Role of the
Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) in promoting an evaluation culture in the development process in SRI LANKA
How SLEvA came to be?

- A group of like-minded individuals (interested professionals & development practitioners) acting together to foster, nurture and develop concepts towards common good and betterment of society

- Initially catalyzed by UNICEF and the governance project of UNDP under the Ministry of Plan Implementation (MPI)

- Institutionalized as a Voluntary Civil Society Organization in 1999
Vision

Promotion of an evaluation culture in the country
Objectives of SLEvA

- To promote **evaluation as an integral element in the development process**
- To contribute to **better management of development processes in Sri Lanka**
- To promote **transparency and accountability** in Governmental and Non Governmental development organizations/ processes
Membership

- Individual and organizations (corporate) who support the aims of SLEvA

- Current membership – 201

- Composition of membership
  - Practitioners
  - Professionals
  - Academics from different sectors / institutions
  - Government functionaries
  - Civil society / NGOs,
  - Private sector
Disciplines

- Professionals and practitioners from:
  - Education
  - Health
  - Medical
  - Social development
  - Environment
  - Legal
  - Engineering
  - Accountancy

Emphasis – interest in Evaluation
Management

- **Governing council** elected by the membership at Annual General Meeting comprising 11 members (current) - voluntary service

- One full time **Administration Secretary**

- **Sub committees** - voluntary service
  - 5 to 7 members
  - Capacity building
  - Documentation, dissemination and publicity
  - Research and policy implementation
  - Networking
Key focus areas

Four key focus areas:
- Capacity building
- Information dissemination and sharing
- Assisting policy formulation
- Networking
Capacity Building

- Conducting **national conferences / seminars** for sharing of experience in evaluation and related aspects – annually

- **International conferences** – bi annual, on current themes on evaluation: 03 international conferences

- **Professional development workshops** for capacity building in M&E – annually and biannually, special workshops
International Conferences

- **2001** - “Evaluation, Good Governance and Development”
- **2003** - “Development Evaluation for Improving Outcomes”
- **2007** - “Evaluation; An essential element in the development process”
- **2009** - “Evaluation for Development Results”
- **2011** – “Evaluation for Policy and Action”
- **2013** - “Evaluation for Change”
Professional Development Workshops

● Eg. 2012 - four workshops
  – ‘The Past, Present and Future of Evaluation Research’ Prof. Ray Pawson
  – ‘Evaluation Management’
  – ‘Quantitative Methods in Evaluation’
  – ‘Mixed Method Approaches to Evaluation’ Prof. Donna Mertens
TESA (Teaching Evaluation in South Asia)

- Post Graduate Diploma in Evaluation
- Initiated in 2010
- Funded by IDRC
- Coordinated by SLEvA
- Member countries –
  - India
  - Bangladesh
  - Afganistan
  - Sri Lanka
8 Modules

- Introduction to Evaluation
- Evaluation Design
- *Evaluation Approaches – SLEvA*
- Quantitative Methods in Evaluation - USJP
- Qualitative Methods in Evaluation
- Evaluation Management
- Standards and Ethics in Evaluation
- Communication in Evaluation

*SLEvA has tested 3 modules*
Information Dissemination and Sharing

Bi-annual Newsletter and Website to inform members of SLEvA activities and current evaluation trends and standards

Special presentations by subject specialists on evaluation by national and international resource persons

– Dr. Adil Khan, Chief, Socio-economic Governance and Management Branch, United Nations on, “Accounting and Monitoring for Results: Emerging Practices and Options”

– Dr. Ray C. Rist, the World Bank Adviser for Monitoring and Evaluation on, “From Studies to Streams - Coming Transformation of Evaluative Knowledge”

– Mr. D. Dissanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs “The Citizen’s Charter”

– Ms. Katherine Hay, Senior Program Officer, IDRC, Regional Office for South Asia & China with Dr. Raj Kr Verma, Deputy Team Leader – NEPED & Joint Secretary, Govt of Nagaland on, “Outcome Mapping”


Contribution to Public Sector and Policy formulation

• Strong collaboration with the Ministry of Plan Implementation (MPI) as a CSO partner in influencing policy and implementation
  – Preparation and submission of Draft National Policy paper on evaluation to MPI to enable the Ministry to commence a process in formulating a National Policy
Networking and Links with organizations with similar interests

- **Main Strategic Partner** – Government, Ministry of Plan Implementation

- **UN Collaboration** – UNICEF, UNDP

- **Close ties with GTZ, JBIC and the American Red Cross**: collaboration for various SLEvA activities in capacity building and dissemination of information

- **Member of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)**

- **Member of Community of Evaluators (COE)**
Funding/ Resources

- Council members work voluntarily – personally committed
- Special events/ activities through fund raising
  - Support up to now: UNDP, UNICEF, GTZ, Am. Red Cross, JBIC
- Conferences
- Training workshops on related, current themes
Challenges / Sustainability

Challenges

- Volunteerism has limitations conflicting with personal priorities
  - Need a secretariat to meet expanding scope and demand

- Limited financial resources

- Limited Influence over Government
Sustainability

- **Endowment fund**

- **Charging fees** for participation in workshops/conferences organized by SLEvA

- **Fund raising** for special events
Key enabling factors

- Commitment of our members.
  - SLEvA members constitute a close knit community. Respect the voluntarism of the organization and contribute as and when they can.

- Good will and assistance of donor agencies

- Government blessings and collaboration
Innovations and lessons learned:

- Establishment of an endowment fund
- Maintenance of Independence and integrity
- Cater to the Needs – Capacity Building
Next steps

- To promote evaluation and to further develop capacity of evaluation in the Provinces
The way forward....for review

- Acting as a **capacity builder, advocate, lobbyist** with Governmental and Non-Governmental development Agencies / processes
  - assisting the Government to set up small units for evaluation in institutions, conduct evaluations and disseminate information to stakeholders on some selected mega projects
  - develop evaluation capacities at grass root levels -to engage in self-evaluations

- Conduct **training programs, Workshops, Conferences & action research** related to the concept of evaluation at both National and International levels

- **Network** with National and International promoters of evaluation
  - form links with academic institutions in the country for both dissemination of information
  - inclusion of the subject of “Evaluation” to academic curricula
  - conduct research in the field of evaluation, and in capacity building / training

- Function in **close collaboration** with the Ministry of Plan Implementation and varied Agencies engaged in development processes
  - Citizen’s charter
THANK YOU