

CONCEPT NOTE



Summit for the future
of *evaluation*

**Future-Ready Evaluation: Integrating Voices and Localizing
Evaluation for Global Impact**

27 – 30 May, 2025 | Courtyard by Marriott Colombo, Sri Lanka

The **Community of Evaluators-South Asia (CoE-SA)** and the **Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB)** will host the **Evaluation Conclave 2025: *Future-Ready Evaluation – Integrating Voices and Localizing Evaluation for Global Impact*** from 27 to 30 May 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A key highlight of the **Evaluation Conclave** is the **Summit for the Future of Evaluation**, organized in collaboration with the **Eval4Action** campaign and its co-leaders: the **UNFPA Independent Evaluation Office**, **EvalYouth Global Network**, **Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation (GPFE)**, and the **Community of Evaluators-South Asia (CoE-SA)**, in partnership with the **International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)**.

The current evaluation discourse is undergoing a transformation that emphasizes inclusivity, equity, and adaptability to future challenges. This transformation highlights the importance of building a future-ready evaluation ecosystem that not only addresses current development needs but also anticipates and responds to emerging global trends. Central to this transformation is integrating diverse voices, including those from communities, citizens, young people, and community-based organizations. By bringing local experiential knowledge to the forefront of evaluation practices, the **Evaluation Conclave 2025** & the **Summit for the Future of Evaluation** aim to foster a discourse on evaluation that is both **responsive to local cultures and forward-looking to maximize global impact**. This approach ensures that evaluation practices remain relevant, resilient, and impactful in shaping inclusive, sustainable development on a global scale.

The core theme of the event, ***“Future-Ready Evaluation – Integrating Voices and Localizing Evaluation for Global Impact,”*** emphasizes the dual need to improve context-relevant evidence while preparing evaluation practices for the challenges and opportunities of the future. Rooted in local knowledge, this approach empowers communities to understand better and shape their own development trajectories. Ensuring evaluations are both for the people and by the people fosters inclusive change and promotes equity. Achieving this, however, requires a shift in mindsets, along with the development of institutional and individual capacities, to fully recognize and value local expertise while integrating insights from global thought leaders.

At the same time, the **future of evaluation** is being shaped by global opportunities and challenges, such as demographic changes, conflicts, and crises, and new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analytics. These innovations offer unprecedented opportunities to enhance data collection, analysis, and real-time decision-making, making evaluations more dynamic and responsive. However, their integration in the evaluation practice must be carefully managed to ensure ethical use and to mitigate biases that could undermine inclusivity and equity. Together, localizing evaluation and leveraging future-ready approaches can create a transformative, globally impactful evaluation ecosystem that remains both contextually relevant and forward-looking.

Additionally, the **role of youth** is becoming increasingly vital in shaping the future of evaluation. Youth-led initiatives and inter-generational partnerships can bring fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to evaluation practices. Promoting evaluation education and training at various levels, from schools to higher education institutions, is essential to cultivate a culture of evaluative thinking and prepare the next generation of evaluators.

In South Asia, where the development of national evaluation policies is still underway, the focus on localized and future-oriented evaluation practices is particularly relevant. The region's economic dynamism contrasts with persistent challenges such as food insecurity, gender inequality, lack of universal access to education and health, and environmental sustainability. Addressing these challenges requires robust, localized evaluations that leverage both traditional knowledge and cutting-edge methodologies.

As South Asian nations come together to advance the evaluation discourse, converging localized evaluation with a forward-looking approach ensures that evaluation practices remain relevant, inclusive, and impactful. **The Evaluation Conclave and the Summit of the Future of Evaluation 2025** serves as a platform to explore these themes, fostering dialogue and innovation for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION CONCLAVE AND THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION 2025

- **Amplify Diverse Voices and Localize Evaluation Practices for Contextual Relevance:** Promote the inclusion of diverse perspectives in the evaluation process by actively engaging marginalized communities, indigenous populations, women, and youth. Strengthen intergenerational partnerships by fostering collaboration between young and emerging evaluators and seasoned practitioners. Encourage bottom-up approaches and the use of indigenous knowledge and methodologies to ensure evaluation practices are contextually relevant, culturally sensitive, and effective in informing local decision-making.
- **Promote Equitable and Inclusive Change:** Facilitate discussions on how evaluations can drive equitable and inclusive development, focusing on vulnerable and underrepresented populations. Highlight strategies that ensure evaluations are both participatory and empowering.
- **Explore the Future of Evaluation through Innovation and Technology:** Examine how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data, and machine learning, can revolutionize evaluation practices. Discuss the ethical and practical implications of integrating these tools to ensure they support inclusive and equitable evaluations.
- **Tackle Contemporary and Emerging Challenges:** Address how evaluation practices can adapt to global challenges such as climate change, conflict, discrimination, health crises, capacity gaps, and gender inequality. Enhance evaluation methodologies to effectively assess resilience and sustainability in complex, dynamic, and rapidly evolving contexts.
- **Strengthen Evaluation Capacity through Education and Training:** Highlight the importance of evaluation education and training at all levels—community, academic, and professional. Explore strategies to build the capacities of emerging evaluators and develop evaluative thinking across different sectors.
- **Reinforce the Role of Youth in Evaluation and Advocacy:** Empower youth as important advocates for evidence-based policy-making and participatory evaluation practices. Showcase youth-led initiatives and their role in shaping the future of evaluation through innovation, advocacy, and leadership.
- **Strengthen Global and Regional Collaboration:** Celebrate the contributions of diverse networks and initiatives in fostering evaluation cultures, policies, and systems. Highlight partnerships involving governments, civil society, and international organizations, focusing on engaging youth, senior development practitioners, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders as champions for evaluation and evidence-based decision-making.

