

The 19th ODA Evaluation Workshop



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



APEA

Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association

THE 19TH OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)
EVALUATION WORKSHOP

**Setting Strong M&E Systems:
Maximizing Results for Equitable Development**

JOINTLY HOSTED BY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN (MOFA) & ASIA PACIFIC EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (APEA)

27-28 February 2024 | Virtual



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February 27-28, 2024

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Opening Session



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THE 19TH OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) EVALUATION WORKSHOP | 27-28 FEBRUARY 2024

Opening Session



MR. KUSAKABE HIDEKI
Deputy Director-General
/Deputy Assistant Minister,
International Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



DR. ISHIDA YOKO
President
Asia Pacific Evaluation Association
& Japan Evaluation Society,
Vice President and Professor,
Hiroshima University, Japan



PROF. NISHINO KEIKO
Former Vice President
Asia Pacific Evaluation Association,
Professor of School of Policy Studies,
Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan

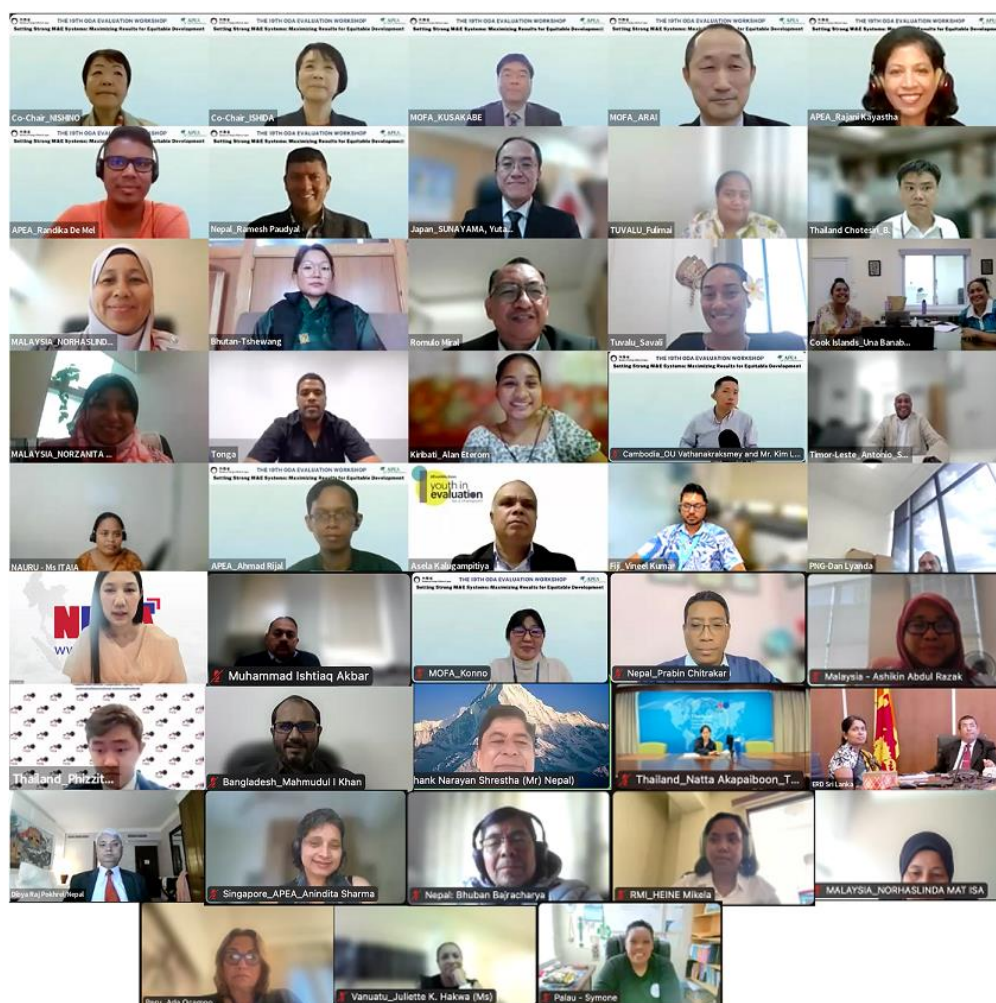
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Photo Session



Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results



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Session 1:

Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results



**MR. SUNAYAMA
YUTAKA**

Director-General, Kanto
Regional Administrative
Evaluation Bureau,
Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications (MIC),
Government of Japan



**HON. RAMESH
PAUDYAL**

Executive Committee Member
of the Asia Pacific
Parliamentarians Forum
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**DR. ROMULO E.M.
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Deputy Secretary General,
Congressional Policy and
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House of Representatives,
Philippines



**DR. ASELA
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Director
Center For Evaluation,
University of Sri
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**FACILITATOR
MS. RAJANI
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Co-Lead of NEPS Theme
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Session 2: JICA's Efforts



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Session 2:

(1) JICA's Project Evaluation / Project Monitoring, (2) Evaluation of JICA Technical Cooperation Project using Household Survey



MS. YAMAGUCHI MICHINO

Director, Evaluation Division 1,
Evaluation Department, JICA



FACILITATOR

MR. SAKAMOTO KAZUHIKO

Evaluation Planning Division,
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Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development

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**Session 3:
Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development**



DR. ISHIDA YOKO
President
Asia Pacific Evaluation Association & Japan Evaluation Society,
Vice President and Professor, Hiroshima University, Japan



DR. ONRAMON SHUAYTONG, CHOMPOTJANANAN
Project Analyst, Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Thailand



MR. ANDREW NOLI RICHARDSON JUNIOR
Principal Planning Project Officer, Cooperate Service Division, Ministry of Public Service (MPS), Solomon Islands



MR. YATIN DIWAKAR
PhD Scholar
IIT Bombay, India



MS. ARSHEE RIZVI
Data Scientist (Officer)
IIT Madras, India



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Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries

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**Session 4:
Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries**



MS. ADA OCAMPO
President
International Development Evaluation Association



MS. DOROTHY MAE ALBIENTO
Research Officer of ALNAP and Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia



MS. ANINDITA SHARMA
Regional Director Asia Pacific, ROI Institute



MS. ELBEREL TUMENJARGAL
Former Board Member
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Program

Day 1 (February 27)	
12:00 - 12:20	Registration
12:20-12:35 (15min)	<p><u>Opening Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and Opening Remarks by Co-Hosts Mr. KUSAKABE Hideki, Deputy Director-General/Deputy Assistant Minister, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, President, Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) - Introduction of Workshop and Explanation of Agenda by Co-Chairs Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association & Japan Evaluation Society, Vice President and Professor, Hiroshima University, Japan Prof. NISHINO Keiko, Former Vice President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association, Professor of School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan - Administrative instruction
12:35-12:50	Ice-breaking & Photo Session
12:50-14:20 (90min)	<p><u>Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results</u> Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy/Evaluation Consultant</p> <p>【Presentations】</p> <p>[1] Mr. SUNAYAMA Yutaka, Director-General, Kanto Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan</p> <p>[2] Hon. Ramesh PAUDYAL, Former Member of the Provincial Parliament of Bagmati Province, Nepal and Executive Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum For Evaluation</p> <p>[3] Dr. Romulo E.M. MIRAL Jr., Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines</p> <p>[4] Dr. Asela KALUGAMPITIYA, Director, Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka</p> <p>[5] Q&A, discussion</p> <p>[6] Wrap up by facilitator</p>
14:20-14:30	Break
14:30-16:00 (90min)	<p><u>Session 2: JICA's Efforts</u> Facilitator: Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Planning Division, Evaluation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</p> <p>【Presentations】</p> <p>[1] Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Planning Division, Evaluation Department, JICA</p> <p>[2] Q&A</p> <p>[3] Ms. YAMAGUCHI Michino, Director, Evaluation Division 1, Evaluation Department, JICA</p> <p>[4] Q&A</p> <p>[5] Wrap up by facilitator</p>

Day 2 (February 28)	
12:00 –12:20	Registration
12:20-12:30	Ice-breaking session
12:30-14:00 (90min)	<p><u>Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development</u> Facilitator: Ms. SAKUMA Miho, Senior Researcher, International Development Center of Japan Inc.</p> <p>【Presentations】</p> <p>[1] Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, Professor, Hiroshima University, Japan, President Asia Pacific Evaluation Association & Japan Evaluation Society</p> <p>[2] Dr. Onramon Shuaytong, CHOMPOTJANANAN, Project Analyst, Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Thailand (alumna of The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP))</p> <p>[3] Mr. Yatin DIWAKAR, PhD Scholar, IIT Bombay and Ms. Arshee RIZVI, Data Scientist (Officer), IIT Madras</p> <p>[5] Q&A</p> <p>[6] Wrap up by facilitator</p>
14:00-14:15	Break
14:15-15:45 (90min)	<p><u>Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence-Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries</u> Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy/Evaluation Consultant</p> <p>【Presentations】</p> <p>[1] Ms. Ada OCAMPO, President of International Development Evaluation Association</p> <p>[2] Ms. Dorothy Mae ALBIENTO, Research Officer of ALNAP and Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia and Ms. Anindita SHARMA, Regional Director Asia Pacific, ROI Institute</p> <p>[3] Ms. Elberel TUMENJARGAL, Former Board Member of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association</p> <p>[4] Q&A</p> <p>[5] Wrap up by facilitator</p>
15:45-16:00	<p><u>Closing Session</u> Co-Chairs' Summary</p>

Co-Chairs' Summary

Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results

Session 1 was organized by the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA). This session presented country case studies from Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Mr. Sunayama Yutaka presented the policy evaluation system of the Japanese government. In Japan, the government policy evaluation act was enacted in 2001. Since then, performance evaluations, project evaluations and comprehensive evaluations are conducted for promoting effective and efficient administration and ensuring accountability to the public.

Honorable. Ramesh Paudyal shared Nepal's experience on constitutional provisions and institutionalization processes. In Nepal, evaluation is embedded in the constitution promulgated in 2015, as the first country in Asia Pacific region. A parliamentary committee was formed to monitor the state's policies, and constitutional bodies were made accountable towards the parliament. Guidelines on results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) were formulated by the National Planning Commissions however the country faces many challenges such as lack of legislation and budget allocation.

The third presenter was Dr. Romulo E.M. Miral, Jr. from the Philippines. He presented policy and institutional arrangement for M&E in the Philippines. Based on the Administrative Code of 1987, he shared his country's journey from efficient implementation to good results and outcomes of policy and programs by enforcing many regulations, introducing systems and frameworks, and establishing task forces.

The final presentation was made by Dr. Asela Kalugampitiya, former president of APEA. He shared the situation of Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, National evaluation policy was approved in June 2018 and funds are allocated for evaluation. To professionalize evaluation, academic courses on M&E are established at the university level, and competency framework was developed. To build capacity among young and emerging evaluators, mentoring and networking YEE are strengthened. Session 1 was successfully concluded by efficient and lively facilitation of Ms. Rajani.

