

# WECC



**World evaluation case competition**

## **WECC Action in Response to Feedback from Participants in the 2019 Competition**

### **Preparing for WECC 2020**

The WECC coordinators were happy to learn that 25 people have indicated an interest in helping organize the 2020 event. Thank you! We will be contacting everyone over the next few weeks to begin setting up the various committees.

### *Supporting the Development of Other Competitions*

It was good to learn that there is strong interest in developing national or regional competitions with cases that cover local topics. We will form a committee to focus on assisting evaluators around the world develop a case competition for their country or region. A new page at the website will provide tips for developing a new competition.

### *Clarifying the Limitations of the World Competition*

Quite a few of the 2019 competition participants suggested that there should be a variety of cases for teams participating in the world competition so that cases could be focused on national or regional issues. However, for the world competition it is essential that all teams receive the same case so that everyone faces the same challenge. It is important that the judges can assess all teams with respect to team performance in analyzing the same case.

Other respondents to the survey suggested that the world competition should use more than one language. The founders of the competition gave the issue

of multiple languages a lot of consideration. If more than one language was involved, the case would have to be translated and the judges would have to be multilingual. Professional translation would be expensive and finding judges who are expert in a large number of world languages would be difficult. We settled on English as the language for the competition because it is used for most international case competitions and is the working language for the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation. We have been happy to observe that teams whose national language has been other than English (e.g., Czech, French, German, Nepali and Spanish) performed well in the first two competitions.

### *Working on Certificates and Prizes*

We will improve the certificate of participation so that it looks more official by adding a seal, the signatures of the founders, the country that was represented and the competition result (world champion team, best regional team or participating team).

The first two World Evaluation Case Competitions, 2018 and 2019, were organized without any financing at all. They were produced entirely by volunteers, four in 2018 and seven in 2019. Organizers agree that having prizes would enhance the competition but, so far, have been able to find organizations that would be willing to donate significant amounts of money. It might be anticipated that as the competition grows and becomes more well known, it may become easier to attract sponsors. We will try to create a fundraising committee for the 2020 competition.

### *Developing the Next Case*

Organizers will make sure that the committee which develops the 2020 case is aware that the amount of reading required for the 2019 case was considered excessive by some of the participants.

### *Judging and Announcing Results*

Assessment of the 2019 submissions was delayed when one of the judges fell ill and was hospitalized. Comments from respondents about the importance of reasonably rapid assessments have been noted.

The committee which organizes the 2020 judging panel will be reminded that, as was the case in 2018 and 2019, the panel should contain both women and men, and should have representation of global north and south.

Some respondents suggested that teams be informed where they ranked in the competition. The organizers will discuss how this might be done. One approach might be to provide teams in the top 50 percentile with their actual ranking and the rest with notice that they were in the lower 50 percentile.

There was also some suggestion that the feedback from judges might be more detailed.

### *Promoting the Competition*

One respondent made the good suggestion that the 2019 teams be asked to publicize the fact that they participated in the competition and describe their experience with it.

### *Improving Communications*

We will try to expand the website to provide fuller explanation of the following topics:

- Why the competition uses a single case and a single language
- What to expect on the day of the competition
- Where to look for readings on program evaluation theory and practice
- How to contribute to promoting the competition.

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback!

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