EEAP NEWSLETTER

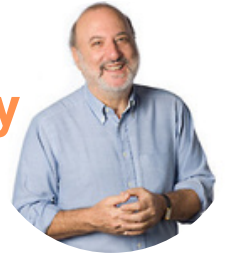**JANUARY 2025 | ISSUE 8**   HTTPS://ENERGY-EVALUATION.ORG/

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ABOUT ENERGY EVALUATION ASIA PACIFIC (EEAP)

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 programs.

Artificial Intelligence and Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies

Edward Vine, Member Steering Committee EEAP

Evaluators can use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for multiple tasks in the design and implementation of evaluation, resulting in many benefits for both the evaluator and the evaluand. While AI offers many benefits, evaluators need to recognize the ethical and social concerns embedded in the use of AI. **Evaluators need to balance the use of AI with human judgment, values and participation and avoid over-reliance or misuse of AI.** Accordingly, evaluators need to cross reference, check and verify the output from AI analyses, so that they avoid "hallucinations" (i.e., when evaluators rely on a finding from AI that is wrong).

Human input is essential in thinking critically, setting goals, guaranteeing ethical values, ensuring the accuracy of AI-generated content, involving stakeholders, and making sense of the context when relying on AI-generated findings. Evaluators will need to keep learning, engaging and sharing as a community. It is incumbent for evaluators to take online course, read blogs and books, watch webinars and podcasts and join communities and networks related to AI and evaluation. Evaluators will also need to seek advice and feedback from experts and mentors, sharing experiences and lessons learned with colleagues and friends and participate in forums related to AI and evaluation. Furthermore, evaluators will also need to engage their stakeholders and clients in the design, implementation and use of AI systems, and solicit their opinions and expectations. In sum, evaluators will need to reflect on their own practice and values, and how AI affects or aligns with these values.

Given the potential risks of AI, governance of AI is critical. National governments and regional organizations have been involved in developing frameworks, but the very nature of the technology itself will necessitate a global approach, as delineated by the Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in its reports (see report here). EEAP will be following these developments of AI, particularly as they pertain to the evaluation of energy programs and policies in the Asia Pacific Region. If you are interested in working with EEAP on AI, let us know!

Highlights and Takeaways from EEAP's Webinars

In the last quarter of 2024, EEAP hosted three engaging and insightful webinars, addressing critical topics at the intersection of energy and evaluation. These webinars explored diverse themes, including the evaluation of energy programs and policies in the Asia-Pacific region, the role of evaluation in policymaking, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in evaluating energy initiatives.

Participants gained valuable insights into how rigorous evaluation can drive transformative energy programs. Featuring practical examples, case studies, and discussions on emerging trends, the webinars provided actionable takeaways and lessons from real-world applications. These dialogues showcased best practices, equipped attendees with tools to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of energy programs, and encouraged innovation and evidence-based decision-making across the sector.

Key highlights and takeaways from the webinars are given below:

1. Webinar on Evaluation for Policymaking, October 4, 2024

On October 4, 2024, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) hosted its 12th webinar focusing on 'Evaluation for Policy Making'. This insightful webinar featured three speakers: Jarred Metoyer, Senior Vice President, Energy Markets and Risk North America, Energy Systems, DNV, Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc, Consultant and Researcher at IEECP (Institute for European Energy & Climate Policy), and Dr. Juha I. Uitto, Former Director Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Jarred Metoyer highlighted key lessons learned from the evaluation of energy programs and policies in California and Massachusetts, two leading states in the US energy sector. Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc provided valuable insights into how evaluation shapes energy policies across Europe. Dr. Juha I. Uitto offered an overview of the evaluation processes within the Global Environment Facility and their influence on energy and environmental policies globally. The summary notes and recording of the webinar can be accessed at this link.

