



SUMMARY NOTES

EEAP WEBINAR 23

Advancing Evaluation for Better Governance in the Philippines

On January 14, 2026, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) organized its 23rd webinar, focusing on the topic of 'Advancing Evaluation for Better Governance in the Philippines'.

The session featured three speakers from Government agencies in the Philippines including:

- **Mr. Jesse David**, Chief Economic Development Specialist, Department of Economy, Planning and Development
- **Ms. Edel Ocampo**, Chief Budget and Management Specialist at Department of Budget and Management, Philippines
- **Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral, Jr., PhD**, Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy And Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines

The Philippines has made important strides in strengthening the role of evaluation as a core function of public governance. This webinar explored how evaluation is being institutionalized across planning, budgeting, and implementation processes to support more effective, accountable, and learning-oriented government action. It provided an overview of the country's evolving evaluation landscape, with a particular focus on the Revised National Evaluation Policy Framework, highlighting its objectives, key features, and implications for government agencies, evaluators, and development partners. By situating evaluation within broader governance systems, the session shared insights on how evidence can better inform decision-making, improve public sector performance, and strengthen policy implementation in the Philippines. 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>
10:05-10:55 AM	Presenters 1. Mr. Jesse David , Chief Economic Development Specialist, Strategic Outcome Evaluation Division & Interim Chief, Central Evaluation Unit of the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff -Department of Economy, Planning and Development <i>Discussion Topic: Measuring What Matters - The Revised National Evaluation Policy Framework</i> 2. Ms. Edel Ocampo , Chief Budget and Management Specialist at Department of Budget and Management, Philippines <i>Discussion Topic: Integrating Evaluation into Budgeting</i> 3. Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral, Jr., PhD , Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy And Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines <i>Discussion Topic: Advancing Evaluation for Better Governance in the Philippines: Institutionalizing a Whole-of-Society Approach</i>
10:55-11:10 AM	Moderated Audience Q&A
11:15 AM	Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks

Introduction and Context Setting

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



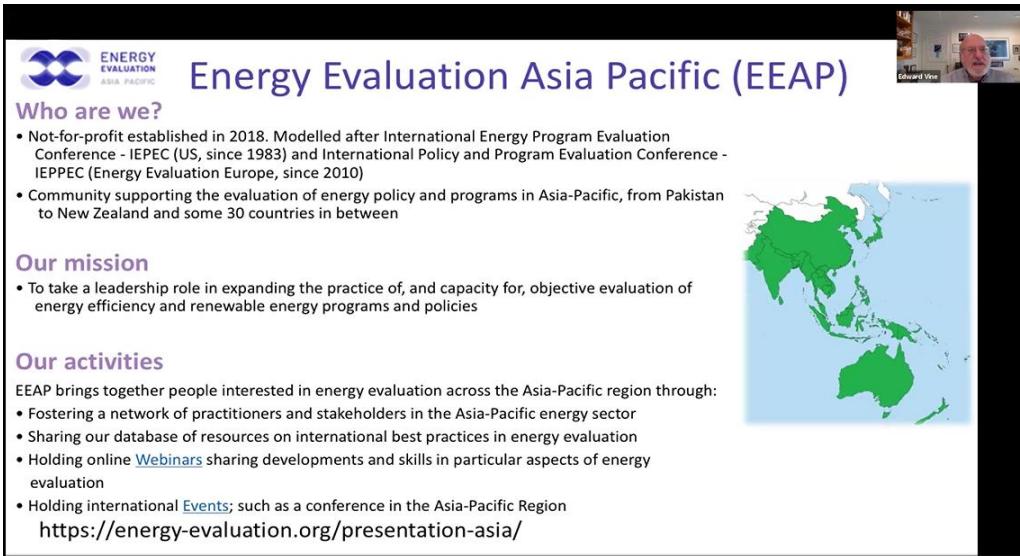
Ed greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided a context for the webinar.

Introduction to Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Ed introduced EEAP to the participants. Established as a non-profit organization in 2018, and modelled after IEPEC (US, since 1983) and IEPPEC (Europe, since 2010), EEAP is focused on expanding the practice of objective evaluation in the Asia Pacific region. EEAP's mission is to lead in expanding evaluation practices, building capacity, and understanding the impact of energy

efficiency and renewable energy programs and policies, aiming to provide a strong evidence basis for continuous improvement in these areas.