Session 2: JICA's Efforts

Session 2 was organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The first presentation by Mr. Sakamoto Kazuhiko provided a general overview of JICA's monitoring and evaluation system and practices including its objectives, strategies, institutional structure, methodology, rating system etc. As explained, JICA evaluates each project and conducts comprehensive and cross-sectoral thematic analyses to obtain learning to improve its project planning and implementation and ensure accountability to stakeholders.

The second presentation by Ms. Yamaguchi Michino introduced a case of JICA's effort to improve its evaluation, specifically, the project monitoring and evaluation of the technical cooperation project for "Market Oriented Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion" in Malawi, using the World Bank's household survey methodology.

During the Q&A session, some questions were asked to the first presenter about the ex-ante evaluation. The results of the ex-ante evaluation are reflected in the project plan as much as possible,

but there are cases that the baseline survey alone is not sufficient, so the handover note is used to support the results. As for the questions about KCCP, the respondent indicated that the target countries were chosen after consultation while respecting the ownership of each country.

For the second presentation, there were some questions asked about the methods of the evaluation. The details of quantitative and qualitative indicators, by whom and how the data collected, who were the respondents, and the gender ratio of the respondents were asked. It was hoped that further collaborative efforts would be made to enhance the output of international cooperation projects by better reflecting voices from the beneficiaries in the fields.

Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development

Session 3 was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and focused on how Japan contributed to improving the evaluation capacity of partner countries by introducing different types of programs.

Dr. Ishida Yoko presented the overview of Japan's efforts in strengthening M&E. Examples of Partner Country-led Evaluation by MOFA, Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (KCCP) by JICA, historical background of M&E in Japan, Japan Evaluation Society (JES)'s M&E training programs were shared. She concluded her presentation by emphasizing that strengthening collaboration among MOFA, JICA, JES and APEA is very important.

Dr. Onramon Shuaytong Chompotjananan, from Thailand, is an alumnus of JICA's training course. She reported the evaluation system of Neighboring Countries Economic Development (NEDA) of Thailand. She also shared her experience and learning from KCCP, as well as action plan progress on enhancing reliability of NEDA's project evaluation report.

The final presentation was made by Mr. Yatin Diwakar and Ms. Arshee Rizvi from India, who conducted a Partner country-led Evaluation. The interim evaluation report on Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Program Phase 1 & 2 was shared with the participants. Main evaluation criteria are effectiveness, relevance and appropriateness. They reported interim findings that some skills and investment climate were improved but timing of this study and limited secondary data remain as challenges of this evaluation.

After the presentations, Mr. Arai from MOFA followed up yesterday's sessions. Many questions and comments came from the floor and answered by the presenters. The session 3 was successfully facilitated by Ms. Sakuma Miho and participants are thanked for their active contribution.

Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence-Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries

Session 4 was organized by APEA. The purpose of Session 4 was to deepen participants' comprehension of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs by emphasizing the integration of country-led evaluations into Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and to guide participants in embedding evaluation within VNRs, aligning national priorities with the SDGs.

The first presentation by Ms. Ada Ocampo gave us the overview of the session and delved into the intersection of evidence-based reporting, country-led evaluations, and Monitoring and Evaluation

(M&E) practices in the Asia Pacific Region. The presentation showed how to embed evidence from evaluation in VNR, Theory of Change of effective use of monitoring and evaluation for evidence-based VNRs, and some methodological options including rapid evaluations, synthesis, evaluative workshops etc.

The second presentation by Ms. Dorothy Mae Albiento and Ms. Anindita Sharma shared the findings of the study initiated in 2023, about how the Asia Pacific countries have practiced the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs. Based on the study, it was reported that while all countries have common commitment, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs has a learning path, and data challenges and needs for capacity building support are reported.

The third presentation by Ms. Elberel Tumenjargal was about Mongolia's efforts and lessons learnt from their experiences of creating its 2023 Second VNR report. Mongolia's achievements in SDG implementation amid economic changes, pandemic responses, and educational innovations were summarized. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the role of M&E practices emerged as pivotal, emphasizing the need for robust monitoring systems, clarified financing environments, and inclusivity.

Through session 4, there were good discussions facilitated by Ms. Rajani Kayastha, the importance of evidence-based VNRs for decision-making was stressed, and a strong need to enhance the statistical data system was mentioned. The session concluded by fostering a collaborative spirit, offering valuable perspectives, lessons learned, and actionable steps to accelerate progress towards the ambitious SDG goals. It was hoped that the VNR practices and findings would be utilized effectively in decision making by the governments of the participating countries.

Abstract of Presentations

(in order of the presentations)

Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results

The speakers in this session presented country case studies from the Asia-Pacific region focusing on how evaluation systems have developed and policies formalized. While constitutional provisions in Nepal support evaluation, evaluation policies in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Japan have helped to strengthen their national evaluation systems. Each country has a separate journey and is at a different phase of institutionalization of evaluation, with efforts spanning the last four decades. The existing policy evaluation systems, institutional arrangements, academic programs, role of parliaments, etc., were laid out through the presentations. This session focused on learnings from implementing robust M&E systems in these countries and their support for improving development results.

Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy/Evaluation Consultant

【Presentation】

[1] The Policy Evaluation System of the Japanese Government

Mr. SUNAYAMA Yutaka, Director-General, Kanto Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan

This presentation gave an overview of the policy evaluation system in Japan, including its brief history, the mechanism of related activities, evaluation methods and track record of evaluation reports. It also introduced the current efforts to improve the quality of evaluation focusing on the “effectiveness” of public policies. The policy evaluation system of the Japanese government, established in 2001, is operated based on the Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA). The GPEA provides that every administrative organ of the national government shall evaluate its policy and reflect the evaluation result in policy-making. In addition, “Basic Guidelines for Implementing Policy Evaluation” under the GPEA suggests three evaluation methods: project evaluation, performance evaluation, and comprehensive evaluation. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (MIC) oversees the whole system to ensure the objective and rigorous implementation of policy evaluation.

[2] Evaluation in Nepal: Constitutional Provisions and Institutionalization Processes

Hon. Ramesh PAUDYAL, Former Member of the Provincial Parliament of Bagmati Province, Nepal and Executive Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

Nepal is among the few countries worldwide and the only one in the Asia-Pacific region to incorporate evaluation into its national constitution. It has made significant progress in establishing the evaluation system within its political structures. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process is integrated with the Nepalese constitution and different legislation, rules, and policies. The M&E bill was created in 2016 to give the system the legal foundation it needs to be strengthened. It has been accepted by the upper house and is currently awaiting approval from the lower house. Furthermore, Nepal developed result-based monitoring and evaluation (RBME) guidelines in 2010 and a national monitoring and evaluation guideline in 2013. These guidelines are developed by the National Planning Commission (NPC), which is the specialized and apex advisory body of the Government of Nepal for formulating a national vision, development policy, periodic plans, and sectoral policies for the overall development of the nation. The presentation discussed how

evaluation has evolved in Nepal in due course in relation to the institutional arrangements and policy framework for evaluation practices.

[3] Policy and Institutional Arrangement for M&E in the Philippines: The Case of ODA Projects

Dr. Romulo E.M. MIRAL Jr., Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines

The presentation looked into the evolution of M&E policy and system in the Philippines, especially in connection with implementing programs and projects funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA). The importance of M&E is already recognized in the various Philippine statutes and government issuances from the Administrative of 1987. The Administrative Code of 1987 of the Philippines mandates the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the country's medium-term development plan and the Department of Budget and Management to monitor budget performance and assess the effectiveness of the operations of the different government agencies. The Code mandates all agencies of the government to submit reports of their accomplishments to monitor their efficiency and effectiveness in the utilization of their budgets. M&E is important not only to the planners and program implementers in the executive branch of the government but also to the elected Members of Congress in the performance of their functions, namely legislation, oversight, and representation. Many of the laws passed by the Philippine Congress mandate monitoring and evaluation and the creation of oversight committees. Among these laws, is Republic Act No. 8182, also known as the Official Development Assistance Act of 1996, as amended by Republic Act 8555, which mandated NEDA to conduct an annual review of the status of all projects financed by ODA and identify causes of implementation and completion delays or reasons for bottlenecks, cost overruns, and continued projects or program viability. NEDA is required to submit to Congress a report on the outcome of the review by June 30 of each year.

[4] Institutionalization of Evaluation in Sri Lanka: Regulations, Institutions, Professionalization and Academic Courses

Dr. Asela KALUGAMPITIYA, Director, Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka,

National Evaluation Policies have been developing throughout the world as a means of ensuring good and inclusive government policies and programs. In the past, donor countries set up monitoring and evaluation guidelines for recipient countries. Many countries, especially in the Global South, are working on developing and formalizing evaluation frameworks and policies. They can learn from countries that have experience operating their own NEPs. Policy makers are faced with the challenges of evaluation quality, use and follow-up. According to EvalPartners, national evaluation policy is an essential element of the evaluation system leading to institutionalization of evaluation and the existence of National Evaluation Systems. The presentation highlighted examples of countries with national evaluation policy, importance of evaluation within the parliaments and how academic courses can significantly contribute to the professionalization of evaluation.

Session 2: JICA's Efforts

Project evaluation is one of the key operations in development cooperation. JICA evaluates each project and conducts comprehensive and cross-sectoral thematic analyses to improve its projects

(learning) and ensure accountability to stakeholders. The first presentation walked the participants of the workshop through the outline of JICA's evaluation system to understand how JICA evaluates projects based on the four-stage PDCA cycle for project management, namely: pre-implementation (Plan), implementation (Do), post-implementation (Check) and feedback (Action). The second presentation introduced an example of JICA's effort to improve its evaluation taking the case of the project monitoring and evaluation of the technical cooperation project for “Market Oriented Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion” in Malawi, using the World Bank's household survey methodology. Participants learned the importance of evaluation in the project cycle/continuous improvement of evaluation methodologies and make it an opportunity to think about challenges of evaluation in participants’ respective countries and how to continuously improve evaluation.

Facilitator: Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Planning Division, Evaluation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

【Presentation】

[1] JICA’s Project Evaluation

Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Department, JICA

Project evaluation is one of the key operations in development cooperation. JICA evaluates projects based on the four-stage PDCA cycle for project management, namely: pre-implementation (Plan), implementation (Do), post-implementation (Check) and feedback (Action). JICA ensures accountability by conducting ex-ante evaluation before the implementation of the project and ex-post evaluation after the project completion. To improve projects, JICA draws on lessons learned from the past projects for similar ongoing and future projects. JICA’s project evaluation system can be summarized in the following five features: (1) consistent evaluation throughout the project’s PDCA cycle; (2) coherent evaluation methodologies and criteria across the three cooperation schemes (Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation, Grant Aid); (3) comprehensive and cross-sectoral analysis based on thematic evaluation; (4) ensuring objectivity and transparency; and (5) emphasizing application of evaluation results. This presentation aimed at walking the audience through the outline of JICA’s evaluation system.

