



Completion Report for the Orientation Program on Evaluation for the Parliamentarians from the Indigenous Nationalities.

held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 13, 2023.

Program under the Seed Grant for Indigenous Evaluation Knowledge Transfer Workshops and Virtual Meetings for the Asia Pacific Region

Submitted to:

Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)

Submitted by:

Nepal Evaluation Society (NES), Kathmandu.

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1. Context

Nepal Evaluation Society (NES)¹ has received a Seed Grant for Indigenous Evaluation Knowledge Transfer Workshops and Virtual Meetings for the Asia Pacific Region from the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) and EvalIndigenous. For this purpose, NES earlier submitted a proposal on the Orientation Program on Evaluation for the Parliamentarians from the Indigenous Nationalities. Nepalese rupees equivalent to USD 1497 is deposited in the NES account against the APEA transfer of USD'

The Orientation Program was for the recently elected parliamentarians from the indigenous nationalities to introduce them with the i) evaluation concept and OECD criteria, ii) evaluation system and institutional set-up in Nepal on monitoring and evaluation, iii) the country's experiences in evaluation and the role of VOPEs, and the constitutional rights of indigenous nationalities and the role of Indigenous Nationalities Commission in their monitoring and evaluation.

2. Progress

The award message and letter are obtained in the first week of June 2023, and thereafter, the Orientation Program coordinating team started having its regular meeting with the Seed Grants-EvalIndigenous Group in the WhatsApp updating the activity status.

Immediately after the award, NES mobilized all the presenters, and at the same time tried to reach out to the parliament secretariat for the list of eligible participants – parliamentarians from the indigenous nationalities. In that process, we could be in touch with Honorable Deputy Speaker Ms Indira Rana. She found the proposed program quite exciting, and offered her good office to get all the required help from the parliament secretariat. She also agreed to be the Chief Guest. NES got a list of eligible participants with contact details from the parliament secretariat.

Fixing the exact date was found little tricky though tentative date was earlier thought of for the first week of August. The parliament would have business days announced in a short notice particularly when there are some critical and debatable issues causing delays and session closures, and sudden opening. In this uncertain scenario, the date was fixed for August 13, 2023 starting at 10 AM.

All the participants were sent invitations through email. Three documents were also attached – National Planning Commission Guideline on Monitoring and Evaluation, OECD / DAC criteria, and APEA flyers on OECD/DAC criteria. All the invited participants were contacted to confirm for their participation, and by August 12, 2023, 28 out of 34 participants invited confirmed their participation.

The Program was designed starting with a brief inauguration session followed by four presentations, plenary discussions and ended up with a brief closing session. Dr. Govinda Tamang, former General Secretary of the NES, handled the Orientation Programme.

¹ <https://nes.org.np/>

Orientation program

The Orientation program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Honorable Deputy Speaker Ms Indira Rana, by lighting the traditional lamp of Nepal, known as 'Twadeba'. This inauguration session was chaired by Dr. Bhuban B Bajracharya, Chairperson of the Nepal Evaluation Society. We had our special guest in Honorable Member of National Planning Commission Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal.



Hon Deputy Speaker Indira Rana inaugurating the Orientation Programme



Hon Deputy Speaker – addressing the participants after inauguration

Dr. Bijay Kumar Singh, Vice Chairperson of Nepal Evaluation Society, welcomed the distinguished guests Honorable Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Honorable Member of National Planning Commission Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal, honorable parliamentarian participants, and other guests from the secretariat, and VOPEs. He was appreciative of those who were present despite the continued down-pouring heavy rain from the previous night. He explained that the Orientation Program would introduce to international norms and criteria for evaluation which would very much help in their roles in different parliamentary committees.

Speaking after the inauguration, Honorable Deputy Speaker spoke on the importance of the Orientation Program to get prepared and more organized in monitoring and evaluation of the government policies, and programs. She emphatically highlighted on the need for empowering indigenous nationalities from the indigenous nationalities through this kind of opportunities. Indigenous nationalities have lot to learn to catch up with the time. She requested all the participants to participate actively, ask questions for any clarifications, and not to miss any of the sessions, and extract the knowledge from the experts, and other interactions. The supervisory roles entrusted to the parliamentarians by the Constitution give them to seek answers by raising pertinent questions. There is a need for checking service delivery, and at the same time ensure good governance and also observe if right men are in the right place. In these roles, there is a need for encouraging youths, a new generation. In all these things, media also plays a critical role.

Mr. Man Bahadur Lama, Treasurer of the Nepal Evaluation Society give a vote of thanks.

Honorable Member of NPC Dr. Phuyal made a presentation on the Evaluation System and Institutional Set-up in Nepal. He briefly dwelt upon i) the existing planning process in the federal structure, and

wherein monitoring and evaluation come to play their roles, ii) evaluation system of the country including the evolution and types of evaluation, iii) national monitoring system and institutional set-up for the same, and iv) how they are being conducted in Nepal.