PROPOSED SUB-THEMES FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1. Diverse Voices and Contextual Relevance in Evaluation

This sub-theme explores strategies for meaningfully engaging local and indigenous knowledge systems, marginalized communities, indigenous populations, women, and youth in developing evaluation methodologies and evaluation processes to enhance cultural relevance. It also emphasizes strengthening intergenerational partnerships to bridge the gap between experienced evaluators and emerging ones, ensuring a more inclusive and diverse evaluation ecosystem.

2. Equitable and Inclusive Evaluation for Development

Under this sub-theme, discussions will focus on how evaluations can serve as tools for promoting social equity and justice. It encourages the use of collaborative and participatory evaluation methods that empower stakeholders and address systemic inequities at policy and program levels. Proposals are invited to share frameworks, case studies, and strategies that ensure equity-focused evaluation practices are integrated into decision-making and development processes.

3. The Future of Evaluation: Technology and Innovation

This sub-theme highlights the transformative role of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data in revolutionizing evaluation processes. Participants are invited to explore innovations that enable real-time, dynamic evaluations while addressing the ethical considerations of integrating these technologies into evaluation practices. Discussions will also examine how evaluators can leverage technology to ensure evaluations remain relevant and impactful in a rapidly changing world.

4. Addressing Global Challenges through Evaluation

This sub-theme explores the critical role of evaluation in addressing global challenges such as climate change, health crises, conflict, and capacity gaps. It invites discussions on how evaluative strategies can foster resilience and sustainability amidst social and environmental uncertainties. Participants are encouraged to share insights into how evaluations can effectively tackle complexity and multi-dimensional challenges to drive inclusive and sustainable solutions.

5. Building Evaluation Capacity: Education and Training

This sub-theme focuses on institutionalizing evaluation education at all levels, from schools and universities to professional training programs. Discussions will explore strategies to build the capacity of emerging evaluators and foster a culture of evaluative thinking across various sectors. Participants are invited to propose innovative frameworks and share best practices for capacity-building initiatives that address the needs of evaluators working in complex and dynamic contexts.

6. Youth in Evaluation: Leadership and Advocacy

This sub-theme examines the critical role of youth in shaping the future of evaluation through leadership, innovation, and advocacy. It focuses on youth-led initiatives that champion evidence-based policymaking and participatory evaluation practices. Discussions will also address how intergenerational mentorship can nurture young evaluators and build pathways for their active engagement in regional and global evaluation networks.

7. Global and Regional Collaboration for Evaluation Impact

This sub-theme explores how partnerships among governments, civil society, and international organizations can advance evaluation systems and policies at both national and regional levels. It highlights the importance of engaging parliamentarians and policymakers as champions for evidence-based decision-making. Participants are invited to discuss collaborative approaches to developing strong evaluation cultures, particularly across the globe, to drive more impactful and inclusive development outcomes.

THE STRUCTURE

The four-day event will be made up of keynotes, skills development workshops, panel discussions, and round-table discussions, as follows:

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MAY, 2025

09:00 – 16:30

Skills development workshops to enhance evaluation skills and evaluation competencies in various aspects of evaluation. Relevant experts will be invited to facilitate special workshops on the importance of capacity building and the role of localized evaluations in achieving equitable change.

17:30 – 20:00

Inauguration of the Conclave with notable personalities from the field of evaluation, government officials, and bilateral and multilateral organizations. The Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka will be invited as the Chief Guest.

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MAY, 2025

09:30 – 17:30

Plenary Session:
“Addressing Contemporary and Emerging Global Challenges through Evaluation”

Followed by **15 technical sessions** aligned with the sub-themes of the Evaluation Conclave 2025.

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MAY, 2025

09:30 – 13:00

Plenary Session:
“Amplifying Diverse Voices for Equitable and Inclusive Development: Contextualizing Evaluation Practices”

Followed by **5 technical sessions** aligned with the sub-themes of the Evaluation Conclave 2025.

14:00 – 17:30

Opening of the Summit of the Future of Evaluation (Hybrid Session)

Followed by the plenary sessions:

- **Youth in Evaluation Champion Awards, 2025 (hybrid)**
- **Shaping the Future of Evaluation with AI and Youth**

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MAY, 2025

09:30 – 13:00

Summit of the Future of Evaluation

Tentative Sessions:

- The future of EvalYouth and Eval4Action:
 1. From EvalYouth+10 and Eval4Action+5 to EvalYouth +20 and Eval4Action +15
 2. From YEEs to international leaders: youth in evaluation stars
- Multi-stakeholder and intergenerational partnership to shape the future of evaluation
- Actionable commitments and future directions for Evaluation

14:00 – 16:30

Closing Ceremony of the Evaluation Conclave and the Summit of the Future of Evaluation

The closing ceremony will summarize key takeaways, future directions, and acknowledgments.

TEA BREAKS: 10:30 TO 11:00 AND 15:00 TO 15:30 | LUNCH BREAK: 13:00 TO 14:00



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