

# **Strengthening the Culture of Evaluation in the Philippines: Strengthening Professional Associations**

Ricky Lozari

President

Pilipinas Monitoring and Evaluation Society (PMES)



# Key Questions

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1. What is PMES?
2. What do we mean by “strengthening / sustaining a culture of evaluation”?
3. What is the role of professional associations like PMES in strengthening the culture of evaluation in the Philippines?
4. How do we strengthen professional associations?
5. What is PMES doing to strengthen / sustain a culture of evaluation in the Philippines?

# Key Questions #1: What is PMES?

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- PMES = Pilipinas Monitoring and Evaluation Society
- Industry association organized in 2007 by M&E practitioners from donor organizations through MandEPilipinas@yahoogroups.com
- PMES has about 50 members
  - i. individuals / organizations
  - ii. from public / private sectors
  - iii. involved in M&E / interested in the M&E profession and practice (open membership model)
- PMES aims to help
  - i. improve the competency of practitioners and stakeholders to conduct both monitoring and evaluation activities to meet international standards
  - ii. ensure continuous improvement of PMES members through knowledge exchange and advisory / mentoring services
  - iii. promote M&E culture and profession in the Philippines.

## Key Question #2: What do we mean by “strengthening / sustaining a culture of evaluation”?

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What is a “culture of evaluation”?

- i. “systems do not a culture make”
- ii. “Many organizations have systems of results. ... But these should not be mistaken for an evaluative culture. Indeed, on their own, they can become a burdensome system that does not help management at all.”
- iii. “information on performance is deliberately sought in order to learn how to better manage and deliver programs and services.”

- Mayne, John. (2008). Building an evaluative culture for effective evaluation and results management.

[https://www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/ILAC\\_Brief20\\_Evaluative\\_Culture.pdf](https://www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/ILAC_Brief20_Evaluative_Culture.pdf)

Key Question #3: What is the role of professional associations like PMES in strengthening the culture of evaluation in the Philippines?

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1. Which professions are we referring to?
  - These include: M&E, academe / research, strategic / budget management, L&D, OD, etc.
2. What roles do these professions play?
  - Complement and/or supplement organic resources from the government
3. Are there associations that represent these professions?
  - PMES, M&E Network Philippines, PSTD, ODPN, AODN, PAEP, etc.

# Key Question #4: How do we strengthen professional associations?

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1. Assess the level of capacity, competency, awareness and willingness of these associations to promote evaluation culture within their organisations and in the Philippines
  - Do they have what it takes in terms of experts, expertise, knowledge of how the government works, willingness to learn and transfer knowledge to the point of almost making themselves redundant?
2. Help build these attributes
  - Invest in developing contextualized programs
  - Broaden the base to subnational level
  - This is part of investment in soft infrastructure development
3. Build a Community of Practice (CoP)
  - A group of stakeholders who may, and are willing to, share their expertise and experiences to achieve the objective of strengthening the evaluation culture within their associations and in the Philippines.

# Key Question #5: What is PMES doing to strengthen / sustain a culture of evaluation in the Philippines?

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1. We conduct capacity building activities to agencies and other stakeholders either for a fee or for free.
  - About 250 practitioners and enthusiasts have so far attended PMES' workshops
  - We conduct fundamentals of M&E workshops ideally 2x /year; we will conduct a 5 day workshop in March meant for M&E managers
  - These programs do not only teach but impress upon the participants the value of RBM and M&E
2. We provide peer coaching / advisory services to our members; we exchange knowledge about what we have learned from our individual journey

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