

### Contents:

#### Events

- National
- International

#### Reflections:

##### Contributions by

- Shubh Kumar-Range
- Alok Srivastava
- Prof. I.C. Awasthi

#### Members' Column

#### Capacity building & Training

#### Getting involved

#### Knowledge Resource

#### Membership drive

#### How to be a member?

#### Contact us

### Events

#### ❖ ECOI Launch, New Delhi, 16 October 2015

ECOI was launched by Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, CEO, NITI Aayog, Government of India. The launch video is available on: <http://gendereval.ning.com/profiles/blogs/evaluation-community-of-india-ecoi-has-been-launched>

The goal of ECOI is to 'share and learn', and we look forward to receiving advice with regard to taking the community forward and making it demand and utility oriented - essential for its sustainability.



*Launch of ECOI*

#### **A few messages received!!!**

*"Congratulations for this important achievement! As you wrote, a VOPE for India will make the difference! And I am confident that social equity and gender equality will be central to ECOI values."*

Marco Segone, Director at UN Women Independent Evaluation Office, Chair at UNEG and Co-chair at EvalGender+

*"I am so happy to hear that you have launched community of evaluators in India. Please accept my good wishes and congratulations to all those who made it happen! This was a much felt need for so long. I feel CoE SA will become stronger with this encouraging development."*

Mallika R. Samaranayake, Founder Member/President at Community of Evaluators South Asia

*"Congratulations to you and others on the official launching of ECOI!"*

Jim Rugh, Coordinator at EvalPartners International Initiative

*"Many thanks for this good news and taking the leadership on this important initiative. Congratulations and very impressive opening + newsletter. I am confident that this will be a very successful network and will definitely extend whatever possible support."*

Asela Kalugampitiya, Executive Coordinator at EvalPartners

❖ **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Organization (DMEO) has been set up under the NITI Aayog, Government of India**

PEO Reinvented - Development Monitoring and Evaluation Organization (DMEO) after merging IEO and PEO; will function with 15 regional offices.

❖ **Fourth International Conference on National Evaluation Capacity, Bangkok, 28-30 October 2015**

The fourth NEC Conference was held in collaboration between IEO and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, and jointly organized with the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) Global Assembly 2015. Dr. Rashmi Agrawal, Rituu Nanda, Venu Arora represented ECOI and made presentations.

The conference brought out a joint declaration termed as the Bangkok declaration, which seeks to capture an emerging body of shared understanding on lessons and priorities for evaluation practice in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help guide joint action in future support of national evaluation capacity. Specifically, following types of efforts and initiatives warrant consideration moving forward in support of national evaluation capacity:

- ✓ Conduct of country-level ‘SDG evaluation needs’ reviews and diagnostic studies
- ✓ Evaluability assessments pertaining to individual country or sector SDG goals and targets
- ✓ Fostering of evaluation as component of national governance and public sector management reform
- ✓ Establishing national evaluation legal frameworks - legislation and policies
- ✓ Developing clear national and local sub-national level mechanism for independent evaluation of progress against the SDGs
- ✓ Assigning resources (a percentage of the initiatives’ costs) for the conduct of evaluations when realigning national plans with the SDGs and when designing/approving projects/programmes/policies
- ✓ Strengthening national and local data systems to monitor SDG progress
- ✓ Establishment of frameworks of formal competencies and professional evaluation standards
- ✓ Establishing evaluation training programmes within academic and public sector professional training institutions
- ✓ Creating opportunities for local, young and emerging evaluators
- ✓ Developing systems to promote transparent follow-up of evaluations recommendation
- ✓ Support to national, regional and global evaluation professional organizations
- ✓ Support for international forums of exchange between users and producers of evaluation, via the right of access to information, including regional workshops and web-based platforms for knowledge management

The complete document can be downloaded from: [http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/NEC/2015/Bangkok\\_declaration.pdf](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/NEC/2015/Bangkok_declaration.pdf)

❖ **Welcome New Co-chairs of EvalPartners : Colin Kirk (Director-UNICEF Evaluation Office and EvalSDGs Co-chair) and Ziad Moussa (IOCE President)**

## Reflections:

### HOW DID THEY DO IT? Promising Practices from Evaluation Associations around the world for national evaluation capacity development

*Shubh Kumar-Range*

As ECOI starts on its path of building a vibrant evaluation community in India, one key priority is evaluation skills and capacity development. A lot can be learnt from the strategies used by different countries where voluntary evaluation associations like ECOI have been successful. A variety of approaches used by Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) are summarized below:

1. Promoting mini-courses and workshops during annual Seminars/Conference. This is by far the most popular activity and has been used by a majority of national VOPEs and regional VOPEs like COE South Asia, Australasia Evaluation Society (AES), African Evaluation Association (AFrEA).

