



International Year of Evaluation 2015 Message to South Africa

It is our pleasure to send this message to the people and the Government of South Africa, as well as SAMEA, at the historical moment of celebrating International Year of Evaluation nationally. This is a great example of a government which is really committed to evaluation and promote evaluation culture through IYE.

Year 2015 was declared as the International Year of Evaluation at the Third International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities organized in São Paulo, Brazil, 29 Sep-2 Oct 2013. The aim of designating 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation is to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at international, regional, national and local levels. EvalYear is a global movement to strengthen an enabling environment for evaluation at different levels. The aim is to strengthen the demand for and use of evaluation to inform public policies that are equity-focused and gender-responsive. 2015 is the year when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be replaced by a new set of internationally agreed goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is now widely acknowledged that national development policies and programmes should be informed by evidence generated by credible national monitoring and evaluation systems, while ensuring policy coherence at regional and global level. This will ensure evaluation is mainstreamed in SDG as well as national development goals.

EvalPartners brings together national/ regional evaluation associations, development partners, parliamentarians, civil society and government representatives to prepare to celebrate 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation and to use the visibility brought to evaluation profession by the EvalYear 2015 to strengthen an evaluation culture in each country.

A series of 32 international evaluation events have been planned for 2015, in which an “evaluation torch” will be passed over. Most importantly United Nations endorsed International Year of Evaluation through the UN Resolution

on Evaluation. United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon lit the evaluation torch at the UN Evaluation Group Evaluation Week and emphasized importance of evaluation in the post 2015 development agenda and expressed United Nation's commitment towards it.

EvalPartners is also facilitating a multi stakeholder consultation to generate ideas for the Global Evaluation Agenda for 2016-2020. The Global Evaluation Agenda will guide mainstreaming evaluation at national level and global development agenda. The Global Evaluation Agenda for 2016-2020 will be launched in November 2015 at the Parliament of Nepal in the context of Global Evaluation Week.

We are very happy about the key achievements made in South Africa which are great resources for other countries as well. Although it is not possible to mention all of them, we would like to highlight few as below;

- 1) A Feasibility Study on Professionalization of Evaluation in South Africa, to explore the most appropriate route for professionalising evaluation in South Africa and to develop a roadmap for implementation of professionalization.
- 2) SAMEA 5th Biennial M&E Conference "Using evaluation to improve people's lives" 12-16 October 2015 in Johannesburg – to be co-hosted by SAMEA, PSC & DPME.
- 3) The publication of the book Evaluation Management in South Africa and Africa. Fanie Cloete, Babette Rabie and Cristo de Coning (Editors).
- 4) The publication: African Evaluation Journal Special Edition on the South African National Evaluation System Ian Goldman, Babette Rabie and Mark Abrahams (Editors).

EvalPartners send best wishes together with the Evaluation Torch to South Africans for the successful celebration of IYE.

Marco Segone and Natalia Kosheleva, EvalPartners Co-chairs
Ziad Moussa, IOCE President

Message from 3ie

South Africa and the Year of Evaluation

I congratulate our friends in South Africa on the way that you are celebrating 2015 as the Year of Evaluation. I am sending this message as Board Chair of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation. What drives us as an organisation is the vision of improving lives through impact evaluation. To make this vision a reality we aim to generate new evidence of what works, to synthesise and disseminate this evidence, to build a culture of evidence-based policy-making, and to develop capacity to produce and use impact evaluations.

It's a pleasure to see how these themes are taken up in a very practical way in the programme of events that you have planned for the year. No country, rich, middle income or poor, can yet be satisfied with the quality, relevance and above all the use made of the growing body of evaluations. The Year of Evaluation is a challenge to us all to promote rigorous evaluation of key programmes, and to feed back the lessons, positive and negative, from these evaluations into policy.

South Africa is a prime partner for 3ie. We'd like to think that we have made some contribution to your impressive programme of reviews and evaluations of public interventions. We are also very pleased with the way in which you are using your capacity also for the benefit of your colleagues elsewhere in Africa, as they begin to develop their own systems. The Year of Evaluation will encourage more countries to move down the path you are taking, and we look forward to working with you to develop the culture of evidence-based policies across the continent.

