

Evidence-based Policy making for better governance: Engaging Parliamentarians in evaluation



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Passing of the EvalTorch to University of Chile from Eval4Action



#EvalTorch
Ignite the future of evaluation



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**GPFE is a Co-Leader of
Eval4Action Campaign**

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Why evaluation

- ***“True genius resides in the capacity for **Evaluation** of uncertain , hazardous & conflicting information”***
- Winston Churchill

Why Evaluation and Parliamentarians?

- Parliamentarians are between People and Executive power representing people's voices
- Parliament's oversight... - is it "equipped enough" with instruments and evidences?
- Adoption of budgets by parliaments – is there reliable and enough evidence-based data?
- Parliaments enacts laws, bills, amendments... approve national strategies, programs... is there an on-going feedback? Timely evidences for decision-makers during implementation, impact?

Evaluation for Parliamentarians because it:

- “Equips” them with evidences for efficient and effective role of MPs
- helps MPs be in the topic and have reliable and evidence-based information, focus on the interests of various groups in society
- Keeps executive branches more accountable, responsible and transparent
- Organizes budgetary process in the parliament more efficiently and evidence based (case of Kyrgyzstan increased allocation of funds for social allowance – changed structure, increased amounts)
- Investments in Evaluation save money in the mid and long term period
- More professional, dynamic, efficient, “equipped” with evidences, open, responsive to people’s needs, pro-active Parliament

Information Overload



posted at: FunkyDowntown.com

Why institutionalize evaluation?

- There are more answers than questions, because evaluation is a process, changing, complex one
- Several levels:
 1. Horizontal – building infrastructure (VOPEs, international agencies and big donors, implementation on governmental level, legislation, stakeholders, education on evaluation)
 2. Vertical – regulations and frameworks (Laws, bills, policies, methodologies, frameworks and protocols of communication, Agencies/Councils, units in Government and Parliament)
- It works efficiently when working on both levels! – This is institutionalization ... ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Elements of institutionalizing evaluation

- Formation a team of like-minded people in parliaments/governments/VOPEs/stakeholders - **Leadership**
- Evaluation needs to be implemented gradually. Legislative framework, National Evaluation Policies - **Framework**
- Need a system of incentives for departments parliaments/governments - **Infrastructure**
- Need an intensive training program for staff at all levels, Universities - **Education**
- Cooperate of legislative/executive institutions with the national professional association – **Cooperation and networking**

Is evaluation for all?

- Executive/ Government: it's integral part of good governance, efficient management practices, infrastructure– quality of their work-

Risks: Are Executives always interested to demonstrate the real results, evidences? Independence of Evaluation?

- Legislative/Parliaments: should be sensitive to the changes of society, -quality of legislation, budgeting – quality of people's life-

Risks: not involved in Eval agenda, lack of capacity. Tend to politicize Eval results? “Quality” of communication with government?

= PEOPLE are key recipients from Evaluation use

= only building EVAL ENVIRONMENT (by Executive and Legislative) we will address their needs

Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

Background

- Initiated in South Asia with three parliamentarians – Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Launched at the Parliament of Nepal in Nov 2015 in the context of the International Year of Evaluation 2015.
- Purpose is to facilitate a dialogue between parliamentarians and the evaluation community
- Several parliamentarians around the world are members

Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

Goal

- To create enabling environments for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standardized evaluation processes. Through capacity building, knowledge sharing and advocacy.
- The Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation supports and empowers parliamentarians to deliver evidence-based policy that helps achieve good governance, sustainable development and social equity.

Promote demand and use of evaluation through parliamentarians – Key achievements

- Inclusion of evaluation in the national constitution – Nepal, Ivory Coast
- Promote National Evaluation Policies – Sri Lanka, Kenya, Bhutan, Nepal
- Institutionalization of evaluation within the parliament – Sri Lanka, Uganda
- Regional Parliamentarians Fora to engage more parliamentarians to demand and use evaluation – Asia, Eurasia, Africa
- Regional consultations to promote NEPS at country level – Asia, Africa, MENA

Examples of evaluation policies

- **Nepal** - National constitution 2015 – sections 54, 293. Draft National Evaluation Policy Act
- **Sri Lanka** - National Evaluation Policy endorsed on 26 June 2018, Draft National Evaluation of Development Interventions and Public Policies Bill (2019)
- **Japan** – Government Policy Evaluations Act No. 86 of 2001
- **Philippines** – 2015 NEDA and Department of Budget Management joint memorandum circular No. 2015-01: National Evaluation Policy Framework, Senate Bill No. 788 – An Act Establishing a National Evaluation Policy, Senate Bill No. 1885 – An Act Establishing a Result-Based National Evaluation Policy.
- **Indonesia** – Government Regulation No.39/2006, applies to monitoring and evaluation carried out by all the public institutions including the line ministries
- **Mongolia** - 2015 Law on Development Policy Planning accompanied by two regulations: Resolution #249, passed in 2016 to strengthen the policy planning system, and Resolution #89, passed in 2017 to guide the M&E activities related to government operations .

Parliaments taking the lead

- **Nepal** - National Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation, Parliament committee for evaluation set up under the provisions of the constitution, hosting EvalYear2015 and Global Evaluation Forum.
- **Sri Lanka** – Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, Parliament Select Committee on Evaluation (2019-2020), capacity building of PRU staff, drafting the national evaluation bill, hosting EvalColombo2018.
- **Philippines** – Two Senate Bills on M&E, capacity building of Senate staff, hosting day 2 of the second APEA conference, Public Hearing of the Committee on Economic Affairs joint with Finance; National Defence and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Ways and Means.
- **Kyrgyzstan** – 2014 Law on evaluation. Hosted Eurasian Regional Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, Parliament process for evaluating public policies.