[2] Project Monitoring and Evaluation of JICA Technical Cooperation Project using World Bank High Frequency Household Survey Methods named SWIFT

Ms. YAMAGUCHI Michino, Director, Evaluation Division 1, Evaluation Department, JICA

For enhancement of project quality, it is important not only to feedback the lessons learned of ex-post evaluation to new project, but also to monitor and use the household survey result for improvement of ongoing projects in a timely manner. JICA Evaluation Dept. explained how to use the household survey on a trial basis to monitor and evaluation of technical cooperation project “Market Oriented Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Project” in Malawi.

Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development

Japan has been supporting evaluation capacity development in partner countries. This session presented how Japan contributes to improving the evaluation capacity of partner countries by introducing different types of programs. The presentation (1) focused on how MOFA, JICA and Japan Evaluation Society (JES) cooperate to contribute to evaluation capacity development. In the presentation (2), an alumna of JICA’s training course called “Capacity Building for Improved Project

Evaluation Design, Implementation and System Institutionalization” reported on the implementation progress of the action plan that was prepared as part of the course. In the presentation (3), evaluators for this year's “Partner Country-Led Evaluation” which is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan presented their interim report. Then several participants were invited to share their experiences of joining online training and/or conducting similar online capacity building programs with other countries. The facilitator took up questions and comments from the participants to encourage mutual discussion.

Facilitator: Ms. SAKUMA Miho, Senior Researcher, International Development Center of Japan Inc

【Presentation】

[1] Collaboration among APEA, JES, MOFA and JICA for Human Resources Development in Evaluation

Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, Professor, President of Japan Evaluation Society

The Government of Japan has provided technical assistance programs in strengthening the government Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system as well as in empowering government officers, academic researchers, consultants etc., who engaged in M&E in developing countries. For conducting technical assistance, MOFA and JICA have promoted collaboration with APEA and JES through utilizing their personnel network. In this presentation, among these various good practices, by focusing on the MOFA's country-led evaluation and JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP), what are promoting factors and how they can be further improved for future effective collaborative empowerment among governments of developing countries, academic societies/organizations, development partners, civil societies etc. were discussed.

[2] Project Evaluation Design: Sharing the progress and achievement from NEDA

Dr. Onramon Shuaytong, CHOMPOTJANANAN, Project Analyst, Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Thailand (alumna of The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP))

NEDA Project evaluation has two features (1) Project Completion Report which will be conducted by NEDA and Executing Agency once the project is completed and (2) Project Evaluation Report (Ex-Post Evaluation) which will be conducted by external consultants three years after project completion based on new six DAC Evaluation Criteria. With the adoption of Thailand's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in 2019, the issue on Cross Border Investment and Multinational Enterprises has been raised and considered as crucial part for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NEDA has been seeking the way to improve project management including impact evaluation. This session presented and discussed applicability of NEDA's Project Evaluation Design, the progress of reviewing project evaluation criteria and the progress of conducting the new edition of Project Evaluation Form for NEDA to use during Implementation Stage (Monitoring) and Project Completion Report.

[3] Country-led Evaluation of ODA Support to India

Mr. Yatin DIWAKAR, PhD Scholar, IIT Bombay and Ms. Arshee RIZVI, Data Scientist (Officer), IIT Madras

The Government of Japan conducts partner country-led evaluation every year in one partner country which aims to develop evaluation capacity in the country, to improve management of ODA, to ensure accountability, and to promote understanding of ODA in the partner country. This year, India has been selected as the partner country and specifically, the evaluation target is the ODA loans for policy interventions in Tamil Nadu for promoting investment. The primary findings of this evaluation study was presented in this presentation along with the methodology and other observations by the

evaluators for improving partner country-led evaluations and evaluation culture in the partner country.

Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence-Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries

The presentation, "Accelerating Progress towards the SDGs: Insights from VNRs, Mongolia's Journey, and Regional M&E Practices," delves into the intersection of evidence-based reporting, country-led evaluations, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices in the Asia Pacific Region. Beginning with an overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the session emphasized the importance of disaggregated data and country-led evaluations in SDGs reporting. The focus then shifted to the recent UN resolution encouraging country-led evaluations in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and leveraging evidence for decision-making. Participants would have gained insights from guidebooks, "Embedding Evaluation in VNRs" and "Evaluation to Connect National Priorities with the SDGs," alongside concrete country cases.

Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy/Evaluation Consultant

【Presentation】

[1] Accelerating Progress Towards the SDGs through Evidence-Based VNRs

Ms. Ada OCAMPO, President of International Development Evaluation Association

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the adoption of Resolution A/RES/70/1. The 2030 Agenda includes a chapter entitled: Follow-up and review process. This chapter calls for disaggregated data, *country-led Evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals* and *for evidence-based SDGs reporting*. The Follow-up and Review section of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of embedding the principles underlying the Agenda in the SDGs reporting. It also emphasizes the need for *country-ownership as well as for country led processes*.

So far, more than 188 countries have submitted VNRs. While VNRs have become the principal means of reporting on the SDGs' implementation, only few countries have conducted actual evaluations of the SDGs. To animate countries to undertake such evaluations, in April 2023 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/Res/77/283 on "Strengthening Voluntary National Reviews through Country-led Evaluation". The Resolution encourages Member States to present VNRs with a country-led evaluation component and to use evidence from SDG evaluations for decision making and reporting on their progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Against this backdrop the session included:

- i. An overview of the 2030 Agenda overall intent, the SDGs, the follow up and review processes and the principles underlying the Agenda.
- ii. The New Resolution on Strengthening VNRs through country-led evaluations. What are the implications and why it matters?
- iii. The importance of evidence-based VNRs for decision-making and for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs
- iv. Key steps for embedding evaluation in VNRs.

[2] Study on the Status of M&E Practices on SDGs in Selected Countries in the Asia Pacific Region

Ms. Dorothy Mae ALBIENTO, Research Officer of ALNAP and Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia and Ms. Anindita SHARMA, Regional Director Asia Pacific, ROI Institute

The “Using Evaluation to Report on SDGs” Thematic Group of the APEA initiated this study in 2023 to determine the status of M&E practices for SDGs implementation among countries in the Asia Pacific Region. They gave specific focus to three areas on the use of M&E in SDGs Implementation

- First, the institutional frameworks in place for monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs
- Second, the actual practice of monitoring and evaluating SDGs.
- And third, the gaps seen, and the support needed.

The research is for all stakeholders interested in the achievement of the SDGs by using M&E.

[3] Mongolia's VNR Journey: Lessons Learned in M&E for Sustainable Development Report

Ms. Elberel TUMENJARGAL, Former Board Member of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association

Uncovered Mongolia's path to sustainable development through insights from its 2023 Second VNR. This presentation navigated the nation's strides in achieving the SDGs, exploring impactful policies, collaborative initiatives, and adaptive measures. Focusing on key messages from the review, the presentation dissected Mongolia's evolving landscape amid economic changes, pandemic responses, and educational innovations. The presentation underscored the integral role of M&E in shaping Mongolia's trajectory, emphasizing the need for improved monitoring systems, clarified financing environments, bolstered capacities, and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. Participants were expected to gain valuable perspectives into Mongolia's sustainable development narrative, enriched by M&E practices and lessons learned.

Profiles of Co-chairs and Presenters

(in order of presentation)

Co-Chairs

Prof. ISHIDA Yoko Ph. D



Dr. Ishida Yoko, after having worked as an international cooperation consultant for 25 years, joined Hiroshima University in October 2015. When she worked as a consultant, she joined various policy-, program- and project-level evaluations of the Ministry Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), JICA, local governments, NGOs etc. She has studied mixed method approaches for evaluating capacity development projects based on her experiences in the fields. Currently, as a professor and as president of Japan Evaluation Society (JES), she is engaged in capacity development of younger generations in Japan and in developing countries. Since January 1, 2024, she has been appointed president of APEA. She is also a member of the MOFA Policy Evaluation Advisory Group.

Prof. NISHINO Keiko



Nishino Keiko, having obtained MA in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, she commenced her career at UNICEF in Bangladesh. After serving UNICEF for ten years, she established a consulting firm in Japan, and she herself planned, implemented, monitored, and evaluated various ODA projects. She also established an NPO to promote international cooperation at grass root level and to provide a learning ground for students. Since 2013, Nishino has been teaching various international subjects as professor at Kwansei Gakuin University. She is now serving for the Japan Evaluation Society as Advisor as well as Editor.

Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results

Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy and Evaluation Consultant



Rajani Kayastha is a multisector monitoring and evaluation professional working since 2004 and has worked with UN organizations, bi-lateral agencies, INGOs and Government. She is a former Evaluation Specialist of UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and currently working as an independent consultant, visiting lecturer on M&E and is also a theme member for NEPS under APEA. She particularly holds interest in M&E capacity building, Gender in M&E, M&E system establishing and strengthening, outcome harvesting, designing and adapting to new innovative approaches and reaching out and motivating young professionals.

[1] Mr. SUNAYAMA Yutaka, Director-General Kanto Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan



Sunayama Yutaka is a government official of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, currently serving as the head of one of the regional bureaus of the Ministry. Specialized in public management and administrative reforms, including policy evaluation, human resource management and organizational management. Engaged in the establishment of the policy evaluation system of the national government as well as the legislation of the Government Policy Evaluation Act in 2001. In addition, served as a Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva for 3 years (2012-2015), taking initiative of the oversight of the United Nations organizations located in Geneva among “like-minded” advanced countries. Master in Public Policy (MPP), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

[2] Hon. Ramesh PAUDYAL, Former Member of the Provincial Parliament of Bagmati Province, Nepal and Executive Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation



Hon. Ramesh Paudyal has been affiliated with the Bibeksheel Nepali movement in Nepal. His main focus is on the youth's participation in leadership. He is an enthusiast of a human-centric, participatory, and judicious polity and holds a centrist view. Hon. Paudyal holds an MA in Sociology and an MA in Political Science from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and a Master of Management of Development (MSc) from VHL University of Applied Sciences (a part of Wageningen University and Research Centre) in the Netherlands. Hon. Paudyal has professional experience spanning more than 15 years in the development sector. His focus is on inclusive and sustainable rural development. He now runs a development consulting firm and is engaged in tourism-related entrepreneurship in Nepal.

[3] Dr. Romulo E.M. MIRAL Jr., Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines



Dr. Romulo E.M. Miral Jr. is currently the Deputy Secretary General of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD). His career in government spans nearly three decades, with most of it spent at the House of Representatives Secretariat. Dr. Miral's professional interests include public expenditure management, national government budgeting, tax policy and administration, and intergovernmental fiscal relations. He was a lecturer at the UP School of Economics and the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance and rendered consulting services to a number of multilateral and bilateral organizations. Dr. Miral obtained his bachelor's degree in economics (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines and his PhD in economics from the Australian National University.

