Dear Colleagues

EvalYear'2015 ended, and we can proudly say that together, we made of it a global and resounding success. More than ever today, the evaluation profession is acknowledged as an essential building block of sustainable and equitable development. The momentum created by EvalYear'2015 compels each and every one of us to capitalize on its momentum and give the evaluation profession the attention and recognition it deserves.

One of the major outcomes of EvalYear'2015 was the development and launch of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 (EvalAgenda2020), a living document which depicts our collective vision for the evaluation world we want and where "no one is left behind" in this long and challenging journey to strengthen the evaluation sector.

The Global Evaluation Agenda – as its title implies – outlines a global process where all stakeholders concerned about evaluation are invited to contribute: VOPEs, UN organizations, other international development agencies and donors that support evaluation capacity development, government policy and decision makers, commissioners, users, civil society organizations and the list goes on….

At EvalPartners, we expect to address the priorities of the Global Evaluation Agenda through seven new networks. To learn more about any of these Networks, you are invited to go to the IOCE website (http://forum.ioce.net/) forums and look for the Concept Note on the relevant forum discussion thread.

1. **EvalGender+** is a global partnership to strengthen national capacities for gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluations, and believes that no one should be discriminated on basis of gender, race, age, origin, caste or class, ethnicity, location, income or property, language, religion, convictions, opinions, health or disability. See www.mymande.org/evalgender.

2. **EVALSDGs** (**E**valuation – adding **V**alue **A**nd **L**earning to the **SDGs**) is a network of interested and skilled policy makers, institutions and practitioners who advocate for the evaluability of the performance indicators of the new SDGs and support processes to integrate evaluation into national and global review systems. EVALSDGs members work to support the evaluation community to be prepared for evaluating initiatives towards better outcomes for the SDGs and ultimately, the "World We Want". In addition to the IOCE Forum (http://forum.ioce.net/forum/open-forums/evalsdg) there is a EVALSDGs group on LinkedIn and via twitter@evalsdgs.

3. **EvalYouth** is a global network that will promote activities involving: **Y**oung and **E**merging **E**valuators (YEE), youth stakeholders, and key actors. EvalYouth aims to increase the contribution of YEE, including young women, to equitable and sustainable social development. EvalYouth wants to support YEEs, to become technically sound, experienced and well networked professionals who contribute to evaluation capacity at national, regional and international levels. See http://forum.ioce.net/forum/open-forums/evalyouth.

4. **Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation**, officially launched at the Parliament of Nepal on 25 November, has a goal of advancing the enabling environment for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standard evaluation processes in line with the principles of "No one left behind" and National Evaluation Policies at the country level that are aimed at contributing to good governance and sustainable development. See https://globalparliamentarianforum.wordpress.com.

5. **EvalIndigenous** is a multi-stakeholder partnership which, through the recognition of the different world views and valuing the strengths of Indigenous evaluation practices, will advance the contribution of Indigenous evaluation to global evaluation practice. See http://forum.ioce.net/forum/open-forums/evalindigenous.

6. The **Professionalization of Evaluation** network seeks to promote evaluation excellence by enhancing professionalization initiatives and partnerships among VOPEs. The network will promote improved access to quality education and training, dissemination of evaluation knowledge and good practices, establishment and streamlining of guiding principles, ethical guidelines and standards for evaluation, agreed evaluation capabilities or competencies frameworks, legitimate ways of recognizing the knowledge, skills and dispositions as well as experience needed to carry out work to an adequate standard of quality, and institutional structures for professionalization. See http://forum.ioce.net/forum/open-forums/professionalisation-aa.

7. The **State of Evaluation** will summarize significant elements of evaluation policies, systems and environments on country, regional and international levels. See http://forum.ioce.net/forum/open-forums/state-of-evaluation.

For all the initiatives listed above, **WE NEED YOU!**

Each regional and national VOPE is invited to contribute to each of the networks listed above. We are also calling upon regional VOPEs to nurture hubs of excellence which relay the global efforts around EvalAgenda2020 at the regional level.

We are actively fundraising to enable each network to kick-off with activities at the national, regional and international levels. As such, and thanks to the generous support from the Government of Finland, we will be able to support a new round of Small Grants to VOPEs (previously called Peer-to-Peer). Regional VOPEs will be supported to include strands around the Global Evaluation Agenda in their annual conferences during 2016 and 2017. Evaluators from the Global South will be supported to participate in international conferences on evaluation around the world provided that they produce quality research that is accepted to be featured in the main program of these conferences, and the list goes on.

This is why we kindly ask you to reflect on the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 and the new networks as you develop your VOPE's action plan for the next year. Please nominate members of your VOPE who would be willing to serve as focal points for each of the new networks on behalf of the national VOPEs. Nominees should have a keen interest in the subject area of the network and be willing to participate actively in working groups and on-line meetings. Each nominee would work under the umbrella of the regional VOPE in collaboration with IOCE and EvalPartners in making (EvalAgenda2020) come true.

We ask that you kindly visit this brief survey link to submit your nominations (network of interest, name and email address) and we will make sure to transmit them to the leaders of the requisite networks and regional VOPEs to initiate a proper follow-up mechanism https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRT7T9M.

By the way, in order to participate in these IOCE/EvalPartners initiatives your VOPE needs to be registered on the IOCE database. If your VOPE hasn't already been registered, you are reminded to do so now by going to http://ioce-vopes.wildapricot.org/join-us. Just a friendly reminder the 2016 IOCE membership contributions are due – contact Lynn at lynn@ioce.net to find out how you can make your contribution.

Yours sincerely

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Co-Chair of EvalPartners