2. Evaluation Training. Besides offering workshops at annual events, some of the larger national VOPEs also conduct smaller trainings, e.g., AEA's Summer Institute which offers 3-day professional development series with in-depth 3hr. workshops. The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) conducts short training sessions at the Chapter level and webinars

3. Institutionalizing evaluation training and partnerships with Universities for tertiary level education in evaluation. There are many interesting examples of this. A notable example is the TESA (Training Evaluation in South Asia) initiative started by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) in which a curriculum was developed in partnership with South Asian universities for both degree and non-degree programs. Other VOPEs that have helped expand tertiary level training in evaluations are from USA, Canada, South Africa and the regional VOPE for Africa

4. Conducting evaluation courses. Some VOPEs (France and Kenya) have focused on building evaluation capacity of NGOs and/or government agencies with short courses that are tailor made and provide hands on training for these groups

5. Providing a virtual space for debate and discussion has been an important feature for ReLAC, Latin-America's regional VOPE. Many others provide access to resources and evaluation literature on their websites

6. Disseminating all national capacity building opportunities is carried out the larger national VOPEs (USA and Brazil) with smaller ones like SenEval of Senegal giving individual mentoring informal support to members

7. Matching evaluation capacity building with demand. There are many dimensions of this aspect, some of the common ones are :

- Assessed national evaluation capacity in order to design capacity building
- Addressed challenge of articulating capacity building processes to correspond supply with demand (Australasia Evaluation Society)
- Converting evaluation resources into local language (Egypt)
- Fostering demand for evaluation and creating evaluative culture through capacity building has been prioritized by many VOPEs
- Promoting indigenous evaluation paradigms and concepts, for building an African School of Evaluation

To take forward similar initiatives in ECOI we invite feedback and dialogue with our members and the larger evaluation community to identify national priority actions. Please send us your ideas and suggestions.

Email: [shubhk.range@gmail.com](mailto:shubhk.range@gmail.com)

## National Evaluation Policy a must for achieving SDGs

*Alok Srivastava*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an inter-governmental set of aspiration goals with 169 targets; post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to transform our world by 2030. The goals aim at Poverty, Food, Health, Education, Women, Water, Energy, Economy, Infrastructure, Inequality, Habitation, Consumption, Climate, Marino systems, Ecosystems, Institution and Sustainability.

In Indian context, all these goals are very relevant and critical. As far as MDGs are concerned, we missed the targets set on some of the components. However on a positive note, the present government in India is aspiring for more transparency and accountability and at the same time working with the motto of “Minimum government and Maximum governance”. It becomes pertinent for the government to track its performance and progress in a very scientific and systematic manner. A National Evaluation Policy (NEP) in India for monitoring and evaluating all development interventions including policies would set the tone in the right direction from the very beginning of our journey for achieving SDGs.

Towards drafting NEP, Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) can play a very important and significant role. Advocacy for NEP should be initiated at all levels, right from policy makers, which include Parliamentarians, to donors, funding agencies, implementers to community members. Sensitizing and capacity building across these stakeholders on the relevance of a systematic monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes is a must. ECOI should initiate the process by influencing parliamentarians in this direction. Learning from the initiatives taken by several countries, we should aim to form a Parliamentary forum on Evaluation in India as well.

Let us hope and work towards making the dream of National Evaluation Policy and Parliamentary forum on Evaluation in India a reality to reach SDGs in a time bound manner!! Comments invited.

Email: [alok@cmsindia.org](mailto:alok@cmsindia.org)

## Monitoring Public Investment in Flagship Programmes: Some Issues

*Professor I. C. Awasthi*

A well designed Management Information System (MIS) should facilitate the flow of relevant and timely information to decision makers so as to track implementation progress and enhance the development impact of on-going and future investment programmes. Good MIS practice implies compliance with the following principles:

- Indicators derived from a well-constructed log frame
- Periodic data reporting, authentication and validation
- Public accessibility of data, including a user-friendly website
- Data analysis and MIS utilization for decision-making