[4] Dr. Asela KALUGAMPITIYA, Director, Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka



Dr. Asela Kalugampitiya is a Sri Lankan lawyer, past President of both Sri Lanka Evaluation Association and the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association. He holds a PhD in evaluation from Germany and a visiting lecturer of the Master of Evaluation, University of Saarland, Germany. He was instrumental in launching and implementing the Post Graduate Diploma in M&E at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. Asela has been working in the Monitoring & Evaluation field over two decades including for the United Nations as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. He is the Director- Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Session 2: JICA's Efforts

Facilitator: Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Department, JICA

[1] Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Department, JICA



After joining JICA, Sakamoto was engaged in planning, implementing, and evaluating technical cooperation projects, followed by his first position at the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief. He served at JICA Palestine Office, Iraq Office and the JICA domestic offices in Kobe and in Nagoya. During this period, he was seconded to UNHCR in Geneva as Senior Development Officer, where he was engaged in identifying effective modalities of collaboration between development assistance and humanitarian assistance, and in the formation of JICA-UNHCR collaboration projects. Most recently he had been posted in London as Resident Representative of the JICA UK Office. He majored in economics at university and policy science at graduate school.

[2] Ms. YAMAGUCHI Michino, Evaluation Department, JICA



Yamaguchi Michino was assigned to this position from January 2022. Her major career focus is ODA loan operation in Asia, especially supervision of ODA loan projects in Indonesia and Pakistan during the assignment to Representative of JICA Indonesia Office from 2007 to 2010 and Senior Representative of JICA Pakistan Office from 2016 to 2018.

Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development

Facilitator: Ms. SAKUMA Miho, Senior Researcher, International Development Center of Japan Inc.



Sakuma Miho is a senior researcher of Evaluation Department, International Development Center of Japan, Inc. She has been a member of the Japan Evaluation Society since 2007. She holds a Master of Laws degree. She has extensive practical experience in policy evaluation, thematic evaluation, project evaluation, planning and implementation of training programs, and research in the field of public administration and governance.

[1] Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, Professor, President of Japan Evaluation Society

Introduced above.

[2] Dr. Onramon Shuaytong, CHOMPOTJANANAN, Project Analyst, Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Thailand



Dr. Onramon Shuaytong Chompotjananan is Project Analyst, Professional Level at Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (Public Organization) (NEDA), Ministry of Finance, Thailand. She holds a Doctorate in Public Administration, her dissertation focuses on Thailand as an emerging donor for infrastructure development. She also has successfully completed the International Environmental Law from United Nation Institute for Training and Research. Currently, as Project Analyst, she is working on the Construction of Stung Bot Border Crossing Facilities and Access Road to National Road No.5 Project, the Upgrading of National Road

No. 67 (Siem Reap - Anlong Veng to Choam/Sa Ngam) Project in Cambodia and the Construction of Two-Lane Road Connecting Dawei Special Economic Zone to Myanmar-Thailand Border Project in Myanmar. Her responsibilities related directly to Project Level Evaluation in Cross Border Investment and Multinational Enterprises Area which is one of the priority areas on Thailand's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights linkage with the National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[3] Mr. Yatin DIWAKAR, PhD Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay



Yatin Diwakar is a researcher of evaluation who is exploring the institutionalization of National Evaluation System in India. He is a trained development professional with rich field experience and now conducts evaluations for different programs in India. He is also active in the Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluation (VOPE) space, he co-founded EvalYouth India while he was a co-lead of EvalYouth Asia and represented YEEs on ECOI board. He continues to co-lead the promoting NEPS theme of APEA.

[4] Ms. Arshee RIZVI, Data Scientist (Officer), Indian Institute of Technology Madras



Arshee Rizvi is a young and emerging evaluator and researcher with a master's degree in development from IIT Bombay. She currently works with IIT Madras as a data scientist in their online data science degree program, where she manages big data and utilizes AI/ML for making sense of the data. She has presented research on evaluation at the American Evaluation Association's conference in 2023.

Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence-Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries

Facilitator: Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, Co-Lead of NEPS Theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy/Evaluation Consultant

Introduced above.

[1] Ms. Ada OCAMPO, President of International Development Evaluation Association



Ada Ocampo is a Peruvian sociologist with a Master's degree in Planning and Development Management from the University of Wales, United Kingdom. She has worked for UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and IFAD from 2000 to 2020, in different countries of North and Latin America, Africa and Asia. Ada has been one of the founders of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and of the Evaluation Network for Latin America (ReLAC). She currently serves as President of the International Development Assessment Association (IDEAS).

[2] Ms. Dorothy Mae ALBIENTO, Research Officer of ALNAP and Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia



Dorothy Mae Albiento is a researcher and evaluator based in the Philippines. She has academic background in evaluation, public management, development studies and psychology. She currently works as a Research Officer at ALNAP. She also serves as a co-leader of EvalYouth Asia and a member of the 'Using evaluation to report on SDGs' Thematic Group of APEA.

[3] Ms. Anindita SHARMA, Regional Director Asia Pacific, ROI Institute



Anindita Sharma is an experienced professional with a global network covering entrepreneurs, investors, and corporate leaders. Her focus is to bring attention, resources, and funding to advance the global sustainability agenda. She runs an Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) Consultancy, Aartha based in Singapore, represents the ROI Institute in Asia Pacific, globally leads an impact accelerator for Columbia University's largest alumni club - Columbia Venture Club, partners with SVI as an Accredited Trainer for the SDG Impact Standards, and volunteers with two professional evaluation networks - Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) and Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP).

[4] Ms. Elberel TUMENJARGAL, Former Board Member of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association



Elberel Tumenjargal is a researcher with over ten years of experience managing research and evaluation projects. She works as a consultant and a researcher with a range of national and international development organizations in Mongolia. She received a bachelor's degree in social work from the National University of Mongolia. She graduated from Georgia State University in 2020 with a Master's Degree in Public Policy. Since 2012, she has been working at the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia (IRIM) where she has coordinated over 50 research, monitoring and evaluation projects for social development programs in Mongolia funded by development organizations. She has led research and evaluations across a range of sectors including education, health, community development, and local government. Currently, she is working for the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia as a senior researcher. She has worked as a board member of the APEA between 2022 and 2024. She is passionate about research and evaluation and plans to contribute to initiatives to promote evidence-based practices and a results-oriented culture in developing countries.

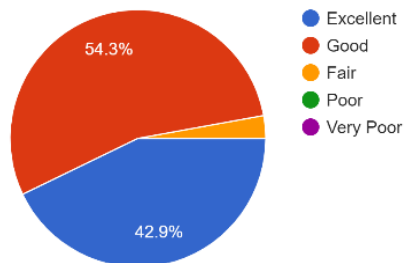
Voices of the Participants

Following the closure of the workshop, comments and feedbacks were collected from the participants through a post-event questionnaire. As of March 20, total of 30 participants filled out the questionnaire and shared their feedback and suggestions.

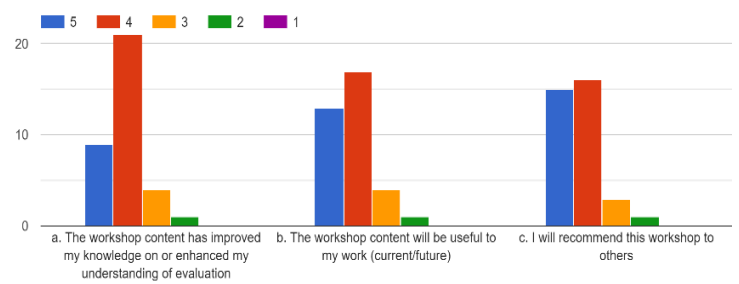
Overall Satisfaction was Good

In terms of overall satisfaction rate, 42.9% of the respondents rated the Workshop "Excellent" and 54.3% rated "Good" and the rest rated "Fair". Most of the participants who filled out the questionnaire found the ODA Evaluation Workshop 2024 to be useful for their works, and rated the workshop content has improved their knowledge and understanding. Therefore, they will recommend the ODA Evaluation Workshops to others.

2. How would you rate the workshop?
35 件の回答



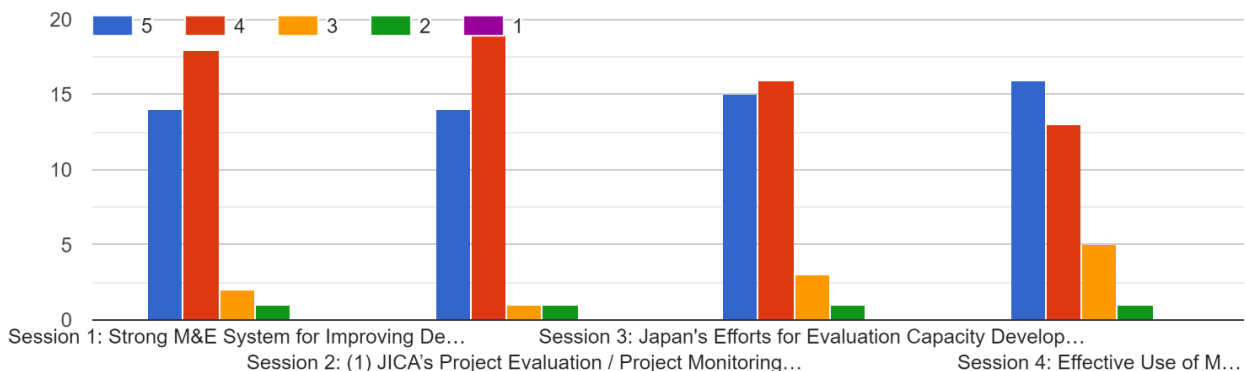
4. Please indicate your level of agreement (Scale 1 to 5) on each item below about the ODA Evaluation Workshop 2024. (Please tick ✓ in relevant rows)



All the session agenda was useful

Overall, most of the participants who filled out the feedback questionnaire rated all the four sessions of the workshop as useful. However, the Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results and the Session 2: JICA's Efforts rated the highest.

5. Which session agenda was of interest to you? Please rate the usefulness of respective sessions, 5 as the most useful

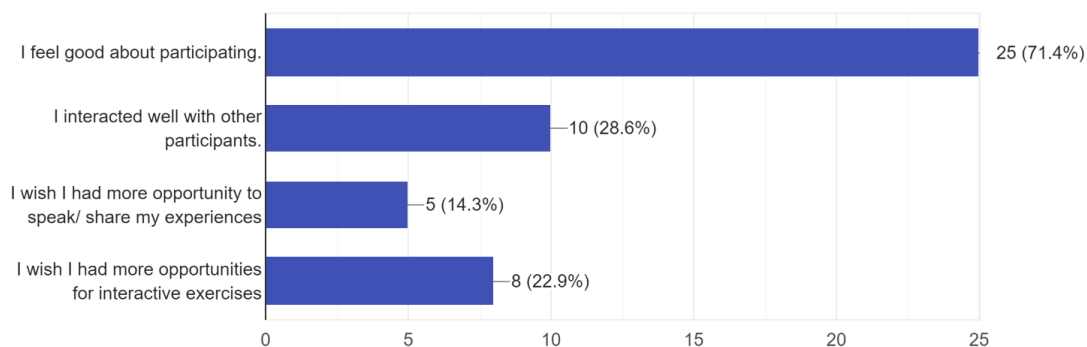


71.4% of the respondents felt that they "participated well". Participants suggested various ideas to enhance the workshop experience. These included dividing participants into group discussions, engaging in case studies, organizing breakaway sessions for idea-sharing, providing opportunities for each country to share its experiences, and inviting government speakers from national governments responsible for producing and presenting the SDGs/VNR to align the sessions more closely with the theme of promoting country-led evaluation. Only 28.6% of the respondents answered that they "interacted well with other participants". To make the session more interactive, participants proposed various methods, including utilizing polls and chat pop-ups, organizing group discussions, incorporating more activities for skill development, sharing experiences, writing tasks and rotating small group discussions with practical scenarios.

