

UNEG May 2014 Newsletter

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UNEG members, we would love to hear more about the work that you are doing! Please submit relevant news & publications to uneg.contact@undp.org

2014 Evaluation Week - Bangkok, Thailand

UNEG's 2014 Evaluation Week took place from 31 March to 4 April in Bangkok, Thailand. This was the first time that the annual UNEG meetings were held in the Asia-Pacific region. The Week consisted of Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) seminars, a High-level Panel and the UNEG Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM was hosted by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), while the local organizing committee for EPE was UN Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP).

[Click here to view UNEG 2014 Evaluation Week Photos](#)

[Click here to listen to an audio clip with ESCAP's Executive Secretary, Shamshad Akhtar, and Deborah Rugg, Chair of UNEG talking about the importance of evaluation..](#)

2014 Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) seminar (31 March -1 April 2014)

EPE is an informal forum for UNEG members to share their experiences on a range of topics. In 2014, EPE was organized with the [United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific \(UNEDAP\)](#). Over 30 organizations - about 80 people - attended EPE.

The theme of the 2014 EPE was strengthening the quality and use of evaluations at the national and regional levels and ensuring our accountability to the people we serve. Sessions were planned on UNDAF evaluation - lessons learned; joint evaluation; decentralized evaluation; human rights and gender equality; impact evaluation; national evaluation capacity development; and evaluation networking and partnerships.

[Click here to view the 2014 EPE agenda & related PowerPoint presentations.](#)

High-level Panel event (HLP) on Evaluation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (1 April 2014)

A high-level event took place on 1 April, with over 100 participants from member states and UN agencies in the region. It was organized as one in a series to deepen the understanding of the role of evaluation in the UN system. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, delivered welcome remarks. The event was moderated by UNEG Chair, Deborah Rugg. Panelists included:

H.E. Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, Ambassador, Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Thailand, and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to ESCAP

Mr. Kabir Hashim, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka & Leader of South Asia Parliamentarian Forum

Mr. Vinod Thomas, Director General, Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank

Prof. A. K. Shiva Kumar, President, Professional Development Associates, India

Ms. Natalia Kosheleva, Co-chair, EvalPartners and, President, International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation

The event was organized around the following questions:

How can evaluation best contribute to the post-2015 development agenda? What difference will it make in ensuring accountability and transparency?

How can the different players, including governments, UN, NGOs and evaluation communities, act together towards the 2015 International Year of Evaluation at the global, regional and national levels?

[Click here to view the 2014 HLP agenda.](#)

2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) (2-4 April 2014)

The objectives of the 2014 UNEG Annual General Meeting (AGM) were as follows:

- To discuss the implications of UNEG Strategy 2014-2019
- To discuss how to improve and operationalize the draft work plan 2014-2015
- To decide on the way forward

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 28 of the 43 UNEG agency members. Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary delivered the opening remarks. Please click here to view her remarks, "[Better Evaluation Systems for Better Post-2015 Development](#)".

Key results of the 2014 AGM:

- The UNEG Executive Group will update the work plan and costed programme of work.
- In order to enhance UNEG's financial stability and predictability of funding, and to strengthen commitment and ownership, the AGM decided to develop a proposal for a scaled membership fee.
- The UNEG Executive Group will take responsibility for advancing the UN Resolution on evaluation and evaluation in the post-2015 development agenda, with support from all UNEG Heads.
- An external resource mobilization strategy will be developed.
- The UNEG Community of Practice will be opened to UN evaluation staff outside of the UNEG member units.
- The 2015 AGM will take place in New York.

After the AGM, the Executive Group shared the updated work plan with UNEG Heads and is working on its implementation.

[Click here to view the AGM agenda, supporting documentation and the update work plan. \(UNEG members only\)](#)

During the AGM, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), a UNEG observer, presented emerging findings from a study of the UN evaluation function. [Click here to view the presentation.](#)

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Translation of the UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work

With the funding support from UNESCO, the UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work is now available in French & Spanish, in addition to English.

[Click here for the English, French & Spanish versions of the Handbook.](#)

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Messages from UNEG Member Agencies

1. A message from Andrea E. Cook, Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office

Dear Colleagues,

As the new Director of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (EO), I am pleased to present an update on recent developments in evaluation at UNFPA.