Actual practice has fallen short of these requirements in what follows. First, no explicit results chain (or theory of change) appears to underlie the choice of indicators in flagship programmes. Second, no provision for independent verification of data integrity and accuracy appears to have been incorporated in programme designs. Third, beneficiaries’ involvement in the design of the MIS and the choice of indicators as well as in the generation of feedback about service quality is mostly missing and finally, data analysis, interpretation and timely reporting are frequently lacking. This hinders utilization of the MIS for decision making. Revealingly, evaluation reports do not use the data generated

by most of the programmes.  
Email: icawasthi@gmail.com

## Members' Column



The Global Evaluation Week and Evaluation Conclave took place in Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu Nepal from 23 – 27 November 2015. The event was organised by Community of Evaluators, South Asia jointly with EvalPartners and Parliamentarians' Forum as a culmination of, and celebrating the International Year of Evaluation. The main theme of the event was building bridges and use of



evaluation for decision making and policy influence. The event provided an enormous scope to listen, learn and exchange ideas through its skill development workshops, Panel discussions and plenary sessions. A group of ECOI members participated in this global event in their individual capacities. Rituu B. Nanda and Rajib Nandi along with Ranjani Murthy conducted a full day workshop entitled Gender-transformative and equity focused evaluation. Rashmi Agrawal, Alok Srivastava, Aniruddha Brahmachari and Rajib Nandi participated in the meeting with parliamentarians at the Legislature Parliament of Nepal on 26 November, 2015. ECOI core group members Rashmi Agrawal and Rituu B. Nanda presented in a panel on Impact Evaluations chaired by Dr. P.K. Anand, Senior Consultant, DMEO, Niti Aayog, Govt. of India. IC Awasthi, a newly joined ECOI member presented in a panel on Evaluation Capacity Development. ECOI core group member Alok Srivastava, presented in a panel on Participative Methodologies for Evaluation. And, Aniruddha Brahmachari chaired a very important panel on Equity and Gender Focussed Evaluations during the event.



## Capacity building & Training

### National Training Program on Monitoring and Evaluation for Results, 8-12 February 2016

The *Monitoring and Evaluation for Results* program is designed to develop participant's understanding of the principles and processes involved in developing and managing M&E systems and tasks. The program is being organized by the Ramana Group in technical collaboration with ECOI in Dehradun. The course is designed to build capacity of M&E professionals and officials who need to supervise, manage, plan and implement M&E in their projects and programs. The course will be held from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2016, and the fee will be Rs. 7,500 for a non-residential participant and Rs. 12,000 for a residential participant. A discount of Rs. 500 will be offered to ECOI members. Participants will get a year's free membership of the ECOI.

### Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, 9 September – 1 December 2015



A three months' Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, recognized by Government of India, was conducted in National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD), autonomous organisation under NITI Aayog for international participants from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. 28 participants from 17 countries participated in the programme. The institute organises this program every year



## Getting involved

Active participation is possible through innovative ideas, discussion forums, blogs, networking, sharing knowledge, feedback, latest information on M&E, future activities, strategic inputs, capacity building, and other contributions.

## Knowledge Resource

'Opportunities in evaluating Equitable and Sustainable Development in the

context of SDGs' by Marco Segone, Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office, Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG)

Available at:

[http://www.nec2015.net/sites/default/files/M%20Segone\\_UNWOMEN\\_Joint%20Keynote%20Address\\_Opportunities%20in%20Evaluating%20Equitable%20and%20Sustainable%20Development%20in%20the%20Context%20of%20SDG.pdf](http://www.nec2015.net/sites/default/files/M%20Segone_UNWOMEN_Joint%20Keynote%20Address_Opportunities%20in%20Evaluating%20Equitable%20and%20Sustainable%20Development%20in%20the%20Context%20of%20SDG.pdf)

## **Membership drive**

All professional evaluators, scholars, practitioners, development officials, young professionals, project managers, implementers, academicians and students interested in the field of planning, implementation, development and evaluations are welcome to join. The membership is open to individuals from all countries.

**Our membership has increased from 25 to 46!!!**

## **How to be a member?**

Please fill the registration form and pay Indian Rs. 500 or US \$ 15. For more details please contact.

## **Contact us**

*Mailing address:* Evaluation Community of India (ECOI)  
Institute of Social Studies Trust  
UG Floor, Core 6A, India Habitat Centre  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

*Phone:* +91-11-4768 2222

*Email:* Dr. Rashmi Agrawal [rashmi\\_agrawal56@rediffmail.com](mailto:rashmi_agrawal56@rediffmail.com)

Dr. Rajib Nandi [rajib@isstindia.org](mailto:rajib@isstindia.org)

*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/evalcoIndia/>

ECOI wish you all a **Very Happy New Year 2016**