. Guided by APEA's leadership, the conference's agenda aligned with its mission to enhance evaluation practices in the Asia Pacific region. Vital partnerships with organizations such as the **Congress of the Philippines**, **PHILDEV**, **EYA**, and **APC Hub** brought diverse perspectives to the discussions. Contributions from National Evaluation Associations provided local insights, enhancing the conference's contextual relevance.

The **Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation** and the **Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation** had a crucial part in linking evaluation findings to policy implementation. The invaluable support of sponsors and donors like the **Asian Development Bank**, the **New Development Bank**, the **United Nations Population Fund**, and **EvalIndigenous** was instrumental in bridging gaps. These institutions contributed not only financially but also offered thematic guidance in their respective expertise areas. **Outreach International** and the **International Development Evaluation Association** provided in-kind contributions that were crucial to the conference's success.

Academic and research institutions introduced new methodologies and findings, expanding the current knowledge in evaluation. NGOs and CBOs provided grassroots perspectives, ensuring the conference outcomes were relevant and impactful at the community level. Young and emerging evaluators introduced fresh ideas and innovative approaches, vital for the ongoing evolution of evaluation practices.

Policymakers and government representatives significantly facilitated the integration of conference insights into public policy and governance. The **19th Congress of the Philippines**, which was welcoming, hosted the conference's inaugural Parliament Day, during which the evaluation community unveiled and endorsed the Manila Declaration. The Secretariat's efficient management of logistical and administrative tasks ensured the smooth execution of the conference, facilitating effective communication and organization among stakeholders.

The conference was abundant in learning, ideas, and insights. It fostered a cooperative spirit that accelerated the development of fair and effective assessment methods across the Asia Pacific region. This dynamic and intricate conference atmosphere promoted cooperation and facilitated the advancement of equitable assessment techniques. The 4th APEA Conference, a landmark event, promoted equitable and effective assessment methods in the Asia Pacific Region. It included 15 sessions covering various topics, such as national policies and engagement strategies, and four pre-conference workshops that offered valuable evaluation insights. The event underscored the importance of collaboration among diverse stakeholders, culminating in Parliament Day, which highlighted the role of M&E in achieving the 2030 SDGs and institutionalizing evidence-based governance. This conference played a crucial role in advancing sustainable evaluation practices in the region.



Pre-Conference Workshops

The 4th APEA Conference began with a full day dedicated to pre-conference workshops. These sessions provided participants with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in key areas of evaluation, fostering interaction and learning from experts.

Workshop 1: Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews and Country-Led Evaluations of the SDGs. Why and How?

This workshop was pivotal in understanding the role of evaluations in achieving the United Nations General Assembly's 2030 Agenda. Adhering to the UN's resolution A/Res/77/283, the workshop focused on integrating country-led evaluations into the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). It aimed to improve understanding of the Agenda 2030 follow-up and review process and the significance of evidence-based VNRs in forming public policies for equitable development, with Ada Ocampo, President of IDEAS, and Thomas Rossmueller of UNICEF serving as facilitators. The workshop addressed the crucial role of evaluations in evidence-based policymaking within the context of the SDGs, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of SDG evaluation, which combines inputs from public policy, research, and data analysis.



Ada Ocampo and Thomas Rossmueller facilitated the workshop

A significant challenge discussed was bridging the gap between policymaking and evaluation, highlighting the need for participatory approaches aligned with national priorities. The workshop also delved into the challenges of implementing evaluations, such as overreliance on consultants without adequate guidelines and the necessity for capacity building and stakeholder collaboration. The importance of VNRs in reporting progress on SDGs was underlined, stressing the need for evidence-based reporting to bridge the gap between current practices and ideal approaches.

The workshop recognized effective communication and dissemination of evaluation results as crucial for ensuring that findings reach the intended audience. Balancing maintaining independence with ensuring participatory processes in evaluations was emphasized for their credibility and objectivity. Discussions also covered handling sensitive information and the importance of national evaluation policies to ensure systematic and mandatory evaluations.



Participants were encouraged to actively engage in the VNR process and advocate for the inclusion of evaluative evidence. The workshop underscored the need for systematic, objective, and participatory approaches in evaluations, stressing the importance of effective communication and stakeholder engagement for the credibility and utility of evaluation outcomes in policymaking and service improvement related to sustainable development.

Workshop 2: Our Experiences, Our Data: A How-to Guide on Facilitating Locally Owned Evaluation Processes

Outreach Philippines Inc. (OPI) and Outreach International hosted a workshop that delved deeply into community-led and localized development. This workshop uniquely combined the global focus on inclusivity, social justice, and decolonization with practical, participatory methods in monitoring and evaluation (M&E). It reflected Outreach International's four decades of commitment to community-led development, providing participants with extensive experience and knowledge in these areas.



The workshop's narrative revolved around empowering communities to actively engage in monitoring and evaluating their development journey. Participants received a comprehensive guide focusing on three critical aspects of evaluation: continuous process evaluation, project-specific evaluation in community-managed projects, and community-owned capacity assessment. These elements are integral to the participatory human development (PHD) approach, which has been a key focus of OPI's recent work.

A highlight of the workshop was the demonstration of how OPI's application of the PHD methodology over the past 5–6 years has significantly contributed to building robust community-based organizations (CBOs) and fostering local leadership. Through community-managed and owned projects, these CBOs under the direction of local leaders have successfully addressed various poverty-related challenges. The workshop provided practical examples and insights into these projects, showcasing the substantial impact of community-led initiatives.

The workshop's primary objective was to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to incorporate these community-led evaluation practices into their developmental work. In doing so, the workshop aimed to enhance the effectiveness, relevance, and ownership of development initiatives, aligning them more closely with the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve. This approach resonates with the global movement towards more inclusive and participatory development methodologies, ensuring development efforts are conducted with the communities, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment.



One activity of the workshop was group dynamics to bring about reflections of each participant

Workshop 3: Evaluation of Humanitarian Action

This workshop offered an in-depth exploration of humanitarian effort assessment. Utilizing the ALNAP "Evaluation of Humanitarian Action" guide, the workshop aimed to impart a deep understanding of the key concepts in evaluating humanitarian actions, with a focus on assessing their effectiveness in saving lives and alleviating suffering. Sarah Gharbi, a Research Fellow at ALNAP, and Dorothy Mae Albentio, a Research Officer at ALNAP, facilitated the session.

The workshop's objectives were multifaceted. It aimed not only to raise awareness of the importance of evaluations in humanitarian contexts but also to familiarize participants with the complexities of the evaluation process. Challenges addressed included the lack of baseline data in crisis scenarios, managing overly ambitious terms of reference with limited resources, and understanding the complex relationships between donors, evaluators, and NGOs. The workshop also presented practical methodologies and strategies to navigate these challenges, emphasizing the need for flexibility, cultural sensitivity, and ethical mindfulness in conducting evaluations.

Engaging participants through theoretical insights and interactive activities, the workshop catered to a diverse group, including independent evaluators, aspiring evaluators, evaluation commissioners, and managers. Activities such as role-playing and real-life scenario analysis fostered a dynamic exchange of perspectives and experiential learning. These interactive elements highlighted the value of participatory methods and the importance of involving affected populations in the evaluation process, ensuring their voices and experiences are central to the assessment.



The workshop shed light on the numerous issues that arise when evaluating humanitarian action, such as the need for speed and chaos in humanitarian emergencies, the need for staff to depart quickly, and the fact that it can be challenging to conduct evaluations in far-off or conflict-affected areas. This session stood out as a critical platform for deepening participants' understanding of the nuances in humanitarian evaluations, equipping them with the essential skills and knowledge to effectively evaluate and improve these vital humanitarian actions.



Workshop participants showing their acting prowess during the role playing exercise

Workshop 4: Foundations of Evaluation Design

The workshop was an insightful exploration into various areas of evaluation design applicable to policies, programs, and projects. It underscored the crucial blend of technical expertise and nuanced understanding necessary to minimize biases in M&E. Josef Vaessen, Evaluation Advisor at the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group, adeptly facilitated the workshop, guiding participants through the four primary building blocks of evaluation.

Central to the workshop's theme was the concept of program theory in evaluation, akin to a theory of change. This aspect was explored through interactive discussions where participants engaged in deconstructing program theory, learning to view it as a constructed, purposeful framework for consensus building, data collection, and analysis. The theoretical principles were exemplified through a practical case study on payments for ecosystem services.

Interactive sessions, such as the agriculture sector intervention group exercise, played a key role in enhancing understanding. Participants identified potential outcomes and deliberated on factors like replicability and scalability, illuminating the challenges and considerations in evaluation design. These exercises also facilitated discussions on the symbolic and practical

aspects of evaluation, addressing issues such as donor-driven evaluations and the slow integration of an evaluation culture among policymakers.

