

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Nepal Evaluation Society (NES)
2. Geographic scope of organization (See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)	National: Nepal Sectors: Industry, Tourism, Agriculture, Forestry, Education, Environment, and Macroeconomic policy
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Mr. Subarna Lal Shrestha E-address: nep.eva.society@gmail.com Postal address: Telephone: 977-1-4285840 VOPE website URL: www.nes.com.np
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government: NGOs/CSOs: Academics: 4 Private sector (consultants): 13 Other: Total membership: 17
5. Year VOPE was founded	2009
6. Current status (identify which)	Legally recognized by government x
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	The number of members and financial resources are gradually increasing following its establishment.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	The mission of NES is to develop the Nepalese evaluation system as a capable, strong and main managerial instrument in the planned development effort by developing evaluation culture, capacity and commitment; evaluating the results of development; and designing result based instruments to focus on delivery to target groups.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	To establish NES as a professional organization on M&E promoting evaluation culture, developing evaluation capacity and conducting independent evaluation.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	NES is an independent, non-government and non-profit making organization legally registered under the Nepal law. Dr. Champak Prasad Pokharel, ex-member of the National Planning Commission, Nepal is the Chairperson of the NES and Mr. Subarna Lal Shrestha is its Secretary General. NES has provided training on M&E, prepared guidelines on M&E, conducted talk programs on MfDR and M&E, prepared MEDEP (micro enterprise development program) Approach Paper for the nation's Three Year Interim Plan:2010-2012), prepared Integrated Tourism Development and Management Plan of Sindhupalchowk district etc. It has capable and experienced members and manpower to provide different services. NES is gradually developing its linkages with other organizations.
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Email, website, regular meetings and telephone conversation.
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	Conducted Talk Program on Japan Evaluation System, participated in the ODA Evaluation Workshop as Moderator, conducted M&E Internalization Program, prepared Integrated Tourism Development and Management Plan of Sindhupalchowk district.
13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	M&E Workshop, Talk Program and Some Policy Study (under perusal as regular activates)
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Mr. Subarna Lal Shrestha Nep.eva.society@gmail.com , subarnashrestha1@hotmail.com
15. Date of this update	2 nd April 2012

II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p>1. Background: 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>NES is a professional organization established by a group of well-known and highly reputed professionals and academicians of Nepal lead by Dr. Shankar Prashad Sharma, immediate past Chairperson of NES and present Ambassador of Nepal to the United States of America and initiated by present Chairperson Dr. Champak Prasad Pokharel and Secretary General Mr. Subarna Lal Shrestha. It was established to strengthen evaluation system in Nepal, which is still a low priority area. The Executive Committee of NES consists of 11 members including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary General and Immediate Past Chairperson. The committee consists of the personalities like ex-vice chairman and members of planning commission, ex-governor of the central bank, professors, researchers with adequate exposure in M & E. Its main strengths are its highly reputed and qualified members well versed in policies, planning, monitoring and evaluation in different thematic areas. The main challenges are the low priority given to evaluation in Nepal and in the region and gradually eroding the supply of evaluators.</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>NES is an organization established just three years ago, and its driving forces are attachments of committed lead professionals of the country in policy and evaluation field and the gradual recognition the institution is receiving nationally and internationally.</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>NES has conducted M&E training, prepared M&E guidelines for MEDEP, conducted M&E internalization program and Talk programs and participated in the national and international programs on evaluation capacity development.</p>
<p>4. Context / target entities: 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&E systems, etc.</p>	<p>More specifically, NES seeks to influence evaluation culture, capacity and commitment enhancing the enabling environment, its demand and use by policy makers, and influence governmental policies related to evaluation. In this context, (i) NES intends to collaborate with appropriate professionals and academic institutes. We have already started affiliations of professionals from those arenas through membership. (ii) We are gradually saving funds from the contribution made by members from part of their remuneration received through works (iii) we intend to seek help from interested contributors for the cause of institutional build-up (iv) organize talks to create demand in the sector and involve younger people in the team as a mix to enhance the supply of quality people in the field (v) promote M & E through result based culture in the modality of Paris Declaration on both government and donor side. As almost two third of the development budget of the country comes from donor assistance, persuading result culture also on the donor side is also equally important for a least developed country like Nepal.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>NES intends to work for strengthening evaluation focusing on transparency and public accountability. We are planning to enter into that area. But we have felt that enhancing organizational financial strength first is key to that. Nepal being a poor country, social sector donations from private sector of the country is yet far away and contributing capacity of the professionals is also limited.</p>
<p>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For</p>	<p>Issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, inclusion, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty, public -</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>private participation development and enhancement of the public auditing in evaluation culture are important thematic areas to advocate. However, we have not been able to do much as the institution is new and resource is limited.</p>
<p>7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc. 	<p>All examples mentioned are important. However we feel that learning by doing through appropriate professional follow-up with due encouragement of the participants is more effective than only the lecture based discussion and trainings. This part has been grossly overlooked in the M & E field.</p>
<p>8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.</p>	<p>Not, yet. We as new institution need exposure in the modality.</p>
<p>9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<p>NES has roster of consultants, and sharing is done through meetings and exchange of e-mails.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>We are developing as a institution in a reasonable speed. There is increasing interest for its membership.</p>
<p>11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<p>NES is very young to make such recommendation and intends to go ahead with well wishes and support of the national and international organizations.</p>
<p>12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<p>M&E workshop and independent evaluation.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>NES is involved in establishing APEA-Net (Asia Pacific Evaluation Association Network) initiated by Prof. Ryokichi Hirono of Japan Evaluation Society, and is willing to share with others.</p>
<p>14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>Good practices in evaluation should be shared between EvalPartners.</p>
<p>15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>	<p>Yes. Involvement in evaluation work, training, workshop and information sharing are our area of interest.</p>