

# NEWSLETTER

## PARTICIPATION IN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT, THE 2ND YOUTH IN EVALUATION WEEK 2024

July was a vibrant month for evaluation capacity building, awareness, and recognition in Mongolia. The Mongolian Evaluation Association (MEA), along with its youth community, the EvalYouth Mongolia chapter, participated in the second Youth in Evaluation Week, which took place from July 8 to 12, 2024. During the global event, we organized several key activities, including the "Youth in Evaluation Champions: Good Practices by VOPEs and Youth Organizations" session, the 2nd Summer Evaluation Bootcamp, and the promotion of Evaluation Standards. For more information about the **global event highlights** 



At the global inauguration event on July 8, the MEA received the prestigious Super Champion award for upholding the Youth in Evaluation Standards, becoming one of the six Super Champions.

The MEA is honored to receive this award in recognition of our commitment to empowering young people in evaluation and the tireless efforts of all our members who advocate for the value of evaluation in all spheres.



The Youth in Evaluation Week is a global event initiated by eval4action and led by UNFPA to amplify dialogue on intergenerational solidarity for transformative evaluation and build momentum for enhancing meaningful youth engagement in evaluation.

The overarching theme for Youth in Evaluation week 2024 is 'Upholding Youth in Evaluation standards'. The events at the week will explore six dimensions of the standards - leadership and accountability, practice, advocacy and capacity building, knowledge management and communication, human resources and financial resources - for advancing intergenerational partnerships in evaluation.



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## 2ND SUMMER EVALUATION BOOTCAMP FOR YOUNG AND EMERGING EVALUATORS OF MONGOLIA AND CHINA

2nd Summer Evaluation Bootcamp for YEEs of Mongolia and China took place from July 9 to 11, 2024, as part of the global 'Youth in Evaluation Week'. This event, collaboratively organized by <u>UNICEF</u>, the <u>Mongolian Evaluation Association</u>, and <u>American University</u>, is a vibrant component of the <u>Eval4Action</u> movement.

The bootcamp aimed to equip the next generation of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) professionals in Mongolia and China with essential skills. The event saw full attendance, with 23 participants from various sectors, including government agencies, private research firms, academic institutions, international organizations, and students. Recognizing that evaluation is a relatively new field and that real-world assignments often demand expertise in both evaluation and other disciplines, the bootcamp embraced a wide definition of "young and emerging evaluators." Here is the blog by Xin Xin Yang.













#### MEA AND EVALYOUTH MONGOLIA ORGANIZED THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN YOUTH IN EVALUATION WEEK



The Mongolian Evaluation Association and EvalYouth Mongolia successfully organized the global campaign "Youth in Evaluation Week: Champion Youth - Good Practices by VOPEs and Youth Organizations." This virtual event took place on July 10 from 9 AM to 10 AM EST, and the recording is available on the Eval4Action Campaign's Youtube channel.

The event aimed to highlight and share successful practices and approaches adopted by VOPEs and youth organizations, providing a platform for learning and inspiration through the experiences and insights of seasoned professionals and young champions in the evaluation sector. We had representatives from the evaluation community in Africa, India, Yemen, and Bhutan and learned from their experiences and good practices..



## **Champions:**

Good practices by VOPEs and youth organizations



10 July 2024



9AM ET (9PM UTC)



https://rb.gy/23essu





Baatar



Lkhagvadulam Chimeddamba



Natsagdorj

Ovundalai

Odkhuu



**Erdenetsogt** 



Gankhuyag



Khaliunaa Batjargal



Tushiglen Gantulga



Asela Kalugampitiya



Rajani Kayastha

### THE YOUNG AND EMERGING EVALUATOR HAD PARTICIPATED IPDET 2024 WITH FULL-BOARD SCHOLARSHIP









IPDET holds a prestigious reputation as a leading provider of advanced evaluation training worldwide. Its courses and workshops cater to professionals involved in commissioning, managing, conducting, or utilizing evaluations, addressing their specific needs. This distinctive training initiative gathers expertise from around the world to enhance both fundamental and advanced competencies in evaluation. With over 4000 professionals trained in recent years, IPDET has fostered a global, interdisciplinary network of evaluators.

