



EEAP WEBINAR 6: SUMMARY NOTES EVALUATION OF SDG7 POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN ASIA PACIFIC

On January 31, 2024, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) organized an insightful webinar on the topic of “Evaluation of SDG7 Policies and Programs”. This engaging virtual event featured two keynote speakers: **Michael Williamson**, Section Chief, Energy Division in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and **Navin Kumar Jha**, Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Michael Williamson provided an overview of SDG7 roadmaps by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific member states and highlighted evaluation challenges for evaluating the impact of SDG7 roadmaps. Mr. Navin’s presentation focused on pathway to clean cooking transition in Nepal, examining the policies governing household biodigesters in Nepal.

The webinar served as an opportunity for sharing knowledge on SDG7 policies and programs and highlighting the importance and challenges of evaluating such initiatives. This document summarizes the key discussion points from the webinar.

Webinar Agenda

Time (IST)	Sessions/Speakers
10:00-10:05 am	Welcome Remarks & Context Setting <i>Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</i>
10:05-10:45 am	Presenters <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Williamson, Section Chief, Energy Division in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) “SDG7 Roadmaps: Identifying and Addressing Evaluation Challenges” 2. Navin Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor and Assistant Campus Chief (Academic) in IOE, Pulchowk Campus, Tribhuvan University

	“Pathway to clean cooking transition in Nepal: Policies governing household biodigesters in Nepal”
10:45-11:00 am	Moderated Audience Q&A Moderated by Edward Vine , Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)
11:00 am	Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks Edward Vine , Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Introduction and Context Setting

Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)



Edward Vine, a member of the Steering Committee for EEAP, cordially greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided a context of the webinar on the evaluation of SDG7.

Context:

Providing a background of the webinar, Edward shared that as a key constituent of SDG7, energy efficiency contributes directly or indirectly to achieving all the other SDGs, many of which are interconnected across the three dimensions of environmental sustainability, human development and sustainable growth. Edward also shared the importance of evaluation for SDGs, and highlighted some of the key challenges in evaluating SDGs including the complexity of the goals with multiple actors, objectives and programs and the difficulties in evaluating intersectionality, and evaluating topics related to vulnerability, exclusion and gender. He further shared about the unique opportunities for SDGs evaluation.

Introduction to Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Ed also introduced EEAP to the participants. Established as a non-profit organization in 2018, EEAP is driven by a clear mission: to take a leadership role in advancing the practice and capacity for objective evaluation within the energy efficiency and renewable energy program and policy sphere.

EEAP actively pursues its mission by organizing a range of initiatives, including workshops, conferences, webinars, websites, and other web-based tools. These efforts

are strategically designed to nurture the growth of self-sustaining evaluation communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

EEAP's leadership is characterized by two distinguished committees: a dynamic nine-member Steering Committee and an Advisory Committee consisting of 25 members representing 18 countries. This collaborative structure ensures that EEAP effectively fulfills its mission and promotes the widespread adoption of rigorous evaluation practices in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

Furthermore, Ed also shared updates about the second installment of the SDG7 webinar, planned for 31st of January and encouraged attendees to stay updated on EEAP's events through official website and social media platforms.

Presentation by Speakers

SDG7 Roadmaps: Identifying and Addressing Evaluation Challenges

Michael Williamson, Section Chief, Energy Division in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



Michael provided an overview of the SDG 7 National Roadmaps, initially introduced during the second Asian Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) in April 2018. At that event, it was collectively decided that ESCAPE would play a pivotal role in guiding countries through the development of national roadmaps for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7. The primary objective is to seamlessly integrate global energy-related targets into national policies, plans, and strategies.

During his presentation, Michael emphasized the importance of taking an integrated approach to the 2030 energy transition. This approach focuses on sustained economic growth, anticipated demographic shifts, and the available energy resources within each country. The ultimate goal is to maximize energy security while identifying the least-cost options to achieve the specified targets.

Michael shared insights into the journey of the SDG Roadmap initiative since its inception in 2018. Drawing from experiences in 14 countries currently implementing SDG7 Roadmaps, he highlighted common findings. Additionally, he provided updates on ESCAPE's ongoing support for SDG7 roadmap implementation. This includes initiatives such as the NEXSTEP training program, aimed at enhancing policymakers' capacity in energy emissions modeling, and the implementation of recommendations in various countries.

Focus to the evaluation of the impact of SDG 7 Roadmaps, Michael delved into the challenges and opportunities associated with these initiatives. He concluded his

presentation with valuable recommendations for the evaluation of SDG7 policies, programs, and projects.

Evaluation – at what level? Who?

- Need to consider at what level should evaluation be focused. Policy; Programs; Projects? Arguably policies and derivative programs instituted by government that support SDG 7 achievement should be evaluated.
- Imperative to know what works, what does not work, and what needs to be improved. Need to consider carefully the ancillary benefits of policy/program given cross-cutting nature of energy.
- Capabilities and resources at the national, sub-national and local levels for conducting evaluations often limited. External experts ay lack context.
- How to boost capacity for monitoring and evaluation a key question.
- Stakeholders required - Government, private sector, civil society and academia.



Pathway to clean cooking transition in Nepal: Policies governing household biogas plants in Nepal

Navin Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University

Mr. Navin commenced by delivering a comprehensive update on the status of SDG7 in Nepal, outlining the progress achieved across key indicators from 2019 to 2022. He presented sector-wise energy consumption statistics, underscoring that the residential sector accounts for approximately 60% of energy consumption in Nepal, with approximately 80% of households relying on solid fuels, particularly fuel wood, for cooking. Highlighting efforts to reduce dependency on solid biomass, Mr. Navin outlined collaborative initiatives by the Government and development partners, emphasizing the promotion of household biogas plants. He detailed various policy tools and institutional frameworks relevant to the biogas sector, providing insights into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with household biogas plants.



Concluding his presentation, Mr. Navin put forth key strategies to enhance the effectiveness and impact of interventions in promoting clean cooking practices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Evaluation of SDG7 - Towards Sustainable Energy for All (2)**
 - Date: January 31, 2024 (Wednesday) | Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM IST (Indian Standard Time)
 - **Registration Link:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYldu2rqzssHd0TQVHbq4DYyK6C7vflDLjH>



ENERGY EVALUATION ASIA PACIFIC
WEBINAR SERIES

**Evaluation of SDG7- Towards Sustainable Energy for All
Webinar # 2**

 SOHINI MOOKHERJEE Senior Training Manager, J-PAL South Asia <i>Lessons Learned about SDG7 Evaluation</i>	 DAYYAN SHAYANI Statistician, Statistics Division UNESCAP <i>Is Asia Pacific Progressing on SDG7?</i>	 EDWARD VINE Steering Committee Member, EEAP Webinar Moderator
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Wednesday, 31 Jan 2024
10:00 - 11:00 AM (IST)

Join us for the second installment of the webinar series on the evaluation of SDG7 policies and programs.

REGISTER NOW 

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