

# UNEG September 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](mailto:uneg.contact@undp.org) or post on the UNEG Community of Practice Board.*

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## UNEG Activities Update

-UNEG AGM 2014 approved the UNEG workplan for the next two years. Since then, work has been underway. [Please click for activities update](#) (*member login required*). [Click here to view UNEG Chair and vice-Chairs talk about the UNEG Strategy and the four Strategic Objectives.](#)

-UNEG 2015 Evaluation Week will take place from 9 to 13 March 2015, in New York.

-Indran Naidoo, UNEG Vice Chair and Director of UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, attended and represented UNEG at the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) Spring 2014 Meeting. UNEG is an observer of ECG. It participates in the ECG annual meetings during both spring and fall sessions. [Please click here to view Indran's summary report which presents the meeting overview and selects presentations from the meeting.](#) (*member login required*).

-UNEG organized a **High Level Event** on July 11th entitled "Empowering Countries Through Evaluation: evaluation as a country level tool for the new development agenda." [Please click here for details.](#)

-UNEG, in partnership with EvalPartners, International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), UN Women and GEF, is hosting an 8-week **on-line consultation on the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda** starting in September. [Please click here for details.](#)

-Several UNEG Executive Group members will attend the 11th Biennial Conference of the European Evaluation Society (EES) in Dublin, Ireland, in early October. Meetings with partners and stakeholders will be organized.

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## UNEG High Level Event, "Empowering Countries Through Evaluation: evaluation as a country level tool for the new development agenda"

On July 11, 2014, UNEG hosted a High Level Side Event during the fourth Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) at UN Headquarters in NY. The event explored the role evaluation can play in empowering countries. It considered how building evaluation capacities at the country level can lead to greater ownership of the development agenda and how stronger national evaluation systems can be part of an inclusive and robust global accountability framework.

The speakers included:

- Mr. Kabir Hashim, Member of the Sri Lankan Parliament
- Mr. Arsenio Balisacan, Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (Philippines)
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning
- Mr. John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme
- Ms. Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair (event chair)

**[Please click here for a full video of the side event.](#)**

**[Please click here for photos of the side event.](#)**

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## UNEG Publications

### Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations

The Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations was produced by the previous UNEG Joint Evaluation Task Force (Co-Chaired by OCHA and UNICEF) to address the need for broad methodological guidance and the identification of good practices based on the group's collective experience. Taking into consideration the multitude of approaches and the diversity of actors who may be engaged in joint UN evaluation work, the purpose of the Resource Pack is to enhance system-wide programming efforts by strengthening the capacity of UN offices to engage in joint evaluations.

**[Please click here for the online version of the report.](#)**

**[Please click here to download report.](#)**

## **Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations**

The Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations report was produced by UNEG as an in-depth guidance handbook to serve as a field guide to improve human rights and gender equality responsive evaluation throughout the UN system.

It complements the UNEG's Handbook "**Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation: Towards UNEG Guidance**," an abridged version that outlines practical steps on how to prepare, conduct and use HR & GE responsive evaluations. The present document deepens each of these aspects, and provides additional theoretical and applied information, tools and suggestions.

**Please click here for the online version of the report.**

**Please click here to download the report.**

For more UNEG publications, please visit: <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/guidance-documents>

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## **UNEG Brown Bag Seminar on Theory of Change with Dr. Patricia Rogers**

On Friday July 25, Dr. Patricia Rogers of the Royal Melbourne Institute for Technology (RMIT) led a brown bag seminar about the 7 common challenges in using theories of change and how to address them.

Many logic models do not have a coherent or plausible explanation as to how activities are intended to produce or contribute to intended results, most fail to address unintended outcomes, many are too simple or too complicated and they are sometimes not used effectively to guide evaluations. The brown bag seminar gave participants a chance to discuss these and other challenges and strategies.

The session was chaired by Mr. Mathew Varghese, Senior Evaluation Specialist at UNICEF.

**Please click here for the PowerPoint presentation and video of the event.**

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## **Online Consultation on the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda**

On September 8th, UNEG, in partnership with EvalPartners, International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), International organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), UN Women and GEF, began an 8-week on-line consultation on the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda. Participants include Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs), multilateral organizations, bilateral, governments & civil society organizations.

The consultation, building on the existing conceptual framework on evaluation capacity development, will address the following overall question: "How can the global evaluation community contribute to ensuring that evaluation will play a key role in shaping and contributing to the implementation of international (including future Sustainable Development Goals), regional and national policies and programmes to achieve sustainable and equitable development?"

