


**ENERGY
EVALUATION
ASIA PACIFIC**

EEAP WEBINAR 9: SUMMARY NOTES

EVALUATION OF SDG7 POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN ASIA PACIFIC – SESSION # 4

On April 18, 2024, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) hosted the 4th session of its webinar series, dedicated to the "Evaluation of SDG7 Policies and Programs in Asia Pacific." This enlightening webinar featured two distinguished speakers: Ada Ocampo, President of IDEAS - International Development Evaluation Association and Henry Adams Co-founder and Director at Common Capital, Australia.

Henry provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in evaluating and adapting clean energy affordability programs in the context of evolving climate policy objectives, stressing the importance of transformative thinking and data-driven approaches. Ada provided a comprehensive overview of the rationale, challenges, and importance of country-led evaluations in assessing progress towards the SDGs and contributing to transformative change.

The discussions underscored the need for transformative approaches, such as rethinking program design and adopting a systems perspective, to effectively address challenges and maximize benefits, whether in clean energy affordability programs or SDG evaluations. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of equity, data-driven analysis, and active participation to ensure inclusive and sustainable outcomes. 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>
	Presenters

10:05-10:45 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henry Adams, Director, Common Capital, “Evaluating multiple benefits of net zero era energy efficiency programs” 2. Ada Ocampo, President, IDEAS, “Country-led evaluation of the SDGs: Why and why now?”
10:45-11:00 am	<p>Moderated Audience Q&A</p> <p>Moderated by Edward Vine, <i>Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</i></p>
11:00 am	<p>Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks</p> <p>Edward Vine, <i>Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</i></p>

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.





Unique Opportunities for SDG Evaluation

1. The SDGs focus the world on broad questions about the effectiveness of development aid
 - a. What works? For whom?
 - b. Where? Why? How?
2. Brings together many different kinds of organizations and talents
3. Gives voice to vulnerable groups and grassroots organizations
4. Unique access to world-wide platforms for the dissemination and utilization of evaluation findings

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 encouraged attendees to stay updated on EEAP's events through official website and social media platforms.

Presentation by Speakers

Evaluating multiple benefits of net zero era energy efficiency programs?

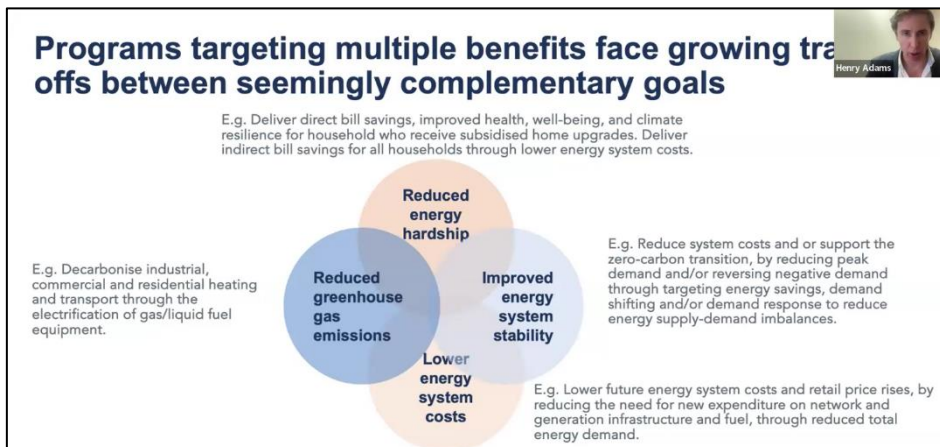
Henry Adams, Director, Common Capital, Australia

Henry Adams presented a comprehensive overview of the evolution of clean energy affordability programs in Australia, drawing from nearly two decades of experience in government and program evaluation. He emphasized that while these initiatives were not initially framed to directly address SDG 7 commitments, they have naturally aligned with its objectives, particularly focusing on clean energy accessibility and equity.



Henry highlighted a significant shift in climate policy dynamics post-2018, driven by the urgent need for achieving net-zero emissions targets. He noted that previous policies predominantly centered on incremental advancements in clean energy adoption and affordability. However, with the emergence of net-zero goals, there's a need for a fundamental reassessment of program objectives and strategies. Programs need to

consider multiple benefits beyond emissions reduction, such as consumer bill savings, system stability, and health impacts.



The presentation delved into the challenges posed by this transition, especially regarding the evaluation of existing programs and the design of future initiatives. Adams stressed the necessity of moving beyond incrementalism towards transformative approaches to address the evolving climate landscape effectively.

A key theme was the importance of evaluating programs based on their ability to deliver multiple benefits, such as emissions reduction, affordability, and equity. He emphasized the concept of materiality, urging a critical assessment of whether program outcomes align with broader policy objectives and effectively address the needs of targeted populations.

Furthermore, Henry discussed the essential role of data collection and analysis in program evaluation. He underscored the need for robust data capture protocols implemented well in advance of evaluations to ensure the availability of relevant and comprehensive data for analysis.

Overall, Henry suggested rethinking program design and evaluation in the context of the net zero era, focusing on transformative strategies, maximizing multiple benefits, addressing distributional equity, and enhancing data collection protocols for more effective program assessment.

Country-led evaluation of the SDGs: Why and why now?

Ada Ocampo, President, IDEAS



Ada Ocampo delivered a thorough presentation on the importance of country-led evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. She began by providing context on the work of the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), emphasizing their advocacy for transformational change through inclusive and participatory evaluations.

Ada outlined the challenges and opportunities associated with evaluating the SDGs, drawing on guidance documents and resolutions from the United Nations. She highlighted the significance of the 2015 adoption of the UN resolution "Transforming Our World: Agenda 2030" and subsequent developments such as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the global COVID-19 pandemic.

She underscored the importance of country-led evaluations, referencing a resolution strengthening voluntary national reviews through such evaluations. Ada emphasized the bottom-up approach, with countries like Nigeria leading efforts to undertake evaluations, signaling a growing recognition of the importance of evaluating SDG progress.

The presentation delved into the complexity of SDG evaluations, stressing the need for a systems approach that considers the interconnectedness of human, economic, and natural systems. Ada outlined the characteristics of SDG evaluations, highlighting their multidimensional, multistakeholder, and multi-method nature.



She discussed the principles underlying SDG evaluations, including equity, accountability, and good governance, and emphasized the importance of learning and capacity-building in the evaluation process.

Ada concluded by urging countries not to miss the opportunity to evaluate the SDGs as 2030 approaches, citing examples of countries like Finland, Nigeria, and Costa Rica that have embarked on such evaluations. She emphasized the need for evaluators to contribute to prompting political decisions to undertake SDG evaluations at the national level, highlighting it as the primary challenge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Webinar on ‘Measuring Progress on Energy Wellbeing in New Zealand’**
 - Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 | Time: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM IST (Indian Standard Time)
 - **Registration Link:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoceGhrz0sHdb4U05Nv1yvpm8N5krTUoRg>

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