Richard Manning

Board Chair: 3ie

Message from CONEVAL, Mexico

All countries struggle to become democratic and inclusive. Perhaps some countries in Western Europe started some time ago, although they are still struggling with exclusion. Others started the whole process later.

It was not until 1994 that South Africa had free elections. Perhaps it was relatively late, but they seek to build strong institutions from the very beginning. And certainly they are not only catching up, SA is setting an example in terms of accountability and evaluation; two intrinsic elements of democracies.

I met Ian Goldman and his team in 2010, when they toured around Mexico, Colombia and the US searching for examples of evaluation systems. We were happy to help. Since then, SA's M&E system has grown both in scope and in efficiency. Their objective: improving service delivery through the use of evidence.

The Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation had the vision to construct their M&E system and today their evaluation unit, DPME, is a leader in evaluation and measurement internationally. Under Sean Phillip's leadership, they have already implemented 38 evaluations, but the important element is that they use those evaluations to improve public policy. DPME's experience is now an example for many Southern countries in terms of evaluation.

Inclusion, poverty and democracy are still challenges for SA, and for most countries. But using evidence wisely, as it's happening in SA, can speed up results.

Congratulations DPME.

Gonzalo Hernández Licona
Secretary Executive
CONEVAL
Mexico

Message from Colombia

Supporting the 2015 International Year of Evaluation

The government role is changing from public service provider to public value generator. This is a big challenge and we still have little knowledge about: how to improve government performance to achieve better results. This is why the systematic analysis of public policies, programmes and projects, through evaluations, has become one of the most important mechanism to understand how to strength public initiatives to achieve societal goals.

We are sure that The International Year of Evaluation in South Africa will become one of the most important collaborative efforts to learn, develop, and strengthen evaluation into the development processes. This is an essential initiative of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association to understand the Evaluation's role into the public, private and civil arena. This will bring theory to practice to align all the stakeholders in evaluation to build a better future.

Welcome and thanks to all of you for being part of this process.

Adriana Camacho
Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Office
National Planning Department of Colombia

Message from Jennifer Bisgard

AfrEA Representative on the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and EvalPartners Management Group

The African Evaluation Association, the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation and EvalPartners are delighted to congratulate South Africa on the official launch of EvalYear. This launch, in addition to others around the globe, is kicking off an intense time of celebration with a focus on building evaluation systems, creating new constituencies and highlighting evaluation impact.

Throughout the world, Voluntary Organisations of Professional Evaluators, referred to as VOPEs, are coming together to celebrate EvalYear and focussing on achieving the UN General Assembly's call for evaluation systems development by government, parliaments and civil society. VOPEs and their governments are being asked to consider their contributions to the following seven priorities which have arisen from a global dialogue:

Global Agenda Topics	Description
EvalYouth+	Focus on building a network of Young and Emergent Evaluators
EvalGender+	Evaluators focussed on gender, disabilities and vulnerable populations
EvalCulture	Representivity of under-represented groups and understanding their cultural context
Global Parliamentarians Forum	Building parliamentarian support for and capacity to work with evaluations
EvalSDG Network:	Strategies for countries to evaluate own evaluation policies and systems, especially those related to Sustainable Development Goals
Professionalization of Evaluators	Dealing with issues of credentialing, accreditation and quality control
Building civil society partnerships and capacity	VOPE capacity building, enabling environment, advocacy and institutional support

All organisations celebrating EvalYear are asked to consult and build their own positions on this agenda.

In October, UNDP and IDEAS will host the 4th International National Evaluation Capacities conference in Thailand where the global agenda will be discussed with government representatives, international agencies and IDEAS members. The year will culminate with the EvalPartners/IOCE Forum in Nepal in November where representatives will convene and declare the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020. We look forward to South Africa's strong representation at the Forum.

Message from the Government of the Republic of Benin, West Africa

The Ministry of Evaluation of Public Policies, Promotion of Good Governance and Social Dialogue in Benin wishes a prosperous and exciting Evaluation year to DPME in South Africa. Since 2012, we have joined our efforts to make evaluation happen in Africa.

We are particularly honored to be part of this great adventure with South Africa and Ouganda to make sure Africa as a whole and are country are made accountable for quality service delivery for the good of our citizens and the prosperity of our nations. For this reason together we are building a greater initiative called Twende Mbele to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation in our continent. Far greater than an evaluation torch we are lighting a fire of hope for our people.