Additionally, several participants raised the suggestion to conduct in-person face-to-face workshops to provide more opportunities for participants and enhance workshop interactivity.

6. The workshop is designed to be a participatory/ interactive event, not like seminar, lecture type of event. How was your participation/ interaction? Tick all that apply and give us your ideas.

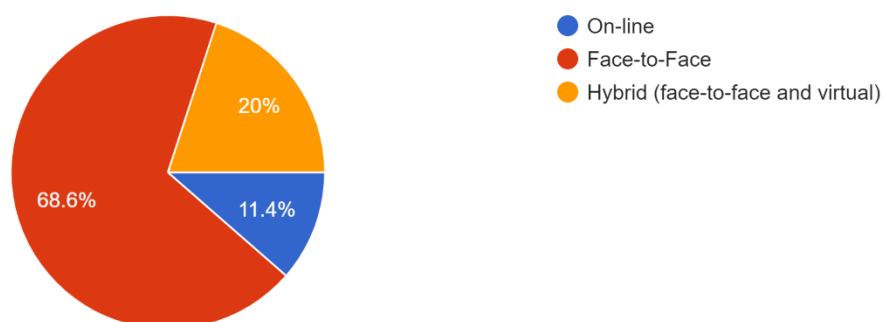
35 件の回答



While most participants were satisfied with the online workshop, approximately two-thirds (68.6%) of the respondents indicated a preference for face-to-face workshops. They expressed expectations of increased engagement, more active participation, and greater interaction. This preference aligns with their suggestions to enhance participation, as mentioned above.

10. What is your preferred platform for participating in the next ODA Evaluation Workshop, and why?

35 件の回答

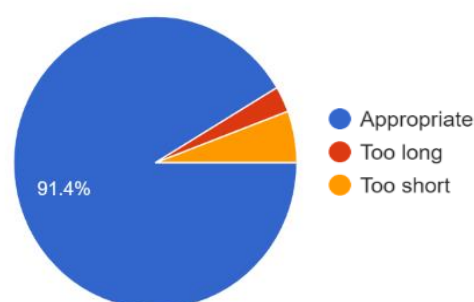


The duration was appropriate

In terms of the workshop duration, lasting half a day for two days, 91.4% of the total participants who filled out the questionnaire found it to be appropriate.

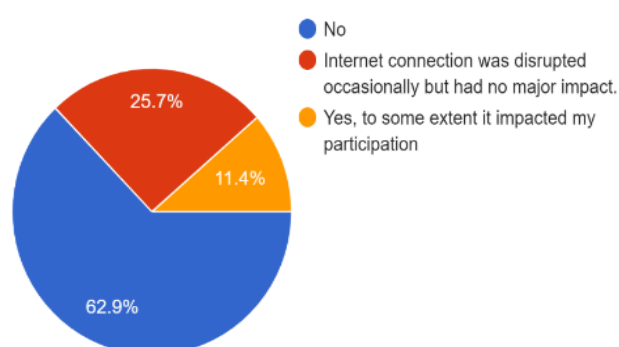
3. How was the duration of the workshop (half day x 2 days)

35 件の回答



8. Did you face any connection problems?

35 件の回答

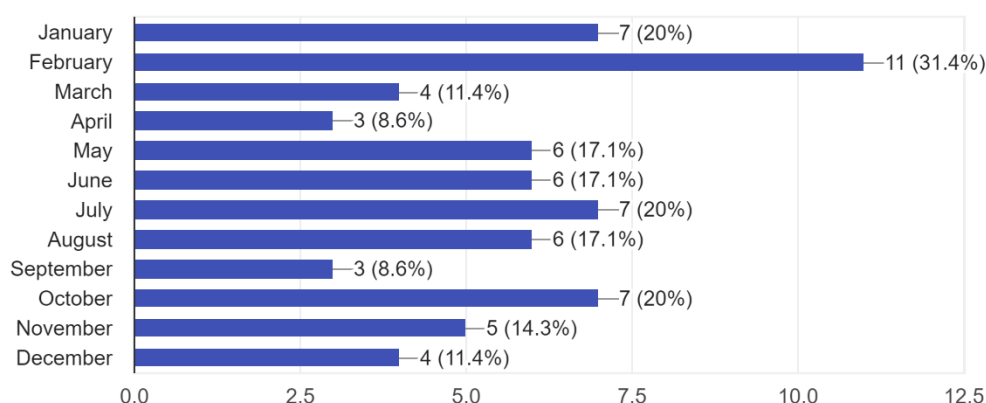


62.9% of the respondents didn't face any connection problems, while the rest encountered issues. Specifically, 25.7% reported occasional internet disruptions with no major impact, while 11.4% experienced disruptions affecting their workshop participation.

In terms of the preferred month for attending the event in the coming years, respondents selected different months, with February being the most commonly chosen option at 31.4%, followed by January, July and October at 20%.

11. Is there any preferred month of the year for you to attend the event?

35 件の回答



All the respondents answered that the support provided by the Secretariat was good and 97.1% of the respondents found the workshop documents such as program, participants list, handouts and presentation documents were shared well.

Record of Discussions

Day 1

Opening Session

The 19th ODA Evaluation Workshop was opened by Mr. ARAI Kazuhisa, Director of ODA Evaluation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Mr. Arai invited welcome and opening remarks by the co-hosts.

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mr. KUSAKABE Hideki, Deputy Director-General/Deputy Assistant Minister, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) extended a warm welcome to all the participants to the workshop. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Ishida Yoko for co-hosting and co-chairing and Prof. Nishino Keiko for co-chairing the event. Reflecting on Japan's history of ODA evaluation workshops since 2001, Mr. Kusakabe noted the transition to online formats due to COVID-19, which expanded accessibility to participants in the region since 2022. He highlighted the mutual learning process among participants, fostering capacity development in evaluations. Emphasizing the interactive and participatory nature of the workshop, Mr. Kusakabe outlined its focus on establishing strong M&E systems and maximizing the results for equitable development. He then explained that the theme of the workshop, informed by past experiences, centered on international evaluation trends and ODA practices. Mr. Kusakabe highlighted Japan's role as a leading donor in supporting evaluation capacity development in the region and commitment to improving the quality of its ODA programs and achieving policy objectives for a peaceful and prosperous international community. Mr. Kusakabe encouraged active participation in the workshop discussions, inviting attendees to share experiences, challenges, and best practices.

Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, President, Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA), President of Japan Evaluation Society (JES) and Vice President of Hiroshima University delivered the opening remark as the President of the co-host APEA. Dr. Ishida also explained that she would co-chair the workshop as the President of JES. She highlighted the workshop's significance as the 19th edition since its inception in 2001, noting the adaptation to online formats due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite challenges, she specified that the online platforms facilitated broader participation this year, with 28 countries of Asia Pacific region engaging in the workshop. Dr. Ishida introduced that the workshop agenda encompassed four sessions focusing on collaborative activities between Japan and Asia Pacific countries to enhance evaluation systems and human resources development in monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Ishida emphasized the significance of the distinguished speakers at the workshop and encouraged participants to actively engage in flexible and fruitful discussions.

- **Introduction of the Workshop and Explanation of the Agenda by the Co-chair**

Prof. NISHINO Keiko, Former Vice President of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association, Professor of School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan, explained the agenda of the workshop. The workshop consisted of four sessions. Session 1, organized by APEA, focused on "Strong M&E Systems for Improved Development Results," comprising four presentations aimed at enhancing evaluation practices. Session 2, led by JICA, introduced JICA's monitoring and evaluation policies and systems and JICA technical cooperation project using household survey. The second day starts with Session 3, organized by MOFA, discussing "Japan's Effort for Evaluation Capacity Development," showcasing cases across different ODA themes. The workshop concluded with

Session 4, which aimed to improve the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by sharing best practices.

Session 1: Strong M&E System for Improving Development Results

The facilitator of this session, Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA, introduced the presenters and objective of this session, as well as their presentation topics. She then invited the first presenter to start the presentation.

- **Presentations**

“The Policy Evaluation System of the Japanese Government”

By: Mr. SUNAYAMA Yutaka, Director-General, Kanto Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan

Mr. SUNAYAMA started his presentation by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to discuss Japan's policy evaluation system. With direct involvement in designing and operating Japan's policy evaluation system, he offered an insightful overview and recent developments. He began by history of Japan's policy evaluation system, highlighting the 2001 introduction of the government-wide policy evaluation system, enshrined in the Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA). Key aspects included understanding and evaluating policy effects, promoting self-evaluation within ministries, and utilizing quantitative evaluation methods. Mr. Sunayama outlined the system's structure, emphasizing its dual objectives of effective and efficient administration and accountability to the public. Ministries evaluate their policies within a PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, employing evaluation methods tailored to different policy layers. He elaborated on three standard methods: performance evaluation, project evaluation, and comprehensive evaluation.

Performance evaluation, akin to performance measurement, assesses goal achievement at the program level, albeit criticized for its rigidity. Project evaluation, essential for projects with significant impacts or requiring substantial funds, involves pre-decision evaluations, particularly in areas like public works and ODA. Comprehensive evaluation, focusing on specific themes, offers a holistic view of policies.

He then illustrated trends in policy evaluation reports since the GPEA's enforcement, with a notable decline post-2006, except for a temporary surge in 2008 due to evaluations for Public Works. The majority of reports focused on project evaluations, reflecting the emphasis on individual project units.

Mr. Sunayama concluded his presentation by highlighting recent government efforts to enhance policy evaluation quality and adaptability. The government aims to move beyond uniform evaluation methods, tailoring evaluations to policy characteristics and ministries are encouraged to integrate evaluation findings into decision-making processes. He acknowledged that policy evaluation is an evolving process, emphasizing the importance of continual improvement.

“Evaluation in Nepal: Constitutional Provisions and Institutionalization Processes”

By: Hon. Ramesh PAUDYAL, Former Member of the Provincial Parliament of Bagmati Province, Nepal and Executive Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation.

