Review of National Evaluation Systems and Capacities in Asia Pacific for evaluating progress towards SDGs

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Objectives

Participants will learn about the emerging findings and recommendations of this regional joint initiative based on country case studies.

The presentation will outline emerging regional priorities in evaluating progress in the SDGs and how these support the countries' evaluation capacity at the policy and institutional levels.

Integrating the 2030 Agenda – Building Blocks

Aligning strategies and plans with 2030 Agenda

Setting up institutional arrangements for horizontal/ vertical coordination and policy coherence

Integrating 2030 Agenda into budgets

Assessing data availability and capacities of data systems to monitor and evaluate progress, adapting/ establishing M&E Systems

From planning to action: prioritizing and sequencing – identifying SDG 'accelerator interventions'

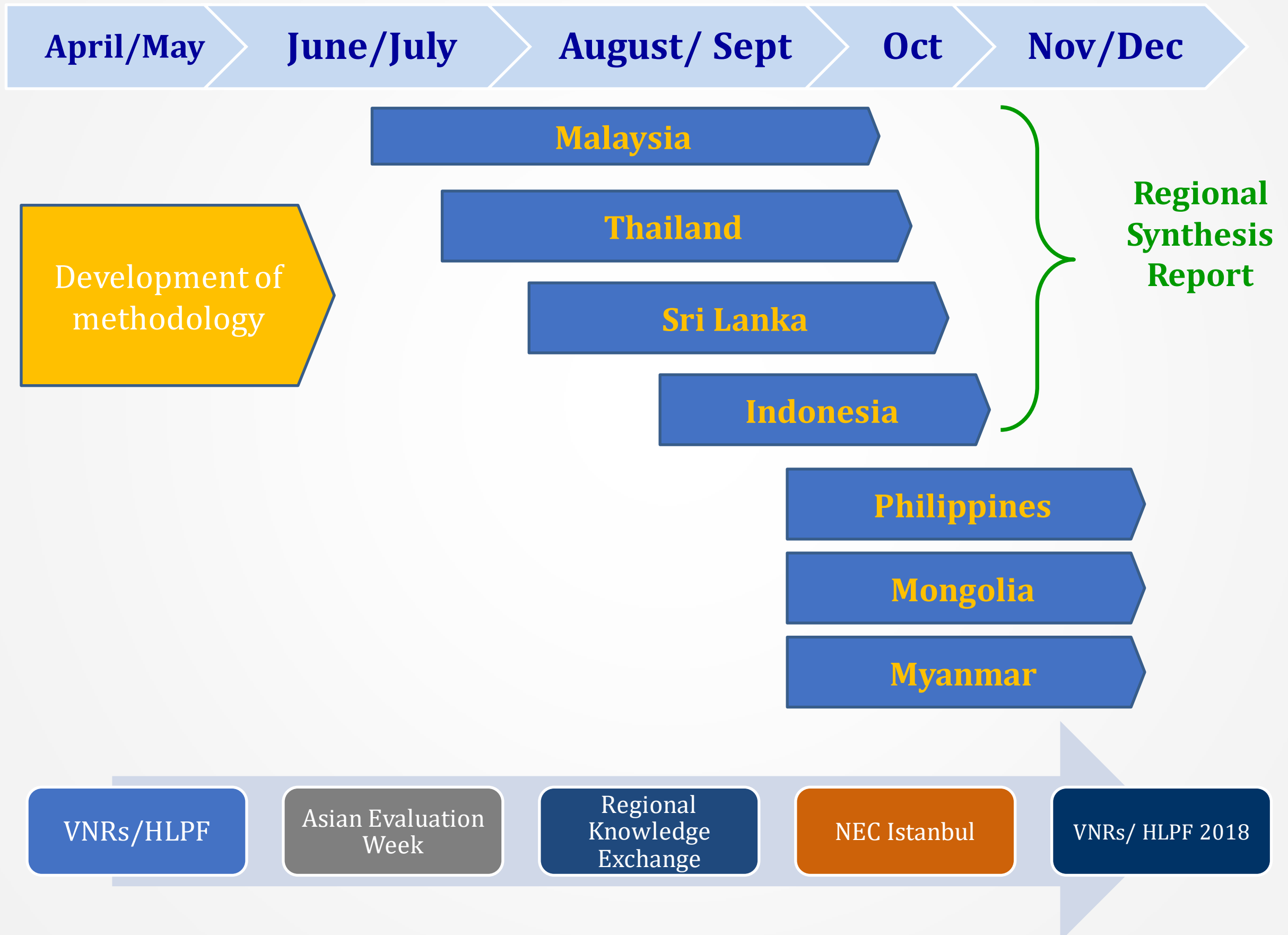Financing for sustainable development

Country Case Studies
- 'Readiness' for Evaluating Progress towards SDGs

- What **M&E systems are in place** to monitor, review and **evaluate implementation of 2030 Agenda?**

- How do evaluations **inform adjustments to strategies**, **resource allocation and policies**? Is this changing in light of 2030 Agenda?

- What evaluation **methods/ tools** are government/ other stakeholders using to evaluate policy choices to **support integrated approache**s?

- What **equity-based evaluation methods**/tools are being used? Could be scaled up to monitor commitment of **'leaving no one behind'?**

- **Recommendations** to strengthen national evaluation capacity for the SDGs.