The Colombo Declaration on evaluation

The Colombo Declaration

- 1 We the participants of EvalColombo2018 convened by the Global Parliamentarians Forum in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum here in Colombo 17 - 19 September 2018 declare to the people that;
- 2 Representing a global partnership of parliaments, governments, international development institutions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental agencies and evaluation professionals from over seventy nations, we have exchanged our views and experiences on the special role for parliamentarians in underpinning the role of evaluation evidence in support of development that brings; an end to poverty and hunger, protects the planet from degradation, and allows human beings to enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, in peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- 3 We strongly believe that decision making for such development must be informed by evidence that is credible, objective and timely and that well conducted evaluations are a valuable source of such evidence.

We understand that parliamentarians as representatives of citizens, custodians of parliamentary oversight and lawmakers, can play a leading role in creating and sustaining an enabling environment for evaluation.
- 4 To create such an enabling environment, parliamentarians acknowledge the need to provide guidance, encouragement and to facilitate;
 - i. the establishment of National Evaluation Policies and Systems that consider national context, governance structures as well as international norms and standards,
 - ii. the allocation of budget for the establishing of systems and for carrying out evaluations themselves,
 - iii. the development of technical capacity within parliament and administrative structures to utilize evaluative knowledge as evidence for continuous improvement of development interventions,
 - iv. the professionalisation of evaluation through institutionalising training and developing cadres of professional evaluators.
- 5 We acknowledge that parliaments must evaluate their own institutional performance to build coherence and capture synergies for achieving SDGs while national policies are developed.
- 6 We recognize that the building of collaboration and trust between all development stakeholders but particularly between evaluation professionals, as producers of evaluative knowledge and parliamentarians and program managers as users of that knowledge, is essential to guide development programs and policies to success.



The Commitments

- The adoption of a national evaluation policy and the creation of a national evaluation system - taking into account the national context, existing governance systems, as well as international norms and standards;
- Allocation of budget funds for the creation of evaluation systems and evaluation;
- Development of deputies and employees of parliaments and state structures of technical skills necessary to use the results of the evaluation for the continuous improvement of development laws, programs and projects;
- Professionalization of evaluation through the institutionalization of training and professional development in the field of evaluation.

Manila Declaration

Asia Pacific Evaluation Association

8,549 posts

Take a look at [@msegone](#) statement about institutionalizing evaluation at the moment of releasing the Manila Declaration.

Following

Join us in the collective resolution movement to institutionalizing M&E for the 2030 #SDGs, sign the #ManilaDeclaration: asiapacificeval.org/manila-declara...



MANILA DECLARATION

Institutionalizing Monitoring and Evaluation in Support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

1. We, the participants of the 4th Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) Conference in Manila from December 4 to 7, 2023 and of the Parliament Day as the conference's culminating event, convene on this 7th day of December 2023 at the House of Representatives of the Philippines.
2. In view of the stalled progress towards critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and other factors, we underscore the urgency of addressing persisting social and economic inequalities to create a sustainable and equitable future for people in the Asia Pacific region.
3. We affirm the critical contributions of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in generating credible and timely information that governmental and non-governmental organizations can use as inputs for prioritizing, budgeting, and implementing relevant, coherent, effective, impactful, and efficient development interventions in support of the 2030 SDGs.
4. We recognize that despite the huge potential of M&E in improving governance, government performance, and development outcomes, its routine conduct, communication, and use for better decision-making are yet to be fully institutionalized in many countries.
5. To institutionalize M&E and engender a culture of evidence-based decision-making across governmental and non-governmental organizations, we acknowledge and highlight the key contributions of the following key drivers for institutionalizing M&E in the Asia Pacific region:
 - Parliaments and parliamentarians, as the largest audience of M&E within countries, in developing integrated national M&E policies and systems that strengthen the demand, supply, and use of M&E to guide development interventions for the SDGs;
 - Strong national evaluation capacities in conducting, managing, communicating, and utilizing country-led M&E of development interventions;
 - International development agencies and voluntary organizations for professional evaluation (VOPEs) assuming valuable roles of advocating the sustained institutionalization of evaluation and strengthening national evaluation capacities; and
 - Societal, political, and institutional partnerships for strengthening M&E capacities within and across countries.
6. In view of the foregoing, we thus adhere to the following strategies toward deeper societal, political, and organizational institutionalization of M&E in support of the 2030 SDGs:
 - Engage and support parliaments for greater demand and utilization of credible, timely, and useful M&E information as inputs for oversight, lawmaking, budgeting, and constituency representation functions of parliaments and parliamentarians;
 - Strengthen national M&E ecosystems including through legislation to ensure the routine use of M&E information in planning, budgeting, and implementing development interventions;
 - Promote partnerships for evaluation capacity development in the Asia Pacific region to increase the supply of qualified competent, credible, and young evaluators through the development and use of M&E competency framework, standards, education curricula, academic programs, and training courses;
 - Promote country-led and community-owned evaluations through engagements with governments, parliaments, non-government organizations, communities, and citizens, in developing and implementing national evaluation agenda for the 2030 SDGs; and
 - Promote the use of credible and timely country-led evaluations as inputs for the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of country progress towards their SDG targets.
7. Reiterating the development dividends from M&E institutionalization, we call upon governments, parliaments, international development agencies, VOPEs, non-government organizations, and other development actors to operationalize the above strategies through partnerships and through respective action plans, policies, and systems to institutionalize M&E in support of the 2030 SDGs.

Thanks for your attention

Happy to learn your reflections

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