



**Fostering a  
Professional  
Evaluation  
Culture  
in Bhutan**

*A Registered Civil Society Organization*

**JULY  
2021-  
JUNE  
2022**

- **Evaluation  
Association of  
Bhutan**

# **Annual Report**

- **[info@evalbhutan.org](mailto:info@evalbhutan.org)**

# Our Vision

Wholesome Evaluation for realizing Gross National Happiness (GNH) based initiatives.



**Fostering a  
Professional  
Evaluation  
Culture  
in Bhutan**

*A Registered Civil Society Organization*

# Our Mission

To introduce, educate and inform people of Bhutan about the value of evaluation

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## Message from the Chairperson

I and the Board of Directors of the Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB) are pleased to present the Annual Report for the period 2021-22.

The EAB was able to make significant progress despite the disruptions of regular activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic during this period. The EAB initiated advocacy and awareness programmes on the evaluation among students at the College of Natural Resources in Punakha and Norbuling Rifter College in Paro in continuing its efforts to implement the recommendations from the situation analysis report 2020. Further, the EAB has participated in the regional-level knowledge-sharing events organized jointly by EAB, EvalYouth Bhutan in collaboration with APEA, delivering the first webinar on the evaluation eco-system of Bhutan in 2021. The association participated in the panel discussion on the National Evaluation Policies and System at the regional conference of APEA and ECOI in 2022. The EAB conducted training on monitoring and evaluation for the CSO officials contributing to capacity development and raising awareness of monitoring and evaluation.

Our Young and Emerging Evaluators have expanded and the co-leaders are actively engaging in evaluation discussions at the national and global levels. Our young evaluators now sit on the Board of the EAB and in APEA, representing the voice of young people in evaluation. Our network with regional VOPEs, COESA and APEA has further strengthened as we work closely and learn from each other. These achievements in 2021-22 will help us immensely in shaping our future activities.

Looking ahead, the association and its governance team will continue our focus on advocacy to raise awareness on evaluation and capacity-building, engaging people at various levels. I, on behalf of the governance team and the association members, would like to offer my sincere thanks to our supporters for their goodwill and generosity. We look forward to similar support in taking the EAB to a higher level. We wish everyone a very successful year.

Phuntsho Choden (PhD)

Chairperson

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

We are pleased to present the Annual report of the Evaluation Association of Bhutan for the year 2021. As Executive Director, we are proud to report that the association has made significant progress towards our mission of promoting evaluation culture and practice in Bhutan.

Over the past year, the association has successfully organized a number of events and initiatives aimed at building the capacity of our members and promoting the use of evaluation in development sectors. These include training workshops, conferences, and webinars which have been well-attended and highly appreciated by our members and participants.

In addition, the association has continued to work closely with government agencies, civil society organizations, and international development partners to promote the use of evaluation in policy and program decision-making. We have also collaborated with other evaluation associations and regional associations in the region to share best practices and strengthen the evaluation profession.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained committed to our mission and have adapted our activities to the changing circumstances. We are proud of the resilience and dedication shown by our members and the association as a whole.

Looking ahead, we are confident that the Evaluation Association of Bhutan will continue to play a vital role in promoting evidence-based decision-making and supporting the development of Bhutan. We thank our members, partners, and stakeholders for their continued support and look forward to working together in the year to come.

Sincerely,

DK Bhujel

Executive Director

## Introduction

Evaluation is crucial in contemporary society for organizations and governments to ensure that their investments have a positive impact on society and are yielding the desired outcomes. This process provides important information for decision-making, learning, accountability, and improvement. By evaluating programs and projects, stakeholders can determine if they are meeting their intended goals, are cost-effective, and are meeting the needs of the community.

To promote a culture of evaluation in Bhutan and foster evaluative thinking, the EAB was established in 2013. The organization aims to develop evaluation capacity and generate demand for evaluation. By becoming a member of the Community of Evaluators (CoE) and the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) and International Organization for Cooperation of Evaluation (IOCE), EAB has been able to contribute to discussions on the development evaluation and strengthen the evaluation culture in the country.

In 2020, EAB received funding from the UNICEF Country Office to conduct a situation analysis of the evaluation ecosystem in Bhutan. This analysis helped the organization chart a way forward in fulfilling its mandate. Additionally, EAB collaborated with young people to establish EvalYouth Bhutan in 2021 to create awareness about evaluation among the youth. By working with young people and establishing EvalYouth Bhutan, EAB is proactively building capacity and creating awareness on evaluation among Bhutan's youth.

## Organization Objectives

- ❖ To develop evaluation culture in the country
- ❖ To educate and inform people about the need for evaluation
- ❖ To promote evaluation as an integral element in the development process
- ❖ To develop the capacity and skill of our evaluators
- ❖ To contribute to knowledge generation and evidence-based planning and policy formulation process.

