

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	SEA Change CoP
2. Geographic scope of organization	1. Sectoral : M&E of climate change interventions 1.1. Regional: Asia
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Dennis Bours E-address: Dbours@pactworld.org Postal address: Phnom Penh Center, Building A 3 rd floor, Corner Sihanouk (274) and Sothearos (3) Blvd Tonle Bassac Chamkar Mom, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Telephone: +855 (0) 23 217 855 +855 (0) 97 690 29 26 VOPE website URL: www.seachangecop.org
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government: 25 NGOs/CSOs: 80 Academics: 45 Private sector: 20 Other: 10 Total membership: 180
5. Year VOPE was founded	2010
6. Current status	Charter and bylaws adopted
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	The community of practice came online in March 2011 and has been growing steadily since then. With a new Team Leader in December 2011 growth picked up at that point and the Community of Practice is still growing as we speak. SEA Change CoP is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and with a new proposal currently being developed we anticipate to guarantee our sound financial platform for the coming 1.5 to 2 years.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	Our goal is to develop a culture of high quality and rigorous M&E frameworks, approaches and methodologies.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	We want to do so by developing partnerships between members of our platform and building member capacity for strengthening discourses and practices on M&E. Through our online platform, interactions and weekly newsletter our members share best practices, lessons learned, guidelines, approaches, methods, tools and innovations to improve M&E practices. We are also organizing monthly webinars on M&E and support our members in publicizing their work and speaking at conferences to further disseminate information. The focus of the SEA Change community is mostly on M&E of climate change interventions though we clearly have links with natural resource management and disaster risk management.
10. Organizational capacity:	SEA Change CoP is technically and logistically supported by Pact and as such houses in their Asian regional office in Phnom Penh. The main two staffers are the Team Leader and his assistant. We are looking at recruiting an M&E specialist to provide meta-analysis on existing M&E toolkits, mechanisms and frameworks and write M&E opinion papers on behalf of SEA Change CoP. See Part II, no. 13 for more information on partnerships.
11. Means of communication with members,	Weekly newsletter, our online platform, monthly webinars and a yearly annual meeting.

12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	Annual meeting that took place in October 2011 and 4 webinars developed, apart from the weekly newsletter and information updates on our online platform. This year we sponsored two speakers already at regional M&E and climate change related events.
13. Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	We are still considering the development of an annual meeting this year. We will be present at the EES Conference in Helsinki in October 2012 as panellist and are willing to sponsor members to speak at this conference.
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Dennis Bours, Team Leader SEA Change CoP. Dbours@pactworld.org
15. Date of this update	March 24 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>A “Kick-Off Event” was conducted on October 29, 2010 with 18 participants representing five Asian countries to analyze the relevance of this initiative to CoP members and to formulate the first goal statement for SEA Change. The focus at this point was to start with a limited number of CoP champions, key focus areas and stay true to the geographical focus in order to generate trust through shared areas of interest. This helped to solidify the vision, began to foster interaction, and created opportunities for practitioners to connect around a demand to access a wide range of resources – including one another.</p> <p>By March 3, 2011 the final Community Charter and advisory board composition were completed, on April 1, 2011 the SEA Change online platform went live and SEA Change hosted its first webinar on May 4, 2011.</p> <p>A second Annual Members Meeting took place on November 9-10 2011 to prioritize the way forward in the second year and to answer questions around the role and value associated with SEA Change’s scope and legacy.</p> <p>1.2 SEA Change has a governing board of 4 persons, which rotates yearly and which will need to rotate in 2012.</p> <p>1.3 The fact that we are member-driven and the fact that there is no alternative M&E of climate change interventions network in Asia.</p> <p>1.4 Finding a proper institutional home in Asia for the community of practice and in the further future diversifying our funding-base.</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>The members. SEA Change CoP is driven by its members and the fact that there is no network in Asia focusing on M&E of climate change interventions.</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>Everything our network does is focused on M&E capacity building among our members. We do so through our weekly newsletters, information dissemination through our online platform, monthly webinars on the topic and the sponsoring of members in speaking at conferences and publishing their work.</p>
<p>4. Context / target entities: More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your</p>	<p>4.1 We focus on improving monitoring and evaluation of climate change interventions theory and practice; mutually influencing one another (theory and practice) and iterative;</p>

organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:	<p>4.2 We focus on improving critical analysis and thinking towards the applicability of existing monitoring and evaluation tools, mechanisms and frameworks;</p> <p>4.3 We also look at the measuring of output of networks, given that we need to know how best to facilitate our members;</p> <p>4.4 We focus on sharing and disseminating information on M&E of climate change interventions and support our members with information when strengthening their discourses and practices on M&E;</p> <p>4.5 In the end we hope to improve climate change M&E related policy and interventions, and improve the policies on the use of M&E systems and procedures for climate change interventions.</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?	Not applicable.
6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate?	We are promoting the use of high quality and rigorous M&E frameworks, approaches and methodologies for adaptive responses to climate change interventions and practices in Southeast Asia and beyond.
7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): <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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly webinars with regional and international speakers; - Sponsoring of members to attend and speak at conferences; - Sponsoring of members in publicizing their work; - Organizing workshops at our annual member meetings; - Dissemination of relevant information through our weekly newsletters.
8. Standards:	Not applicable for the moment, given that at current we do not generate knowledge, though disseminate existing knowledge. The output of our community of practice is evaluated.
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Yes.
10. Progress and results: What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains?	Attached you will find a publication on the lessons learned from the SEA Change CoP experience, which has been published in the MECCA Monthly of January 2012.
11. Lessons learned:	See point 10.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	We are considering adding an M&E professional to our community in order to be able to add meta-analysis of existing toolkits, systems and M&E frameworks to our methods and the writing of opinion papers on the applicability of the latter.
13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?	<p><u>Yes.</u> SEA Change CoP currently has a partnership agreement with the Global Environment Facility – Evaluation Office (GEF-EO)'s network "Climate-Eval".</p> <p>We also have a partnership agreement with the Adaptation Knowledge Platform (AKP) and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN).</p>

	<p>We are a sister-organization, through our funder Rockefeller Foundation, of Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). And we are currently working on a partnership agreement with MECCA Africa, Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation in Africa.</p>
<p>14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>In June 2011 GIZ held a climate and development knowledge brokers workshop. They brought together all knowledge brokers and platforms and worked on streamlining their efforts together. This also needs to happen in the field of Evaluation.</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. Collaboratively developing webinars and I would be very willing to further discuss combining the SEA Change member meeting with the EvalPartners conference being planned for December 2012 in either Thailand or Vietnam.</p>