The workshop emphasized understanding the difference between theory failure and implementation failure, highlighting the importance of evaluating unintended consequences. Discussions also illuminated the varied uses of mixed methods in evaluation research, including triangulation and complementarity. The significance of creating impactful policy briefs was underscored, emphasizing the translation of evaluations into actionable insights.

Quality in evaluation was a recurring theme, dissecting perspectives from methodological principles to institutional processes and constraints. The workshop delved into different evaluation implementation models, including in-house, hybrid, and commissioning, discussing the main factors determining evaluation quality.

An engaging component of the workshop was the Strateval game, which provided participants with a practical understanding of evaluation design and its inherent challenges. This interactive session, coupled with discussions on lessons learned from past evaluation design failures, enriched the learning experience. The workshop offered both novice and seasoned evaluators, commissioners, and policymakers a thorough understanding of the principles of evaluation design, clarifying the complexity of ensuring methodological quality and practical applicability, thereby significantly enhancing their professional development in the field of evaluation.



Two Day Main Conference

The two-day conference comprised 15 sessions, each complementing the event's thematic areas. This introduction lays the groundwork for the in-depth discussions that follow, focusing on the critical role of evaluation in sustainable development.

Session 1: Inauguration

The inauguration session of the conference marked a significant beginning, establishing the thematic framework for the subsequent discussions. The 2020 Asia Pacific Regional Strategy that APEA and its partners created was in line with this session's theme, "Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific." Ana Erika Lareza, President of Philippine Evaluators for Development moderated the session.



Asela Kalugampitiya, President of APEA, opened the session by emphasizing the importance of evaluation in guiding development efforts. He highlighted the need for a strong evaluation culture across the region, extending beyond biannual conferences. Asela Kalugampitiya outlined APEA's commitment to regular programs that enhance evaluation capabilities and the formulation of a comprehensive regional evaluation strategy, addressing themes like engaging parliamentarians, establishing national evaluation policies, and nurturing young and emerging evaluators.

Following Kalugampitiya, Natalia Nikitenko, a Former Member of the Kyrgyz Republic's Parliament and a Member of the GPFE, spoke on the crucial role of parliamentarians in fostering evidence-based policymaking and nurturing a robust evaluation culture. She detailed how evaluation

influences decision-making processes, legal frameworks, and independence in evaluation methodologies, emphasizing the need for transparent and accountable governance in the face of global challenges like economic turbulence and inequality.



Director General Emmanuel Jimenez of the Independent Evaluation Department (IED) at the ADB then shared his insights, focusing on the critical role of inclusive partnerships and capacity building in evaluation, key elements of the APRES regional strategy. He underscored the importance of capacity development in evaluation, especially considering recent challenges, and highlighted resources like the Better Evaluation website.

Undersecretary Joseph J. Capuno of the Investment Programming Group at the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) of the Philippines followed, highlighting the session's role in providing a comprehensive view of the current evaluation landscape in the Asia Pacific Region and its future trajectory. He emphasized the significance of adapting evaluation strategies to the evolving economic and social landscapes of the region.

Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr., the Deputy Secretary General of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department of the Philippine House of Representatives, concluded the session by focusing on the integration of evaluation in policy-making and budgetary processes, stressing its importance in achieving efficient and effective governance.

This session not only kicked off the conference but also set the stage for knowledge sharing and networking. It provided participants with a deep understanding of the evaluation landscape in the Asia-Pacific region and insights into its potential future developments.

Session 2: Keynote Panel: Evaluation and National Evaluation Policies for Evidence-Based Policy Making

Ada Ocampo, the president of IDEAS, moderated this discussion, which focused on the complexity and importance of National Evaluation Policies and Systems (NEPS) as described in the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy. Integral to the APEA's agenda, the session focused on exploring and enhancing NEPS, recognizing them as crucial navigational guides and operational frameworks. NEPS are designed to amplify the effective use of evaluations in decision-making processes, serving as pivotal tools for developing, implementing, and managing comprehensive national evaluation systems. These systems are essential for ensuring quality, facilitating learning, and promoting accountability.

The session's objectives were to cover a broad spectrum of topics related to NEPS. This included identifying and discussing best practices in NEPS development and implementation for evidence-based policymaking. The panel sought to explore lessons from past NEPS implementations, highlighting both successes and shortcomings. A significant part of the discussion examined current difficulties NEPS face, such as gaps in policy, practice, and capacity, while suggesting potential solutions and improvements. Finally, the session aimed to facilitate a rich dialogue among experts about the future directions of NEPS, focusing on enhancing their effectiveness in ensuring quality, learning, and accountability.

Henrique Pissaia de Souza, Principal Professional at the Independent Evaluation Office of the NDB, brought forward innovative approaches and youth engagement essential to global development. Drawing on his experience with the NDB, de Souza emphasized the bank's commitment to national evaluation policies and adapting these strategies to the diverse contexts of its member countries, highlighting the importance of a cooperative model in development



Keynote panel speakers, Henrique Pissaia De Souza and Marco Segone, together with session moderator, Ada Ocampo

Marco Segone, Director of the Evaluation Office at UNFPA, provided a global perspective on the strategic significance of evaluations in policymaking, particularly in aligning national efforts with global initiatives like the SDGs. He underscored the necessity of structured evaluation frameworks, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder involvement for the effective implementation of NEPS.

According to de Souza, panel discussions with the audience focused on the representation of Indigenous peoples and young evaluators in evaluation processes. Segone's insights during this segment were instrumental in understanding the practical challenges and real-world applications of NEPS. He addressed questions on effective implementation strategies and the role of governments and academia in fostering an evaluation ecosystem.



Session 3: National Evaluation Policies and Systems for Good Governance and Accountability: A Dialogue on NEPs

As a key component of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy, the session brought together a wealth of knowledge and experience. The session emphasized the critical role of National Evaluation Policies and Systems (NEPS) in fostering accountable and efficient governance. Yatin Diwakar, co-leader of the NEPS theme for APRES, opened the session with remarks and introductions.

Reinhard Stockmann from Saarland University presented a global perspective on the institutionalization of evaluation. He highlighted the increasing demand for evaluations and the trend towards professionalization, stressing the importance of national laws and policies in shaping the evaluation landscape. Stockmann discussed the professionalization challenges and driving forces in various regions.

Country representatives shared diverse experiences in developing NEPS. Ratnayu Sitaresmi from Indonesia discussed the absence of a unified national evaluation policy and the need for structured stakeholder engagement. Natalia Nikitenko from Kyrgyzstan highlighted significant legal progress in NEPS development, despite challenges at the local level. Rajib Nandi from India focused on drafting an evaluation policy aimed at program success and capacity enhancement. Mohib Iqbal from Afghanistan underscored post-2021 challenges in strategic planning and capacity building for evaluations. Elberel Tumenjargal from Mongolia addressed recent legislative developments, emphasizing the need for improved stakeholder coordination and government support. Phuntsho Choden from Bhutan shared insights into Bhutan's draft NEP and the

challenges of fostering a systematic evaluation culture. Lastly, Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr. from the Philippines discussed efforts to institutionalize a national M&E system and the shift towards results-oriented governance.



Reinhard Stockmann presented the institutionalization of evaluation, while Kabir Hashim served as discussant and Yatin Diwakar served as moderator



Country presentation: Ratnayu Sitaesmi, Natalia Nikitenko, Rajib Nandi, Mohib Iqbal, Elberel Tumenjargal, Phuntsho Choden, and Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral Jr.

Kabir Hashim, a Member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, linked NEPS to good governance and accountability. He focused on the critical role of parliamentary involvement and the importance of legislative support for government accountability.

The session raised concerns about diverse experiences in establishing NEPS. Discussions from India addressed recent policy initiatives and the dynamics between ministries and the National Evaluation Commission. The role of donors and governments was examined, emphasizing the need for aligned evaluations to benefit government systems and highlighting the SDGs as a significant motivator for developing M&E systems. Participants also discussed the misconception of evaluation as merely a control mechanism, the necessity of legal and organizational frameworks, the need for public engagement, and the challenges of annual budgeting systems in evaluation. This comprehensive dialogue showcased the shared challenges and aspirations across the Asia Pacific Region, underscoring the importance of continued engagement and collaboration to enhance the effectiveness and reach of NEPS.



Session 4: Engaging Communities: Evaluation to Ensure No One is Left Behind in Development

The session aimed to explore how evaluators can incorporate an equity lens to meaningfully involve communities in evaluations for transformative change. It focused on the importance of community-led evaluations and child-friendly methods in evaluation processes. The session also addressed safeguarding children's safety and well-being throughout evaluation life cycles and raised awareness of the community's role in evaluations. Additionally, it introduced the Data Quality Assessment Framework to track progress on the SDGs, offering practical insights into its application. Oyuntseteg Chuluundorj, a M&E Adviser at UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office, moderated the session.