DR. JUHA I. UITTO
Former Director, Independant Evaluation Office, GEF

JARRED METOYER
Senior Vice President, Energy Systems, DNV

DR. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN BROC
Researcher and consultant, IEECP

EDWARD VINE
Steering Committee Member, EEAP

"Evaluation for Policy-making: Use and utility of evaluation at the Global Environment Facility"

"Evaluation lessons learned from California and Massachusetts – the US EE Leaders"

Evaluation for Policy-making: Insights from Europe

Webinar Moderator

Key Takeaways from the Session are:

- Rigorous evaluations are essential for assessing energy, air quality, and emissions impacts. Continuous data collection (both quantitative and qualitative) during program implementation is critical for assessing program effectiveness and informing resource allocation towards successful interventions.

- Evaluations should prioritize the distribution of benefits to disadvantaged communities and shift goals from energy savings to total system benefits, including greenhouse gas emissions reductions and grid benefits.

- The integration of evaluations into the policy cycle from the beginning is crucial, ensuring that they address policymakers' questions and remain relevant.

- Continuous communication and mutual understanding between policymakers and evaluators are essential to overcoming barriers like budget constraints and differing terminologies.

- Effective evaluations require continuous stakeholder participation throughout the process. Engaging stakeholders from the outset ensures that the evaluations address relevant questions and data needs, fostering ownership and facilitating the implementation of recommendations.

- It is essential to have a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to capture both positive and negative outcomes of projects. This system helps address the conservative risk perceptions of governmental donors and supports informed decision-making by providing credible and timely evidence.

2. AI and Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies, November 12, 2024

EEAP's 13th webinar, organized on November 12, 2024, focused on the important topic of 'AI and Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies'. This webinar featured three speakers: Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP), Haider Khan, Vice President Energy Analytics, ICF, and Laura Gagliardone, Programme Coordinator Consultant UN WOMEN Headquarters, New York.

Ed focused on the importance of equipping evaluators with foundational knowledge and actionable guidance on utilizing AI to enhance the evaluation of energy programs and policies, emphasizing key concepts, challenges, and practical approaches for informed decision-making. Haider shared insights and experiences on how AI is transforming energy programs and policies by highlighting current trends, groundbreaking innovations, and future possibilities, offering a comprehensive view of the evolving landscape. Laura provided the participants with practical guidance for assessing the risks of AI applications in monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing ethical considerations, data reliability, and potential biases. The summary notes and recording of the webinar can be accessed at this **link.**

Key Takeaways from the Session are:

- It's essential to combine AI tools with human judgment to ensure valid conclusions and maintain ethical standards in evaluations.
- Ongoing education for evaluators is crucial, along with establishing regulatory frameworks to address governance issues related to AI, such as data privacy and intellectual property.
- AI improves energy forecasting and operational efficiency especially through machine learning and deep learning.
- Digital twins provide detailed modeling of energy systems, enabling effective management and continuous improvement in response to challenges like grid congestion.
- AI improves data analysis and decision-making across sectors but introduces risks such as bias, privacy concerns, and security vulnerabilities. These risks can be addressed by implementing ethical protocols, maintaining human oversight, and involving diverse stakeholders in the evaluation process.

3. Webinar on Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies in the Asia Pacific, December 10, 2024

On December 10, 2024, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) held its 14th webinar, centered on the theme "Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies in the Asia-Pacific." The session featured two distinguished speakers: Jacqueline Lam, Regional Director for Asia at Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), and Dang Quoc Bao, Deputy General Director at Trung Nam Construction Investment Corp.
Jacqueline Lam delivered an engaging presentation on advancing energy efficiency across the Asia-Pacific region to achieve SDG 7. She highlighted the critical investment requirements, policy challenges, and the importance of initiatives like Mission Efficiency, which foster collaboration and accelerate clean energy transitions.

Bao's presentation focused on Vietnam's renewable energy potential, emphasizing its unique ability to harness both wind and solar resources, the market's evolution, policy developments, and infrastructure challenges, along with the private sector's role in driving installations and sustainability efforts. The summary notes and recording of the webinar can be accessed at this link.