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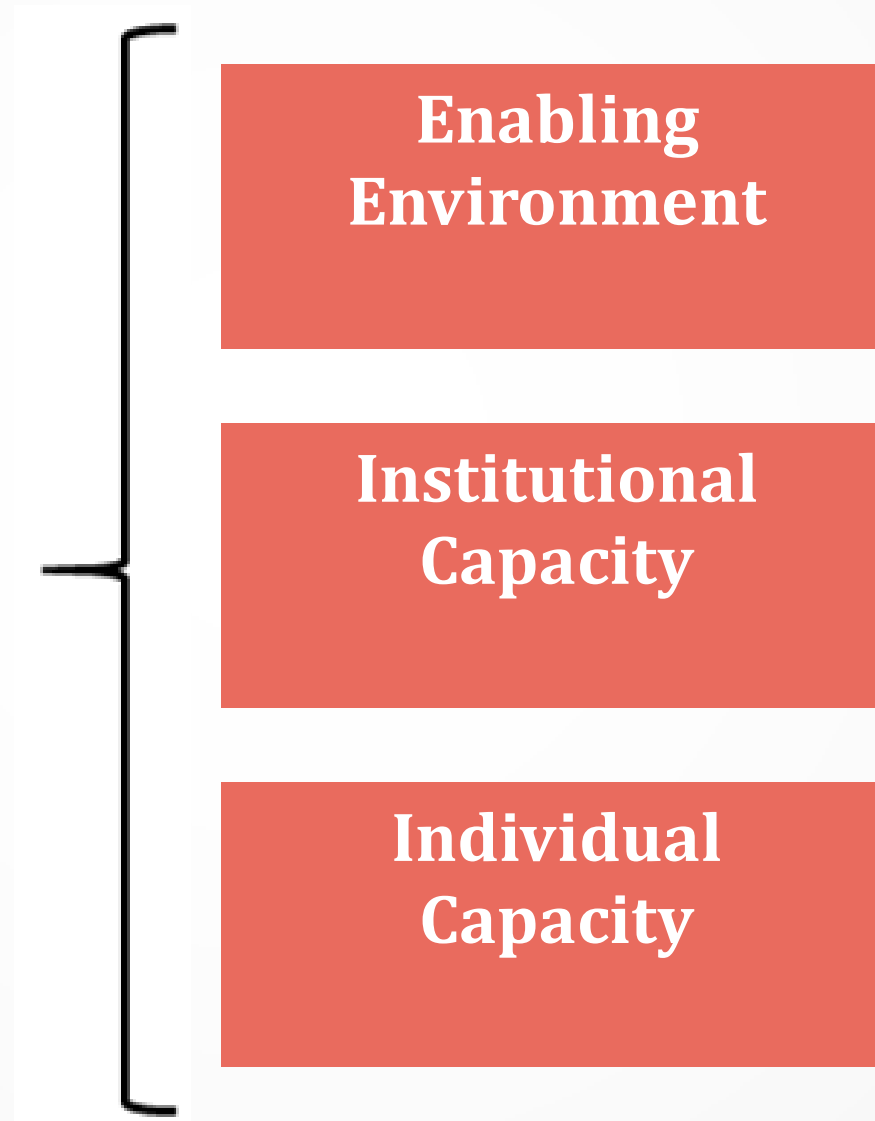
Timelines and Milestones

| April/May | June/July | August/ Sept | Oct | Nov/Dec |

Development of methodology

Malaysia

Thailand

Sri Lanka

Indonesia

Regional Synthesis Report

Philippines

Mongolia

Myanmar

| VNRs/HLPF | Asian Evaluation Week | Regional Knowledge Exchange | NEC Istanbul | VNRs/ HLPF 2018 |

Conceptual Framework

Three Dimensions of Evaluation Systems

Principal findings on NEC for the SDGs
a) Enabling Environment

1. All 4 countries demonstrate **strong political commitment** towards the 2030 Agenda and evaluation.
2. **Increasing demand** from citizens, and **mechanisms** facilitating citizen engagement in evaluation and the 2030 Agenda; the corresponding openness of government is mixed but growing overall.
3. **Evaluative thinking** and learning culture limitations.
4. **Dedicated resources** for evaluation are not sufficient.
5. **Feedback loops** promoting uptake and use of evaluations are limited.

b) Institutional Capacity

1. Key **institutional structures and mechanisms for NES are in place**
2. **Harmonization and coordination** of various NES efforts are limited.
3. **Data quality assurance mechanisms** are insufficient
4. Progress on promoting **equity focused and gender** responsive (EFGR) practices and evaluations is variable.

c) Individual Capacity

1. **Overall, individual capacity for evaluation** is limited and uneven.
2. **Opportunities for professional evaluation capacity development** vary across and within the case studies; overall, they are limited but increasing.

Takeaways: Five broad recommendations

1. Further **promote evaluative thinking and a learning culture.**
2. Strengthen the alignment between the **principles and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and the role and value of evaluation.**
3. **Improve** horizontal and vertical **harmonization and coordination** of NES efforts.
4. Strengthen **feedback loops to better promote the use and uptake of evaluation findings**.
5. EFGR evaluation -Develop and implement specific **human resource development and training strategies**.