

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

## I. Basic profile information

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| 1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)  | <b>Papua New Guinea Association of Professional Evaluators Inc. (PNG AoPE)</b>   |
| 2. Geographic scope of organization (See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)  | National: <b>Papua New Guinea</b>  |
| 3. Contact Details  | Name of main contact person: Rosemary Hobart-Karo<br>E-address: <a href="mailto:rhkaro@gmail.com">rhkaro@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:pngaope@gmail.com">pngaope@gmail.com</a><br>Postal address: PO Box 970, Waigani, Port Moresby, PNG<br>Telephone: 3211766<br>VOPE website URL: not yet   |
| 4. a. Current formal/ registered membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)<br>4. b. Informal membership (persons on your mailing list) | Government: 55<br>NGOs/CSOs:7<br>Academics: -<br>Private sector (consultants):26<br>Other: nil<br>a. Total official membership: <u>88</u><br>b. Total informal membership: <u>nil</u>  |
| 5. Year VOPE was founded  | 2010   |
| 6. Current status (identify which)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legally recognized by government</li> </ul>   |
| 7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.   | <p>PNG AoPE in its early form was an informal community of practice group initiated by expatriate M&amp;E consultants in the country. In mid-2006 two expatriate evaluators tried to form a group of local people with a mutual interest in M&amp;E, to widen interest in M&amp;E as a performance management tool. Expatriates attending meetings had to bring a Papua New Guinea colleague as a way of widening the circle of interested people.</p> <p>It took 3 years for local attendance to grow and for people to realize the potential of engaging PNG evaluators. The AES supported the idea and provided an interesting report on forming an evaluation society. But impetus was lacking.</p> <p>In 2009 a number of Papua New Guinean people went to the AES conference in Canberra. This was the catalyst needed to take a 'bumbling-along' group to a new and exciting level: local people determined to form the PNG Association of Professional Evaluators. Within weeks, meetings were called and resolutions made. An all-Papua New Guinean committee was elected, the constitution written and a 2-year plan developed. With much effort over the next 12 months, this group of six local M&amp;E practitioners, supported by two expatriate mentors helped register the professional association under PNG's company registration act and was a formalized VOPE by November 2010.</p> |
| 8. Purpose and mission of VOPE  | To initiate and encourage the development of a culture of monitoring and evaluation at all levels of Papua New Guinea society  |
| 9. Current strategy and emphasis  | <p>We have just sat our inaugural AGM and have strategized new opportunities for AoPE, these are summarised below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To empower our voluntary member events, whereby members present their evaluation reports and experiences each month</li> <li>To engage in mentoring programs with experts who are also members and formalize a database to ensure members can build each other's capacity</li> <li>Engage with academic institutions to grow the membership by having a student chapter with University of Papua New Guinea</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek sponsorships and funding to support the daily operations of the association</li> </ul>   |
| <b>10. Organizational capacity:</b><br>Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc. | Our organisation consists of a three tiered structure where we have a four-member executive comprising of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer with mentors that help guide and direct the association's ambitions and annual plans. We second echelon consists of a ten member committee whose role consists of attracting sponsorships, providing technical capacity as well as manage the communications with members. We do have a governance framework consisting of our Constitution, a Code of Ethics, membership application and renewal forms, including memberships pack for new members. At this time we have offered member workshops, monthly member's presentations and information for members to attend network associations such AES member workshops. Although we are young, we have had the opportunity to link up with the Australian Evaluation Society (AES) that has provided much support and capacity building services to the AoPE. |
| <b>11. Means of communication with members,</b> e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website   | Monthly newsletters that is emailed via a mailing list   |
| <b>12. Past events</b> (e.g. during past year)  | AGM (June 2012)<br>Monthly BYOL (April – July 2012)<br>EPSP funded workshops for members within public sector (Nov 2011)<br>Plenary Session (August 2011)<br>3 Member workshops (March and July 2011)  |
| <b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences –</b> dates, location  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly member presentations, various locations (July, August and September)</li> <li>AESN Annual Conference – Adelaide (August)</li> <li>Evaluation Consult workshops, Ela Beach hotel – (July, Oct)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>   | Rosemary Hobart-Karo<br><a href="mailto:rhkaro@gmail.com">rhkaro@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>15. Date of this update</b>  | 30 July 2012   |