**[Please click here for event details and how to participate.](#)**

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## **New UNEG Videos Available**

Videos of UNEG Chair and Vice-Chairs talking about the UNEG Strategy and the four Strategic Objectives are now available. **[Please click here to view.](#)**

Video of the 2014 Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) & the Bangkok High-level Panel event are now available. Thanks to the United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP) and UNESCAP in their role as EPE and AGM organizing committees.

**[Please click here to view videos of EPE and high-level events.](#)**

Nine (9) videos were filmed as part of the **UNEG Lessons & Insights Series** in Bangkok during the Evaluation Week. Interviewees were asked to provide their lessons and insights for the practice of evaluation. They include UNEG members and invited speakers for the EPE and the High-level event.

**[Please click here to view series.](#)**

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## **News from UNEG Member Agencies**

## UNEG Farewells & Welcomes

UNEG would like to acknowledge the contributions of our departing members and warmly welcome our new colleagues to the UNEG community.

### Farewell

- As of July 1, 2014, **Nayiri Dolabjian** retired from her position as Evaluation Officer at ICAO
- As of August 1, 2014, **Maria Santamaria Hergueta**, UNEG Head at WHO, moved away from the evaluation function.
- As of August 1, 2014, **Mark Pedersen**, Chief of Evaluation Team and UNEG Head at DPKO/DFS, moved to Integrated Training Service of DPKO/DFS. A new UNEG Head at DPKO/DFS will be announced soon.
- In September 2014, **Robert D. van den Berg**, UNEG Head at GEF, finished his term as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at GEF. He continues to serve as President at the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS).

### Welcome

- United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (**DGACM**), Monitoring, Evaluation, Risk Management and Statistical Verification Unit (MERS) and United Nations Peace Building Support Office (**PBSO**), Financing for Peacebuilding Branch (FPB) joined UNEG as its members. **Felix Carayon** (DGACM) and **Tammy Smith** (PBSO) serve as UNEG Heads from these two units.
- Susanne Freuh**, former Executive Secretary of JIU and UNEG Observer, now serves as Director of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service. She is the new UNEG Head of UNESCO.
- Starting August 1, 2014, **Elilarasu Renganathan**, Representative for Evaluation and Organizational Learning, WHO, serves as the UNEG Head
- **Juha Uitto**, UNEG Executive Coordinator and Deputy Director of UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, joined GEF as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office in September. He is the new UNEG Head at GEF.
- **Oanh Nguyen**, Evaluation Specialist at UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, now serves the role of UNEG Executive Coordinator. She joined IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation in 2007 and recently joined UNDP.

\*This is based on information made available to the UNEG secretariat. Please contact [uneg.contact@undp.org](mailto:uneg.contact@undp.org) to add any welcomes or farewells within the UNEG evaluation community.

## **UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Participation at the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)**

*Ottawa, Canada*

Indran Naidoo (Director) and Juha Uitto (Deputy Director) from IEO instructed at the 2014 International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) in July 2014 in Ottawa, Canada. The programme featured a two-week Core Course, followed by two weeks of in-depth workshops, taught by a group of international faculty drawn from Southern and Northern organizations. Indran presented a lecture on **"Independence, Credibility and Use"**. His presentation shared experiences of the IEO of UNDP and UNEG in evaluation, emphasizing the importance of ensuring independence, credibility, and utility in evaluation. Topics discussed included the significance of quality assurance, the role of institutional linkage and capacity, and the need for stakeholder engagement. Indran also participated on an international panel on "Managing and Evaluation Unit" alongside Rob van den Berg (Director: IEO – GEF), Goberdhan Singh (Former Director: CIDA), Maliha Khan (Oxfam USA) and Niels Dabelstein (former Director, DANIDA Evaluation unit). Juha Uitto along with Rob van den Berg instructed the workshop on "Challenges in Evaluating Environment and Development Issues". The workshop tackled difficulties of scope, timing, and linkages between climate change, natural resources management, poverty and development in evaluations. The presentation covered some of the topics examined in a recent book on **"Evaluating Environment in International Development"**, edited by Juha Uitto.

### **Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD: National Round-table Workshop for the China Country Programme Evaluation**

On July 17, 2014, the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) co-organized a national round-table workshop for the China country programme evaluation.