Ms. Oyundalai Odkhuu began her evaluation career as one of 22 interns in the six-month YEE internship program organized by MEA in 2023. Since then, she has actively participated in many MEA activities. For IPDET 2024, she has been awarded a full-board scholarship, and completed between 14 to 27 July at the University of Bern

Additionally, she attended 2 specific courses including I-C, Quantitative Impact Evaluation, which process involves clarifying the values guiding the evaluation, developing a theory of how the intervention is expected to work, measuring or describing the impacts and other key variables, explaining the reasons behind the impacts, synthesizing the results, and reporting the findings while supporting their practical application. Moreover, II-b From Insights to Influence: Communication Strategies to Amplify Evaluation Utility refers to moving beyond simply gathering and analyzing data (insights) to actively using that information to effect change or influence decision-making. It emphasizes the importance of communication strategies in making evaluation results more practical, relevant, and impactful (amplifying utility). Essentially, it highlights how effectively communicating evaluation findings can lead to more significant and beneficial outcomes.

#### MONTHLY LEARNING SESSION, M&E CURRICULUM TRANSLATION

The July learning session, held on July 25, focused on the topic "Social and Solidarity Economy and the MEL Nexus for Sustainable Development." Our speaker were Ms. Purevdulam Jamiyansuren, Chief M&E at USAID's BEST Program, <u>Development Solutions NGO</u> and MEA member. The session was facilitated by Mr. Delgermurun Sukhbaatar, MEA Member and Independent evaluator. Recording of the Session is available on our Youtube Channel 'Mongolian Evaluation Association.'





We are excited to share this news that our Board member Dr. Ganzorig Gonchigsumlaa and member Dr. Ariunaa Dashtseren's translation of the M&E Education Curriculum, produced by Asia Pacific Evaluation Association - APEA, just released.

This brings us one step closer to achieving our Vision to promote professionalization and institutionalization of evaluation at national level in Mongolia.



#### MEA AWARDED WITH SEED GRANT PROGRAM 2024-2025







MEA has been selected for the "Indigenous Evaluation Knowledge Transfer Activities for the Asia Pacific Region" seed grant for 2024-2025 by the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association. The project, titled "Elevating Tsaatan Voices: Sowing the Seeds of Indigenous Evaluation in Mongolia," focuses on the Tsaatan people, a reindeer-herding community residing in the northernmost part of Mongolia near the Russian border. The project aims to empower the Tsaatan community to actively participate in the formulation and evaluation of conservation policies in their region.

A team of 4 MEA members with a local indigenous collaborator will work on this initiative with a full support of Mongolian Evaluation Association throughout the process and beyond.

1.Ms. Azjargal Amarsanaa, co-lead, Young and Emerging Evaluator and Member of Mongolian Evaluation Association, is a native to Khuvsgul province and a frequent visitor to the reindeer people.

- 2. Ms. Oyuna Jukov, co-lead, Emerging Evaluator and a Member of Mongolian Evaluation Association, who has research background in diaspora Mongolia and culturally-responsive evaluation.
- 3. Ms. Gereltsetseg Adiya, Emerging Evaluator and a Member of Mongolian Evaluation Association.
- 4. Ms. Itgemjit Gankhuyag, Young and Emerging Evaluator and Member of Mongolian Evaluation Association
- 5. Mr. Tsolmon G, a local indigenous representative, will support the team in data collection in the Taiga region of Khuvsgul province and participate throughout the process as a Tsaatan representative.

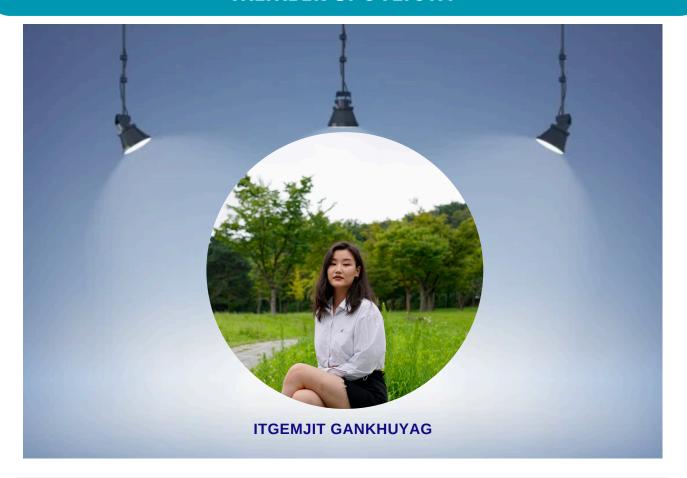


Photo by: https://ikon.mn/n/mb5



Ms. Azjargal Amarsanaa, East Taiga, Khuvsgul province, Mongolia, 2018,

#### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



This month, the Mongolian Evaluation Association proudly highlights the inspiring work of Itgemjit Gankhuyag, a dedicated young Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with a passion for the sustainable development of Mongolia. Since joining the MEA in August 2023, Itgemjit has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing her expertise and improving evaluation practices in Mongolia.