## Strategic Goal

**“To foster a vibrant evaluation culture through supporting the development of institutional and individual capacities for evaluation in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.”**

Board of Directors

# Board of Directors



DR.  
PHUNTSCHO  
CHODEN  
Chair



MS. KARMA  
CHODEN  
Member



MR. JIGMI  
RINZIN  
Member



MR. TASHI  
DORJI P  
Member



MR. TASHI  
DENDUP  
Member



MS. TASHI  
CHODEN  
Member



MS. DECHEN  
DOLKAR  
Member

## Staff Profile



### Executive Director

Mr. Dhan Kumar Bhujel is a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, currently working as National Consultant for Two Health Projects (Health Sector Development Program & Responsive COVID-19 Vaccines for Recovery Project under the APVAX Facility) under the Ministry of Health, funded by Asian Development Bank.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from IASE-Deemed University, India, an MBA from the University of the People, USA, and Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights from Pondicherry University, India. He is also a certified Analyst with training in Big Data Analytics from the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), New Delhi, India, and a Google Certified Data Analyst.

His past experiences include working as a Business Analyst with Construction Development Corporation Ltd, as Marketing Officer with Regional Agricultural Marketing and Cooperative Office, and as Asst. Program Officer with the Gross National Happiness Commission and Asst. Project/Liaison Officer with National Housing Development Corporation Thimphu.

### Program Officer



Ms. Kelzang Choden is the Program Officer of EAB. Before joining EAB, she worked for a private construction company as the Assistant Administration Manager and also worked for a travel agent for six months. Her previous roles as Assistant Administration Manager in a construction company and as an employee in a travel agency have provided her with valuable management, administration, and customer service skills.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in media studies and dzongkha from Sherubtse College, which has equipped her with communication, writing, and analytical skills.

## Program and Activities

### Advocacy at the College of Natural Resources



On October 3, 2021, the Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB) and Eval Youth Bhutan (EYB) visited the College of Natural Resources as part of a collaborative program aimed at promoting evaluation in Bhutan through awareness. The program served as an advocacy effort to raise awareness about the activities and initiatives of both EAB and EYB.

### A Two-day M&E training for CSOs in Bhutan



EAB conducted a two-day M&E training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Bhutan from October 11th to 12th, 2021, in Thimphu. The training was supported by Helvetas Bhutan, and the trainers included Mr. Dhan Kumar Bhujel, Executive Director of EAB, Dr. Phunthso Choden, Chair of EAB, and Dr. Suraj Nepal, Executive Director of the Center for Research on Bhutanese Studies (CRBS). Fifteen participants from the CSOs fraternity attended the training, comprising 10 females and 5 males.

### Fostering Evaluation Ecosystem: Case of Bhutan

Organized by:  EvalYouth Bhutan  Together with:  Decade of Evaluation for Action 

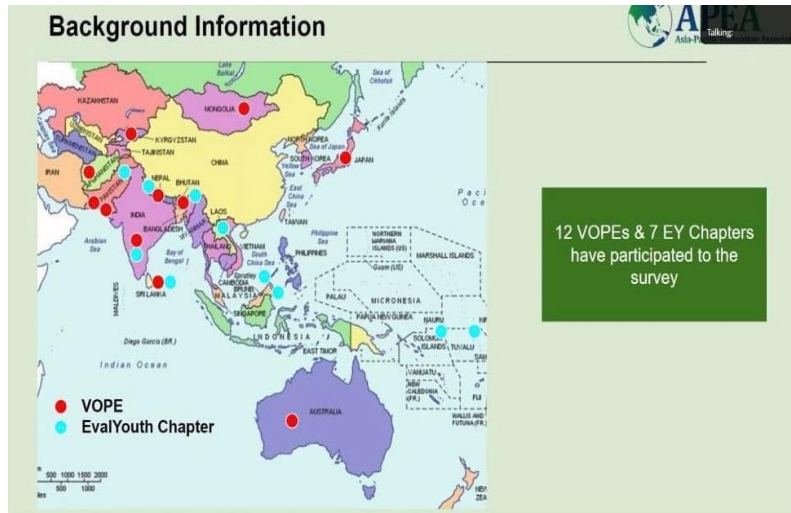
**FOSTERING EVALUATION ECOSYSTEM:  
CASE OF BHUTAN**  
PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATOR		SPEAKER	
	Yatin Diwakar Co-leader EvalYouth Asia		Phunthso Choden President Evaluation Association of Bhutan
PANELISTS			
	Ian Goldman Former Deputy Director General DPME, South Africa		Megha Pradhan Director CLEAR South Asia

**03<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**  
**5.30 PM IST / 8.00 AM EST**  
**REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/EABWebinar>**  
**FREE Registration**  
For queries, contact [tashikarse193@gmail.com](mailto:tashikarse193@gmail.com)