As this year has been declared the year of Evaluation we send our encouragements to the Republic of South Africa and all the national key players that are going to make 2015 a year for accountability, knowledge, learning and performance. We remain firmly committed to pursue our sharing objectives through our various initiatives and meetings.

Congratulations SA and have a successful EvalYear 2015. Mikoudo Houé!!! (Happy celebration)

Aristide Djidjoho
Office of the Prime Minister
Republic of Benin

Message from the Representative of the National Council of Transition (NTC) of Burkino Faso

Dear South African Evaluators

It's gives me a great pleasure, as the Advisor of the Speaker of the Parliament of Burkina Faso to convey our sincere congratulations to the people of South Africa and the South African Evaluation Community on this historical event. Indeed the United Nations and several stakeholders among which VOPEs like SAMEA and Governments like the Government of South Africa have declared 2015 the Year of Evaluation.

For anyone who is familiar with the main function of a parliament which is the control of government activities, it is obvious that Evaluation plays a great role in this control. In our case in Burkina Faso we take advantage of the transition period to ensure that in the future our Parliament evaluation will fully play that role which goes with the capacity building of our MP's as well as the constitutionalization of Evaluation.

Issaka Herman Traoré

*Advisor to the Speaker of the National Council of Transition
Burkina Faso*

Message from Senegal Evaluation Association (SenEval)

Dear Prof Levin and Dr Goldman

On behalf of Abdou Karim Lo, President of the Senegal Evaluation Association (SenEval) and all the team, please allow me to congratulate for the very impressive programme that you are launching to celebrate EvalYear 2015. We wish you very success with all the planned activities. We aim to be present at the SAMEA Conference, resources permitting.

We are convinced that this year will bring fresh opportunities for exchanges between SAMEA and SenEval on the one hand and between the Governments of our two countries on the other. We are committed to helping to build stronger links between West Africa and the Republic of South Africa, in order to benefit from the rich experience and the outstanding expertise that you have developed in the process of building your national evaluation system.

May EvalYear strengthen evaluation culture and practice across the continent.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hopwood
Honorary President, SenEval
Dakar, Senegal



Launch of the International Year of Evaluation – South Africa

Message of Support

Mrs. Margaret Kakande
President Uganda Evaluation Association

The President, SAMEA
Fellow Evaluators

1. This is to send you warm greetings from Uganda as you launch the International year of evaluation. Fellow Evaluators, our goal globally is to conduct quality evaluations to inform decision making in the development process. It is incontestable that use of evaluation findings is dependant upon the quality of products. To that effect, evaluators must have the requisite capacity to deliver quality evaluations.
2. The Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) and SAMEA are Peer to Peer EVALpartners. This partnership has greatly boosted our capacities through sharing of experiences. As we celebrate the International year of evaluation, let our organizations deepen our partnership and networks with the view to increased learning and sharing among our members.
3. I wish you all a successful launch and look forward to a shared future of great evaluations.



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ESK Good Will Message to South Africa on the Momentous Celebration of 2015 EvalYear

First and foremost, Congratulations on behalf of the Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK), as you celebrate 2015 EvalYear ! As a friend of South Africa, it gives us great pleasure to be part of these momentous celebrations. Evaluation will continue to play a greater role in strengthening decision making for greater development, effectiveness and inclusive growth in Africa. Towards this, we are proud to have South Africa - a model Evaluation case to emulate in the continent, as a P2P partner. We look forward to more enriching P2P learning and experience sharing as we move into the future.

Asanteni Sana ! (Meaning thank you very much).

Jennifer Mutua

Founder and Chair of the Evaluation Society of Kenya

Eastern Africa Rep to the African Evaluation Association (AFREA)



Ukrainian Evaluation Association
*contributing together to the effectiveness of
decision-making*

Dear South-African evaluators,

I was really excited to learn fresh record of building National M&E system in Republic of South-Africa.

I think that your experience in development of national M&E system is applicable and useful for Ukraine. I am sure we will find way to learn better your experience through new means of communication. However we are far geographically, we live in the same time zone!

We wish You and your country fruitful and prosperous EvalYear 2015!

With warm wishes,

Iryna Kravchuk
Head of Board and team
of Ukrainian Evaluation Association