Itgemjit has been actively involved in several MEA initiatives, including her role in the organizing team for the 2nd Summer Evaluation Bootcamp, which brought together young and emerging evaluators from Mongolia and China. She was also a member of the production team for the global virtual event during Youth in Evaluation Week 2024, showcasing her dedication to the growth of the evaluation field in Mongolia as a Young and Emerging Evaluator.

With 4+ years of experience in international development projects, Itgemjit currently serves as the M&E Officer for the USAID-funded BEST program at Development Solutions NGO. Before joining Development Solutions, she held several positions at World Vision Mongolia, where she focused on community engagement, child sponsorship, and supply chain management. Her deep commitment to child well-being continues to drive her engagement in project evaluation and development initiatives that contribute to Mongolia's growth.

We are proud to have Itgemjit as a member of the MEA and look forward to witnessing her continued growth and contributions to the field of evaluation as a YEE.

#### **GLOBAL EVENTS MEA TOOK PART**



Tseveengerel Amgalan, a member of MEA, Independent Evaluator & Researcher; Member of NEPS Theme of APRES, shared her experience on the APEA webinar under the theme of "Engaging Parliaments for Evaluation. She discussed discovering the challenges and solutions implementing Results-Based a Management Evaluation **System** Mongolia and learned groundbreaking Monitoring. Recording is now available here and on APEA's voutube channel.



'Uugaa, a Board member of MEA and independent Evaluator, shared her experience in a session by EvalyouthAsia under the theme of Breaking Barriers: Advancing Your Career from National to International'.

- Discussed why advancing from a national to an international career is important, especially in the context of evaluation and policy work.
- Shared key milestones in her career, emphasizing how she transitioned from national projects to international opportunities.
- Highlighted specific strategies that helped she overcome challenges, such as cultural differences, networking, and skill development.
- Shared how she overcame these obstacles by building a global network, continuously learning, and leveraging digital platforms.

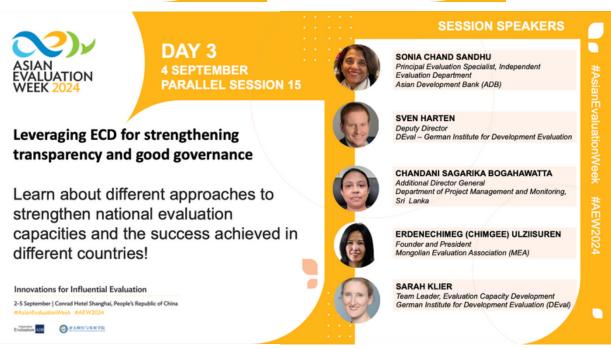
#### **UPCOMING GLOBAL EVENTS MEA TAKING PART**

The Asian Evaluation Week (AEW) is a leading evaluation knowledge sharing platform in the Asia and Pacific region which brings together government officials, representatives of international organizations, and evaluation experts interested in exchanging knowledge, sharing experience, and learning the latest innovations in evaluation.

AEW is jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, PRC, through the Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Institute (AFDI), and the Asian Development Bank's Independent Evaluation Department (IED). This year, the AEW is happening in Shanghai, China between Sep 2-5, 2024.

Ms. Erdenechimeg Ulziisuren, Founder & President of Mongolian Evaluation Association is delivering a lead presentation titled 'Transforming Evaluation Practices in the Asia Pacific through Professionalizing Regional Standards and Code of Ethics' organized by Asia Pacific Evaluation Association. Also, she is taking a part in the session titled 'Leveraging ECD for strengthening transparency and good governance' as a panelist to discuss about current ECD landscape in Mongolia, collaboration opportunities in ECD and moving forward.





#### **UPCOMING GLOBAL EVENTS IN EVALUATION**















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