Mr. Hon. Ramesh introduced the evaluation in Nepal, contextualizing it within the country's historical backdrop over the past three decades. Notable events included the transition from a monarchy to a secular federal republic, marked by the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990

and the promulgation of a new constitution in 2015. He highlighted the progressive nature of Nepal's constitution, emphasizing its commitment to social justice, inclusivity, and accountability. Constitutional provisions such as Articles 54 and 293 outlined mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of state directives, policies, and obligations. Additionally, the role of the National Planning Commission (NPC) was underscored as a central agency for monitoring and evaluating development policies and programs.

Despite constitutional mandates, he shared the challenges in operationalizing evaluation efforts. These included delays in passing the monitoring and evaluation bill, limited funding allocation, and perceptions of evaluation as primarily serving donor interests rather than domestic priorities. Mr. Hon. Ramesh also noted the need to revitalize initiatives like the country chapter of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation.

In conclusion, the speaker provided insights into Nepal's evaluation landscape at both constitutional and operational levels, inviting engagement from the audience for questions, comments, and feedback.

**“Policy and Institutional Arrangement for M&E in the Philippines: The Case of ODA Projects”
By: Dr. Romulo E.M. MIRAL Jr., Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy and Budget
Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines**

Dr. MIRAL Jr., discussed the Philippine experience in establishing a policy and institutional arrangement for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), emphasizing the country's medium to long-term development planning process. They highlighted the importance of M&E in ensuring accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in government programs and projects. In the Philippine context, monitoring and evaluation are enshrined in various statutes, including the Administrative Code of 1987. These statutes mandate government agencies to submit semi-annual reports on their accomplishments for monitoring efficiency and effectiveness in resource utilization.

The presentation outlined the evolution of monitoring and evaluation frameworks in the Philippines, from the adoption of performance-informed budgets to the issuance of joint memoranda on national evaluation policy frameworks. However, progress in implementing these frameworks has been hindered by changes in government administration.

He shared an oversight and monitoring of Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, mandated by public acts and facilitated through regional project monitoring and evaluation systems used to achieve equitable growth and development in all provinces of the country.

Dr. Romulo shared the challenges in institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing the need for increased demand and supply of performance information and evaluation evidence. They advocated for the enactment of legislation to formalize monitoring and evaluation policies at the national level, highlighting bills filed in the Philippine Congress for this purpose.

In conclusion, Dr. Romulo expressed hope for the enactment of legislation to institutionalize national monitoring and evaluation policies, emphasizing their importance in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governance.

“Institutionalization of Evaluation in Sri Lanka: Regulations, Institutions, Professionalization and Academic Courses”

By: Dr. Asela KALUGAMPITIYA, Director, Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Dr. KALUGAMPITIYA shared insights and experiences from Sri Lanka regarding the institutionalization of evaluations, regulatory frameworks, institutional setups, professionalization, and academic courses.

Dr. Kalugampitiya highlighted significant achievements in Sri Lanka's evaluation landscape, including the approval of the National Evaluation Policy in June 2018, making Sri Lanka the only country in South Asia with such a policy. He emphasized the importance of the government's launch of the National Evaluation Policy Implementation Framework and the issuance of a circular mandating evaluations across government ministries and departments.

Then he discussed the draft National Evaluation Bill, which is awaiting approval by the Parliament and proposes the establishment of an independent commission for evaluation. Dr. Kalugampitiya further explained the progress made within the Parliament regarding the institutionalization of evaluation, including the establishment of the Parliament Select Committee on evaluation and capacity building efforts for the Parliament Research Division to provide evidence to parliamentarians effectively.

He also emphasized advancements in academic sector courses on monitoring and evaluation, including postgraduate diplomas and master's degrees, aiming to professionalize evaluation and support career development for young professionals.

In summary, Dr. Kalugampitiya highlighted the importance of professional network sharing the experience of the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association, which fosters professional networking and development, and the development of a competency framework for evaluators in Sri Lanka.

• Q&A

A participant asked a question to Hon. Ramesh: Does the SWC also monitor or evaluate projects or programs that NGOs do as implementing partners with government ministries? If so, how does it make sure that the reports are shared and used?

Hon. Ramesh answered mentioning Social Welfare Council's role in monitoring projects, particularly those involving NGOs partnered with INGOs. Unfortunately, the reports are not accessible to the public on their website; they are only provided to the respective organizers. Additionally, they prioritize evaluating projects from larger-budget NGOs partnering with INGOs, like themselves, rather than all NGOs.

A participant asked a question to Hon. Ramesh: As per the evaluation section of the Nepal constitution, does the parliament or any other regulatory agency conduct any legal actions against who have violated the directives?

Hon. Ramesh answered highlighting a concerning lack of implementation within a parliamentary committee, noting the absence of an elected chairperson. This absence reflects a broader issue regarding the enforcement of Directive Principles and objectives outlined in the Constitution. He answered that he hopes for the establishment of new committees and the appointment of a chairperson, so that effective functioning will be realized.

A participant asked a question to Mr. Sunayama whether the input from recipient country would be taken and considered during the evaluation process.

Mr. Sunayama answered that this was in the context of ODA evaluation and welcomed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to provide further clarification.

The facilitator asked Mr. Sunayama to elaborate on the motivation behind prioritizing and streamlining the implementation of policy evaluation.

Mr. Sunayama answered that when the policy evaluation system was first introduced, they had no idea how many policies should be evaluated by ministries and agencies. Creating an evaluation report itself became the purpose resulting in a large amount of paperwork and the problem of so-called evaluation fatigue began to be pointed out. So, the motivation was that there was a need to reduce the workload of civil servants by evaluating more important policies.

The facilitator asked Dr. Kalugampitiya: Has there been any assessment done at least to see where to Sri Lanka stands in relation to this framework? Is there any initial assessment done using this framework?

Dr. Kalugampitiya answered that this framework was developed to assess each evaluator or potential evaluator who wants to go through competencies and see where they are. He emphasized the need to train assessors to initiate the assessment process. Once evaluators undergo assessment, they receive a status report indicating their competency level and areas for improvement. He said that while the competency framework was developed through a participatory process, the next crucial step is to commence the assessment process.

A participant asked to all the speakers about the potential problems in national evaluation policies and the evaluation policies of ODA donor countries.

Mr. Sunayama answered that one of the most important lessons learned so far is that it is important to establish an evaluation system which works in practice. For example, elaborate evaluation methods that require advanced analysis techniques may undermine practical variations.

After the Q&A, the facilitator summarized the session and extended her gratitude to the organizers, speakers, and participants. Co-chair Prof. Nishino closed the Session 1.

Session 2: JICA's Efforts

Co-chair Dr. ISHIDA Yoko opened the Session 2 and introduced the facilitator Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko.

- **Presentation**

“JICA's Project Evaluation”

By: Mr. SAKAMOTO Kazuhiko, Evaluation Planning Division, Evaluation Department, JICA

Mr. SAKAMOTO introduced JICA's project evaluation and outline of JICA's cooperation. Mr. Sakamoto explained the different schemes under JICA, such as technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation, disaster relief, and cooperation through citizen participation. He explained the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle and highlighted that JICA do ex-ante and ex-post evaluations in assessing the needs and priorities of the project as well as project effectiveness and learning from outcomes. All projects costing 200 million yen or more undergo evaluation to ensure transparency and accountability. Also, he explained the rating system that is based on the DAC 6 evaluation criteria and four level sub rating/overall rating of A-D.

Additionally, Mr. Sakamoto introduced JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP), which aims to strengthen evaluation capacity and knowledge exchange among participating countries

including Japan. He explained the program's structure, including online and face-to-face training sessions, group discussions, field visits, and action plan development in Japan.

In summary, Mr. Sakamoto emphasized JICA's commitment to quality evaluation and capacity building through the KCCP and introduced the JFY 2023 and 2024 programs.

- **Q&A**

A participant asked a question about key challenges in maintaining the integrity of the OECD evaluation criteria to ensure proper evaluation in the country context.

Mr. Sakamoto answered that JICA gives different weight to each item depending on the different situations in respective countries/regions.

A participant asked about ways to take into account the participation and ownership of local communities.

Mr. Sakamoto answered they establish joint steering committees involving government officials, municipal officers, villagers, and other stakeholders to facilitate regular dialogue and project implementation to ensure the participation and ownership of local communities in technical cooperation projects.

A participant asked about how the stakeholders are consulted while conducting evaluation in JICA projects and program and what methodology generally applied for such consultation.

Mr. Sakamoto answered that the JCC (Joint Coordination Committee) is a way of ensuring consultation. He also mentioned conducting group interviews and using various questionnaires to gather inputs from stakeholders. Methodologies such as group discussion interviews are commonly used for consultations.

A participant asked about the extent of the effect of ex-ante evaluation on the project design.

Mr. Sakamoto explained their approach to project design, which involves identifying necessary data or measurements before project inception. He also explained that JICA tries to obtain as much necessary data and measurements as possible in the course of ex-ante evaluation, and some of the data and measurements are obtained through field visits, interviews and questionnaire before starting a project. In case some of the baseline data cannot be obtained at the time of ex-ante evaluation, guidance is handed over to project experts on what sort of data must be obtained at the initial stage of the project.

A participant asked why the project failed to deliver the expected outcome despite having undergone extensive ex-ante evaluation.

Mr. Sakamoto explained that there can be various reasons for project failure, including poor project design, insufficient data, and unforeseen external factors such as security issues and pandemics etc. These external factors greatly affect projects and recipient governments. So, there are multiple variables.

A participant asked how we can ensure the engagement of key community stakeholders in evaluation design, with an emphasis on participatory evaluation.

Mr. Sakamoto answered that JICA also faces the same challenge of ensuring community and stakeholder engagement in its projects. It is because of differences in power dynamics, language barriers, and levels of understanding of evaluation processes. He emphasized that addressing these challenges takes time and efforts.

“Project Monitoring and Evaluation of JICA Technical Cooperation Project, using World Bank High Frequency Household Survey Method named SWIFT”

By: Ms. YAMAGUCHI Michino, Director, Evaluation Division 1, Evaluation Department, JICA

Ms. YAMAGUCHI explained the significance of project evaluation, focusing on both ex-post evaluation and project monitoring using the World Bank's "SWIFT" (Survey of well-being via instant and Frequent Tracking) tool. She began by explaining the background and necessity of utilizing SWIFT in JICA technical cooperation projects. Two objectives of trial use of SWIFT for JICA technical cooperation were to estimate the household expenditure and to monitor and assess the change in behavior of the smallholder horticultural farmers. SWIFT, a low-cost face-to-face data collection method, was explained along with traditional consumption surveys, highlighting its efficiency and ease of use. The technical cooperation project was a project for market-oriented Small Holder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (MA-SHEP) in Malawi, which aimed to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through the project.

Ms. Yamaguchi presented the findings of the analysis, showing that farmers participating in the MA-SHEP project had slightly higher household expenditures than non-participating farmers. Changes in farmers' behavior were confirmed at the time of project completion, by ten categories of farmers behavior such as conducting market research, finding specific buyers in advance, communicating regularly with their sellers, active exchange of information in a group, joint shipping, joint purchase, improving livelihood, gender awareness, increased motivation and grow in confidence.