Dr. Phunthso Choden, the Chair of EAB, represented the organization as the speaker of the webinar on 3rd November 2021, organized by EAB, EvalYouth Bhutan in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association. The webinar theme was **“Fostering Evaluation Ecosystem: Case of Bhutan”**. Dr. Phunthso presented the policy brief based on the situational analysis of evaluation in Bhutan. The webinar also featured a panel session with two esteemed panelists, Mr. Ian Goldman, the former Deputy Director General of DPME, South Africa, and Mrs. Megha Pradhan, Director of CLEAR South Asia. Mr. Yatin Diwarkar, Co-leader of EvalYouth Asia, moderated the session.

## Virtual Summit on Professionalization of Evaluation for VOPEs and EvalYouth Chapters in Asia Pacific Region



EAB and EYB participated in the ongoing Voluntary Organization for Professional Evaluation (VOPE) Summit on Professionalization of Evaluation on November 20th, 2021. Bhutan is now successfully put up on the Asia Pacific Evaluation Map.

**Mr. Tashi Dendup the Board Director of EAB and co-leader of EYB is elected as a Board member of APEA**



### APEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022- 2023

#### List of Eligible Candidates

Name of the VOPE	Name of the Candidate	Position
Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEVA)	Asela Kalugampitiya	*President
Afghan Evaluation Society (AFES)	Qudratullah Jahid	**Vice President
Japan Evaluation Society (JES)	Keiko Nishino	**Vice President
Evaluation Association Bhutan (EAB)	Tashi Dendup	Board Member
Evaluation Community of India (ECOI)	Anirudda Brahmachari	Board Member
Indonesian Development Evaluation Community (INDEC)	Ratnayu Sitaresmi	Board Member
Mongolian Evaluation Network (MEN)	Elberel Tumenjargal	Board Member
Nepal Evaluation Society (NES)	Bhuban Bajracharya	Board Member
Philippine Evaluators for Development (PHIDEV)	Ana Erika	Board Member
Pakistan Evaluation Association (PEA)	Zain Haideri	Board Member

Mr. Tashi Dendup, one of the Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) and a Board Director of EAB, as well as co-leader of EYB, was elected as a Board Member of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association during their Annual General Meeting on December 11th, 2021.

## National Evaluation Policies and Systems of Asia Pacific

**3<sup>rd</sup> APEA CONFERENCE & EVAFEST 2022**  
Towards a Vibrant Evaluation Ecosystem:  
CREATIVITY | COLLABORATION | CONVERGENCE  
21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 | VIRTUAL EVENT

Join our panel discussion on:  
**National Evaluation Policies and Systems in Asia Pacific** 24<sup>th</sup> February 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (IST)

**“**  
A wholesome evaluation system emphasizing intergenerational aspects, gender equity and inclusivity, and respecting people's way of life is what we need to aspire for to be relevant. "  
**PHUNTSHO CHODEN**  
CHAIR | EVALUATION ASSOCIATION OF BHUTAN

**3<sup>rd</sup> APEA CONFERENCE & EVAFEST 2022**  
**Panel: National Evaluation Policies and Systems in Asia Pacific**  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
11:00 am -12:30 pm IST

**CHAIR**  
ANTONY CYRIAC

**PANELISTS**  
ANA ERIKA LAREZA YATIN DIWAKAR PHUNTSHO CHODEN TAKAAKI MIYAGUCHI BATSUGAR TSEDENDAMBA

**OUR PARTNERS**  
APEA, EVALUATION OF INDIA, DCEO, UNFPA, IEO, ISST, YOUTH, EvalSouth, RPE, SEMA, LEAD, APC HUB, SARTHAN, J-PAL

Dr. Phuntsho Choden, the Chair of EAB, represented the organization as a panelist during the 3rd APEA Conference and Evalfest 2022. She participated in the panel session titled "**National Evaluation Policies and Systems in the Asia Pacific,**" where she presented on Bhutan's Evaluation Policies and Ecosystems.

The team from EYB participated as the production team for the APEA Conference and Eval Fest 2022.



Ms. Tashi Choden and Mr. Tashi Dendup are both co-leaders of EYB and the board directors of the EAB, while Sonam Choden, co-leader of EYB, and Mr. Tshulthrim Tharchen, a core team member of EYB, were also part of the production team.



**Ms. Tashi Choden is selected as a Co-leader of the Evalyouth Asia Chapter**

Ms. Tashi Choden, the Board Director of EAB and Co-leader of EYB, has joined as a co-leader of Evalyouth Asia from Bhutan as of March 2nd, 2022.



**APC HUB**  
 ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNICATION HUB™

The **APC HUB** is the communications platform for Asia Pacific Region's evaluation endeavors. It is composed of a team of young volunteers working towards effective communication of evaluation matters in the region.

