



## EVALUATION PRACTICES IN INDONESIA Current Status and the emerging development

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Evaluation is a common word that we hear or read in the media on a daily basis in Indonesia. The word mostly indicates that there is a “problem” somewhere that need to be examined seriously to satisfy the “suspicious” public or specific stakeholders demanding clarification on something that is felt against their interest. So, the most common evaluation practice conducted in Indonesia is an “ex-post exercise” based on the established ‘facts’ (output, outcome or impact) which resembles the more familiar “audit” works. In other words, there is no common practice for evaluation as we want to see it.

On the other hand, there have been some existing evaluator communities in Indonesia, which do their job mostly in conjunction with international donor organizations assisting the country in development projects. During the last few years, we saw the knowledge and practice of “proper” evaluation to be introduced and practiced in some government branches like the Ministry of National Development Planning (known locally as the BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. In these ministries, evaluation is beginning to be considered as an essential tool to improve the decision-making process that is expected to contribute to the overall quality improvement of governance practices.

### **Brief Energy Landscape and the Dawn of Energy Evaluation in Indonesia**

In Indonesia, managing the national energy issues is the domain and responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR). The country is blessed with abundance in many types of energy resources, both non-renewable (like fossil energy) and renewable (like solar and wind); however, the energy needs of this world’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest populated country is greatly dependent on fossil energy. Indonesia’s fossil fuel resources are depleting rapidly, particularly oil that had been exported in large quantities in the 1970-80’s; as a result, Indonesia has been a large net importer of oil for more than two decades. Natural gas and coal are still relatively abundant as the government continues to export these resources to other countries, despite knowing that those exports will be ending sooner rather than later. The current global movement toward a net zero emission world by the middle of this century is adding great pressure to Indonesia to develop its abundant renewables and other clean energy sources to replace fossil energy. Indonesia is joining the world to commit to the energy transition toward clean energy before the middle of this century.

In 2010, under the growing realisation about the need to develop renewable and clean energy to gradually replace the fossil energy resources, the government established a new branch within the MEMR, the Directorate General of New, Renewable Energy

and Energy Conservation (locally known as EBTKE), to deal with clean energy development policy and management. During the years since its inception, EBTKE has become a strategic entity within the MEMR to pursue clean energy development policy and programs.

To ensure the energy transition goals are achieved as planned, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices are greatly needed. However, while increasing number of countries in the world have adopted the M&E practice, Indonesia has been rather slow in following that trend, particularly in energy-related matters. But there are signs that the country is going to catch up with the trend.

### **The Need for Energy Evaluation Capacity Building.**

The Indonesian Society of Energy Conservation and Efficiency, locally known as MASKEEI, and partly inspired by Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) and supported by a group of senior energy policy experts, founded the Indonesian Energy Evaluation Institute (IEEI) in 2022. Almost immediately after its inception, IEEI proposed to the EBTKE leadership to conduct capacity building programs on energy evaluation. The proposed program is aiming at creating deeper awareness on and better understanding of M&E practices. The program will provide the necessary knowledge and the right skills for staff to conduct (internally) M&E on clean energy policy and programs.

The EBTKE leadership has responded positively to MASKEEI's proposal and call for assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop the capacity building program. The ADB's technical assistance is currently in the process of working with an international consultant organization in collaboration with MASKEE/IEEI. The expected outcome of ADB's technical assistance will be to start delivering the training programs on energy evaluation in Indonesia, including training of trainers, by early 2024.

Another interesting development in energy evaluation in Indonesia is currently being prepared by the United States as part of the Net Zero World Initiative (NZWI) in collaboration with the Indonesian government focusing on Decarbonizing the Indonesian Building Sector. The project is being implemented by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (based in California) in collaboration with MASKEEI. The NZWI project includes developing a capacity building program for Net Zero Building Development and providing energy evaluation knowledge and skills for the building sector's stakeholders. The NZWI capacity building programs is expected to commence in the first semester of 2024.

### **Energy Evaluation Seminars in IEECCE International Events**

In promoting the strategic importance of energy evaluation practices in Indonesia, MASKEEI had organized M&E seminars as part of its bi-annual event, the Indonesia Energy Efficiency and Conservation Conference and Exhibition (IEECCE).

In 2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the 3rd IEECCE was organized entirely online, and in that event a seminar was held in collaboration with EEAP, which looked at the practices of energy evaluation in several countries in the Asia and Pacific region. In

the 4th IEECCE in July 2023, the event presented another seminar attended by prominent speakers from ADB, the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), EEAP and IEEI. The July 2023 seminar discussed the latest development of energy evaluation knowledge and practices. **Dedi Rustandi**, an Energy Planning Specialist at the Energy Planning Department in BAPPENAS, showed the ministry's commitment in using M&E as a strategic tool in guiding the Indonesian national development programs. Rustandi advocated the need to conduct 'holistic' evaluation on the national energy policy and programs involving multi-stakeholders, toward achieving the country's energy transition goals.

**Dr. Sherine Ibrahim**, ADB's Principal Evaluation Specialist, emphasized the need for conducting external and independent evaluation practices besides the internal one, to enhance the merits of evaluation in improving the accountability aspects of policy and programs. However, Dr. Ibrahim also showed the downside of the external evaluation, being its relatively higher costs, less familiarity with the organization and potential difficulties in accessing the necessary data and information from the organization being evaluated.

In the same session, **Dr. Edward Vine**, EEAP's Steering Committee Coordinator, discussed a wide range of evaluation types and tools being currently practiced by governments and international organizations, including the new trend of using the "mindfulness" approach in evaluation, which is considered to potentially improve the quality and acceptability of an evaluation report by all stakeholders. Dr. Vine also particularly pointed out the importance of the *Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)* as a strategic evaluation tool most needed by government ministries to improve the quality of policy and regulations to a greater benefit for the national stakeholders.

**Dwiagus Stepantoro**, a member of the IEEI Executive Committee, discussed how intervention through inputs and activities will lead to change and contribute to the achievement of target and objectives. On M&E capacity building, Agus showed how logic models applied in designing and preparing effective training materials will help students better understand the complexity of evaluation practices in the real world.

## About IEEI

The Indonesian Energy Evaluation Institute (IEEI), founded in April 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia, by the Clean and Sustainable Energy Foundation (Yayasan Energy Bersih Berkelanjutan-- YEBB), is currently led by an Executive Committee chaired by Jon Respati, who is also the chairman of MASKEEI, and a member of EEAP Steering Committee. IEEI adopts a strategy of providing capacity building programs on energy evaluation to the personnel of organizations including the government ministries, to enable them to conduct effective, regular and continuous evaluation exercises on their works. M&E practices are expected to contribute to the continuous improvements of the outcome and impacts of the established energy policies and programs to the benefit of the society. In evaluation, IEEI (and its partners) positions itself as an independent external evaluator.