Ms. Yamaguchi emphasized the importance of evidence-based project monitoring and evaluation, and the necessity of baseline data for impact analysis. She concluded by highlighting the lessons learned from the trial application of SWIFT, including its utility for both monitoring project progress and assessing project impact.

• Q&A

Dr. Ishida asked about how the MA-SHEP and non-MA-SHEP farmers were selected as there were over 3000 participants and whether there were any complaints or conflicts.

Ms. Yamaguchi explained the framework of their survey, MA-SHEP farmers were selected from the list of farmers participating in MA-SHEP, and non-MA-SHEP farmers were selected under similar conditions as MA-SHEP farmers. Data collection was conducted four times. The total number of data collected for MA-SHEP and Non-MA-SHEP farmers consist of those who responded to all four surveys, while others who did not respond to all surveys were excluded.

Dr. Ishida asked if they could compare the result of this SWIFT survey of the project in Malawi with other SWIFT results.

Ms. Yamaguchi answered that SWIFT is a methodology being used for the first time in a JICA project. So, there is no comparison at the moment.

Dr. Nishino asked about the gender of the spouses and participants regarding the question 19, “Who makes financial decisions? With the choices of myself, my spouse.”

Ms. Yamaguchi said that the gender could not be shown on this slide, however, they could check the raw data.

A participant from Singapore asked about how the change in behavior was determined and whether it was through observation or not. Ms. Yamaguchi answered that they had the data from the survey (answers to the questionnaire) and analyzed it.

A participant from Mongolia asked about the data and whether they use other secondary data of Malawi to validate the project results using this method. Because a project intervention is not fully implemented most of the time, we cannot attribute the results to our project success.

Ms. Yamaguchi said that the analysis was based on the raw data collected by the SWIFT survey, not validated by the secondary other data.

A participant from Nepal asked if it was managed by the project team.

Ms. Yamaguchi answered that data collection is conducted by the SWIFT team from the World Bank and the Malawi National Statistical Offices. JICA MA-SHEP team consists of the executing agency and a JICA expert supported the SWIFT team to collect the data.

A participant from Sri Lanka shared a comment and thanked Ms. Yamaguchi for sharing the experience of the SWIFT method. She expressed that she also had difficulty in evaluating technical cooperation projects and expected further cooperation from JICA in this regard.

A participant asked whether JICA would use SWIFT for evaluation in the future.

Ms. Yamaguchi answered that they utilized the SWIFT to evaluate a JICA project for the first time, and JICA may consider using SWIFT in the future. Also, she suggested that if the participant was interested in the SWIFT methodology, she recommended to access the World Bank website for more information, which was described in the presentation material.

A participant asked if it was possible to be added for the 2024 face-to-face training.

Mr. Sakamoto answered that it is not possible. The participant countries for the training program are decided and fixed from the previous fiscal year and unable to change.

Dr. Ishida concluded the Session 2 with an overview of the agenda, emphasizing the importance of the monitoring and evaluation system, as well as the case study on SWIFT evaluation methodology and the importance of targeting community members and assessing changes within communities for effective technical cooperation.

Day 2

Session 3: Japan's Efforts for Evaluation Capacity Development

Prof. NISHINO welcomed the participants to the second day of the workshop and introduced the Facilitator.

Ms. SAKUMA Miho, Senior Researcher, International Development Center of Japan Inc., facilitator of the session, welcomed the participants to the third session of the workshop.

- **Presentation**

“Collaboration among APEA, JES, MOFA and JICA for Human Resources Development in Evaluation”

By: Dr. ISHIDA Yoko, Professor, President of APEA, President of Japan Evaluation Society, and Vice President of Hiroshima University

Dr. ISHIDA began by highlighting the significance of collaboration to strengthen evaluation capacity. She presented an overview of Japan's ODA, focusing on human resources development and capacity building in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in developing countries. Also, Dr. Ishida shared case examples of partner country-led evaluation by MOFA, Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (KCCP)

by JICA, M&E training programs aimed at enhancing project evaluation methodologies and capacity building for mid-level government officials in partner countries.

The historical background of monitoring and evaluation in Japan was also presented, highlighting the evolution of evaluation systems and policies over the years. She emphasized the role of academic institutions, such as the Japan Evaluation Society and the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association, in fostering collaboration and supporting the younger generation of evaluators.

In summary, Dr. Ishida expressed her hope for continued collaboration between the Japanese government, JICA, and evaluation societies to empower the next generation of evaluators.

“Project Evaluation Design: Sharing the Progress and Achievement from NEDA”

By: Dr. Onramon Shuaytong, CHOMPOTJANANAN, Project Analyst, Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Thailand (alumna of The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP))

Dr. CHOMPOTJANANAN introduced the background of NEDA cooperation and implementation, the progress made during the course, and achievements in Human Rights Due Diligence: HRDD assessment and ex-ante evaluation.

Dr. Chompotjananan explained NEDA's evaluation framework, which includes ex-ante evaluation, mid-term evaluation, project completion evaluation, and export evaluation. With the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, NEDA has incorporated human rights considerations into its evaluations, particularly focusing on cross-border investments. “Leaving no one behind” principle was applied not only to the local people at the project site, but also to the laborers working in the construction sectors.

She also shared her experience in implementing an action plan developed during the KCCP course in 2022. Her plan focused on enhancing the reliability of NEDA's project evaluation reports. She detailed the steps taken, including analyzing current methodologies, seeking opportunities for improvement, collecting new data, formulating recommendations, and revising NEDA's evaluation guidelines including launching the new Evaluation Form for mid-term evaluation and project completion evaluation.

Dr. Chompotjananan highlighted NEDA's achievements in assessing human rights builders and incorporating human rights considerations into ex-ante evaluations.

In conclusion, Dr. Chompotjananan emphasized that we can use lessons learned from evaluation to make improvements, such as the significance of minor improvements leading to significant impacts on infrastructure and community welfare.

“Country-Led Evaluation of ODA Support to India”

By: Mr. Yatin DIWAKAR, PhD Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Ms. Arshee RIZVI, Data Scientist (Officer), Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Mr. DIWAKAR discussed the country-led evaluation of ODA support in India.

Ms. RIZVI emphasized the significance of Japan's ODA to India, highlighting the substantial financial support provided by Japan across various sectors. She outlined the objectives of the evaluation, focusing on developing evaluation capacity, improving ODA management, ensuring accountability, and promoting understanding of Japan's ODA.

The evaluation specifically targeted the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Program phases one and two, aiming to increase foreign direct investment in the state. Mr. Diwakar introduced the details of the program, discussing its objectives, stakeholders, and policy actions. He also explained the evaluation methodology, which includes criteria such as relevance, appropriateness, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and equity.

Ms. Rizvi presented the findings of the interim report highlighting the positive impact of the establishment of skill development programs and the improvement in the investment climate through regional planning and the implementation of a streamlined single-window system.

Mr. Diwakar discussed challenges related to timing but adapted their approach by taking advantage of opportunities such as attending the Global Investment Meet.

- **Q&A**

Mr. ARAI Kazuhisa, Director of ODA Evaluation Division, MOFA of Japan, gave JICA's response to the question asked in Day 1 on behalf of Ms. Yamaguchi. A participant from Indonesia had asked about how JICA dealt with respondents who might not give much thought due to time constraints. JICA's response was that SWIFT means from 10 to 15 simple questions to estimate poverty and the questionnaires are translated into the local language. Data is collected through face-to-face interviews using electronic devices such as tablets and smartphones. Therefore, having local surveyors who can manage ICT tools is one of the keys to success.

Mr. Arai then responded to another question raised during the Session 1 that Mr. Sunayama suggested MOFA to answer. The question was whether the input from the recipient country would be taken and considered during the evaluation process. Mr. Arai explained two ways of participation by partner countries for practical and efficient evaluation.

The first one is the evaluation carried out independently and actively by the recipients not only by the donors. He noted that this had been explained with examples in today's presentation. Secondly, he mentioned joint evaluation by both evaluators and implementers. Mr. Arai said that yesterday in Session 2, Mr. Sakamoto of JICA, mentioned about JCC. It means the Joint Coordination Committee, the system of JICA's project to keep the activities coordinated well. So, it's a joint work of both the recipient country and the donor.

A participant from Mongolia asked Dr. Ishida about Japan Evaluation Society's experience or contribution to the evolution or development of Japan's national M&E system, evaluation policies and acts as she showed in that timeline.

Dr. Ishida highlighted that the main part of the JES contribution is training or human resources development in monitoring and evaluation. JES has trained many officials in the Government of Japan through Japanese ministries, and also some academic people, university people private consultants involved in evaluations. Also, JES developed a code of conduct and produces publication of an academic journal, which is distributed to government officials and stakeholders. Also, they conduct training webinars and national conferences to share experiences in monitoring and evaluation, including policy evaluation by ministries and school evaluation.

A participant from Malaysia asked a question to Dr. Chompotjananan about the main challenge in making the action plan become more sustainable.

Dr. Chompotjananan answered that cooperation from other stakeholders and partners was the challenge. She then emphasized the need for understanding and communication with stakeholders to avoid the perception that evaluations are simply adding extra work. Meaningful contribution can be a key success factor.

A participant from Malaysia asked Dr. Chompotjananan to highlight one benefit that other countries can benefit from.

Dr. Chompotjananan said that there are benefits for recipient countries when sustainable projects are implemented, for example understanding and collaboration between government policies and local communities. For other countries, she said that it can be an opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn from each other.

A participant from Bangladesh asked Dr. Chompotjananan if she takes into account the recommendations given in the evaluation report of similar projects, especially in case of phase two or phase three projects.

Dr. Chompotjananan answered that she takes every recommendation into account, and tries to seek recommendations from various sources, including experts and other stakeholders to improve the work.

A participant from Sri Lanka asked Mr. Diwakar how they overcame with the timeline required to get approvals from different agencies in India, especially in the environment sector to promote FDI. He also asked if they had any roadmap for the FDI to overcome this type of institutional barriers.

Mr. Diwakar highlighted two parts, environmental approvals and institutional coordination. He explained that in the phase one of Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion program, activities were undertaken around business process reengineering, for investment applications, establishing a tracking system and creating a web-based single window application portal. Institutional arrangements were improved at the state level at the highest level, at the secretary level of each department, and lower levels of government. Regarding the environmental sector, investors from European countries, Germany and Japan, prioritize sustainability and environmental standards. Obtaining environmental approvals for them is not very difficult, however when the project involves the wastewater treatment and some other pollutions, it takes longer time, two to three months, compared to other projects.

Prof. Nishino closed the Session 3 by summarizing the presentations and thanking the participants and presenters.

Session 4: Effective Use of Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence Based VNRs - Examples from Asian and Pacific Countries

Dr. ISHIDA started the Session 4 and welcomed the facilitator of this session, Ms. Rajani KAYASTHA.

The facilitator introduced the session presentations, the four presenters and the brief objective of the session.