DANG QUOC BAO
Deputy General Director, Trung Nam Construction Investment Corp

Direct Power Purchase Agreements (DPPA) and Rooftop Solar in Vietnam

JACQUELINE LAM
Regional Director, Asia, Sustainable Energy for All

Mission Efficiency: Partnerships and Collaboration for Energy Efficiency

EDWARD VINE
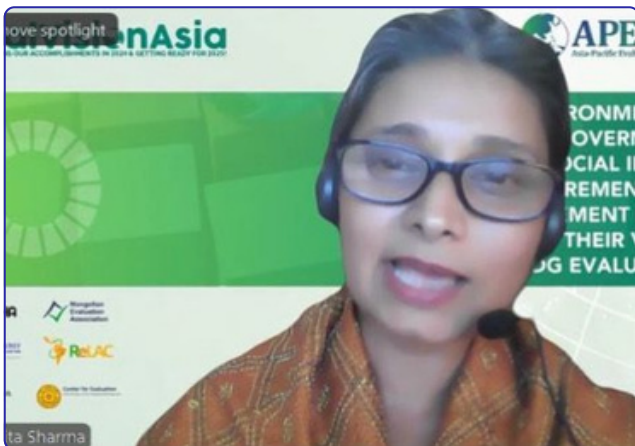Steering Committee Member, EEAP

Webinar Moderator

Key Takeaways from the Webinar are:
- Energy efficiency is key to clean energy transitions, requiring collaboration to overcome policy gaps and investment challenges.
- Mission Efficiency drives global energy efficiency efforts through tailored programs and stakeholder collaboration opportunities.
- Vietnam has strong renewable energy potential but faces policy and infrastructure challenges. Post 2021, new policies and agreements aim to stabilize the market and address infrastructure issues.

EEAP Steering Committee Members Spoke at APEA Webinar on ESG and SDG Evaluation

Two of EEAP's Steering Committee Members, Nina Campbell and Anindita Sharma, contributed their expertise in APEA's webinar titled "Nexus of Environmental, Social, and Governance and Social Impact Measurement and their Value in SDG Evaluation." Anindita Sharma skillfully moderated the webinar, fostering engagement among the speakers and audience. In her opening remarks, Nina Campbell highlighted the slow progress in the energy transition and stressed the importance of evaluating the social impacts of policies and business practices. She emphasized the need for improved information and evidence to support fair and affordable energy transitions.

You can access the webinar recording at this **link.**

EEAP's Energy Evaluation Resources

EEAP offers a valuable array of energy evaluation resources to support the growth of expertise in the Asia-Pacific region.

📘 **Directory of Energy Evaluation Course:** EEAP has developed a comprehensive directory of energy evaluation courses offered by colleges and universities, which can be accessed through our website. This directory is designed to assist students and prospective learners who aspire to specialize in the evaluation of energy policies and programs, providing them with a valuable tool for academic and career development.

in **LinkedIn Engagement:** EEAP actively engages with its community through our LinkedIn page, where we share insightful resources and foster discussions on pertinent energy evaluation topics. It's your platform to network and stay informed. Join our Linkedin community here: EEAP LinkedIn

▶️ **Youtube Channel:** Energy Evaluation's Youtube channel houses a collection of recorded webinars and conferences, offering a wealth of knowledge and insights from previous events from both Asia Pacific and European chapter. You can subscribe to get notification on latest additions.

𝕏 **Twitter Updates:** EEAP is active on twitter and shares updates, industry news, and engages in meaningful conversations about energy evaluation. Follow us @EnergyEval to stay in the loop!

📅 Upcoming EEAP Events

EEAP WEBINARS IN 2025

EEAP will be continuing its webinars in 2025! EEAP would like to hear from evaluators of energy programs and policies – both energy efficiency and renewable energy. See the list of topics and, if you are interested in presenting on one or more of these topics, please contact Ed Vine, EEAP Steering Committee Member, at elvine@lbl.gov.

ENERGY EVALUATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

EEAP is excited to announce plans for the Energy Evaluation International Conference 2025, centered around the theme: "Building an Evidence-Based Path to Net Zero Transition and Global Sustainable Development."
The conference will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Stay connected with us in our page for updates on the exact dates, venue details, and the call for abstracts. Don't miss the chance to be part of this important event!

✉️ Contact Us!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to us at **asiapacific@energy-evaluation.org**

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