Fiona Cram, Co-Chair of EvalIndigenous, highlighted the necessity of culturally responsive Indigenous evaluation. She emphasized engaging Indigenous evaluators and re-centering evaluations within Indigenous communities, advocating for evaluations that respect and reflect Indigenous rights and perspectives. Elene Cloete from Outreach International shared insights on inclusive and community-led evaluations. She underscored the transformative impact of such evaluations on community empowerment, using a case study from Nepal to demonstrate how community-led initiatives can lead to significant social changes, especially in empowering women.



Session speakers: Fiona Cram, Elene Cloete, Rituu B Nanda, Svetlana Negroustoueva, Melissa Burgess, Henk van Beers, and Oyuntseteg Chuluundorj who served as moderator

Rituu B. Nanda of the Global Fund for Children emphasized the role of communities in evaluation and participatory action research. Her presentation focused on empowering communities through coaching NGO partners in community-led initiatives and the importance of participatory storytelling. Mel Burgess and Henk Van Beers from Save the Children International discussed engaging children in evaluation processes. They covered the rights and agency of children, participatory approaches, safeguarding, and research ethics, highlighting the importance of child-friendly methods in evaluation. Svetlana Negroustoueva from CGIAR highlighted the role of platforms like EvalForward in promoting knowledge sharing in agriculture. She discussed the importance of community participation in evaluations and using an equity lens for transformative change.

The Q&A session raised key concerns about inclusivity and safety in evaluations, with panelists addressing challenges in community and child participation. The session underscored the importance of community-led approaches and child-friendly methods in evaluations, contributing to transformative change and progress towards the SDGs.



Participants in the session: Engaging communities: Evaluation to ensure no one is left behind in development

Session 5: Engagement of Young and Emerging Evaluators: Lessons from UN Agency Evaluations in the Asia and Pacific

The session was a significant event, showcasing the integral role of young and emerging evaluators (YEEs) in transformative evaluations. The session began with a thorough introduction highlighting the significance of YEEs in evaluation processes, moderated by Byambasuren Uuganjargal, Co-Founder of EvalYouth Mongolia.

Oyuna Chuluundorj, a M&E Adviser at UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office, led the first presentation. She explored the experiences of United Nations Evaluation Development Assistance Program (UNEDAP) members with YEEs, focusing on the practical aspects of engaging these evaluators in various projects. A panel discussion featuring a varied group of speakers who each brought a unique perspective to the table followed.



Arushi Pankaj Dubey, a representative from the UN Women's Asia and Pacific Regional Office, shared her personal journey, discussing the challenges and opportunities she encountered as a young evaluator. Her narrative provided valuable insights into the professional growth and development paths available to YEEs in the field.

Randika De Mel, Co-Founder of EvalYouth Asia, discussed the support mechanisms and platforms necessary for nurturing and engaging YEEs. His contribution emphasized the importance of structured support systems in the professional development of young evaluators. Marco Segone, Director of UNFPA Evaluation Office bringing an organizational perspective, talked about the strategic importance of integrating YEEs into evaluation processes and the benefits they bring, such as fresh perspectives and innovative approaches. Amélie Solal-Celigny, an Evaluation Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the role of YEEs

in enhancing the quality and relevance of evaluations. Her insights underscored the potential of young evaluators to drive change and innovation in the field.

Overall, the session demonstrated the growing recognition of the importance of YEEs in conducting transformative evaluations, essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It presented various viewpoints, from personal experiences to organizational strategies, illustrating the critical role of involving young people in impactful and meaningful roles.



Session 6: Reflections on Using Evaluation in Different Countries

The session offered a comprehensive view of the evolution and current state of M&E in the development sector. Focused on supporting the achievement of the UN SDGs by 2030, it explored diverse M&E practices in development projects. The session aimed to accelerate and revitalize evaluation for the SDGs by identifying issues, showcasing good practices, and fostering an open dialogue and exchange of experiences. Shyam Singh, Chief Editor of the Asia Pacific Journal of Evaluation (APJE) and Professor of Social Sciences at the Institute of Rural Management Anand, moderated the session.

Amil Epa, a Member of the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA), discussed leveraging evaluation partnerships for reporting on SDGs, using a case study on immediate support to paddy farmers in Sri Lanka. He emphasized the multifaceted crisis in Sri Lanka, including high inflation and economic contraction exacerbated by policies such as the ban on chemical fertilizers. He highlighted the role of SLEvA as a third-party monitoring agency, implementing methodologies like paperless data collection and integrated dashboards for effective crisis management and emergency response.

Rashmi Agrawal, Co-Leader of the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI), focused on using evaluation as a critical link in evidence-based action. She addressed the challenge of ensuring that evaluation results are effectively used in government decision-making processes. Agrawal emphasized the need for extensive stakeholder engagement and participatory community-led evaluations in India, understanding factors influencing the utilization of evaluations.



Aldwin Urbina, Officer-in-Charge Director of NEDA's Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, presented on fostering an evaluation culture in the Philippines. He detailed the historical context of M&E in the Philippines, the challenges in integrating evaluation into the culture, and the strategies and initiatives implemented to foster this culture, highlighting the role of institutions like NEDA.

Chao Sun, a Senior Professional at the Independent Evaluation Office of NDB, shared his experiences in evaluating the NDB's impact in the Global South. He discussed the function of the office within the NDB, the types of evaluations conducted, and key findings, emphasizing the need for tailored evaluation approaches that consider local contexts and needs.



The question-and-answer segment focused on how evaluation results are utilized in government decision-making, especially in developing countries. Discussions highlighted the importance of robust M&E systems and the challenges of effectively using these evaluations. Topics included strategies for effective knowledge sharing, enhancing evaluator competencies, developing national evaluation policies, stakeholder engagement, data availability, and the role of governments and international organizations in policy-informed evaluations during crises. The session also touched upon the political and institutional challenges in institutionalizing evaluation practices, underscoring their importance in developing effective and sustainable policies.

This session provided valuable insights into M&E practices and challenges across different countries and organizations, emphasizing their significance in achieving the SDGs. It offered an opportunity to learn from successful strategies and understand the complexities of effectively implementing them.

Session 7: Amplifying Indigenous Voices: Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Evaluation Practices

The session was a crucial platform focusing on culturally responsive evaluation as a key element in enhancing the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. Fiona Cram and Serge Eric Yakeu, Co-Chairs of EvalIndigenous, moderated the session. It aimed to deepen understanding of indigeneness, decolonize Indigenous evaluation protocols, and support Indigenous evaluation practices in both international and domestic contexts.

For Nepal, Bhuban Bajracharya, Secretary of APEA, discussed the significant role of education and capacity building in indigenous communities, emphasizing the importance of amplifying community voices in evaluations and utilizing voter support. He highlighted the necessity of integrating indigenous values and priorities into evaluation practices, particularly in a country like Nepal with its rich diversity of ethnic groups.



Dulmina Chamathkara, Co-Founder of EvalYouth Asia focused on the challenges faced by indigenous communities in Sri Lanka due to commercialization, especially the Rathugala community. Chamathkara underscored the need for respectful and culturally sensitive research approaches, engaging communities in dissemination, and preserving traditional knowledge and languages. Prabin Chitrakar, Chairperson of CoE-Nepal, discussed a workshop in Nepal aimed at fostering collaboration and networking among professionals in indigenous evaluation. He emphasized the workshop's role in creating a platform for sharing and learning about indigenous evaluation and proposed the formation of a national network dedicated to this cause.

Eroni Wavu and Asenaca Blake, Co-Leaders of EvalYouth Pacific shared insights on integrating traditional indigenous practices into evaluation methods in Fiji and the Pacific Region. They

presented an innovative approach using traditional Fijian house construction as a metaphor in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) methodologies, making evaluation standards more relevant to local communities. Dorothy Mae Albiento, Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia highlighted the importance of intergenerational dialogue in preserving indigenous cultures and the role of youth in these efforts in the Philippines. She emphasized the need for participatory research and community involvement.

Mosese Qasenivalu, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from the UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office, provided a comprehensive summary of the presentations. He emphasized the importance of capacity building, collaboration, cultural sensitivity, and inclusivity in effective indigenous evaluation, highlighting the value of indigenous knowledge in sustainable development.



The concluding Q&A segment delved into vital concerns from participants, enriching the dialogue on indigenous evaluation. Topics included the definitions of local and indigenous communities, safety in engaging with indigenous groups, and the inclusivity of evaluation practices in diverse cultural contexts. Discussions also focused on intergenerational dialogue, challenges of data generation and policymaker engagement, and the need for culturally responsive evaluation methods. The segment emphasized the complexity and significance of indigenous evaluation, highlighting the session's commitment to fostering equity and inclusion in these practices globally. The Co-Chairs of EvalIndigenous summarized these insights, underlining the session's contribution to empowering Indigenous communities through culturally sensitive evaluation.

