

ENERGY  
EVALUATION  
ASIA PACIFIC

DEC 2020 | ISSUE 1

# EEAP NEWSLETTER

Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) is a diverse community committed towards mainstreaming energy evaluation by building capacities and sharing relevant experiences across the region to deliver more effective energy policies and programmes

## *In this newsletter:*

5 Years of EEAP

Page 01

COVID-19 THOUGHTPIECE

Pages 02-04

2020 ROUNDUP

Page 05

WHAT'S NEXT FOR EEAP?

Page 05

## FOLLOW US:



## CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF EEAP

In October 2015, the founders of EEAP first met at an evaluation workshop in China organised by International Energy Policy and Programs Evaluation Conference (IEPPEC - now Energy Evaluation Org) and our US sister organisation International Energy Program Evaluation Conference (IEPEC).

Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) formally launched on June 25th 2018 at the IEPPEC in Vienna.

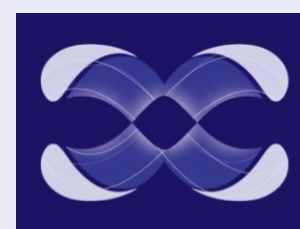
In 2019 we held the first EEAP conference in Bangkok, Thailand where delegates shared their knowledge and experience with one another (pictured above).

*"After organizing IEPEC and IEPPEC conferences, a few of us decided to hold our first evaluation workshop in Asia - in China on October 13-14, 2015 - to see if we could get more people involved in developing an evaluation community in Asia Pacific. And we did!"*

*- Charles Michaelis, Chair of the Trustees -*

# COVID-19 THOUGHTPIECE

Contributions from Ripu Bhanjan Singh and Ed Vine



## Energy Evaluation: Key enabler to economic recovery BUT...

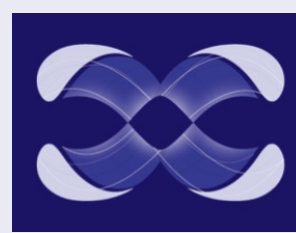
The energy sector, a key enabler of the global economy, is poised to play a vital role in strengthening the economy in the post-coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. On the journey of the energy transition, as observed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), post-COVID-19 fiscal stimulus packages will provide a massive opportunity for initiating a transformational and green recovery with the creation of green jobs. Moreover, the need to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #7 – Affordable and Clean Energy – has never been felt as pressing.

The challenge, however, is how does one ensure a 'just transition' that leaves no one behind. This type of transition (i.e., transformational in nature) is all inclusive and provides equal opportunities of participation, especially for women and low income households, who have been worst hit during the pandemic, both economically and socially. But for this to happen, there is a critical need for an effective evidence-based evaluation of existing energy policies. Accordingly, evaluations need to shift from the program/project level to the system/policy level.

However, currently, evaluation is typically the last item on any government's agenda as they grapple with fighting the economic and public health survival battle amidst the pandemic. Hence, one can easily forget about the evaluation of energy policies. This brings us to two key question: First, why is evaluation not a priority despite the established fact that evaluation guarantees better outcomes and enables informed decision making? And second, what can the evaluation community do to make evaluation a higher priority? Let's address these questions below.







## WHY IS EVALUATION NOT A PRIORITY?

### Evaluations carry historical baggage of perception, often negative

Historically, evaluations have often been seen as an exercise to judge the performance of program implementers by “outsiders”. Due to this perception, evaluation always remains an ‘external’ phenomenon with resistance from the organization’s internal implementing teams.

### Real value of evaluations is unknown

Often, decision-makers are unaware of the real value/outcomes of the evaluation itself and tend to associate the evaluation with a mandatory requirement to be fulfilled to remain compliant. The actual conduct of an evaluation is also believed to be a resource intensive process in terms of time, energy and cost. This further undermines its value as a key enabler to influence future decision-making focussed on outcomes.

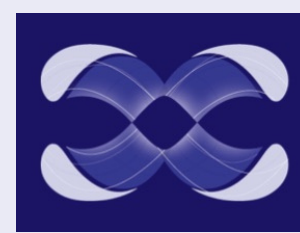
### Evaluations are largely ad-hoc in nature

Frequently, evaluations are run on ad-hoc basis or as required for some key policies, programs or projects. Lately, evaluations are being seen as a responsible thing to do; however, it still lacks a programmatic or systematic approach. The shift to a more comprehensive approach needs to take place sooner rather than later.