**MEET OUR CO-LEADERS FOR APRIL-JUNE 2022**



**TSHULTHRIM THARCHEN**  
 (Bhutan)  
 PRODUCTION TEAM



**DOROTHY MAE ALBIENTO**  
 (Philippines)  
 COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

**JOIN US** Interested in learning and using communications skills to advance influential evaluation? Contact us at [a pea.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:a pea.coordinator@gmail.com)

### Mr. Tshulthrim Tharchen onboarded APC HUB as co-leader in April-June 2022

EYB is actively involved in multiple programs to promote M&E in Bhutan. Mr. Tshulthrim Tharchen, a core member of EYB, served as co-leader of APC HUB from April to June 2022.

## Evaluation in Bhutan - Policy Formulation Processes and Practice

Mr. Tashi Duba, a Board Director of EAB was a speaker for a webinar on "**Evaluation in Bhutan - Policy Formulation Processes and Practice**" on June 23, 2022. The webinar was organized in collaboration with SLEVA, APEA, EvalYouth Sri Lanka, the Center for Evaluation, the Evaluation Association of Bhutan, and EvalYouth Bhutan.

SLEVA WEBINAR #31



## EVALUATION IN BHUTAN - POLICY FORMULATION PROCESSES AND PRACTICE



THURSDAY, 23RD JUNE 2022 | 11.30 AM IST



### SPEAKER

**TASHI DUBA**

Member of the Board of Governance of EAB



### MODERATOR

**YATIN DIWAKAR**

Co-leader in EvalYouth Asia & EvalYouth India

Register Now:

<https://bit.ly/SLEVA2022JUNE>

In collaboration with



Center for Evaluation  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



### Third Annual General Meeting

EAB held its 3rd Annual General Meeting on July 7th, 2022 at its office. The Board of Directors and EAB members were updated on the organization's status and upcoming work plan activities, which were discussed with the members. Thirteen EAB members attended the AGM.



## Board of Directors

EAB has 7 Board of Directors. Of these, 4 are nominated by EAB members, 2 are nominated jointly by EAB and EYB members who are Young and Emerging Evaluators, and 1 is represented by the government through the Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination office under the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Name	Occupation	Category	Term
Phuntsho Choden	Independent Consultant and Evaluator	Chairperson	2nd Term
Karma Choden	Consultant	member	2nd Term
Jigmi Rinzin	Managing Partner, JIGMI Audits and Financials Pvt. Ltd	member	2nd Term
Dechen Dolkar	Civil Engineer	member	2nd Term
Tashi Dorji P	Chief Program Officer, Strategic Evaluation Division Cabinet Secretariat	member	1st Term
Tashi Dendup		member	1st Term
Tashi Choden	Planning Officer at KGUMBS	member	1st Term

## Board Meeting

Seven Board Meeting was held in 2021 and it was held on the following dates.

1. 16th February 2021
2. 17th April 2021
3. 8th June 2021
4. 28th August 2021
5. 15th September 2021
6. 30th November 2021
7. 16th December 2021

Meeting Dates	16/02	17/04	8/06	28/08	15/09	30/11	16/12	Total
Meeting Numbers	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Name of Board Directors								
Phuntsho Choden								7
Karma Choden								5
Sonam Tshering								3
Jigmi Rinzin								3
Tashi Dorji								4
Dechen Dolkar								1
Tashi Choden								7

The board meetings were proposed and held whenever necessary, and it took place at the EAB office located at Upper Changangkha Thegchen Lam, Thimphu. The agenda and required documents were circulated among the Board of Directors one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

## Financial Statement for the year 2021

Sources (fund inflow)	Ngultrum
UNICEF Projects	35000
Donations	265000
Membership Fees	19000
Total Inflow (A)	319000

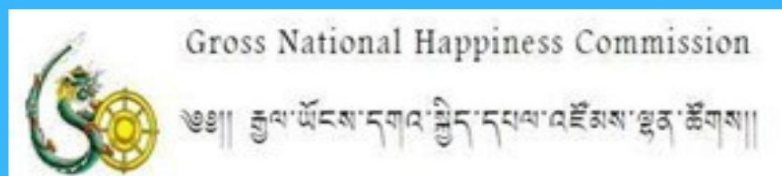
Expenditure (fund outflow)	Ngultrum
Administration	231881
Subscription and PF contributions	17300
Project Implementation	-
Total Outflow (B)	249181

<b>Surplus of income over Expenditure (C=A-B)</b>	<b>69819</b>
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## Our Supporters and Partners

### SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

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### How can you support us?

- You can find a Program and Project.
- You can be a member of EAB
- You can partner with EAB
- Visit [www.evalbhutan.org](http://www.evalbhutan.org) to learn more about us