Session 8: Experiences from Using Evaluation Methodologies

The session explored how various regional and international organizations are using evaluation frameworks and methodologies within broader MEL and management systems. Moderated by Rashmi Agrawal, Co-Leader of ECOI, the central theme revolved around diverse approaches aimed at enhancing evaluation practices. The session showcased existing practices and engaged in discussions about further considerations for effective evaluation within these unique contexts. The primary objectives were to present and deliberate on various evaluation approaches, their effectiveness, and the necessary resources for advancing these practices, as well as to provide a platform for the exchange of best practices.

Sarah Gharbi from ALNAP shared insights into shaping new guidance for the evaluation of humanitarian action. Her presentation highlighted the evolving nature of humanitarian evaluations and the importance of adapting evaluation criteria to meet changing needs. Qudratullah Jahid, Vice President of APEA and Senior MEL Consultant at Oxford Policy Management, discussed enhancing evaluation practices and applying Australian DFAT's MEL standards in the Asia Pacific development program. He emphasized the role of MEL standards in promoting aid governance and improving effectiveness.



Svetlana Negroustoueva and Justin Delarueda, representing the Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service of CGIAR and the International Rice Research Institute of CGIAR, respectively, provided insights into evaluability assessments as a tool for engagement and evaluation quality. They stressed the significance of early engagement and quality assurance in evaluations. Henrique Pissaia de Souza from NDB explored blending methodologies to align with the NDB and the unique context of the Global South, underscoring the need for flexible and context-specific evaluation methodologies. Maya Vijayaraghavan, Principal Evaluation Specialist at the IED of the

Asian Development Bank, discussed evaluation methodologies tailored to the bank's projects, highlighting the importance of adapting approaches to various project types and evaluations.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, covering topics such as the importance of innovation in evaluation, engagement with national policies, and addressing methodological challenges in diverse settings. Discussions included evaluability assessments as a means to enhance evaluation quality and cost-effectiveness, and adapting evaluation to different contexts, especially the Global South. The session emphasized the significance of a clear project rationale, capturing innovations, and recognizing the value of small-scale changes. Overall, it highlighted the need for flexible, context-specific approaches and continuous learning in evaluation methodologies. Rashmi Agrawal closed the session with remarks on the importance of ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing to advance evaluation practices in the development sector.



Session 9: Keynote Address: Strengthening the Evaluation Ecosystem for Equitable Development

This keynote session highlighted the integral role of evaluation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring equitable development. Keiko Nishino, Vice President of APEA expertly steered the discussion towards understanding and improving the evaluation ecosystem while moderating the session.

Juha Uitto from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) emphasized the evaluation ecosystem's contribution to equitable development. He underscored the importance of comprehensive evaluation approaches that address the complexity of environmental and societal challenges. His insights were crucial in understanding how evaluations can influence policy-making and

programming implementation, particularly in the context of climate change and sustainable development.

Director General Emmanuel Jimenez shared best practices and lessons for strengthening the evaluation ecosystem. He highlighted the pivotal role of the Asia Pacific Region in addressing global challenges, stressing the need for innovative methods and technologies, such as big data and geospatial analysis, in evaluations.



Fiona Cram of EvalIndigenous brought a unique perspective on ensuring equitable development amidst global risks through evaluations. She focused on integrating indigenous methodologies and local knowledge systems into evaluation processes, advocating for participatory and collaborative approaches.

Celeste Ghiano from the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Systematization (ReLAC) discussed the challenges in the evaluation ecosystem. She emphasized the necessity of incorporating local perspectives and knowledge into evaluation, highlighting the socio-economic and political realities of different regions that impact evaluation practices.

The Q&A segment provided an interactive platform for audience engagement. Key issues raised included balancing local and evolving knowledge, the impact of technological advancements on social connections in evaluations, and the need for complex evaluations in a complex world. The session concluded with Nishino summarizing the key takeaways, emphasizing the importance of respecting local knowledge, adapting to technological advancements, and approaching evaluations with an open and learning mindset.

Session 10: VOPE and EvalYouth Summit on Professionalization of Evaluation: Competencies and Ethics

The session, a crucial part of the APRES, focused on enhancing evaluator professionalism. It marked the first in-person VOPEs and EvalYouth professionalization summit in the region, emphasizing the production of credible, independent evidence for policymaking. The session reviewed the progress of VOPEs and EvalYouth chapters in the Asia Pacific, discussing strategies for integrating competency frameworks and ethical codes.



Presenters and panelists: Alfredo Domínguez Díaz, Erdenechimeg Ulziisuren, Elizabeth (Beth) Snow, Corrie Whitmore, and Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga. Rajib Nandi served as the moderator.

The president of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), Alfredo Domínguez presented the competency framework developed by APEA. Erdenechimeg (Chimgee) Ulziisuren from the Mongolian Evaluation Association introduced the APEA developed code of ethics for evaluation in the Asia Pacific Region. Rajib Nandi moderated the session, focusing on professional competencies and ethical standards.



The panelists, Beth Snow from the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES), Corrie Whitmore from the American Evaluation Association (AEA), and Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga from the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), addressed challenges specific to their regions. Nayenga concentrated on Africa's diversity and the Indigenous African Ethical Protocol for Evaluations, while Snow and Whitmore discussed standards and ethics in North America.

Key points in the Q&A session highlighted the practical application of frameworks and ethical codes and the importance of integrating local and global perspectives. Challenges in disseminating these standards and educating stakeholders about their significance were also discussed. Key takeaways from the session emphasized the need for accessible, meaningful evaluation frameworks that meet both professional standards and community needs. The session underscored a collective commitment to elevating evaluation standards, focusing on excellence and impact.

Session 11: Role of Evaluation in Achieving the 2030 Agenda

The session was instrumental in discussing the use of evaluation to aid in achieving the SDGs. Thomas Rossmueller of UNICEF facilitated it and highlighted current reporting practices while examining the opportunities and difficulties that countries face when reporting progress on the SDGs. The session aimed to encourage various groups, including executives, evaluators, and VOPEs, to not only improve their reporting methods but also to emphasize the importance of evaluation in achieving the 2030 agenda at all levels. The objectives were threefold: addressing issues related to tracking SDGs across different strata, disseminating effective practices and policy recommendations for local and global adoption, and identifying and securing necessary resources to advance SDG reporting and evaluation practices.



Chingiz Aidarbekov, a Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, discussed the Kyrgyz Parliament's role in implementing the SDGs, focusing on harmonizing national legislation with these goals. The Parliament's efforts in forming an SDG-focused parliamentary group and their involvement in the voluntary national review process underscored their commitment to monitoring, evaluation, and legislative adoption for SDG progress.

Yatin Diwakar from IIT Bombay analyzed the data quality of India's Mission Antyodaya survey, used for SDG tracking at the Gram Panchayat level. His findings highlighted significant issues in data completeness, validity, and consistency, pointing to the need for improved data collection and verification processes. Elberel Tumenjargal from APEA presented a study on M&E practices for SDGs in Asia Pacific countries conducted by APEA. This study revealed diverse approaches, varying levels of M&E integration, and common challenges like data quality and capacity building.



Anis Ben Brik, Associate Professor at the College of Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar, provided insights into evaluation practices, particularly focusing on data collection and evaluation challenges in authoritarian regimes and the political dimensions of data usage, especially in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Q&A session further elaborated on these themes, addressing issues such as political will in data collection, challenges in authoritarian regimes, and the potential for misleading visuals due to data gaps. Rossmueller's wrap-up emphasized the session's key takeaway: the vital role of evaluation in achieving the 2030 agenda through improved data quality, stakeholder collaboration, and enhanced M&E practices.

Session 12: Localizing M&E Education in the Asia Pacific Region

The session addressed the crucial need to integrate M&E into the higher education curriculum in the Asia Pacific. It highlighted the gap between global standards and local practices. Yoko Ishida, President of the Japan Evaluation Society, set the agenda for the session, which included a comprehensive examination of M&E programs and curricula currently in use worldwide. The focus was on how well these programs address sector-specific problems and meet regional needs.

The presentations began with an overview of a study on international M&E programs. Shyam Singh and Asela Kalugampitiya then provided a detailed analysis of the M&E curriculum developed by APEA. They highlighted the capacities that different institutions aim to build and assessed whether current M&E educational offerings adequately respond to real-world challenges.



