

## Events Update for the NES Website

- APEA concluded its 4th Conference on 4–7 December 2023 in Manila, Philippines. The theme was “Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships for Equitable Development in Asia Pacific.” More than 200 participants attended. The conference concluded with Parliament Day at the Congress of the Philippines, chaired by the Honorable Speaker, and the adoption of the Manila Declaration, which committed to institutionalizing evaluation at the national level. NES Chairman Bhuban Bajracharya, also Secretary of the APEA Board of Directors, and General Secretary Jhank N. Shrestha participated on APEA's invitation. Mr. Bajracharya presented in Session 7 on “Amplifying Indigenous Voices: Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Evaluation Practices.”
- NES Chairman Bhuban Bajracharya and General Secretary Jhank N. Shrestha were invited to EvalFest 2024, organized by the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) at Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi. Mr. Bajracharya led a session in a Pre-Conference Satellite Workshop on “The Role of Community Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation.” Mr. Shrestha also shared his experiences. Both made a courtesy call on the Honorable Nepalese Ambassador to India, Dr. Shankar Sharma, who is also NES's founding Chairman.
- On behalf of APEA, NES General Secretary and APEA Board Vice President Jhank Narayan Shrestha represented the organization at the 11th International Conference on Technology and Innovation in Evaluation Practice, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18–23 March 2024. Mr. Shrestha took part in sessions on evidence-based decision-making and technology-enabled evaluation, contributing to regional and global discussions on strengthening accountability and improving development outcomes.
- NES Chairman Bhuban B. Bajracharya was invited as a panelist to present on “Integrating Indigenous Evaluations and Culturally Responsive Evaluation Practices into the M&E Curriculum” at the Academic Symposium on M&E Education 2024. The symposium was jointly organized by the Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura; the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA); and the Consortium of Institutions on M&E Education in Asia Pacific, held 2–4 December 2024. He shared components of indigenous evaluation relevant to the M&E curriculum in Nepal's context.

Following the symposium, EvalIndigenous organized a visit to the Dambana Indigenous Village within a protected forest for EvalIndigenous team members. The visit offered insight into the community's efforts to preserve its traditional lifestyle and the challenges of protected forest management. Mr. Bajracharya contributed a visit note, now published on the EvalIndigenous website.

- APEA concluded its 5th Conference, held jointly with EvalVisionAsia 2025, in Tokyo, Japan, from 11–14 November 2025. NES Chairman Bhuban Bajracharya and NES General Secretary and then APEA Board Vice President Jhank Narayan Shrestha were invited. Mr. Bajracharya was invited to present at the Pre-Conference Workshop on “Indigenous Evaluation – Centering Relationships, Knowledge, and Self-Determination.” Due to health reasons, he was unable to travel to Japan, and his presentation was shared as a recorded video. Mr. Shrestha attended the conference and participated in panel sessions on Indigenous Evaluation and culturally responsive practices, as well as keynote sessions on institutionalizing evaluation for equitable development and building trust. He took part in the Global Dialogue on NEPS and served as a panelist in the session “Way Forward for Institutionalization and Capacity Building in the Asia Pacific Region,” sharing insights on advancing evaluation institutionalization and capacity building.
- The APEA Board is elected every two years. During the 5th APEA Conference, the new Board took office for 2026–2027. NES Treasurer Man Bahadur Lama was elected unopposed as a Board Member, continuing NES's presence on the APEA Board. Congratulations and best wishes to him.
- NES organized an online orientation for its members on the methods, practices, and Nepal experiences of impact evaluation in FY 2023/24. Coordinated by former NES Chairman Dr. Chhampak Pokharel, more than 24 sessions were held over eight months, roughly one session per week. The topics were selected to support a training program on evaluation for new entrants and mid-level evaluation practitioners.
- NES organized an online training program on the use of Microsoft Excel for calculating statistical measures used in evaluation exercises, in FY 2024/25. Originally intended for NES members, the program was opened to participants from other organizations due to strong demand. It was coordinated by NES Board Member Mr. Basan Shrestha.

- Following the successful completion of the Seed Grant and Germination Grant programs for indigenous parliamentarians and indigenous journalists, APEA and EvalIndigenous have awarded NES a Blossoming Grant for the impact evaluation of the community pond restoration in Bungamati. The activity will be implemented soon. EvalIndigenous continues to actively promote indigenous evaluation, from sharing experiences and developing methods to supporting the implementation of indigenous evaluation activities.