In light of the new UNFPA evaluation policy, adopted by the UNFPA Executive Board in June 2013, UNFPA now has an exciting work plan in place for the coming two years. The UNFPA Transitional Biennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan for 2014-2015 was adopted at the Executive Board in early 2014. The plan sets out five corporate evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office during this period:

- two independent country programme evaluations (Turkey and Bangladesh)
- three thematic evaluations: (i) support to adolescents and youth (ii) support to data availability to inform decision-making and policy formulation; and (iii) support to the availability of quality family planning services.

The plan also details 36 country programme evaluations to be undertaken during this period, which will be managed by country offices and supported by regional offices.

The EO has been working to expand its support and engagement with regional and country offices, including a training workshop for country offices in Latin America & the Caribbean region on evaluation methodology in March 2014. A similar training is planned for the Arab States region later in 2014, and for the West and Central Africa region in 2015.

Further information on the work of the EO, including the recently completed UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, can be found on the EO webpages at www.unfpa.org/public/home/about/evaluation

We look forward to working with UNEG colleagues to help strengthen evaluation across the UN system in the coming year.

Best wishes,
Andrea E. Cook

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UNEG Members' Corner

Evaluating Environment in International Development

Edited by Juha Uitto, Deputy Director, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office and UNEG Executive Coordinator

More than twenty years after the Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, both national and international actors in governmental and nongovernmental fields are still searching for insights into how sustainable development can be advanced and environmental concerns incorporated into the development agenda more effectively. Moreover, climate change has emerged as a preeminent challenge to both the environment and to development. Evaluating Environment in International Development provides international perspectives and in-depth knowledge of evaluating development and the environment and applies evaluation knowledge to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The book focuses on the approaches and experiences of leading international organizations, not-for-profits, and multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to illustrate how systematic evaluation is an essential tool for providing evidence for decision-makers. It provides novel and in-depth perspectives on evaluating environment and sustainability issues in developing countries. Moving beyond projects and programmes, it considers aspects such as evaluating normative work on the environment and evaluating environmental consequences of economic and social development efforts.

This original collection should be of interest to scholars of environment studies, development studies, international relations, sustainable development and evaluation, as well as practitioners in international organizations and development and environmental NGOs.

[Please click here for more details.](#)

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Spotlight on Evaluation

Unpacking the evaluation of multilateral development institutions

Wed, 30 Apr 2014 06:26:14 GMT

CNBC Africa recently interviewed colleagues of the Evaluation Cooperation Group to discuss the evaluation of multilateral development institutions and the launch of the Evaluation Platform for Regional African Institutions. Panelists included Rakesh Nangia (Africa Development Bank); Caroline Heider (World Bank Group); Cheryl Grey (Inter-American Bank) and Joseph Eichenberger (European Bank for Reconstruction & Development).

[Please click here to view the discussion.](#)

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Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

CLEAR Impact Evaluation Technical Course

May 19-30, 2014, Shanghai, China

[Please click here for course details.](#)

The Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office is pleased to announce a webinar on Systematic Triangulation Applied to the Identification of Evaluation Findings

8:30 am to 9:30 am EDT, Thursday, May 15, 2014

Carlo Carugi, Senior Evaluation Officer and team leader of the country portfolio evaluation (CPE) team at the GEF IEO, will present systematic triangulation as a mixed-method approach in evaluation. The webinar will discuss common challenges in country level evaluations, the procedures for systematic triangulation, and will draw lessons based on results from nine evaluations and an example from an evaluation conducted in the Pacific region. The presentation will be followed by a questions and answers session. We encourage you to read more about country level evaluations in the Global Environment Facility before the presentation:

<http://www.thegef.org/gef/CPE>.

To participate in the webinar, please click on the link below at 8:30 am EDT on Thursday, May 15:

<https://worldbankgroup.webex.com/worldbankgroup/j.php?>

MTID=mcb5691e65650154b34b3abdac8cceca8

enter the following password: evaluation

[Kindly confirm your attendance here](#)

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Job Vacancies

OIOS Seeks Director for Inspection and Evaluation Division (D2) *Note that the incumbent, Dr. Deborah Rugg will not be retiring until April, 2015. This post is being advertised now in anticipation of the long duration of the recruitment phase at this level in the UN Secretariat."*

Apply by June 7, 2014

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

UNICEF Seeks EOI to Conduct an Evaluability Assessment of UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

Rockefeller Foundation Seeks Associate Director, Monitoring & Organizational Performance

Ongoing Recruitment

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

IADB Office of Evaluation and Oversight (Private Sector Evaluation) Seeks Economics Principal Specialist

Ongoing Recruitment

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

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*Please share information and discuss ideas at the **UNEG Community of Practice***

If you have any questions, please contact uneg.contact@undp.org

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