



Nigerian
Association
of Evaluators



NAE 2026
Evaluation
Conference
— EVALUATION AS A NATIONAL ASSET —

Concept and Call for Abstracts NAE 2026 Evaluation Conference

2nd – 04th November 2026
Abuja, Nigeria

Theme:
**Evaluation as a National
Asset**



Introduction

Nigeria continues to face persistent challenges with evidence generation, data quality, policy coherence, and public-sector accountability; gaps that weaken national planning, service delivery, and long-term development outcomes. Despite the growing recognition of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as a strategic governance tool, the country still lacks a legislated national M&E policy, a coordinated evaluation system, and accredited institutional pathways for developing evaluation professionals. Fragmented practices across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), limited evaluation uptake, inadequate capacity within government and academia, and the absence of M&E degree programmes further constrain national progress.

To move beyond this, the Nigerian Association of Evaluators (NAE) has continued to play a catalytic role in mobilising professionals, advocating for institutionalisation, strengthening capacity, and championing indigenous evaluation models like the Made-in-Africa approach that aligns evaluation with Nigeria's governance priorities. The 2026 Evaluation Conference is therefore a deliberate response to these systemic gaps, designed to consolidate momentum, build a unified national voice, and position evaluation as an indispensable national asset.

The conference

In selecting the theme for the 2026 conference, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the NAE drew from three key sources; being priorities identified by participants at the 2025 symposium., Emerging global and continental trends in Monitoring and Evaluation and the strategic direction of the Association, grounded in Nigeria's evolving policy environment and NAE's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

This reflection also considered the national push for a legislated M&E Policy, the Association's advocacy for a Bill establishing a National Institute of Evaluation (NIE), and the urgent need to address gaps in evaluation education, including the absence of M&E degree programmes within Nigerian universities. Underpinning this is NAE's remarkable organisational renewal between 2024–2025: doubling its membership base, achieving stronger youth participation, enhanced leadership stability, and accelerated progress in institutionalising M&E practice. Anchored within this context, the 2026 Conference will advance the theme: **Evaluation as a National Asset**. The conference holds from the 2nd to the 4th of November 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria.





Evaluation as a National Asset

This theme positions evaluation not only as a technical practice but as a strategic national resource essential for governance transformation, public accountability, resource optimisation, and evidence-driven development. It aligns with NAE's ambition to be a credible national reference body and to champion evaluation's integration into government systems, legislation, higher education, and professional regulation.



Conference Structure

The #NAE2026EvaluationConference is designed as a 3-day event, balancing plenary engagements, expert sessions, practitioner-led dialogues, capacity-strengthening activities, and evidence-sharing. The structure combines both appointed sessions (keynotes, panels, masterclasses) and submitted sessions (paper presentations, innovation clusters, poster exhibitions). This hybrid format creates inclusive spaces for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, academia, development partners, private sector leaders, and young evaluators.



Conference Strands and Sub-Strands

The 2026 conference is organised around three strategic strands, each reflecting national priorities, global MERL trends, and the Association's institutional aspirations.





STRAND 1: Evaluation Education

Here we are seeking to reclaim African knowledge, strengthening M&E education, and professionalising evaluation practice and is arrived at through these sub strands:



Indigenous Evaluation Practices & Made-in-Africa Evaluation: Exploring African centred methodologies, community accountability systems, cultural lenses, and the relevance of indigenous knowledge.

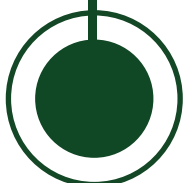


Evaluation Education and University Integration: Designing M&E academic programmes, Centres of Excellence, curriculum reform, and faculty capacity strengthening.



STRAND 2: Strengthening National Evaluation Systems, institutionalisation & Policy Uptake

Here we drive at building a strong national architecture for evaluation as a public good and intend to follow this through the following sub strands:



National Evaluation Policy & Legal Frameworks: The push toward a National M&E Policy, legislative advocacy, and the National Institute of Evaluation Bill.



Institutionalisation within MDAs & Sub-National Systems:

Strengthening planning, performance systems, budgeting integration, and state-level evaluation units.

Evaluation Use, Uptake & Evidence-to-Policy Pathways:

Enhancing evidence utilisation, political economy considerations, and accountability mechanisms.



STRAND 3: Emerging Trends, Innovations & the Future of Evaluation

Here we seek to explore new frontiers that shape evaluation practice globally and nationally and make them readily available to our ecosystem through the following strands:

Artificial Intelligence, Data Science & Technology in Evaluation:

Machine learning, automated evidence synthesis, dashboards, remote sensing, and adaptive analytics.