The Chairman of the NES, Dr. Bajracharya presented conceptual and technical aspects of evaluation, OECD / DAC criteria and how they can help parliamentarians to play their roles in the parliament and in different parliamentary committees by raising relevant question related to these criteria.

	
<p>Hon Member of NPC, Dr. Phuyal making his presentation</p>	<p>Chairman of NES, Dr. Bajracharya making his presentation</p>
	
<p>Vice Chairman of NES, Dr. Singh making his presentation</p>	<p>Hon Chairman of Indigenous Nationalities Commission, Mr. Thapa Magar making his presentation</p>

Dr. Singh, Vice Chairman of NES, covered the existence and roles of Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluation (VOPE). They help in promoting evidence based decision making, and in the process promote evaluation culture. They are available worldwide in every country. There are networking of such VOPEs at the international level, and NES is a member of Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA). Such networking help in capacity development in evaluation.

Honorable Chairperson of Indigenous Nationalities Commission talked about i) the identification of the indigenous nationalities, ii) issue of community ownership of land asset versus the government's policy of individual ownership, and iii) conceptual, international norms of, and national commitments for and the country's constitutional rights of indigenous nationalities.

The participants asked questions mostly to Dr. Phuyal from National Planning Commission – very much specific to the functions and activities of the National Planning Commission such as monitoring system of the government, planning schedule of the government, resource allocation pattern amongst different layers of the government – with one very specific question on the government's equal allocation of resources to all the districts.



Some of the participants having questions, and a section of the participating audience.

The Closing Session was chaired by honorable chairman of Indigenous Nationalities Commission. Two participants spoke on behalf of the participants.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, honorable member Ms Bina Lama thanked the NES for organizing this orientation program on such an important area. Monitoring and evaluation are needed for construction and development works. She opined that in the absence of adequate knowledge on monitoring and evaluation, local governments often get into legal difficulties. In all these dissemination and knowledge sharing process, VOPEs need to assist. She also highlighted how social division in the past had been disadvantageous to indigenous nationalities, and how they need to be made aware of their constitutional rights.



Honorable participating parliamentarians Ms Bina Lama and Mr. Ram Prakash Chaudhary: speaking on behalf of all the participants

Speaking on behalf of the participants, honorable member Mr. Ram Prakash Chaudhary, agreed with the points made by Ms Lama, and he stressed that the Program has made all of them better understand why monitoring is essential for the development activities, and how evaluation can make such activities sustainable.

The chair of the closing session ended the Orientation Program with a note that this sort of program is needed for all the parliamentarians. Mr. Santosh Aryal, chairman of the Evalyouth Nepal chapter gave a vote of thanks to all involved in making the Program a success.



Vote of thanks by Man Bahadur Lama in the Inauguration Session

Vote of thanks by Santosh Aryal in the Closing session



Hon Prem Maharjan in the interview



Group photo



Govinda Tamang handling the Program



A section of the audience

Later in an interview, honorable parliamentarian Mr. Prem Maharjan shared that they have been doing their works in the parliament but now realized that such works have theoretical and technical dimensions. Their understanding could enhance the roles they are playing. He himself being a member of one of the committees, and planning to evaluate the development projects, this Program has provided lot of insights to hold such events more effectively. He also reflected that after listening to the deliberations he felt that he should also do his own self-evaluation for the works he has been doing so far after the election. He is hopeful that as the indigenous nationalities are usually from the disadvantaged situation, this Program should have given them an opportunity to move ahead at more equal footing. He thanked the organizers for organizing the program.

3. Financial statement

Nepal Evaluation Society received received a flat seed grant of USD1500 (actually received USD 1497 equivalent of NRs.....) with the NES readiness to cover the remaining balance as per the proposed budget. The inputs from the NES were voluntary from its members. Here, actual expenses are provided as below:

S. No.	Items	Rate	Total Amount
1.	Transportation allowance to the invited participants		

2.	Banquet expenses on meals, including rent for multi-media		
3.	Stationery (notebook and pen)		
4.	Translation of the APEA flyers on the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria in Nepali		
5.	Printing of the translated OECD/DAC evaluation criteria in the form of a booklet		
6.	Banners and photocopies		
7.	Payment to the program assistant		
8.	Payment to the videographer		
9.	Payment to the two presenters		

Note: Receipts and bills for these expenses are attached with this completion report.

Annexes:

- i. Orientation Program
- ii. Booklet on the APEA flyers of the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria
- iii. Powerpoint slides of the four presentations
- iv. List of participants and guests
- v. NES members directly involved in the Program
 - a. Bhuban Bajracharya
 - b. Bijay Kumar Singh
 - c. Jhank Naryan Shrestha
 - d. Man Bahadur Lama
 - e. Govinda Tamang
 - f. Bhawani Dahal
 - g. Santosh Aryal – Evalyouth Nepal chapter
 - h. Prabin Shrestha – Evalyouth Nepal chapter