SUMMARY NOTES

EEAP WEBINAR 24

From Data to Design: Using AI to Improve Clean Energy Interventions

On February 11, 2026, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) organized its 24th webinar, focusing on the topic of “From Data to Design: Using AI to Improve Clean Energy Interventions.” The session featured a joint presentation by:

- **Peter du Pont**, Co-CEO, Asia Clean Energy Partners
- **Mrutyunjaya (MJ) Nanda**, Team Leader – Technology & Markets, Asia Clean Energy Partners

The webinar examined how AI can be used in practical, structured ways to develop a more efficient approach for semi-structured and guided interviews that inform the design of clean energy programs and initiatives. Rather than treating AI as a stand-alone solution, the speakers presented it as part of a structured, evidence-based process that combines desk research with stakeholder interviews, transcript-based qualitative analysis, and iterative validation. Through real-world examples with development financing institutions, they showed how this approach helps identify constraints and opportunities that are often missed in secondary research alone, and how those insights can improve the design, prioritization, and feasibility of interventions.

The speakers focused on the process for collecting raw interview transcripts and transforming them through AI prompts to develop actionable strategic recommendations for clients. The presenters highlighted the importance of effective design of AI promptsdesign, methodological discipline, and expert interpretation in ensuring that AI-generated outputs are credible, well-documented, and robust. They also emphasized that validation with stakeholders is essential for maintaining accuracy and trust in AI-supported research. The session demonstrated how practitioners can integrate AI tools into the practice of program design and evaluation, thereby improving both the speed and quality of analysis. And at the same time, a more robust and broader set of stakeholder interviews can provide the client with greater transparency and confidence in the research results, and ultimately in the design of the program or intervention.

Overall, the webinar provided a practical framework for using AI tools to support faster, smarter, more responsive qualitative research for clean energy programs, and provide clients with more context-responsive energy interventions across the region. This document summarizes the key discussion points and takeaways from the webinar.

Webinar Agenda

Time (ICT)	Sessions/Speakers
11:00-11:05 AM	**Welcome Remarks & Context Setting** ***Edward Vine**, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)*
11:05-11:40 AM	**Presenters** ***1.*** **Peter du Pont**, Co-CEO, Asia Clean Energy Partners ***2.*** **Mrutyunjaya (MJ) Nanda**, Team Leader – Technology & Markets, Asia Clean Energy Partners
11:40-11:55 AM	**Moderated Audience Q&A, *Edward Vine,***
12:00 PM	**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)

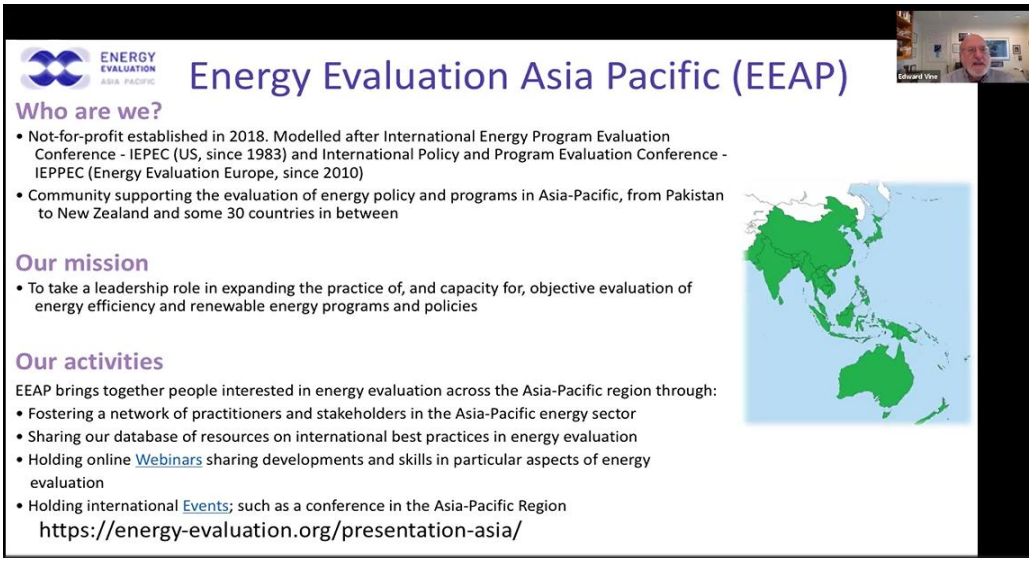
Ed greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided a context for the webinar.

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.