Climate, Resilience & Humanitarian Evaluation:

Evidence for climate adaptation, fragility contexts, peacebuilding, and resilience systems.

Youth Innovations & Intergenerational Evidence Leadership:

Spotlighting YEEs' contributions, disruptive evaluation ideas, and youth-driven models.





Session Formats

Presentation approaches will follow six structured modalities, combining appointed and peer submitted formats:

Appointed Sessions



Keynote Addresses:

These sessions feature distinguished national and international leaders who offer strategic insights and thought leadership on the state of evaluation, governance, and development systems. These high-level speeches set the intellectual tone of the conference by providing visionary perspectives, policy reflections, and calls to action.



Panel Discussions:

Panel discussions convene experts for a 60-minute moderated dialogue that interrogates national priorities and systemic issues within the evaluation ecosystem. Each panel provides a multi-perspective conversation that deepens understanding, sparks debate, and explores pathways for advancing evaluation practice, policy reforms, and institutional strengthening.



Masterclasses:

These are intensive, skills-oriented sessions led by seasoned practitioners who provide structured, practical learning in key areas of Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL). These sessions blend conceptual grounding with hands-on exercises, demonstrations, and real world case examples.





Submitted Sessions



Paper Presentations:

These 30 minutes sessions offer a platform for evaluators, researchers, academics, and emerging professionals to share evidence, methodological innovations, and lessons from practice. Presenters provide targeted summaries of their work followed by focused dialogues.



Innovation Clusters:

These are 20 minutes flexible, participatory spaces for exploring emerging ideas, technologies, and contextual evaluation approaches. Instead of formal presentations, facilitators pose reflective prompts that guide collective inquiry into practical challenges and innovations.



Poster Presentations:

These are visual interactive learning environment where participants showcase tools, dashboards, evaluation results, conceptual models, and methodological advances. Participants walk through the exhibit, engaging directly with presenters for short discussions and practical insights.

Note:

The Conference Committee reserves the right to assign the final presentation format based on the programme structure and available slots.





Paper Submission Guidelines

Abstract Requirements

Requirement	Specification
Language	English
File Format	Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
Font	Times New Roman, 12 pt
Line Spacing	1.5
Alignment	Justified
Word Limit	3,000 characters including spaces maximum
Content	Text only – no figures, graphs, charts, tables, images, or bulleted lists
Keywords	3-5 words

Abstract Structure

- ◆ **Title:** Concise, descriptive title, max 100 characters including spacing
- ◆ **Background:** 1 sentence on the problem and why it matters
- ◆ **Objective(s):** 1 sentence on the purpose of the study/evaluation
- ◆ **Methods:** 1 sentence on design, data, and analysis
- ◆ **Results:** 3 sentences on key findings
- ◆ **Conclusion:** 1 sentence on implications and contribution
- ◆ **Keywords:** 3-5 words.



Submission Timelines

Activity	Deadlines (2026)
Abstract Submission Opens	19 July
Abstract Submission Deadline	20 August
Notification of Acceptance of Abstract	25 – 30 August
Confirm acceptance and participation from the accepted Authors	1 – 30 September
Full Paper Submission 1 September –	21 October

Some dates to Remember

19 July
Invitation /
Visa Letters.

1 August -
31 September
Conference
Registration:
Early Bird

1 October
Conference
Registration:
Regular

Eligibility and Authorship

- ◆ 1. At least one author must register for and attend the conference to present the accepted abstract
- ◆ 2. The primary/corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that all co-authors are aware of the content and agree to its submission
- ◆ 3. Abstracts must represent original work that has not been previously published or presented at



Important Notes for Authors

- ◆ **i. Plagiarism:** All submissions must be original work. Plagiarism will result in immediate rejection and may lead to further sanctions
- ◆ **ii. AI-Generated Content:** Abstracts must represent the author's own work. The use of AI tools for content generation must be disclosed and is subject to review
- ◆ **iii. Multiple Submissions:** An author may submit a maximum of two abstracts as the lead and not more than two as a corresponding author.
- ◆ **iv. Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest
- ◆ **v. Copyright:** By submitting an abstract, authors grant NAE the right to publish the abstract in the conference programme, proceedings, and related materials
- ◆ **vi. Changes:** Any changes to the title, authorship, or presentation type after submission must be requested in writing to the Conference Committee.



Submission Method

- ◆ Abstracts should be submitted via the conference submission portal <https://nigeriaevaluators.org/conferences/>
- ◆ Request an Invite Letter here: <https://forms.gle/CGzUm7GZtvepfUQo6>





Theme: Evaluation as a National Asset