

# IOCE EvalPartners profile survey of Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs)

## I. Basic profile information

<b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>	<b>Ghana Network of Independent and Professional Evaluators (G-IPEN)</b>
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b>	National: <b>Ghana</b>
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Name of main contact person: <b>Charles Nornoo</b> E-address: <a href="mailto:charles@genuineproductsltd.com">charles@genuineproductsltd.com</a> or <a href="mailto:cnornoo@homechoice.co.uk">cnornoo@homechoice.co.uk</a> Postal address: P. O. Box CT5517. Cantonments. Accra. Ghana Telephone: +233-208127216 VOPE website URL: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GhanaEvaltalk/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GhanaEvaltalk/</a>
<b>4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)</b>	Government: 5 NGOs/CSOs: 40 Academics: 10 Private sector (consultants): 15 Other: 8 (including Financial Institutions) <b>Total membership: 78</b>
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	<b>June 2003</b>
<b>6. Current status</b> (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal network</li> </ul> <p>G-IPEN has been an informal network till now. It used to be called the Ghana Evaluation Network (GEN). A constitution and three year strategic plan are now being developed to formalise the network (2012). It is yet to be registered with the Registrar Generals Department of Ghana. We are in the process of getting a National Service Person to Man a secretariat.</p>
<b>7. Information about growth:</b> evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	<p>The network, started as a yahoo group for learning and sharing on M&amp;E related issues, began with 6 members and has now grown to 78. In 2009, we were able to have two members volunteering to take charge of a Northern and a Southern Cluster of the Network. There was also an attempt to organise a National Conference that was cancelled due to some organisational difficulties.</p> <p>A membership drive is currently underway as we take steps to formalise the network and make it functional, not just an online based support network but as an offline resource for creating learning and sharing spaces, for engaging with the government's developmental processes and for strengthen the voice of M&amp;E professionals in development policy debates.</p>
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	<p>G-IPEN is dedicated to the advancement of evaluation as a professional discipline in Ghana.</p> <p>In the field of evaluation, the NETWORK promotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Knowledge</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Professional Development</li> </ul>
<b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>	Professional Development, knowledge sharing
<b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	At the moment, the network is coordinated by Charles Nornoo with support from Ama Bartimeus.
<b>11. Means of communication with members,</b> e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	List serve (Yahoo Groups) and via Email.
<b>12. Past events</b> (e.g. during	Participation in AFREA conference in Accra

past year)	
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location</b>	Re-Launch Meeting (dates to be confirmed)
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Charles Nornoo
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2012

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p><b>1. Background:</b> Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).</p> <p>1.1 Who were/are the key players?</p> <p>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee?</p> <p>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?</p> <p>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?</p>	<p>The G-IPEN began as an informal network of a few evaluation professionals that realised the need to begin to share information on best practices and jobs.</p> <p>The key players were Charles Nornoo, Patience Tetteh, Naana Agyeman Mensah, Victor Heh, George Kwadzo and Saa Dittoh. These seven became the de-facto governing council.</p> <p>Our core strength is that our membership is made up of people that are practically involved in M&amp;E practice and are actively consulting in the field.</p> <p>The main challenge is getting a secretariat started to lead the formal organisation and management of G-IPEN. Current efforts has resulted in G-IPEN obtaining office space at No. 90 Freetown Avenue, East Legon. Accra. A National Service person is to be recruited to man the office.</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>The desire to share and learn from one another.</p>
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<p>A Listserv for dissemination of info and published materials</p> <p>Written articles published in Ghana Business &amp; Financial Times</p> <p>Linking members to jobs and scholarship opportunities</p>
<p><b>4. Context / target entities:</b> More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p> <p>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</p> <p>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</p> <p>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</p> <p>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&amp;E systems, etc.</p>	<p>Policy makers</p> <p>M&amp;E Practitioners</p> <p>The general Public</p>
<p><b>5. Public accountability:</b> Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any</p>	<p>We disseminated both the AEA and AfrEA Standards to members several times.</p>

success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?	
<b>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate?</b> 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.	None as at now
<b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organizing workshops led by local experts;</li> <li>• organizing webinars with international speakers;</li> <li>• designing and delivering e-learning programmes;</li> <li>• administering mentoring programmes; etc.</li> </ul>	None as at now
<b>8. Standards:</b> Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	Uses the AfrEA Standards
<b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Yes
<b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?	Well informed membership Members got jobs and assignments
<b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	Should as a matter of urgency organise a national conference to formalize G-IPEN. Let people begin to pay for services for them to appreciate what they are getting
<b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?	Formalise what we have began into a registered entity
<b>13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?</b> 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.	Yes, with other VOPES like AEA to learn from their experience
<b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	None for now
<b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in	Yes, initially to glean as much from experience of members and also use the opportunity to build our capacity and establish as a formidable institution

EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	
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