



2018 Asian Evaluation Week

Making Evaluation Work at the Country Level

10–14 September 2018 | Chengdu, People's Republic of China

Concept Note

1. Background

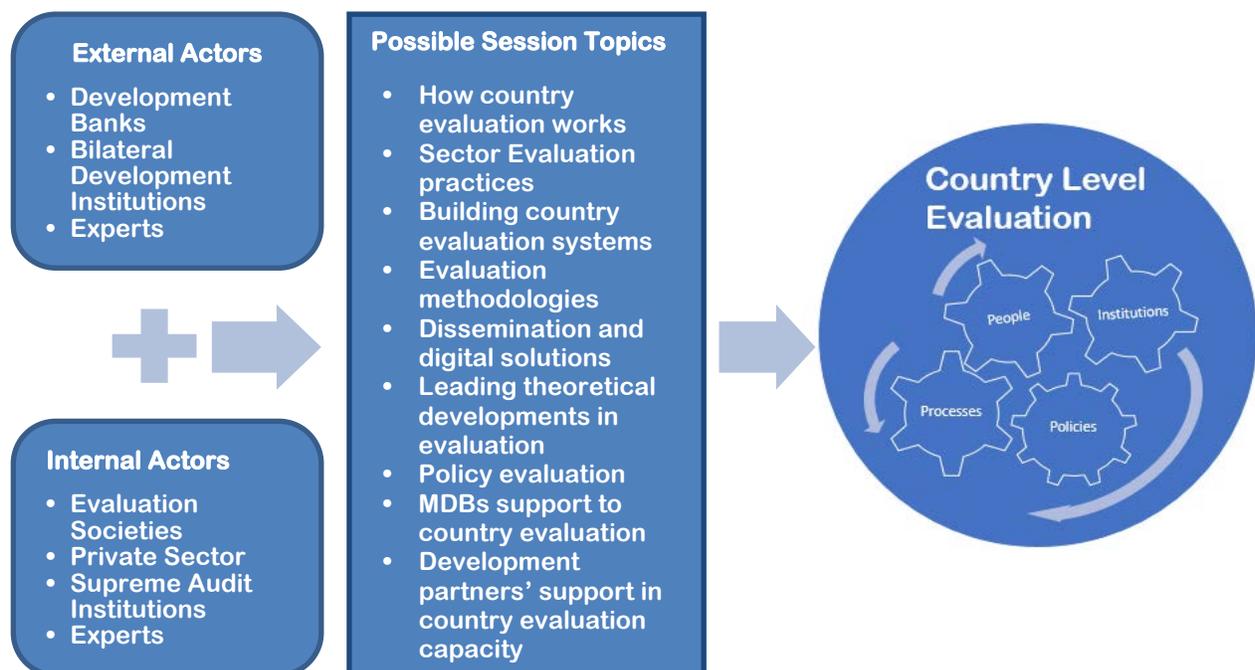
The AEW was conceptualized as a key evaluation knowledge sharing event for the Asia and Pacific region. It is an event that is jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, PRC and the Asian Development Bank. The AEW gathers government officials, international organizations, and independent evaluation experts to exchange knowledge and the latest thinking in evaluation.

The inaugural AEW was held in Xi'an, China in September 2016 and the second 2017 AEW was in Hangzhou, China in September 2017. During both AEWs, participants confirmed the AEW as a highly relevant forum in promoting partnerships and knowledge sharing and advancing the importance of evaluation for policy making in the region.

2. Theme

Although the inaugural AEW focused on general evaluation matters, having a theme for each AEW is considered an appropriate way to focus attention on how evaluation can be useful for specific issues and ensure relevant evaluation knowledge sharing. The theme of the 2017 AEW was **“How evaluation informs Policymaking.”** The theme for the 2018 AEW is **“Making Evaluation Work at the Country Level”**. This recognizes that evaluation is increasingly regarded by countries as critical for public policy both from accountability and learning perspectives. The 2018 AEW will examine various dimensions of how evaluation is used and can be supported at the country level (Diagram 1).

Diagram 1: External and Internal Actors in Supporting Public Sector Evaluation



3. Objectives

The objectives of the 2018 AEW are as follows:

- (i) To provide a venue for knowledge sharing on cutting edge ideas on evaluation within Asia, and between Asia and other regions, such as Africa and Latin America.
- (ii) To enable countries to share experiences on their evaluation approaches and works and gain knowledge on how to manage and use evaluation in their country context.
- (iii) To allow experts and development partners to showcase progress in their evaluation works and recent practices on evaluation.
- (iv) To increase awareness on the use and role of evaluation in development effectiveness.

4. Output

Presentations from the 2018 AEW will be collated for the event website. There could be potential to put these together in conference proceedings.

5. Date and Location

The 2018 AEW will be held on **10-14 September 2018 in Chengdu**, People's Republic of China.

6. Participants

Around 150 participants and evaluation experts from governments, international organizations, and academe are expected to attend. Participants from ADB member countries in the Asia and Pacific region will be invited and supported through ADB technical assistance funds. In addition, self-funded participants or participants funded from other agencies from Africa, Latin America, and Europe are welcome to attend to broaden the discussion and include global experiences and perspective. The event will be largely advertised through various relevant communication networks and media.

Government delegates shall be senior level, with a rank minus-three from the head of the ministry, involved in evaluation work, and conversant in English.

7. Agenda

The conference shall be for five days, with plenary and parallel sessions held during the first four days (10-13 September). The last day (14 September) will be reserved for the AEW Secretariat, invited experts, and country representatives. A session time slot will be for 1.5 hours and the combination of plenary and breakout sessions will be finalized by July 2018.

Topics shall be on the evaluation experiences and cutting-edge evaluation approaches around the theme. The agenda will be developed through consultations of the AEW secretariat with international organizations and experts either through email, telecon, or video conference.

Countries will lead a number of sessions. International organizations (UN, MDBs, IFIs and bilaterals) are encouraged to manage a session/s and invite their country case study presenters, whom they have worked with on evaluation. The links to the agenda, participants, and sessions report for the 2016 and 2017 AEWs are attached.

<https://www.adb.org/news/events/asian-evaluation-week-2016>
<https://www.adb.org/news/events/2017-asian-evaluation-week>

There will be a call for session leads for plenary and parallel sessions.

8. Implementation arrangements

A joint 2018 AEW secretariat comprising AFDI staff and IED staff will be established to manage the content, logistics and administrative matters.

The secretariat will:

- (i) develop and finalize the agenda with concerned organizations through video conference, telecon, and email;
- (ii) invite participants;
- (iii) facilitate travel and accommodation of participants;
- (iv) collate and review presentations; and
- (v) document the AEW sessions.

A logistics notes will be sent to participants later.

9. Timeline

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| 26 March 2018 | 2018 AEW concept note finalized, location finalized. Call for session lead and presentations sent. |
| 6 April 2018 | Expressions of interest to host session sourced from PRC institutions, international organizations, and select countries (Suggested Bangladesh, Indonesia and Korea). |
| 5 May 2018 | Submission of session details from institutions, countries and organizations who expressed interest to host sessions |
| 14 May 2018 | (i) Draft agenda prepared (ii) Request for presentations from presenters and experts |
| 4 June 2018 | (i) Formal invitation letters sent to international organizations who expressed interest. (ii) Request for nominations for participants sent to ADB government counterparts. |
| 31 July 2018 | Participants list finalized |
| 31 August 2018 | Agenda finalized |
| 10-14 September 2018 | AEW |