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

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| <b>1. Background:</b> Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).<br>1.1 Who were/are the key players?<br>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee?<br>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?<br>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address? | <p>In mid-2006 two expatriate evaluators tried to form a group of local people with a mutual interest in M&amp;E, to widen interest in M&amp;E as a performance management tool. Expatriates attending meetings had to bring a Papua New Guinea colleague as a way of widening the circle of interested people.</p> <p>It took 3 years for local attendance to grow and for people to realize the potential of engaging PNG evaluators. The AES supported the idea and provided an interesting report on forming an evaluation society. But impetus was lacking.</p> <p>In 2009 a number of Papua New Guinean people went to the AES conference in Canberra. This was the catalyst needed to take a 'bumbling-along' group to a new and exciting level: local people determined to form the PNG Association of Professional Evaluators. Within weeks, meetings were called and resolutions made. An all-Papua New Guinean Executive of four was elected, the constitution written and a 2-year plan developed.</p> <p>Widely reported, interest in the Association continues to gain momentum within government agencies. Importantly, employers are seeing the advantages of professional development in M&amp;E and are supporting staff to belong to a professional body run by Papua New Guineans. To date there are more than 80 financial members.</p> <p>April 2012 marked an important occasion as AoPE had their inaugural AGM which presented their first financial and performance reports, including the</p> |
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|   | <p>re-election of the four executives, and a ten member committee to support the endeavors of the association.</p> <p>Our greatest strength has to lie in the support we get from AusAID through its various program grants to animate our plans. More so, the passion of a young group of professionals that are committed to the theory of change in this country drives the association to embark on growing our community of practice.</p> <p>On the other hand, our weakness has been the fact that we don't have a secretariat to perform the day-to-day activities of running an association. Most of the jobs of seeking funds, creating proposals, and coordinating events have been in the hands of the executive and their mentors – a very risky situation for all those that have a full-time job.</p>   |
| <p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b><br/>What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>  | <p>The two driving forces of our VOPE has been;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>local ownership and drive</b> to create local networks in the M&amp;E field in PNG, as well as engage in peer to peer learning through our community of practice programs</li> <li>ii. <b>mentors</b> that have supported the local association since its inception and have been able to inspire and trust in local leadership, have confidence in young practitioners making a difference and the capacity to facilitate meetings with regional partners and AusAID has allowed for the association to plough on.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>  | <p>We have not had much experience in this area, however we have engaged providing workshops, and the monthly presentations of M&amp;E practice in individual sectors with members.</p>   |
| <p><b>4. Context / target entities:</b><br/>More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</li> <li>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</li> <li>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</li> <li>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&amp;E systems, etc.</li> </ul> | <p>The PNGAoPE has been targeting PNG Government departments and agencies and recently encouraged members also from the Civil Society sectors.</p> <p>4.1: Since the establishment of the association, all members fit into the beginner and intermediate level in terms of M&amp;E skills and knowledge. Very few are in the advanced level. The Association has been partnering with Aid programs in the country (AusAID) and participating in their M&amp;E trainings. The close association with these Aid programs has greatly assisted the association as members of the association have benefited greatly in attending M&amp;E trainings.</p> <p>4.2: The association is currently run through a voluntary basis. The executives of the association at the moment are focusing on members' capacity enhancement. The association relies heavily on donor support and at the moment isn't focusing on organizational capacity. The association will seek support through donor support to strengthen its organizational capacity.</p> <p>4.3: Since the establishment of PNGAoPE, the members of the association have expressed and identified the lack of M&amp;E systems in their departments and agencies. This has prompted the association to source training to capacity build members to be advocates of M&amp;E in their respective government departments and to start embracing the culture of monitoring and evaluation. M&amp;E is also seen as a new concept in most government departments and agencies and therefore requires more time and work for the association and its members to work closely with the government departments. At the moment, the association is building capacity of its members through training in order for members to start influencing and advocating and demanding for evaluations to be a priority</p> |