The panel discussion, featuring Reinhard Stockmann, Swapnil Shekhar, Jozef Vaessen, and Mylvaganam Thilakarajah, tackled key questions. These included the necessity of academic M&E programs, market demand for such courses, and the balance between international standards and local context in M&E education. Discussions also explored the potential for regional collaboration in facilitating M&E education and how technology could advance M&E practices, especially in under-resourced areas. A critical question raised was whether governments prefer full-time academic programs for the professionalization of evaluation or if short-term training suffices. The panelists discussed the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in M&E, the balance between academic learning and practical experience, and strategies to make M&E education more inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of groups.



Participants in the session: Localizing M&E education in the Asia-Pacific Region

Session 13: Advancing National Evaluation Capacities: Lessons from UNEDAP Members' Support to NECD



Session panelists: Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr., Sochetra Nhean, Ishika Kumar, Mayantha Dissanayake, Thomas Rossmueller, and Madhuka Liyanagamage. Xavier Foulquier moderated the session.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the critical role of evaluation in realizing sustainable development goals. Aligning with this, the United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution "Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level" (GA69/237) on December 19, 2014. This resolution marks the commitment of UNEDAP members to bolster National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) in the region. The session aimed to achieve three objectives: firstly, to provide a comprehensive overview of the United Nations' support for NECD in Asia and the Pacific; secondly, to showcase UNEDAP members' support for NECD and their partnerships with parliamentary bodies, government agencies, and civil society groups; and thirdly, to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and experiences. The primary focus was on addressing the significant challenges and opportunities encountered in various countries in strengthening their national evaluation capacities. Xavier Foulquier of UNICEF Philippines moderated the session.



Participants in the session: Advancing national evaluation capacities: Lessons from UNEDAP members' support to NECD

Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr. from the Philippines highlighted the crucial role of Congress in NECD, emphasizing legislative support for a national evaluation policy. Ishika Kumar, Director of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office at NITI Aayog, Government of India, shared insights on their office's contribution to NECD, focusing on partnerships and capacity-building initiatives. H.E. Sochetra Nhean, General Director of Social Development at the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cambodia, discussed the challenges and successes in evaluating the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women with assistance from UN Women. Mayantha Dissanayake, Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka, shared experiences in collaborating with UNEDAP members to enhance NECD, with a focus on integrating civil society.

Madhuka Liyanagamage, Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia, underscored the importance of young evaluators in NECD, advocating for their engagement and capacity development. Thomas Rossmueller discussed training initiatives, emphasizing the importance of strengthening national evaluation capacities through blended learning programs.

The session concluded with a Q&A, deepening the discussion on the necessity of NECD, the state of evaluation policies, and the roles of various stakeholders. This interaction further explored strategies to advance NECD in the Asia Pacific Region, focusing on legislative support, collaborative efforts, youth involvement, and inclusive approaches.

Session 14: Sulley Gariba Memorial Lecture on Asia Pacific World Views in Evaluation: Inspiring Practices from Across the Region

The session paid homage to Sulley Gariba, a prominent figure in global and African evaluation, emphasizing his mantra of "making evaluation our own." Mari Honjo from the World Food Programme Regional Bureau for the Asia Pacific led the discussion, aligning with Gariba's vision. Qudratullah Jahid from APEA and Kathryn Dinh, a researcher for the "Asia Pacific World Views in Evaluation," explored culturally responsive practices in Asia Pacific evaluations. They emphasized the integration of regional worldviews and methodologies, highlighting the evolution of evaluation practices in the region that combine traditional knowledge with modern techniques.



Session speakers: Kathryn Dinh, Rosetti Nabbumba, Celeste Ghiano, and Qudratullah Jahid, together with Mari Honjo who served as moderator.

Building on these themes, Kathryn Dinh provided tangible examples from the Asia Pacific, showcasing the effective application of culturally responsive and indigenous evaluation methods. These examples illustrated the successful blending of Western methodologies with culturally specific ones, reflecting a shift towards more holistic and hybrid approaches to evaluation. Qudratullah Jahid encouraged evaluators, VOPEs, commissioners, researchers, and academics to adopt culturally responsive evaluations.

Rosetti Nabbumba from AfrEA shared Africa's experiences in evaluation, drawing parallels and contrasts with Asia Pacific approaches. Her reflections emphasized the importance of culturally tailored methodologies in achieving meaningful and impactful evaluation outcomes. Celeste Ghiano from ReLAC contributed Latin American perspectives, broadening the discussion to

include a global context. Her contributions highlighted the universal relevance of culturally responsive evaluations and the need for continuous dialogue and knowledge exchange among different regions.

Mari Honjo gave a summary of the session's main points and reaffirmed the region's commitment to fostering evaluation practices that are deeply ingrained in local cultures but informed by global perspectives. The discussion honored Gariba's legacy, championing the need for evaluations that resonate with local communities while contributing to the global evaluation discourse.



Participants in the session: Sulley Gariba Memorial Lecture on Asia Pacific world views in evaluation: Inspiring practice from across the region

Session 15: Closing Session: Leveraging Partnerships for Future Evaluation in the Asia Pacific Region

The closing session of the conference marked a significant culmination of the two-day discussions, characterized by a synthesis of the rich insights and learnings. It emphasized the future direction for evaluation practices in the Asia Pacific Region. The session reflected on the past and also provided a roadmap for future endeavors in evaluation, highlighting the importance of leveraging partnerships to advance the field.

Amol Shaila Suresh, co-leader of EvalYouth Asia, played a pivotal role in framing the session. They focused on crystallizing the discussions into a coherent narrative, stressing the importance of a collective vision and youth engagement in shaping the future of evaluation practices. Their remarks underscored the spirit of collaboration that was a theme throughout the conference.



Session speakers: Kabir Hashim, Amol Shaila Suresh, Ana Erika Lareza, Asela Kalugampitiya, Yoko Ishida, and Keiko Nishino. Dorothy Mae Albiento is in charge of the session.

Ana Erika Lareza and Keiko Nishino from APEA provided insights into the institutional and developmental strides in the field. Their perspectives shed light on the progress achieved and the envisioned path towards the professionalization and practical application of evaluation strategies, highlighting the evolving nature of evaluation as a profession and its increasing relevance in various sectors.



Asela Kalugampitiya handing over the baton (mic) to the incoming APEA President, Yoko Ishida

Kabir Hashim's address brought a policy dimension to the discussions. As a Member of Parliament and Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation (GPFE), he underscored the critical role of evaluation in governance and its contribution to achieving the SDGs. His insights bridged the gap between evaluation as a practice and its implications for policy and governance.

Asela Kalugampitiya, President of APEA, extended a vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective effort and wisdom shared throughout the conference. He recognized the sponsors and stakeholders, emphasizing their crucial contributions. This moment was significant as it marked not just the closure of the event but also a gesture of appreciation towards everyone who contributed to the conference's success.

As APEA's new president, Yoko Ishida gave a speech that set the tone for the organization's future direction. Her focus on youth engagement, capacity building, diversity, inclusion, and networking in evaluation echoed the themes of the conference and pointed towards a future where these elements are central to evaluation practices in the region.

Dorothy Mae Albiento, Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia, provided a forward-looking view that summed up the conference well. The session emphasized the theme of leveraging partnerships for the future of evaluation in the Asia Pacific Region and reflected on the enriching journey of learning through various workshops and sessions. The closing remarks not only expressed appreciation for the participants' engagement but also set the stage for the upcoming Parliament Day at the House of Representatives in the Philippines, symbolizing a transition from insightful discussions to impactful actions.



Group photo of the participants after wrapping up the two-day conference

Parliament Day

The Parliament Day at the 4th APEA Conference was a seminal event, marking a collective effort to underscore the importance of M&E in achieving the 2030 SDGs. Hosted at the Romualdez Hall in the Congress of the Philippines, this session provided a crucial platform for dialogue and collaboration among parliamentarians, evaluators, and policymakers. The day was dedicated to reiterating the crucial role of M&E in fostering evidence-based decision-making and governance. Ana Erika Lareza, Treasurer of APEA, and Director Pamela Diaz-Manalo, Officer-in-Charge Deputy Executive Director of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines, served as moderators.





Participants during the singing of the Philippine National Anthem

Institutionalization of Monitoring and Evaluation for the 2030 SDGs

The opening remarks by Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, the Philippines' House of Representatives Majority Leader, set the tone. He underscored the significance of M&E in realizing the 2030 Agenda for SDGs and pushed for a collaborative dialogue involving parliamentarians, government evaluators, and civil society to foster evidence-based decision-making. Moving beyond mere symbolic agreements to actionable commitments was the focal point of Kabir Hashim's address. As Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, Hashim advocated for the creation of specialized M&E units in parliaments across the globe. He used Sri Lanka's programs as an example to stress how important it is to give lawmakers data-driven policy tools.



The Parliament Day key speakers include Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Kabir Hashim, Asela Kalugampitiya, Ramesh Paudyal, with Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez serving as the main host

From the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, Ramesh Paudyal contributed a unique perspective. He stressed the urgent need for legislative frameworks to bolster regular government intervention, connecting these efforts to the commitments made to the United Nations. Paudyal's emphasis lay on the integration of effective M&E practices into governance, advocating for a cooperative approach to governance and policy execution for achieving the SDGs.



