

## About ECOI

ECOI seeks to promote knowledge sharing in the area of monitoring and evaluation to promote high quality, credible and useful evaluations. The Community intends to contribute to formal capacity building at various levels, advocating demand for and practice of evaluation, and developing competencies.

- Foundation Day:** 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2015 **Total Membership:** 60  
**Members' Profile:** Academics, Civil Society, Government, International Development Agencies, Private Sector and Practitioners.  
**Action Groups:**  
 1. Indian evaluation policy framework 2. Participatory M&E  
 3. Capacity building in evaluation 4. Evaluation field building  
 5. Evaluation of the context of SDGs- Frameworks, measures and mechanisms  
 6. Repository of evaluation practices

## SWOT M&E System

### Strengths

- Strong audit office (CAG)
- Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office with 15 regional offices across the country.
- Sector-wise, program-wise & disaggregated (socio-economic and gender) SMART indicators
- Established links between donors and government's M&E systems
- (Informal) Ranking of the ministries based on their performance
- Strong civil society with supply and demand side roles
- Strong media (freedom of expression)

### Weaknesses

- No national M&E policy
- Internal use of M&E outputs is not very clear
- No link between M&E and annual budgeting
- Causality chain is not defined for all programs
- Lack of coordination along multiple agencies (lack of horizontal integration)
- Linkages with Statistical Offices for periodical M&E data are missing.
- Evaluation capacities are poor
- Lack of competition among the ministries as the performance based incentives are missing
- Lack of participation from parliamentarians

### Opportunities

- Political will exists to make the government and governance processes accountable
- India has already implemented performance based budgeting, it can be linked with M&E
- UN agencies are helping in building evaluation capacities of the government officials
- Donors like World Bank are pushing for a strong M&E system for the programs
- ECOI is bringing together experts and resources which can strengthen demand and supply sides.
- India has introduced MIS systems for national programs using ICT tools

### Threats

- Lack of ownership among the bureaucrats as incentives are not visible for good performance
- Misuse of M&E outputs for political gains
- Government may undermine the M&E learning due to political compulsions
- Change in political regime may result into radical changes in M&E structure
- Donors/UN agencies may withdraw their capacity building support
- Because of the multiplicity of the development programs, M&E outputs may be confined to numbers, processes may get ignored

## SWOT ECOI

### Strengths

- Diversity in membership
- Large core group of active members with diverse backgrounds
- Different action groups for different goals
- ECOI has been proactive in establishing dialogue with the national government
- State chapters to take into account the diverse contexts
- Gender-sensitive & participatory M&E

### Weaknesses

- Limited financial resources
- Heavy reliance on few active members
- Little visibility at the national level
- Not enough activities organized
- Concentration of focus on certain regions
- Lack of strategic alliances at the national level to pursue ECOI's goals
- No strategic plan yet

### Opportunities

- National and state governments' focus on building M&E capacities
- Need of capacity building at the different levels of the government, which ECOI can support
- Window for peer to peer international collaborations among various NES
- Increasing acceptability of NES among the international development forums to collaborate and bring resources

### Threats

- Government can limit its external interface in terms of exchange of information and collaborations on M&E
- Government may not bring national evaluation policy, which may result into absence of strategic directions
- Dominance of few resourceful member organizations on the functioning of ECOI

## Strengthening NES

### Membership

- Attract institutional members
- Widen the membership base across different sectors using sector champions

### Engagement

- Steering committees within the core group to drive the ECOI's agenda (collaboration and advocacy) further with different stakeholders (government, civil society, INGO, etc.)

### Oversight

- Establish sector-wise monitoring groups among the members
- Special drives to establish dialogue and advocacy with the government

## Strengthening M&E System

Supply-side	Demand-side	Use of M&E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Evaluation Policy &amp; national M&amp;E guidelines for all national programs</li> <li>• Capacity building of public professionals on need, use and management of M&amp;E</li> <li>• Linking M&amp;E with performance-based budgeting</li> <li>• Separate budgetary allocation to DMEO for M&amp;E to ensure autonomy</li> <li>• Remove multiple M&amp;E systems and establish horizontal coordination among multiple implementing agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between ECOI and DMEO for the exchange of learning and ideas</li> <li>• Inclusion of civil society in public M&amp;E structures (committees &amp; technical support groups)</li> <li>• A formal platforms to engage parliamentarians with M&amp;E processes and outputs</li> <li>• Integration of donors' M&amp;E requirements with the national M&amp;E system.</li> <li>• Integration/ linkages of M&amp;E information/outputs with the exiting Public Disclosure Law (mandatory disclosure of info)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for instrumental use, ministries and departments should release policy notes</li> <li>• Top-down sharing of M&amp;E learning in simple and readable formats.</li> <li>• Use of M&amp;E to strengthen the governance at the middle &amp; local levels of administration</li> <li>• Sharing with academics for designing better systems using the current knowledge</li> <li>• M&amp;E outputs should be made available to public to ensure accountability of the government</li> </ul>

## Future Plans

### Internal Management

- Registration of ECOI for legal recognition
- Setup of a permanent office with paid/semi-paid employees
- Improve membership management: database, certificates, etc.
- Funding opportunities for internal management of ECOI

### Strategic Engagement

- Develop a five year strategic or operational plan
- Establish national and international collaborations around ECOI's priority areas
- Form expert committees in the core group to lead the relations with different stakeholders

### Outreach

- Populate the website with relevant contents
- Increase social media presence
- Develop policy briefs and policy papers on important policy evaluation matters
- Organize regular annual flagship events