



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE UPDATE

Issue 2
16 December 2022



CONTENTS

- Approval of the Evaluation Policy
- Independent evaluations: India and Brazil project evaluation
- IEO lecture series
- IEO work programme and budget 2023
- Recruitment of human resources
- Evaluation partnerships
- IEO web pages

This is the second *Update* by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Since the last edition in July, I have arrived in Shanghai at the headquarters of the New Development Bank (NDB). All colleagues have been very welcoming, and thanks to the generous contribution by the Government of China, the NDB has a truly spectacular headquarters building in the New Pudong District of the city. My office overlooks the Huangpu River and though I had travelled to China several times in the last 20 years, I had never visited Shanghai and my impressions of the city and its people are extremely positive. The working environment at the Bank is convivial, and the Board of Directors, President and Management are very supportive of the independent evaluation function. A lot has yet to be done, but I am satisfied with the progress in my first eight months in establishing the independent evaluation function at the Bank.



I am convinced of the importance of evaluation as an instrument not only for ensuring checks and balances, but as an opportunity for learning, engagement, reflection, and improvement”

Ashwani K. Muthoo
Director General, IEO

Approval of the Evaluation Policy

The Board of Directors (BOD) approved the Bank's first Evaluation Policy in August 2022. This policy sets out the overarching framework for conduct of evaluations in NDB. The Policy focuses on strategic issues and clearly defines roles and responsibilities across the various components of the evaluation system ensuring complementarity and avoiding overlap and duplication with other entities responsible for oversight in the Bank. The new Policy covers independent evaluations as well as some aspects of self-evaluation. Independent evaluation at the NDB is guided by the following core principles: Independence, utility, timeliness and credibility and transparency.

The Policy may be downloaded at www.ndb.int/independent-evaluation-office

Independent evaluations



India project evaluation

IEO completed its first evaluation of the *Madhya Pradesh Major District Roads Project* in India. This was a sovereign operation with a total project cost of US\$ 500 million. The report has been finalized and discussed at a stakeholders' workshop in Delhi and thereafter by the BOD on 13 December 2022, along with NDB Management Response. While the evaluation identified several areas in need of improvement, it also concluded that the project was broadly satisfactory in meeting its objectives of strengthening connectivity in the State's rural hinterlands and fostering economic and social development. The final evaluation report and related documents will shortly be made available through IEO webpages on the NDB website.

Brazil project evaluation

IEO launched the evaluation of an NDB-financed non-sovereign project in Brazil, of the Financing of renewable energy projects and associated transmission. This is also a US\$ 500 million operation in partnership with the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES). The field work for the evaluation will be conducted in March 2023.

IEO lecture series

IEO introduced a *Lecture Series* with the aim of promoting an evaluation culture in the Bank and providing a platform for exchanging ideas and insights on relevant topics.

The guest speaker at the first IEO lecture in July 2022 was Mr. **Vinod Thomas**, a development economist, who has held many important positions in his career, including that of Director General/Senior Vice President of the World Bank Independent Evaluation Group. His lecture was on Evaluation for a *Heightened Impact from the NDB*. Mr. Thomas's presentation and the video recording of the session may be seen on the [IEO webpages](#).

The second IEO lecture will be held on **12 January 2023** and will feature the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and NDB Presidents, respectively, Mr. **Alvaro Lario** and Mr. **Marcos Prado Troyjo**.

IEO work programme and budget 2023

On 13 December 2023, the BOD approved IEO's first work programme and budget for 2023. Some key evaluations that IEO plans to conduct in 2023 include: a corporate level evaluation on project supervision and implementation support, and a thematic/programmatic evaluation of NDB's US\$ 10 billion funding of activities in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

In addition, IEO will conduct three new project evaluations, once each in China, Russia and South Africa. IEO will also prepare an evaluation synthesis report on organizational decentralization. Some other priority elements of the work programme include the validation of project completion reports, methodology development, evaluation capacity building and partnerships.

Recruitment of human resources

IEO has completed the recruitment process of two evaluation specialists. Subject to the confirmation of the routine background checks, the selected staff should be on board in early 2023. An IEO officer has been hired (Ms. **Qin Liu**, China), who started in her role in end November. Additional evaluation specialist positions will be filled in 2023.

Evaluation partnerships

IEO continues to devote attention to partnerships. In the second semester of the year, IEO joined the *Evaluation Community of India*, and the Director General IEO was a panelist at the Asian Evaluation Week in September 2022 on *Ensuring Evaluation Influence and Utilization: Learning from Influential Evaluations*. Further opportunities for expanding partnerships are being actively explored.

IEO web pages

IEO has established a dedicated presence on the NDB website (www.ndb.int/independent-evaluation-office). All key IEO documents and information are available there. The webpages are being further developed and updated on an ongoing basis.