The Parliament Day key speakers include Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr., Donald Manyala, Natalia Nikitenko, Reinhard Stockmann, and Ada Ocampo



The Parliament Day key speakers include Marco Segone, Leila Saiji Joudane, Oyunsai Khan Dendevnorov, Keiko Nishino, with Pamela Manalo and Ana Erika Lareza

APEA President Asela Kalugampitiya turned the spotlight on the essential role of parliaments in fortifying the national M&E ecosystem. He highlighted the importance of maintaining continuity in M&E practices and called for robust legal and policy frameworks to embed M&E in development processes. Kalugampitiya also underscored the significance of credible, country-led evaluations, citing a pertinent United Nations resolution. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, in his capacity as the Speaker of the Philippines' House of Representatives, shared insights into legislative priorities and triumphs. His speech was anchored in themes of poverty reduction and fostering sustainable growth, with a nod to the pivotal role of effective policy implementation and oversight and a subtle acknowledgement of M&E's crucial role. Discussing the Philippines' strides towards a national evaluation policy, Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr. from the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department acknowledged challenges and renewed efforts in the 19th Congress. He aligned these initiatives with the executive's development strategies, signaling a commitment to strengthening M&E in governance.

Representatives from the Kenyan Parliament, Donald Keya Manyala and Bonnie M. Mathooko, brought a fresh perspective on building resilient evaluation mechanisms. They underscored the urgency for parliaments to transition from mere evaluative consumers to active participants, advocating for institutional arrangements for conducting evaluations. Highlighting the Manila Declaration's importance in M&E institutionalization, Natalia Nikitenko, a former MP from the Kyrgyz Republic, emphasized the global consensus on embedding evaluation into governance systems. Her presentation illuminated various methods and the critical necessity of M&E in fostering effective governance. Reinhard Stockmann from Saarland University, Germany, added depth to the discussion by emphasizing systematic evaluation's crucial role in legislative processes. He championed the idea of empowering parliamentarians through data-driven decisions, suggesting the enactment of laws that mandate evaluations. Ada Ocampo, the International Development Evaluation Association's president, revisited the significance of the Manila Declaration in M&E institutionalization. She focused on the global commitment to evaluation and its constitutionalization within governance processes.



Key speakers, members of the House of Representatives, and members of the Parliament in the Asia Pacific Region during the closing ceremony

UNFPA's Country Representative in the Philippines, Leila Saiji Joudane, contributed by advocating for the integration of protective measures against gender-based violence and investment in youth and women. Her moderated Q&A session was a melting pot of ideas, tackling the Manila Declaration's implementation, digital transformation in evaluations, and engaging academia and youth in the evaluation community. Oyunsai Khan Dendevnorov, representing UNICEF, acknowledged their robust evaluation culture and the Philippines' advancement in M&E institutionalization. She stressed how important it is for UN agencies, like UNICEF, to support building up national capabilities. The event concluded with Keiko Nishino's vote of thanks, where she expressed gratitude towards all contributors, encapsulating the spirit of collaboration that defined the conference.

In summary, the event underscored the multifaceted process of embedding M&E within governmental systems to support Agenda 2030. Participants stressed the need for legislative backing, resilient mechanisms, and a culture of evaluation within government institutions. The discussions highlighted parliamentarians' pivotal role in leveraging evaluation findings to refine legislative actions and policies. The day underscored the necessity of robust partnerships and frameworks to support M&E's institutionalization, which is essential for realizing the SDGs. The APEA Conference Parliament Day stood out as a strategic convergence, aiming to elevate the discourse on M&E's role in achieving the SDGs and foster collaborative dialogues among key stakeholders.



Participants of the Parliament Day in Romualdez Hall

The Manila Declaration

Asela Kalugampitiya, President of APEA introduced the Manila Declaration, a pivotal document highlighting the commitment to institutionalize evaluation within the parliamentary system. He emphasized that the declaration was more than a symbolic gesture; it represented a concrete step toward integrating M&E into governance processes. He also referred to the earlier Declaration on Evaluation, signed at the Parliament of Sri Lanka in September 2018. He stressed that the Philippines, along with Sri Lanka, were pioneers in adopting and implementing strategies to institutionalize evaluation within their parliaments. This initiative by the Philippines and Sri Lanka has set an example for other countries, demonstrating the practical application of the declaration in enhancing evidence-based policymaking and governance.

The Manila Declaration signifies a major commitment to institutionalizing M&E for the 2030 SDGs. It marks a critical point, reflecting a collective resolution to embed M&E into governance

structures and processes. This integration is essential for ensuring evidence-based policymaking and effectively tracking progress towards the SDGs.

The Declaration underscores the crucial role of Congress in establishing legal frameworks for M&E practices. It advocates for systematic, standardized evaluations to improve policy-making and actively involves parliamentarians in evaluation processes. This strategy is designed to assess the long-term impacts of legislation, positioning evaluation as an integral part of the legislative process. The Declaration, which has the support of APEA and its members, aims to incorporate evaluation into development plans in order to help achieve the 2030 global agenda.



Official signing of the Manila Declaration by the members of Parliament and the participants of the 4th APEA Conference



General Participants Feedback

The participants feedback gathered from the 4th APEA Conference and EvalVisionAsia 2023, spanning four days, offers a comprehensive view of the event's impact, highlighting its strengths and areas for improvement. This detailed attendee feedback greatly enriches the summary discussion in the narrative report.

Day 1 laid a solid foundation with pre-conference workshops, with "Workshop 4: Foundations of Evaluation Design" standing out notably. Participants praised the workshops for their relevance and practicality, aligning well with their professional interests and current industry trends. However, the feedback also expressed a desire for more interactive elements and deeper exploration, suggesting extended session times and increased participant engagement activities. This presents an opportunity to enhance the learning experience in future workshops.

The positive reception continued into Day 2, with sessions receiving high marks for relevance, usefulness, and organization. This underscores the conference's success in delivering content that was both engaging and pertinent to the attendees' needs. Feedback from this day also highlighted the need for more diverse presentation opportunities and improvements in session aesthetics, providing valuable insights for future event planning.

Day 3 sustained the high satisfaction levels observed in the earlier days, particularly in key sessions like the keynote address and closing session. The caliber of speakers and the overall organization were highly praised, confirming the event's effectiveness in fostering a robust evaluation ecosystem. Constructive feedback suggested logistical improvements, such as enhanced sound systems and better session arrangements, emphasizing the importance of attention to detail in event management.

Day 4, devoted to "Parliament Day on Institutionalization of M&E for the Agenda 2023," was met with commendable feedback, with participants rating various aspects as "very good." This positive response reflected the conference's successful alignment with attendees' interests and needs. Feedback from this day underscored the need for more inclusive participation, content optimization for specific audiences like parliamentarians, and logistical considerations such as program duration and participant recognition.

In summary, the 4th APEA Conference and EvalVision Asia 2023 was a resounding success, characterized by high satisfaction levels regarding content relevance, speaker quality, and overall organization. The insights from attendee feedback provide a valuable roadmap for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of future conferences. These insights point to the necessity for deeper participant engagement, diverse presentation opportunities, logistical refinement, and tailored content delivery, ensuring the ongoing relevance and impact of such significant professional gatherings.

Summary, Conclusion, and Ways Forward

The 4th APEA Conference, with its theme "Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia," successfully attracted 202 participants from 39 countries, offering a deep dive into the current and future landscape of evaluation practices. There were insightful workshops, interesting sessions, and a significant Parliament Day at the conference.

The event featured four pre-conference workshops, each addressing a unique aspect of evaluation. The first workshop focused on integrating evaluations into VNRs for the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the role of evaluations in evidence-based public policies. The second workshop delved into community-led development and evaluation, while the third addressed the challenges in evaluating humanitarian actions, including the difficulty of obtaining baseline data in crisis scenarios. The fourth workshop, "Foundations of Evaluation Design," was particularly notable for its interactive element, the Strateval game, which enhanced participants' understanding of evaluation design principles. Feedback from these workshops was generally positive, praising their relevance and practicality, but suggested a need for more interactivity and deeper exploration in future sessions.

Conference sessions covered a wide range of topics, from national evaluation policies and community engagement to the role of young and emerging evaluators. Discussions also encompassed the diverse applications of evaluation globally, the amplification of indigenous voices, and the practical challenges of various methodologies. There was a focus on strengthening the evaluation ecosystem and professional development, with particular emphasis on aligning evaluation practices with the SDGs and localizing M&E education to regional specifics. The Sulley Gariba Memorial Lecture offered regional perspectives on evaluation practices, and the conference concluded with a session on leveraging partnerships for the future of evaluation.