EEAP fosters exchange and interaction among evaluators, NGOs, government agencies, and academics to promote the value of energy evaluation and capacity building. EEAP offers a database of resources on best practices, holds webinars on various topics, and organizes international events and conferences, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EEAP brings stakeholders together to support data-driven decision-making in the energy sector. One of its main objectives is capacity building, especially in the rapidly growing Asia Pacific region.



Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Who are we?

- Not-for-profit established in 2018. Modelled after International Energy Program Evaluation Conference - IEPEC (US, since 1983) and International Policy and Program Evaluation Conference - IEPPEC (Energy Evaluation Europe, since 2010)
- Community supporting the evaluation of energy policy and programs in Asia-Pacific, from Pakistan to New Zealand and some 30 countries in between

Our mission

- To take a leadership role in expanding the practice of, and capacity for, objective evaluation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and policies

Our activities

EEAP brings together people interested in energy evaluation across the Asia-Pacific region through:

- Fostering a network of practitioners and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific energy sector
- Sharing our database of resources on international best practices in energy evaluation
- Holding online [Webinars](#) sharing developments and skills in particular aspects of energy evaluation
- Holding international [Events](#); such as a conference in the Asia-Pacific Region
<https://energy-evaluation.org/presentation-asia/>

Ed emphasized that while the webinar focused on governance broadly, the lessons were highly relevant to energy policy, where complex interventions require strong evidence to guide decisions. Ed concluded by stressing the growing urgency of evidence-based decision-making at a time when public trust in science is eroding and policy choices carry long-term social and environmental consequences. Evaluation, he argued, is critical not just for accountability, but for maintaining societal capacity to adapt, innovate, and govern effectively.

Presentation by Speakers

1. “Measuring What Matters - The Revised National Evaluation Policy Framework”

Mr. Jesse David, Chief Economic Development Specialist, Department of Economy, Planning and Development

Mr. Jesse David presented the revised National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF) of the Philippines, explaining its evolution in response to emerging governance challenges and the need to institutionalize evaluation more firmly across government. He clarified the distinction between monitoring (doing things right) and evaluation (doing the right things), emphasizing that both are essential but serve different purposes.

He described how evaluation closes the results-based management loop by feeding evidence into planning, budgeting, and implementation. Despite progress, he noted that most agencies remain heavily focused on monitoring, with limited evaluation capacity, constrained by weak policy mandates, insufficient budgets, uneven institutional arrangements, and data gaps.

 **Revised National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF)**



Institutionalized through DEPDev-DBM establishes evaluation standards, interagency coordination mechanisms, led by the NEPF Steering Committee.

CORE PURPOSE: ESTABLISH A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SYSTEMATIC EVALUATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR



Institutionalize the governance structure



Guide the formulation of the National Evaluation Agenda



Mandate Agency-based Evaluation Agendas



Incorporate internationally-recognized evaluation principles

The revised NEPF seeks to address these challenges by mandating evaluations, clarifying governance structures, strengthening agency-level evaluation agendas, and embedding internationally recognized evaluation principles. Ultimately, the framework aims to make evidence generation systematic rather than optional, and to ensure evaluation findings meaningfully inform policy and budget decisions.

Main Takeaways:

