IOCE survey of <u>Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation</u> (<u>VOPEs</u>)

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Community of Evaluators Bangladesh Ltd (CoE- Bangladesh)
2. Geographic scope of organization	**National (Bangladesh)**
3. Contact Details	Names and e-addresses of up to three contact persons: 1: Bhabatosh Nath bhabatoshnath@gmail.com 2: Khairul Islam khairulilo@yahoo.com 3: Kamrul Ahsan k_ahsan_poplu@yahoo.com Postal address of VOPE: House # 67A(2nd Floor), Road # 8A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1209, Bangladesh Telephone: +88-02- 9115180, Cell: + 88 01715116a87 VOPE website URL: www. (*not yet in place*)
4. a. Current formal/ registered membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation*(if known; please at least give total)* **4. b. Informal membership** (persons on your mailing list)	Government: NGOs: CSOs: Academics: Private sector (consultants): Other: Private Limited company **a. Total official membership**: 5 **b. Total informal membership**: 21
5. Year VOPE was founded	Informally in 2010, formally in 2013
6. Current status (identify which)	• Informal network • Charter and bylaws adopted • **Legally recognized by government**$\sqrt{}$
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Started working informally since 2010 and worked under the guidance of CoE- South Asia. Formally registered under the government regulation as Private Limited Company on 7th October 2013. At the beginning there were 7 members and gradually increased membership to 21.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	Promote and strengthen the quality of theory, practice and utilization of evaluation at national and regional level.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	• Promote the process and culture of utilization of Evaluation. • Focus on institutionalizing the organization. • Develop linkages with national, regional and international agencies, institutions and individuals to share and disseminate the knowledge generated. • Build capacity and dialogue on Evaluation in the country and at regional level. • Contribute to discussion on ethics and standards of Evaluation.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	**Governance:** Reregistered as a Private Limited Company under the Government Companies Act XVIII of 1994, the VOPE is managed by five key positions namely Chairman(1), Vice Chairman(2), Managing Director(1) and Finance Director(1). More specifically, they are the members of the Governing Body of CoE-Bangladesh. **Services**: Major services rendered include: one regional workshop/F2F meeting with the evaluators, two national sharing sessions with the evaluators from NGOs, government, other development partners and private sectors, advocacy on evaluation and enrolling members of the VOPE. **Finances**: Contributory finance (from the VOPE management), CoE-SA. **Human resources**: Newly started; there is no extra manpower other than the management personnel and other VOPE general members. **Linkages:** CoE-SA, APEA, Government Ministry, NGOs, Donor agencies.
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Skype calls, telephones, website, e-mail and publication Skype address of Two Focal Persons: Chairman- bhabatoshnath Vice Chairman- khairul.murad
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	Two national workshops and one COE-South Asia workshop in last 3 years

13. Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	One mini-Conclave at the end of 2014 of COE-SA (Proposed).
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Mr. Bhabatosh Nath, Chairman, CoE- Bangladesh E-mail: bhabatoshnath@gmail.com
15. Date of this update	11th February 2014

II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

1. Background: Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE). 1.1 Who were/are the key players? 1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee? 1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on? 1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?	1.1 The COE-SA has been for long pursuing towards forming or opening a chapter/branch of the organization in Bangladesh, of course having a separate identity. As a follow up, members of COE from Bangladesh initially has been working informally to this effect and finally is on board completing all the formalities of registration. All the older COE-members from Bangladesh particularly the existing governing body members were the key players. 1.2 At present, we have 5 (five) members in the Governing Board/Body. 1.3 We have a very enthusiastic and highly professional core group (founding members), and a good number of national professionals in evaluation field have been already enrolled and many are in the pipe line. We have strong network with local, regional and international evaluation personnel and forums (including COE-SA and other COEs of the region). 1.4 Raising fund for the operation and sustaining of the organization and developing close linkage/relation with government are the key challenges of the VOPE. Involving younger and female professionals in the group could be a challenge too.
2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?	Motivated, experienced and qualified founder members were the principal driving force. The new and upcoming members, including the young ones, are expected to play important roles in the upcoming days.
3. Evaluation Capacity Building[1]**:** What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?	So far we have organized 2 workshops participated by a host of GO-NGO, donor and government agency professionals. Some of our members conducted informal and formal sessions/training for capacity development of local agencies. Organized a F2F meeting of COE-SA in January 2013 at Dhaka, Bangladesh
4. Context / target entities: More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example: 4.1 Technical capacities to *supply* quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.; 4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself; 4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the *demand* for and use of evaluations by policy makers; 4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation,	As a nascent organization we have not yet started/carried out any such activities. We envision including all of the categories of activities, with focus primarily on 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 in our work plan.

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[1]By evaluation capacity we refer to the capacity of individuals to produce credible and useful evaluations (supply side), but also to institutional capacities to call for and utilize evaluations (demand side).

evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.	
5. Public accountability: Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?	Not yet started/carried out, but planning to start at some stage.
6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.	We would try to focus on: Cultural Sensitivity; Equity; Social justice: Empowerment, Gender, Poverty, Environment/ Climate Change.
7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc.	Experiences mainly in: • conducting evaluation including impact and result-based evaluation in NGOs, INGOs, Embassy and leading donor agencies like EU, DFID, UN and USAID by the CoE- Bangladesh members individually and jointly. Effort has also been given to utilize evaluation results by the implementing organizations and donors. • organizing sharing sessions to discuss the evaluation findings among the CoE members and other evaluators and program implementers. • organizing workshops led by local experts; • administering mentoring programmes/training and (not by the VOPE but by individual members) • designing M&E system (not by the VOPE but by individual members) • organizing F2F meeting of COE-SA at Dhaka Bangladesh
8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	Not yet developed. ….on process at this moment
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	We have a plan to do so.
10. Progress and results: What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?	We do not have remarkable achievements yet, however, some efforts have been made by individual evaluators (among the CoE-Bangladesh governing board members) to take initiatives to share the evaluation report /findings with the stakeholders at grassroots level (after translating the English version report in Bangla language). Some organizations like World Concern, ADESH (local NGO) have already materialized it.
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	It is a good idea to spend resources at the beginning to try to create a cohesive group that shares a common vision and is energized to participate continuously.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	• Conducting a MRE study in Bangladesh as a part of Regional (Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh) sponsored by EvalPartners/IOCE. • Organizing a mini-conclave at Dhaka Bangladesh • Making training plan on M&E and conducting training • More liaison/ communication/ sharing meetings with the related government ministries, departments like Planning ministry, Finance

	ministry on Evaluation ethics and utilization of evaluation results.
13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?For example, would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share lessons learned, advise each other? If so, describe what you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.	Primarily with COE-SA and other national COE/similar agencies, with focus on Start-up challenges, how to organize small membership at start to make progress on wide-ranging priorities – capacity building, writing skills development, organizational challenges, etc.
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of IOCE and the EvalPartners Initiative?	Learning from successful organizations (Lessons Learned) – specifically from those in different parts of the trajectory, since needs and lessons are very specific to the stage of the organization's life-cycle. Some thinking on this would be helpful. For example, would a study of positive/negative deviants be illustrative?
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in IOCE and EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	Yes, we do, though at this moment CoE- Bangladesh is a very small organization. The intended ways of collaboration include (but not limited to): • getting involved in commissioning/implementing studies/evaluations at local/national, regional and global levels; • (Help) organizing and participating in workshops/seminars/conferences/F2F meetings
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	Not exactly at this stage, may be later (after accomplishing some more important events).