Parliament Day, hosted at the Congress of the Philippines, played a crucial role in discussing the integration of M&E into governance for the 2030 SDGs. Discussions focused on legislative measures for strengthening M&E frameworks and the importance of evaluation in policymaking. The Manila Declaration was recognized as a significant commitment towards integrating evaluation into governance, serving as a model for enhancing policy-making through systematic evaluation.

Overall, participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting satisfaction with the content relevance, speaker quality, and conference organization. This feedback points towards opportunities for further enhancing future conferences, emphasizing the need for deeper participant engagement, diverse presentation opportunities, logistical finesse, and tailored content delivery. Key takeaways included the ongoing professionalization of evaluation practices, fostering a culture of evaluation within legislative bodies, engaging young and emerging evaluators, localizing evaluation practices, and fostering global partnerships.

Looking forward, the conference set forth several recommendations for the evaluation community, emphasizing the continued professionalization of evaluation practices, fostering a culture of evaluation in legislative bodies, engaging young and emerging evaluators, localizing evaluation practices, and fostering global partnerships. These recommendations are seen as pivotal for propelling the field towards greater professionalism, relevance, and impact, contributing significantly to sustainable and equitable development goals.



Appendices

Conference Agenda and Timetable

Please access the conference agenda and timetable at this link:

[4th APEA CONFERENCE AGENDA DETAILS](#)

Conference Communication Materials

FLYERS FOR PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

4th APEA CONFERENCE
Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific
4-7 December 2023 | Manila

Pre-Conference Workshop
Evidence Based Voluntary National Reviews and Country Led Evaluations Of The SDGs. Why And How?

MONDAY
4 DEC 2023

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Ada Ocampo
President of IDEAS

Thomas Rossmueller
Partnerships and Capacity Development Officer, UNICEF

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Pre-Conference Workshop
Our Experiences, Our Data : A How-To Guide On Facilitating Locally Owned Evaluation Processes

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Nancy Bobadilla
Executive Director, International Monitor, Outreach Philippines, Inc.

Rose Conel
Business Development, International Monitor, Outreach Philippines, Inc.

Juanjoe Gonzales
Business Development, International Monitor, Outreach Philippines, Inc.

Krizza Velasquez
Business Development, International Monitor, Outreach Philippines, Inc.

Elene Cloete
Group of Facilitators and Advocates, Outreach International

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Pre-Conference Workshop
Evaluation of Humanitarian Action

MONDAY
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Sarah Gharbi
Research Fellow, ALNAP

Dorothy Mae Albiento
Research Officer, ALNAP

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Pre-Conference Workshop
Foundations of Evaluation Design

MONDAY
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Jozef Vaessen
Evaluation Adviser, World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group

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FLYERS FOR MAIN CONFERENCE DAY 1

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Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for
Equitable Development in Asia Pacific
4-7 December 2023 | Manila

Inauguration

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Emmanuel Jimenez**
Director General, Department of Social Development, Bureau
- Netalia Nikhenko**
President of the Association of Public Administrators and Auditors of Cities and Municipalities (APACAM), Manila, Philippines
- Joseph J. Capino**
Undersecretary, Department of Social Development, Bureau, Philippines
- Aseela Kalugampitiya**
President of the Asian Evaluation Association (AEA)
- Rommel Emmanuel Miral Jr.**
Secretary for Strategy, Technical Office for Regional and Policy Studies, Department of Social Development, Bureau, Philippines
- Ane Erika Laveza**
President of Philippine Evaluation Association (PEA)

Moderator

- Marco Segone**
Director of Evaluation Office, United Nations Population Fund

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Keynote panel: Evaluation and national evaluation policies for evidence based policy making

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Marco Segone**
Director of Evaluation Office, United Nations Population Fund
- Henrique Pissala de Souza**
Independent Professional, Independent Evaluation Office, New Development Bank
- Ada Ocampo**
President of Philippine Evaluation Association

Moderator

- Netalia Nikhenko**
President of the Association of Public Administrators and Auditors of Cities and Municipalities (APACAM), Manila, Philippines

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National evaluation policies and systems for good governance and accountability: A dialogue on NEPS

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Raimund Stockmann**
Director of the National Evaluation Policy System (NEPS) and Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Policy Making (CEBPM), Philippines
- Romyu Sitarasmi**
Senior Member of Parliament, Indonesian Parliament
- Netalia Nikhenko**
President of the Association of Public Administrators and Auditors of Cities and Municipalities (APACAM), Manila, Philippines
- Rajib Nandi**
Chief of Party, International Development Community of India
- Mohib Iqbal**
Member of the National Evaluation Policy System (NEPS), Philippines
- Kabir Hashim**
Member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and Director of the National Evaluation Policy System (NEPS), Sri Lanka
- Phuntsho Chodon**
President of the National Evaluation Policy System (NEPS), Bhutan
- Rommel Emmanuel Miral Jr.**
Secretary for Strategy, Technical Office for Regional and Policy Studies, Department of Social Development, Bureau, Philippines
- Eliberto Tumanjargal**
Member of the National Evaluation Policy System (NEPS), Philippines

Moderator

- Yatin Divakar**
Coordinator of NEPS, Government of India

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Engaging communities: Evaluation to ensure no one is left behind in development

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Fiona Cram**
Director of Evaluation, United Kingdom
- Blanca Clecio**
Director of Evaluation, Department of Social Development, Bureau, Philippines
- Svetlana Negroustoueva**
Lead, Evaluation and Accountability, United Nations Development Programme
- Melissa Burgess**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Hank Van Beers**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Rikuu Nanda**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Oyuna Chuluundorj**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme

Moderator

- Arushi Pankaj Dubey**
Manager and Strategy, United Nations Development Programme

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Engagement of young and emerging evaluators: Lessons from UN agency evaluations in the Asia and Pacific

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Marco Segone**
Director, United Nations Population Fund, Evaluation Office
- Arushi Pankaj Dubey**
Manager and Strategy, United Nations Development Programme, Evaluation, UN Women
- Randika De Mel**
Deputy Director of Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Amelie Solal-Celigny**
Director, Office, Peace and Security Operations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- Oyuna Chuluundorj**
Manager, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- Byambasuren Uuganjarjal**
Chief Executive Officer, United Nations Development Programme

Moderator

- Netalia Nikhenko**
President of the Association of Public Administrators and Auditors of Cities and Municipalities (APACAM), Manila, Philippines

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Reflections from using evaluation in different countries

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Rashmi Agrawal**
Director, Evaluation, Community of India
- Alwin Urbina**
Director, National Evaluation Policy System, Philippines
- Chao Sun**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Amil Epa**
Senior, Evaluation and Learning, United Nations Development Programme
- Skyam Singh**
Chief Editor of Asia Pacific Journal of Evaluation and Director of Social Governance, Institute of Policy Management and Governance, India

Moderator

- Netalia Nikhenko**
President of the Association of Public Administrators and Auditors of Cities and Municipalities (APACAM), Manila, Philippines

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Amplifying indigenous voices: Advancing equity and inclusion in evaluation practices

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Moderators

- Serge Eric Yakeu**
Co-Chair of Evaluation, United Nations Development Programme
- Fiona Cram**
Director of Evaluation, United Kingdom

Speakers

- Mosee Qaseniyalu**
Member of the National Evaluation Policy System, Philippines
- Bhuban Bajracharya**
Member of the National Evaluation Policy System, Nepal
- Prabin Chitrakar**
Chairman of Community of Evaluation, Nepal
- Dulmina Chamathiraka**
Co-Chair of Evaluation, Sri Lanka
- Dorothy Mae Alibento**
Co-Chair of Evaluation, Asia
- Eroni Wavu**
Co-Chair of Evaluation, Pacific
- Aseelna Blaise**
Co-Chair of Evaluation, Pacific

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Experiences from using evaluation methodologies

TUESDAY
5 DEC 2023

Moderator

- Rashmi Agrawal**
Co-Leader of Evaluation, Community of India

Speakers

- Justin Dela Rueda**
Specialist Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning, International Rice Research Institute, CGIAR
- Quadrifullah Jahid**
Vice President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association
- Henrique Pissala de Souza**
Independent Professional, Independent Evaluation Office, New Development Bank
- Sarah Gharbi**
Research Fellow, APACAM

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FLYERS FOR MAIN CONFERENCE DAY 2

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Keynote address: Strengthening the evaluation ecosystem for equitable development

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Celeste Ghiano**
Chief of Legation/ambassador and
Co-Chair, Evaluation Network
- Emmanuel Jimenez**
Assistant Counsel, International
Development Department of
Asian Development Bank
- Piina Cram**
Co-Chair of East/Southeast Asia
- Juha Uitto**
Chief, Independent
Evaluation Office, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific
- Keiko Nishino**
Vice President of
Asia Pacific Evaluation
Association