### Lack of Evaluation Capacity Building

Finally, the lack of knowledge (or access to) of simple yet effective evaluation techniques and frameworks amongst the evaluators in the Asia Pacific region makes it challenging for an already disengaged project/program staff to be part of the evaluation process.





## WHAT CAN THE EVALUATION COMMUNITY DO?

The above factors remain a hindrance to any kind of evaluation to be effective, and the energy sector is no exception. Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP), a progressive community of energy evaluators, firmly believes that energy evaluators need to push the evaluation agenda at the centre of the energy policy framework in the post-pandemic era. In light of the above challenges, EEAP suggests a three-pronged approach:

### **Adopt a strategic communication approach to disseminate energy evaluation results**

Energy evaluators need to communicate evaluation results more effectively – simple and straightforward with key recommendations supported by crisp analysis and evidence – so that their findings are considered and used by key stakeholders. Accordingly, the results need to be presented and designed attractively so that they are easy to digest and understand. This approach works for both internal and external stakeholders.

### **Examples matter while changing perception**

There is a long-pending need to flip the perception of evaluation being tangential and of little value to key stakeholders. A consistent dialogue is needed, for instance, to share examples of an effective energy evaluation influencing decision-making which in-turn yielded improved results. Such examples go a long way in building necessary confidence amongst key decision-makers/policy-makers about the effectiveness of energy evaluation.

### **An effective community of practice enabling capacity building**

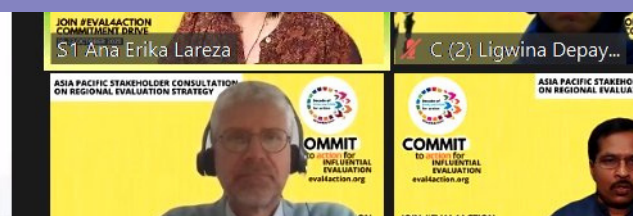
Finally, capacities of the personnel need to be built, strengthened and supported internally through special training workshops, online courses, etc. on a regular basis. This can be complemented with regular exchanges through a community of practice where energy evaluators from many countries share and exchange the latest results, insights, tools and methodologies on energy evaluations.

To conclude, for energy evaluations to be effective and useful, there is a need to have a holistic, comprehensive and systematic approach that is institutional in nature. Only when this approach is in place, can evaluation generate the necessary impact for supporting a clean energy transition that is just and transformational in nature. The recently launched Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy, focused on advancing the above areas among other priorities, is a welcome step in the right direction.

## ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL EVALUATION STRATEGY

9<sup>TH</sup> October 2020 | 11.00 am IST

Sign up to our mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/hfATXX>



EEAP NEWSLETTER #1 | page 04



## 2020 ROUNDUP

In 2020, we were unable to hold a conference due to COVID-19, but kept in contact virtually with **Planning Committee meetings**. We also created a new **Core Group**, who met for the first time in November 2020.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

We are busy planning webinars and events for 2021, the first of which we hope will be a **high-level dialogue on the COVID-19 thoughtpiece in this newsletter**, with the aim of developing a recommendation paper to mainstream energy evaluation at the centre of energy policy framework enabling 'just energy transition'.

## INTERESTED?

To aid the EEAP vision and mission, Haein Cho and the core group have created a survey to help us create a program of engaging events to build our community further in 2021.

**Help us by taking part in the 5 minute survey [here](#)**



*You can see Ed Vine's video all about the evaluation community in Asia Pacific [here](#)*

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

This year, EEAP was proud to partner with the **Asia Pacific Evaluation Association** and the **Eval4Action** campaign. We look forward to collaborating further with them in 2021 along with new opportunities.



**We wish all our members a safe and well end to the year. See you in 2021!**

## FOLLOW US:



## CONTACT US:

Email our coordinator with questions or suggestions at [hebe@energy-evaluation.org](mailto:hebe@energy-evaluation.org)