- **Presentations**

“Accelerating Progress Towards the SDGs through Evidence-Based VNRs”

By: Ms. Ada OCAMPO, President of International Development Evaluation Association

Ms. OCAMPO emphasized the importance of evidence-based reporting in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. Ocampo highlighted the significance of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) as a means to better decision-making and policy development. She presented the collaborative efforts by various organizations and countries to enhance evaluation practices in aligning national priorities with the SDGs.

She then explained the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the principles underpinning it, emphasizing the need for inclusive, participatory, and transparent processes. It stresses the importance of rigorous follow-up and review mechanisms, driven by evidence and informed by country-led evaluations.

Also, Ms. Ocampo addressed the historical context and resolutions related to evaluation capacity building and follow-up processes for the SDGs. She highlighted the recent emphasis on incorporating evaluation into VNRs, aiming for evidence-based reporting and decision-making.

Key methodological approaches for embedding evaluation in VNRs are discussed, including rapid evaluations, research synthesis, and evaluative workshops. These methods aim to provide timely, relevant, and credible evidence to inform national progress towards the SDGs.

“Study on the Status of M&E Practices on SDGs in Selected Countries in the Asia Pacific Region”

By: Ms. Dorothy Mae ALBIENTO, Research Officer of ALNAP and Co-Leader of EvalYouth Asia and Ms. Anindita SHARMA, Regional Director Asia Pacific, ROI Institute

Ms. ALBIENTO introduced themselves as they are members of a thematic group focused on using evaluation to report on the SDGs within the APEA. She explained that the presentation aimed to share the main findings of a study conducted in 2022 and 2023 regarding monitoring and evaluation practices related to the SDGs in specific countries across the Asia Pacific region. Before the presentation she conducted poll questions to check the knowledge on the status of progress towards achieving the SDGs among the participants. She then discussed the concerning findings from the 2023 report by ASCAP, indicating that Asia and the Pacific region are projected to miss the majority of the measurable SDG targets by 2030. Ms. Mae highlighted the figure painted by the latest ESCAP SDG progress report, suggesting that the region might not achieve any of the 17 SDGs by the agreed deadline. The thematic group initiated a research study focusing on three main areas: institutional frameworks for SDG monitoring and evaluation, actual M&E practices, and identified gaps and needed support for countries to enhance progress tracking across 11 countries in the Asia Pacific region. Key findings highlighted the commitment of respondent countries to SDG achievement, with all 11 countries having established institutions and processes for monitoring and evaluating general public policies and programs. However, only five countries reported having specific policy frameworks dedicated to monitoring and evaluating the SDGs. The frequency of M&E activities varied, with more countries conducting regular monitoring compared to evaluations, which were less frequent.

Ms. SHARMA continued the presentation highlighting the uniqueness of each country's approach to SDG implementation, emphasizing a learning curve observed across the region. The countries with multiple Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) perceived greater robustness in their SDG monitoring policies, indicating a positive trajectory over time. Challenges were also addressed, particularly the significant gap in data availability for tracking SDG progress, with only 51 out of 169 targets having sufficient data in the Asia-Pacific region. Ms. Anindita concluded with recommendations for enhanced collaboration, coordination, and capacity building among stakeholders to address the identified gaps. She then encouraged the participants to contribute to future studies and to consider actionable steps in their respective roles to advance SDG implementation and monitoring efforts.

“Mongolia's VNR Journey: Lessons Learned in M&E for Sustainable Development Report”
By: Ms. Elberel TUMENJARGAL, Former Board Member of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association

Ms. TUMENJARGAL presented on Mongolia's journey towards implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She introduced an overview of Mongolia's approach to SDG implementation, emphasizing the multi-stakeholder perspective involved in the country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented to the United Nations. Ms. Tumenjargal highlighted the ongoing efforts to define national SDG indicators and targets, as well as the challenges faced in basic monitoring and strengthening accountability. She then emphasized good practices in Mongolia, such as the development of SDG dashboards and the annual assessment of SDG indicators. Challenges were also mentioned, including data source coordination and insufficient understanding of the importance of the SDGs. Ms. Tumenjargal concluded with a call for improved monitoring and reporting systems, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in achieving SDG targets.

- **Q&A**

A participant from Philippines asked how tenable the notion is that there is insufficiency of data and many targets that we set, whereas there has not yet been an evaluation of the SDGs as a complete set of goals, how reliable is the position that data is not there, and is not being evaluated here in the forum, and who has a certain complete evaluated evaluability of data first, before even implementing on evaluation.

Ms. Ocampo answered that normally there is a discussion about lack of data, and the discussion has to be technical, as well as non-technical. She highlighted that while data is important, evaluations should also focus on understanding the broader context, including political will and government efforts to address disparities and ensure that no one is left behind. Also, she encouraged the participant to move away from the technical, which is what evaluators also need to do to move beyond the technical aspect to leave their comfort zone and to enter in a more policy sort of dialogue where other important elements count.

Facilitator Ms. Kayastha asked to Ms. Ocampo what the practical challenges that the country has gone through, such as a major challenge if they really want to shift towards the evidence-based VNR. Ms. Ocampo answered first as how the countries that we have presented so far have managed to do an evidence-based VNR. She said that first important condition is to generate political way. Once the political will is there, then the government decides that they want to undertake VNR, then the technical questions come, not the other way round, then it's important for the teams that are either in the planning department or in a special office of the SDGs, all of them together, depending on the country to come with. She mentioned options such as synthesis, rapid evaluations and evaluative workshops.

A participant asked how to address the issue of eternal validity in SDG evaluations, considering that there are many policies, programs, projects, and activities in both the public and private sectors.

Ms. Ocampo answered that there are different sources and the only way is triangulation.

Ms. Sharma added that 60% of the typical GDP is the private sector and they have to be involved in this dialogue. There is a huge amount of education to be done in terms of developing the urgency and their role and the question of measurement and evaluation in the private sector. She shared her idea to look at the question of the private sector more broadly.

Dr. Ishida closed the Session 4 by summarizing the session presentations.

Closing Session

- **Co-Chairs' Summary**

Co-Chairs Dr. ISHIDA and Prof. NISHINO read the Co-Chairs' Summary as part of the closing of 19th ODA workshop. The co-chairs expressed their sincere thanks to MOFA of Japan, APEA, JICA, all participating countries, all presenters, facilitators, and all participants of the workshop.

Mr. KUSAKABE Hideki, Deputy Director-General/Deputy Assistant Minister, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan gave a remark expressing his sincere appreciation to co-host APEA, Co-Chairs and to all the participants and presenters. He emphasized that the main objective of this ODA workshop was setting strong M&E system and expressed his wish to the participants that the experience and knowledge from the sessions of the workshop would be of great use in their future work and contribute to promote M&E.

Then, Co-Chairs declared the end of the 19th ODA Evaluation Workshop.

List of Participants

Country	Organization	Title	Name
Representatives of Co-Hosts			
Japan	International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)	Deputy Director-General/Deputy Assistant Minister	Mr. KUSAKABE Hideki
APEA	Asia Pacific Evaluation Association	President	Dr. ISHIDA Yoko
Co-Chairs			
Japan	Japan Evaluation Society / Hiroshima University	President / Vice President and Professor	Dr. ISHIDA Yoko
APEA	Asia Pacific Evaluation Association / School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University	Former Vice President / Professor	Prof. NISHINO Keiko
Presenters			
Japan	Kanto Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)	Director-General	Mr. SUNAYAMA Yutaka
Nepal	Provincial Parliament of Bagmati Province/ the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum For Evaluation	Former Member/ Executive Committee Member	Hon. Ramesh PAUDYAL
Philippines	Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives	Deputy Secretary General	Dr. Romulo E.M. MIRAL Jr.
Sri Lanka	Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Director	Dr. Asela KALUGAMPITIYA
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Japan	Evaluation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Director, Evaluation Division 1	Ms. YAMAGUCHI Michino
Thailand	Professional Level, Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Agency, Ministry of Finance	Project Analyst	Dr. Onramon Shuaytong, CHOMPOTJANANAN
India	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	PhD Scholar	Mr. Yatin DIWAKAR
India	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	Data Scientist (Officer)	Ms. Arshee RIZVI

Country	Organization	Title	Name
-	International Development Evaluation Association	President	Ms. Ada OCAMPO
Philippines	ALNAP/ EvalYouth Asia	Research Officer/ Co-leader	Ms. Dorothy Mae ALBIENTO
-	ROI Institute	Regional Director Asia Pacific	Ms. Anindita SHARMA
Mongolia	Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)	Former Board Member	Ms. Elberel TUMENJARGAL
Facilitators			
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Japan	International Development Center of Japan Inc	Senior Researcher	Ms. SAKUMA Miho
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Bhutan	Ministry of Finance,	Deputy Chief Program Officer, Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance	Ms. Tshewang CHODEN
Cambodia	Cambodia Development Cooperation Board of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDCB/CDC)	Acting Director, Development Cooperation Policy	Mr. Lumangbopata KIM
Cambodia	Cambodia Development Cooperation Board of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDCB/CDC)	Bilateral Aid Coordination Officer with Japan, Bilateral Aid Cooperation with Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region	Mr. Vathanakraksmei OU
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Country	Organization	Title	Name
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India	Ministry of Finance Government of India	Assistant Section Officer, JICA Project Section, Department of Economic Affairs	Mr. Rajat SHARMA
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Indonesia	Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)	Planner, Directorate of Bilateral Funding	Mr. Wiwit WIDODO
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Country	Organization	Title	Name
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Nepal	Ministry of Finance	Under Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division	Mr. Surya Prasad POKHAREL
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Papua New Guinea	Department of National Planning and Monitoring	Principal Aid Coordinator, Bilateral Branch, Development Cooperation Management Division	Ms. Barbara TIKI
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Philippines	National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	Economic Development Specialist II, Public Investment Staff / Bilateral Division	Ms. Krischelle Marie Morales ANGUE
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Thailand	Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)	Development Cooperation Officer, Development Promotion and Coordination Division (ODA Data Unit)	Mr. Phizzits WONGSAWANGPA NICH
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Tuvalu	Ministry of Finance, Government of Tuvalu	Sector Specialist, Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department	Ms. Savali TOAKAI

Country	Organization	Title	Name
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Vanuatu	Prime Minister's Office	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination	Ms. Juliette HAKWA
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Japan	Evaluation Department, JICA	Deputy Director General	Mr. SATO Shinji
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Japan	Evaluation Department, JICA	Director, Evaluation Division 2	Mr. NAKAHORI Hiroaki
Japan	Kansai Center, JICA	Training Program Division	Ms. FUJII Natsuko
Co-Hosts (APEA, MOFA)			
Nepal	APEA	Former Board Member	Mr. Bhuban BAJRACHARYA
Nepal	APEA	Vice President	Mr. Jhank Narayan SHRESTA
Philippines	APEA	Secretary	Prof. Romeo SANTOS
Philippines	APEA	Theme Member	Mr. Julius DUMANGAS

Country	Organization	Title	Name
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