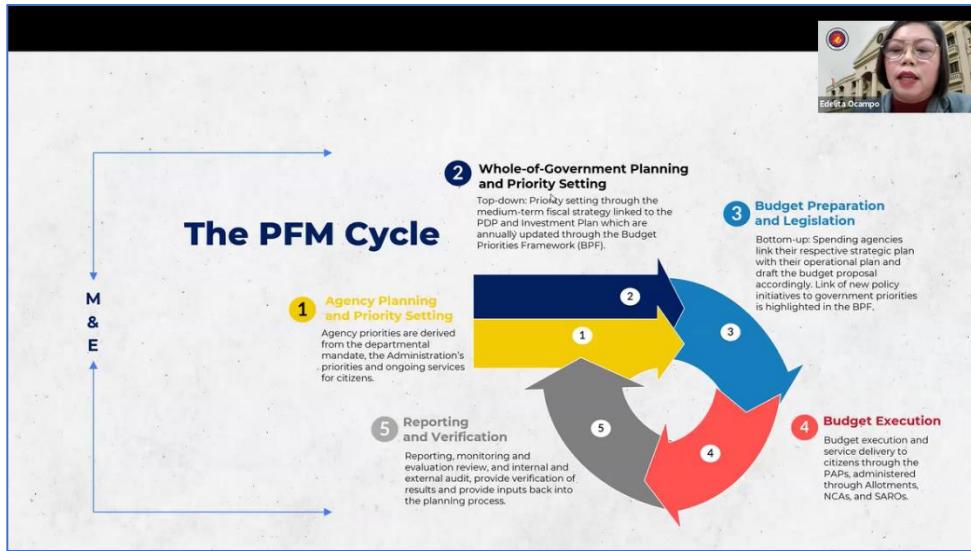
- The revised NEPF represents a major step toward institutionalizing evaluation as a core government function, not an add-on.
- Persistent challenges remain around capacity, data availability, and shifting agencies from monitoring-heavy to evaluation-informed decision-making.

2. “Integrating Evaluation into Budgeting”

Ms. Edel Ocampo, Chief Budget and Management Specialist at Department of Budget and Management, Philippines

Ms. Edel Ocampo framed public financial management (PFM) as a pipeline delivering public services, with evaluation serving as the inspection and maintenance system that ensures resources translate into real outcomes. From the Department of Budget and Management's perspective, she stressed that budgets are only as strong as the evidence that informs them.

She explained how evaluation evidence can and should influence every stage of the PFM cycle, from planning and budget preparation to execution, legislative scrutiny, and accountability.



However, she acknowledged persistent gaps: evaluation results often arrive too late to influence budget decisions, baseline data remain weak, and findings are not always communicated in ways that resonate with decision-makers.

To address these issues, DBM is advancing reforms such as embedding M&E in the PFM Reform Roadmap 2024-2028, strengthening the Enhanced Agency Performance Review, and rolling out digital systems like IFMIS. These reforms aim to institutionalize an evidence-driven culture where evaluation directly informs fiscal choices and public accountability.

Key takeaways

- Evaluation evidence is critical to ensuring budgets deliver results, not just expenditures.
- Aligning evaluation timing, communication, and systems with the budget cycle is key to increasing its policy influence.

3. “Advancing Evaluation for Better Governance in the Philippines: Institutionalizing a Whole-of-Society Approach”

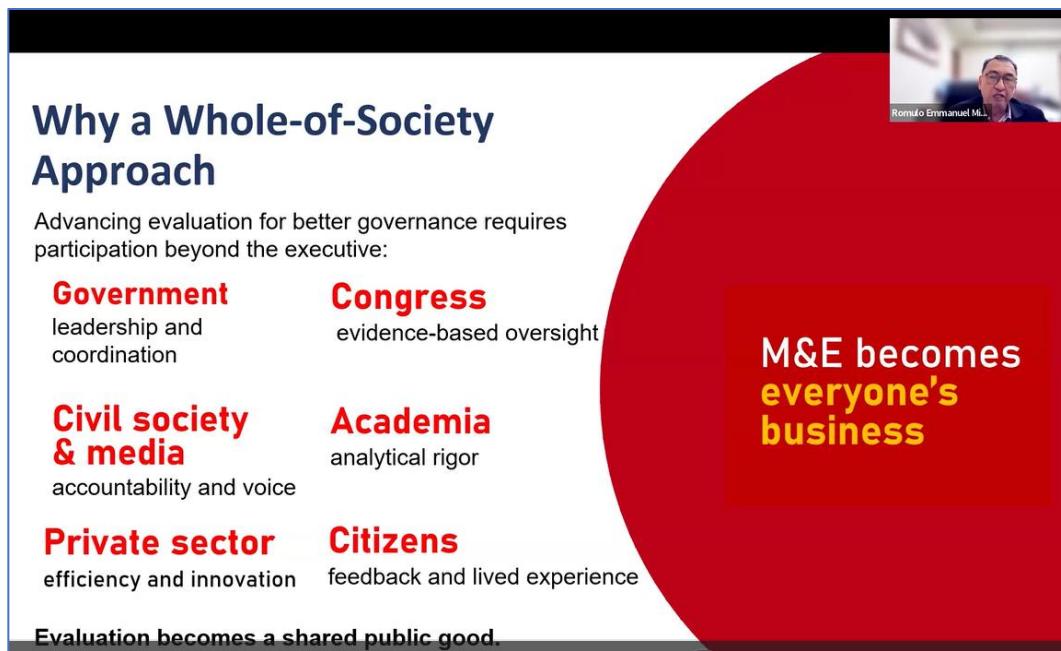
Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral, Jr., PhD, Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy And Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines

Dr. Romulo Miral focused on the role of evaluation beyond the executive branch, arguing that stronger tools and policies alone are insufficient to improve governance. While the Philippines has made progress in integrating evaluation into planning and budgeting systems, its influence on actual policy and accountability remains limited.

He highlighted the need to broaden ownership and demand for evidence to include parliament, civil society, academia, the private sector, and citizens. Weak evaluation systems, he noted, manifest in everyday governance failures, ineffective infrastructure projects, underperforming social programs, and repeated spending without learning.

Dr. Miral advocated for a systems and whole-of-society approach, where evaluation becomes a shared governance responsibility rather than a technical function confined to oversight agencies.

Strengthening legislative oversight and citizen engagement, he argued, is essential for closing accountability loops and ensuring evidence drives real change.



Key takeaways

- Evaluation must extend beyond the executive to influence legislation, oversight, and citizen accountability.
- A whole-of-society approach is essential to transform evaluation from a technical exercise into a driver of better governance.

Presenters' Bio



Mr. Jesse David,

Chief Economic Development Specialist, Strategic Outcome Evaluation Division & Interim Chief, Central Evaluation Unit of the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff -Department of Economy, Planning and Development

Mr. Jesse David currently oversees the monitoring and evaluation of priority development programs and projects – both those funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and government-funded initiatives.

His responsibilities include managing the design, preparation, implementation, and utilization of evaluation studies conducted by DEPDev for programs and projects, thereby assessing their effectiveness and impact to the intended beneficiaries. He also takes the lead in providing Secretariat support to the National Steering Committee of the National Evaluation Policy Framework on initiatives in strengthening evaluation capacities. He is involved in the conduct of evaluation of project viabilities for approved development projects requiring changes in cost, time, and scope thereby ensuring their continued relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. He has served as a resource person for training and workshops on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation for national and local government agencies, DEPDev Regional Offices, and training institutions like the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI). He holds a Bachelor Science in Applied Mathematics, major in Operations Research, from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, a Master's Degree in Project Management from the University of Queensland, in Brisbane, Australia, and a Master's in Development Management under the Public Management Development Program-Middle Managers Class of the Development Academy of the Philippines.



Ms. Edel Ocampo

Chief Budget and Management Specialist at Department of Budget and Management, Philippines

Edelita "Edel" Besmonte Ocampo is a senior public sector professional with nearly 30 years of experience in government service and over a decade specializing in monitoring and evaluation. She serves as Chief Budget and Management Specialist at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Philippines, where she leads budget reform initiatives and supports the National Evaluation Policy Framework. Her work spans public financial management reforms, PEFA assessments, fiscal policy, and performance management.

Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral, Jr., PhD

Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy And Budget Research Department
House of Representatives, Philippines



Dr. Romulo E.M. Miral Jr. is currently the Deputy Secretary General of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD). His career in government spans nearly three decades, with most of it spent at the House of Representatives Secretariat. Dr. Miral's professional interests include public expenditure management, national government budgeting, tax policy and administration, and intergovernmental fiscal relations. He was a lecturer at the UP School of Economics and the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance and rendered consulting services to a number of multilateral and bilateral organizations. Dr. Miral obtained his bachelor's degree in economics (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines and his PhD in economics from the Australian National University.

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