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|  | <p>in government departments and eventually leading to establishment of evaluation policies.</p> <p>4.4: As the association is in its infant stages, it is too soon to expect significant influence on government policies relating to evaluation. The association is encouraging it's more experienced and trained members to be advocates of M&amp;E and to influence policies in their respective departments.</p> <p>Members, who have attended trainings through the AoPE or supporting networks such as EPSP, have been tasked by their departments to assist in M&amp;E. Some have started working on developing M&amp;E frameworks for specific programs and policies in their departments.</p> <p>The association has also recently been invited by a government department to provide comments and feedback on evaluations that they have conducted. Again this may not be much, but it is portraying the involvement of the association in promoting M&amp;E and also that government departments are recognizing the existence of the association.</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 success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?</p>  | <p>Our VOPE has yet to engage in this area influentially, however indirectly through our members in the public sector and the roles they play, contribute to strengthening oversight and transparency of government agency. One example is a member working within a central agency – Department of National Planning who is preparing an M&amp;E Framework as per a Workshop in March 2012 for the new Population Policy to be held in Manus province in August 2012.</p>   |
| <p><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.</p>   | <p>The association is working towards contextualizing M&amp;E to embrace PNG's culture. M&amp;E has been part of our cultural life (eg; monitoring weather for planting and harvesting food crops, monitoring weather for fishing purposes). The challenge for the association is contextualizing M&amp;E to embrace our culture.</p> <p>The association has yet to really venture out to address issues listed as we are still a new association and still in the process of building members capacity and skills to a level where they can start advocating for such issues as well as the association.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize monthly meetings to promote local practitioners present their current program M&amp;E activities and evaluations</li> <li>• Organize workshops led by external experts for members</li> <li>• Email across information of webinars sourced from UN</li> <li>• Deliver e-newsletters to promote local practitioners</li> </ul>  |
| <p><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.</p>  | <p>The PNGAoPE adheres to and adopted the Australasian Evaluation Society's professional standards, ethical codes and competencies. Attached for your perusal.</p>   |
| <p><b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>   | <p>At the moment we do not have a database showing member's expertise, so sharing employment/consultancy opportunities is done through informal networks.</p>  |
| <p><b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so</p>   | <p>Progress and results (expected):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated the association through the IPA as a</li> </ul>  |

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| <p>far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?</p>  | <p>registered association (November 2010) and was launched by government officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The production and professional printing of the Constitution, Ethics and Membership Certificates;</li> <li>• Packaging and production of a membership kit comprising of Welcome letter, Information sheet, Calendar of Events and the above governance materials;</li> <li>• We had our first plenary session was facilitated by Leigh Cupitt and Rosemary Hobart to plan out member events. A survey was conducted at the same time to find out the professional capacity of members and preferences of programs for evaluation capacity building.</li> <li>• Three member workshops organized and facilitated by Linda Kelly (Mar 2011), Anne Markewiez (July 2011) and Kate Averill (May 2012).</li> <li>• Provide a bimonthly e-newsletter to members on current M&amp;E happenings and events around PNG and the region</li> <li>• Presented a poster at the 2011 AES conference, Sydney about 'Importance of localising the concept of an evaluation society in the pacific'</li> </ul> <p>Unexpected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AusAID M&amp;E Expert group interest in engaging with local efforts through AoPE</li> <li>• Be known as a VOPE through IOCE</li> <li>• Invited to be a part of the 'President's Quartet' for 2012 AES Conference to give brief overview of the ways in which their society is addressing challenges and changes in their own part of the world. Other three presidents on the panel will be outgoing AES president Alan Woodward; Larry Bremner (Canadian Evaluation Society); Soma de Silva (International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>11. Lessons learned:</b><br/>Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be proactive and open to learning how to organise and sustain an association – it does pay off to learn from other's experiences, research and network with other evaluation associations in your region.</li> <li>2. Ensure to have a strong network of local and international people with the same focus. One of the ways our VOPE was knitted together was our commonality – attending the AES conference</li> <li>3. Be resourceful – not everything operates with cash flow. Our major weakness has been generating revenue, so our events are very low key, BUT we make use of the opportunity to ensure the event organised is useful and empowering to our members.</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six members to attend 2012 AES conference sponsored through a grant proposal in August</li> <li>• Mentoring program to be designed and rolled out</li> <li>• Develop a member database</li> <li>• Finalize the case study to be sent to IOCE</li> <li>• Review of membership fee structure</li> <li>• Calendar of events for the next 12 months including monthly presentations by local practitioners</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>13. Willing to share with other</b></p>  | <p>Willing to share:</p>   |

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| <p><b>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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experiences in submitting successful grant proposals to AusAID</li> <li>- Members presentations</li> <li>- Our membership professional contacts</li> </ul> <p>Advice to seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundraising opportunities to sustain the association</li> <li>- Establishing a secretariat under a VOPE</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>  | <p>The EvalPartners initiative can enable VoPEs to engage with each other regionally, as technology is a challenge in PNG, and sometimes meeting face to face is a better option.</p>   |
| <p><b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>  | <p>Yes, we do want to be actively involved in the EvalPartners initiative to meet one of the objectives of our association which is to <i>establish and foster professional relationships networks of practicing evaluators regionally and internationally (AoPE Constitution, p 4.4)</i></p> <p>We would primarily like to learn from other VOPEs to better manage and sustain our association in the region, create clear networking objectives with others to grow our forte in the pacific as well as provide wider opportunities to our members to engage professionally with other countries.</p> |