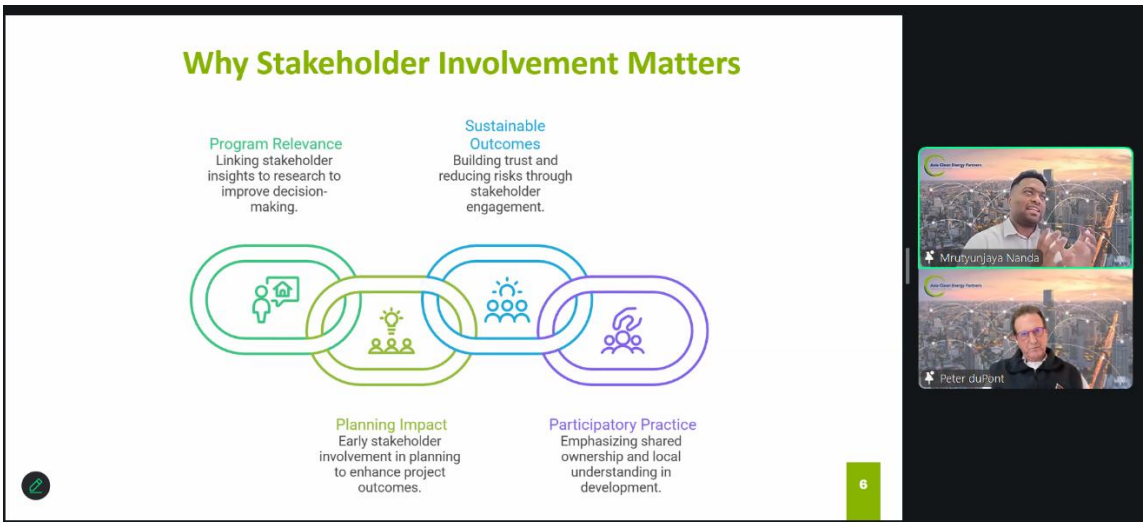


Ed framed the webinar as both timely and intentional. He said EEAP exists to strengthen evaluation practice across Asia-Pacific and linked this session to EEAP's core priorities: policy adoption/implementation, behavior change, and broader economic-environmental benefits (not just energy savings). He stressed that strong evaluation is essential in a period of high technological and climate risk, and argued that evidence-based decision-making is more important than ever. Ed said the AI webinar was valuable because Peter, though "not an evaluator" by title, demonstrated evaluation-style thinking in practice (identifying what works and what doesn't in program contexts), which he viewed positively for EEAP's learning agenda.

Presentation by Speakers, Peter du Pont and Mrutyunjaya (MJ) Nanda

"From Data to Design: Using AI to Improve Clean Energy Interventions"
Mrutyunjaya (MJ) Nanda and Peter duPont

Mrutyunjaya Nanda and Peter duPont delivered a joint presentation on how AI can be applied in a practical, decision-oriented way to strengthen clean energy strategy and intervention design. Their core message was that AI works best when used within a structured evidence process, not as a shortcut. They stressed that robust intervention design requires both desktop research and field-based stakeholder input, especially in contexts where policy, markets, and implementation systems are complex and fast-changing.



They outlined a clear workflow:

- identify relevant stakeholders across government, private sector, and development institutions;
- conduct semi-structured interviews;
- record with consent;
- transcribe discussions and
- use AI tools to identify themes across large volumes of qualitative data.

They highlighted validation as a quality safeguard, sharing transcripts back with interviewees to confirm accuracy before drawing conclusions. This helped ensure that speed gains from AI did not come at the expense of rigor.

A central lesson from their experience was that prompt quality determines analytical quality. Well-structured prompts improved clarity, comparability, and actionability of findings, while weak prompts generated noise. In their methodology, AI supported first-level synthesis and thematic extraction, but interpretation and prioritization remained expert-led. They framed AI as a tool that supports evaluative thinking: useful for reducing analysis time and improving coverage, but only when guided by careful framing, iterative testing, and contextual expertise.

Using case experiences from two projects they delivered for the Asian Development Bank , they showed that interviews often surface barriers and opportunities that are difficult to detect through secondary sources alone such as institutional bottlenecks, coordination gaps, risk perceptions, and practical constraints affecting implementation and investment readiness. By integrating these insights with literature findings, they were able to produce recommendations that were more grounded, feasible, and aligned with stakeholder realities.

Overall, the discussion offered a replicable model for moving from fragmented evidence to actionable clean energy design. For the EEAP audience, it demonstrated how AI can strengthen, not replace, evaluation practice by improving the speed, structure, and usability of qualitative evidence while preserving methodological discipline and accountability.

Key takeaways:

- AI adds the most value when combined with rigorous qualitative methods, validation steps, and expert interpretation.
- Prompt design is a strategic skill: better prompts lead to clearer, more reliable, and more decision-ready insights.
- Blending stakeholder interviews with desk research produces more realistic, context-sensitive clean energy interventions.

Presenters' Bio

Peter du Pont,
Co-CEO, Asia Clean Energy Partners

Peter du Pont is Co-Founder and Co-CEO of an Asia-based international consultancy, Asia Clean Energy Partners, which provides services and solutions for clients in the development and business sectors. He is based in Bangkok and has more than 30 years' experience developing sustainable energy and climate programs in the U.S. and Asia. Dr. du Pont leads teams that carry out assignments related to clean energy technology, policy, and finance across Southeast and South Asia. He specializes in technical, policy, and market assessments, knowledge-sharing and development, and stakeholder engagement. He and his firm contribute to the clean energy ecosystem in the region through their assignments for development clients such as the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations agencies, The World Bank, the German development agency GIZ, and philanthropies. Dr. du Pont helped to initiate the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) in Asia in 2009, and he has worked with the Asian Development Bank since 2007 to organize its annual flagship event, the Asia Clean Energy Forum.

Mrutyunjaya (MJ) Nanda,

Team Leader – Technology & Markets, Asia Clean Energy Partners

Mrutyunjaya Nanda is a seasoned clean energy expert with over 9 years of experience in the Asia-Pacific region, specializing in solar PV and energy transition initiatives. As the leader of the Technology and Markets portfolio at Asia Clean Energy Partners, he brings deep technical knowledge and market insights across Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

His expertise encompasses project management, feasibility studies, technical due diligence, grid integration assessments, market research, and regulatory compliance. MJ has successfully led numerous projects ranging from 5MW to 150MW, covering technical reviews, risk assessments, and stakeholder engagement for both utility-scale and commercial PV installations. He has substantial experience advising on grid interconnection, substation design, and energy policy

development, notably through his contributions to GIZ's SIPET platform and various ADB-supported initiatives.

Previously at Tractebel and currently at Asia Clean Energy Partners, Mrutyunjaya's comprehensive regional experience spans nine countries, providing him with a robust understanding of regulatory frameworks, market dynamics, and investment facilitation strategies crucial for advancing clean energy adoption in Southeast Asia.

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