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Equitable Development in Asia Pacific
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VOPE and EvalYouth summit on professionalization of evaluation: Competencies and ethics

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Corrie Whitmore**
President of American
Evaluation Association
- Beth Snow**
Vice President of Canadian
Evaluation Society
- Rosetti Nabumbwa**
President of African
Evaluation Association
- Alfredo Dominguez**
President of International
Organization for Cooperation
in Evaluation
- Erdenechimeg Ulziuren**
President of Professional
Evaluation Association
- Rajib Nandi**
Co-Chair, Member of Evaluation
Community of India

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Role of evaluation in achieving the 2030 agenda

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Chingiz Aldarbekov**
Member of Secretariat of the
United Nations and former
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Kyrgyz Republic
- Anis Ben Briq**
Faculty Director of the Program
in Social Policy and Evaluation
Research, University
- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific
- Elberei Tumenjargal**
Board Member of Asia Pacific
Evaluation Association
- Thomas Rossmueller**
Director and Deputy
Development Officer, United
Nations Children's Fund

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Localizing M&E education in the Asia Pacific Region

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Reinhard Stockmann**
Professor for Technology and Digital
University and Director of the
Center for Innovation Policy
- Swapnil Shekhar**
Co-Moderator and Director of
Technical Research and
Communication
- Joorf Vaessen**
Evaluation Advisor, World Bank
Independent Evaluation Group
- Myvaganam
Thilakarajah**
General Member of the Parliament
of Sri Lanka
- Shyam Singh**
Chief Officer of Asia Pacific, Bureau
of Evaluation and Professor of
Social Science, Institute of Basic
Management, Asian Cultural Centre
- Asela Kalugampitiya**
President of Asia Pacific
Evaluation Association
- Yoko Ishida**
President of Asian Evaluation
Society

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Advancing national evaluation capacities: Lessons from UNEDAP members' support to NECD

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr.**
President Secretary General, Office
of the National Anti-Corruption
Research Department, Office of
Director General, PhilACC
- Sochetra Nhean**
Country Director of Peace
Development of the Ministry of
Women's Affairs of Cambodia
- Ishika Kumar**
Director,
Development Planning and
Evaluation Office, NITI.Ayog,
Government of India
- Mayantha Disanayake**
Member of the Parliament
of Sri Lanka
- Thomas Rossmueller**
Director and Deputy
Development Officer, United
Nations Children's Fund
- Madhuka Lyanagamage**
Co-Leader of DevYouth Asia
- Xavier Fouquier**
Chief Planning, Monitoring and
Evaluation, United Nations
Children's Fund Philippines

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Sulley Gariba Memorial Lecture on Asia Pacific world views in evaluation: Inspiring practice from across the region

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Kathryn Dinh**
Western Area for the "Asia Pacific
World Views in Evaluation" Forum
and Director, Centre for Evaluation
- Rosetti Nabumbwa**
President of African
Evaluation Association
- Celeste Ghiano**
Chief of Legation/ambassador and
Co-Chair, Evaluation Network
- Qudratullah Jahid**
Past Member of UNED and
Asian Evaluation Association,
Global Policy Management
- Marl Honjo**
Assistant Director of Global
Programs, International
Network for the 2030 and Goals

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
East Asia Pacific

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Closing Session

WEDNESDAY
6 DEC 2023

Speakers

- Kabir Hashim**
Member of the Parliament of Sri
Lanka and Chief of Office,
Department of Public Relations
- Keiko Nishino**
Vice President of Asia Pacific
Evaluation Association
- Ana Erika Lereza**
President of Philippine
Association for Development
- Amol Shaila Suresh**
Co-Leader of DevYouth Asia
- Asela Kalugampitiya**
President of Asia Pacific
Evaluation Association
- Yoko Ishida**
President of Asian
Evaluation Society
- Dorothy Mae Albiento**
Co-Leader of DevYouth Asia

Moderator

- Yatin Dvaskar**
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF
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FLYER FOR PARLIAMENT DAY





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PARLIAMENT DAY
Institutionalization of Monitoring
and Evaluation for the 2030 SDGs
7 December 2023 | Manila

Institutionalization of Monitoring and Evaluation for the 2030 SDGs



THURSDAY
7 DEC 2023



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REPRESENTATIVES, PHILIPPINES**

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Speakers / Resource Persons

 Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez <i>Speaker of the House of Representatives, Philippines</i>	 Leila Saiji Joudane <i>Country Representative of United Nations Population Fund Philippines</i>	 Keiko Nishino <i>Vice President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association</i>
 Kabir Hashim <i>Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation and Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka</i>	 Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov <i>Country Representative of United Nations Children's Fund Philippines</i>	 Bonnie M. Mathooko <i>Director of Parliamentary Research Services, Parliament of Kenya</i>
 Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe <i>Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Philippines</i>	 Ramesh Paudyal <i>Executive Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation</i>	 Donald Keya Manyala <i>Principal Research Officer, Parliament of Kenya</i>
 Natalia Nikitenko <i>Former Member of the Parliament of Kyrgyz Republic and Member of Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation</i>	 Reinhard Stockmann <i>Professor for Sociology at Saarland University and Director of the Center for Evaluation</i>	<p>Moderators</p>  Pamela Diaz-Manalo <i>OPC Deputy Executive Director of Congressional Policy & Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines</i>
 Asela Kalugampitiya <i>President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association</i>	 Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr. <i>Deputy Secretary General of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines</i>	 Ana Erika Lareza <i>Treasurer of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association</i>
 Marco Segone <i>Director of Evaluation Office, United Nations Population Fund</i>	 Ada Ocampo <i>President of International Development Evaluation Association</i>	

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LIVE TWEETING DURING CONFERENCE



Speaker Profiles

Please access the speaker profiles at this link:

[4th APEA CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROFILES](#)

Manila Declaration



Institutionalizing Monitoring and Evaluation in Support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

1. We, the participants of the **4th Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) Conference** in Manila from December 4 to 7, 2023 and of the **Parliament Day** as the conference's culminating event, convene on this 7th day of December 2023 at the House of Representatives of the Philippines.
2. In view of the stalled progress towards critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and other factors, we underscore the urgency of addressing persisting social and economic inequalities to create a sustainable and equitable future for people in the Asia Pacific region.
3. We affirm the critical contributions of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in generating credible and timely information that governmental and non-governmental organizations can use as inputs for prioritizing, budgeting, and implementing relevant, coherent, effective, impactful, and efficient development interventions in support of the 2030 SDGs.
4. We recognize that despite the huge potential of M&E in improving governance, government performance, and development outcomes, its routine conduct, communication, and use for better decision-making are yet to be fully institutionalized in many countries.
5. To institutionalize M&E and engender a culture of evidence-based decision-making across governmental and non-governmental organizations, we acknowledge and highlight the key contributions of the following key drivers for institutionalizing M&E in the Asia Pacific region:


- Parliaments and parliamentarians, as the largest audience of M&E within countries, in developing integrated national M&E policies and systems that strengthen the demand, supply, and use of M&E to guide development interventions for the SDGs;
 - Strong national evaluation capacities in conducting, managing, communicating, and utilizing country-led M&E of development interventions;
 - International development agencies and voluntary organizations for professional evaluation (VOPEs) assuming valuable roles of advocating the sustained institutionalization of evaluation and strengthening national evaluation capacities; and
 - Societal, political, and institutional partnerships for strengthening M&E capacities within and across countries.
6. In view of the foregoing, we thus adhere to the following strategies toward deeper societal, political, and organizational institutionalization of M&E in support of the 2030 SDGs:
- Engage and support parliaments for greater demand and utilization of credible, timely, and useful M&E information as inputs for oversight, lawmaking, budgeting, and constituency representation functions of parliaments and parliamentarians;
 - Strengthen national M&E ecosystems including through legislation to ensure the routine use of M&E information in planning, budgeting, and implementing development interventions;
 - Promote partnerships for evaluation capacity development in the Asia Pacific region to increase the supply of qualified competent, credible, and young evaluators through the development and use of M&E competency framework, standards, education curricula, academic programs, and training courses;
 - Promote country-led and community-owned evaluations through engagements with governments, parliaments, non-government organizations, communities, and citizens, in developing and implementing national evaluation agenda for the 2030 SDGs; and
 - Promote the use of credible and timely country-led evaluations as inputs for the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of country progress towards their SDG targets.
7. Reiterating the development dividends from M&E institutionalization, we call upon governments, parliaments, international development agencies, VOPEs, non-government organizations, and other development actors to operationalize the above strategies through partnerships and through respective action plans, policies, and systems to institutionalize M&E in support of the 2030 SDGs.

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<https://asiapacificeval.org/manila-declaration/>



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