**[Please click here for more information.](#)**

## **UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): New Evaluation Policy and Strategy**

ECLAC is pleased to share the Commission's new evaluation policy and strategy. The document reflects some important reforms introduced in the Commission's evaluation practice since 2013. Some highlights include:

- Strengthened independence of the evaluation function by relying solely on external teams to conduct evaluations and guaranteeing them full editorial independence.
- Improved quality control mechanisms of ECLAC evaluations through the creation of an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)
- Enhanced participation of implementing partners in the evaluation process, including other regional commissions and entities in the broader United Nations system.
- Incorporation of a gender perspective in evaluations' criteria of analysis, in line with ECLAC's gender mainstreaming strategy.
- Establishment of a follow-up process to ECLAC evaluations, with the objective of strengthening accountability, facilitating results-based management, and promoting organizational change through the establishment of best practices within the Commission.
- Expanded involvement in knowledge-sharing on evaluations with various evaluation networks in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), and the evaluation network of the five United Nations regional commissions.

**[Please click here for the ECLAC Evaluation Policy and Strategy](#)**

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## **UNEG Member Agency Publications**



UNDP - 2013 Annual Report on Evaluation

WFP - 2013 Annual Evaluation Report

ITC - 2013 Independent Evaluation of ITC

UNICEF - 2013 Global: Evaluation of UNICEF's Cluster Lead Agency Role in Humanitarian Action (CLARE)

UNDP - Proceedings from the Third International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities

UNDP - Assessment of Development Results: Sierra Leone

UNDP - Assessment of Development Results: Timor Leste

UNDP - Assessment of Development Results: Afghanistan

UNDP - Assessment of Development Results: Kenya

IFAD - Kingdom of Lesotho: Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Programme

IFAD - Republic of Ecuador: Country Programme Evaluation

IFAD - Evaluation Synthesis Report on IFAD's Engagement in Middle-Income Countries

IFAD - Republic of Moldova Country Programme Evaluation

IFAD - IFAD Replenishments Corporate-level Evaluation

IFAD - Rural Youth Evaluation Synthesis Report

IFAD - Water Conservation and Management Evaluation Synthesis Report

IFAD - Plurinational State of Bolivia: Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project

IFAD - Republic of Senegal: Country Programme Evaluation

IFAD - Kingdom of Bhutan: Agriculture, Marketing and Enterprise Promotion Programme

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## UNEG Members' Corner

### UNEG NY Monthly Drinks Event

On July 18th, UNEG hosted its meet-up of the summer at the UN Delegates Lounge. The event will be a monthly occurrence in which UNEG members can get together to relax and learn more about each others respective projects in a relaxed environment.

On Thursday, August 21st UNEG held another drinks event to bid adieu and best wishes to Juha Uitto as he moved from the Executive Coordinator of UNEG to his new role as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at GEF.

## Evaluation Related News & Events

### International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development

The Climate-Eval Community of Practice, hosted by the Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) and its partners, are pleased to announce the 2nd International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development, scheduled for November 4-6, 2014, in Washington D.C. The conference will bring together evaluation professionals, academics, policymakers and other stakeholders from developed and developing countries with the purpose of fostering the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and methods to evaluate climate change and sustainable development.

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

### Evaluation Learning Event: Innovation and Learning in a Changing Asia

To commemorate its 10th anniversary, Independent Evaluation at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) hosted a learning event on 9-10 September 2014. The purpose of the event was to explore and facilitate the vital links between evaluation, learning, innovation and change in the context of key development challenges facing Asia and the Pacific--inequality and environmental sustainability. [Please click here for event details.](#)

Devex.com also interviewed Vinod Thomas, Director General of Independent Evaluation at the Asian Development Bank, on lessons learned in 10 years of impact evaluation and his projections for the future of independent evaluation. [Please click here for full article.](#)

### ALNAP State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) Review

ALNAP is conducting a State of the Humanitarian System review of international and national humanitarian practitioners, including host governments and are keen to maximise their sample size. There is a prize package that includes tickets to attend a SOHS event in NY, London or Geneva.

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

## Vacancy Announcements (3 New Posts)

**UN Women Seeks Evaluation Specialist, New York, P-3 (2 positions)**

*Apply by Oct 6, 2014*

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

**UNICEF Seeks Consultant for Evaluation of UNICEF Maldives Strategies in Addressing Issues Affecting Women and Children**

*Apply by Sep 24, 2014*

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

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

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If you have any questions, please contact [uneg.contact@undp.org](mailto:uneg.contact@undp.org)

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