

STOP , LOOK & LISTEN

Insights on culturally-responsive research & evaluations from indigenous communities & evaluators in Asia Pacific



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Indexing & promoting Indigenous approaches in service of equity-centered evaluation





Fieldwork Locations: Sri Lanka & Philippines

Study Methodology

Document reviews



ATLAS Survey



Group Discussion



Interviews



Voices project



Field Observation





What we heard



STOP

parasitic / parachute
science

- ✓ “Do no harm” principle
- ✓ Decolonize evaluation / research methodologies



LOOK

at the indigenous
community

- ✓ **respect** the rights, knowledge, cultural traditions and norms of the indigenous community
- ✓ **Shed** stereotypes, acknowledge the diversity of the communities



LISTEN

to the voices of the
indigenous community



**Involve the indigenous
community members
throughout the evaluation
process & the evaluation team**



Questions by indigenous community members to evaluators and researchers

1. What is the study all **about** & its **purpose**?
2. From this study, **how does it benefit the indigenous community**?
3. How long will this study be conducted for?
4. What kind of data collection methods will be used for this study?
5. Through collecting this data, **will it harm our culture? Especially, once the report is published?**

STOP , LOOK  & LISTEN 

FIONA CRAM

*Co-lead
EvalIndigenous*



Key events

- **APEA/SLEVA webinar:**
Launch of the toolkit for indigenous evaluation in asia pacific
 - <https://bit.ly/SLEVA2023OCT>
 - Wednesday, 18th October 2023
 - 6:30 pm IST



SLEVA Webinar Oct



APEA
Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association



**REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!**

4th APEA CONFERENCE
Future of Evaluation: Leveraging Partnerships
for Equitable Development in Asia
4-7 December 2023 | Manila

 bit.ly/APEACon4Reg

Got questions? Email apea.coordinator@gmail.com

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APEA Conf 2023



Community owns MERL

(Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning)

Community of Practice on strengthening community ownership in evaluation

BACKGROUND

The Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy, led by the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA), is the outcome of a series of collaborative efforts that began with the Eval4Action regional consultation held in the Asia Pacific on 25 June 2020. This strategy has been developed through an inclusive and participatory process, engaging various stakeholders such as VOPEs, parliamentarians, public officials, evaluators, and development partners. Together, they have defined key themes and actionable steps aimed at promoting greater use of evaluation to advance national development goals and the SDGs throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

One of the primary focal points of this strategy is the strengthening of community ownership in the evaluation, with particular emphasis on marginalized population groups. Empowering these communities and citizens through evaluation reduces their reliance on external experts and fosters the sustainability of interventions by securing their commitment to evaluation findings.

Authentic ownership emerges when people actively participate in designing projects, monitoring progress, evaluating outcomes, and analyzing results. Therefore, it is crucial for evaluation professionals to transition from being distant experts to becoming attentive listeners, allowing the power to shift toward the community. To support this transformation, the 'Community owns MERL' —a community of practice (CoP) dedicated to strengthening community ownership in evaluation—has been established.



WHO WE ARE

Profile of members - Community owns MERL

- ✓ those **directly engaged** with communities / who work hands-on in the field
- ✓ those who engage more on an **intellectual / academic level**
- ✓ those who engage at the **strategic level**



OUR DREAM



To be thriving, influential group committed to advancing community ownership & involvement of people with lived experience within the design, delivery of programmes/systems & MERL activities

INTERESTED TO JOIN THE COP?

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Learn more on how we are strengthening community ownership in evaluation in Asia Pacific:



bit.ly/APEA-CoP

 Learn More

Community of Practice (CoP)
on strengthening
community ownership in evaluation

bit.ly/CoPbrochure

