

Notes: GDLN AP- Governing Committee Meeting, July 2013

Video & Audio Conference: Thursday July 11, 2013

Tokyo, 11:00 hrs; Colombo, 07:30 hrs; Dhaka, 8.00 hrs; Canberra 12.00 hrs; Hanoi 09:00 hrs, Seoul 11:00 hrs; Washington D.C., 22:00 hrs (Wednesday July 10, 2013)

Chair: Ms. Linh Nguyen

Governing Committee members: Mr. Phil Karp, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Prof. Hai-young Yun, Mr. Tomoyuki Naito

Others: Mr. Juan Blázquez (Audio), Mr. Nishantha Kamaladasa, Mr. Chanuka Wattagama, Ms. Fahima Khanam, Ms. Catherine Shin

Apologies (Others): Ms. Maree Tait

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 09:00 hrs ICT July 11 by Chair: Ms. Linh Nguyen

Agenda:

- **GDLN Global Board meeting update**

Mr. Juan Blázquez and Mr. Nishantha Kamaladasa briefed on the proceedings of Annual GDLN Global Board Meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey on July 1-2.

The Global Board meeting discussions mainly focused on two areas. The first one was GDLN governance and the possible role of GDLN network in the World Bank's South-South Agenda. The World Bank will support the Global Secretariat till July 2014 and will be responsible for setting up a mechanism for continuation thereafter. The regional networks are expected to work more independently ensuring flexibility. They are responsible for attracting new affiliates. The bank will launch 'South-South readiness' program to prepare GDLN affiliates to benefit from the new opportunity.

The second area of focus was the future of GDLN network in the absence of the World Bank in its usual leadership role. The nodes as a group are expected to explore the possibility of support from other potential development agencies and national governments. The World Bank will act a facilitator in this process.

(The full GDLN Global Board Communique is attached as Annex 1.)

Governing committee agreed to discuss the challenges rising from these developments at the Seoul Regional meeting.

- **Update on membership strategy implementation**

Ms. Linh Nguyen on behalf of the membership sub-committee expressed the decisions taken on the applications received from:

1. Blended Learning International Pvt Ltd (BLI)
2. Advance Supply Chain Solutions (ASCS) and

3. International Culture University, Bangladesh (ICU).

The sub-committee has decided to offer a conditional membership to BLI for a probationary period of a year. During this probation period, BLI will need to either offer to or participate in minimum 3 GDLN events plus they will need to provide a long term solution for the lack of having a VC structure. The continuation of membership will be decided on their performance. (Please see the attached report in Annex 2 for more details.)

The Governing Committee endorsed the decisions.

Mr. Chanuka Wattagama said no responses received for two e-mails to EMIR-Dynamo and Electro Motor Workshop, Indonesia. Membership committee was advised to seek further information from local nodes.

It was suggested that marketing strategy for new affiliates should be a discussion topic at the Regional meeting.

○ **Update on Regional meeting planning process**

KDI School has announced a more developed agenda for the Seoul regional meeting. It was suggested, inter alia, to have a GDLN-AP internal business meeting session to discuss the future of GDLN-AP and nodes, particularly membership marketing strategy, relationship with Global board etc.

The logistics arrangements will be notified in early August. Registrations will immediately follow.

KDI to seek the assistance of other centers, as and when the need arises, for planning process, following the traditional practice. KDI will also decide the communication mode: VCs or offline (e-mail)

○ **Other matters**

Dr. Takashi Izutsu, who recently joined TDLC, was formally introduced to the Governing Committee.

TDLC announced the commencement of the Microfinance Training of Trainers (MFTOT) blended learning course for the ninth time, in the afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 10.30 hrs ICT, July 11, 2013.

Next meeting: To be announced.

Annex 1:

GDLN Global Board Communique

July 2, 2013

From July 1-2, the GDLN Global Board met in Ankara, Istanbul for its 6th board meeting. After very engaged and fruitful deliberations the board would like to announce the following decisions that were taken:

Implementation of the Affiliation strategy

- The Board recognizes that the affiliation strategy is an efficient mechanism to help the network move towards sustainability and full autonomy by identifying committed affiliates (regional reports). It is also critical to ensure a good mix of partners for implementation of the knowledge exchange agenda.
- Well-functioning regional associations are vital to ensure a smooth implementation of the affiliation strategy. Membership committees can play a useful role in organizing the decision making process to determine accession and exit of the network in all regions, following the example of GDLN AP.
- The Board suggests greater flexibility for affiliates to establish links with other regional associations, i.e. to cater to cultural barriers. This is particularly relevant for lusophone affiliates and affiliates from MENA.

Positioning GDLN affiliates as key partners for the knowledge exchange agenda

- The Board agrees to launch a “South-South readiness” program for all Affiliates to help them position themselves on the South-South agenda. This would include developing or fostering, where not already the case, a better understanding of the local South-South Cooperation / Development Cooperation context, getting familiar with SSKE concepts and capacities needed to become a professional implementation partner for SSKE. The readiness plan will include for all GDLN Affiliates to be invited by their respective Regional Association to find out (i) which government agency is in charge of development cooperation issues, (ii) what are the country’s priority programs and needs in terms of South-South cooperation, and (iii) who are the local key SSKE players, i.e. sector agencies that are active in SSKE and development partners that support SSKE in the respective country.
- The World Bank will support the readiness plan in two ways: (i) through inclusion of GDLN in knowledge hub capacity development pilot projects in Colombia (Statistical Capacity), India (HIV-AIDS), Indonesia (Disaster Risk Management) and Nigeria (Urban Transport), and (ii) through

targeted training in the “Art of Knowledge Exchange”, following the example of training provided to GDLN AP in Dhaka in early 2013.

- In return, all regional associations will encourage their affiliates to reach out to their respective government (Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ...) to identify the main demands in terms of engaging with other countries for knowledge exchange. This information will feed in a global map that outlines the knowledge exchange needs of governments and respective opportunities for GDLN affiliates to engage by offering expertise and services.
- The “South-South readiness” program is expected to well prepare GDLN affiliates for a new opportunity to engage as part of a network of SSKE implementation partners that the WB is creating over the course of the coming 12 months.

The role of the GDLN Global Secretariat going forward

- The current World Bank support to the GDLN Secretariat will be guaranteed for another 12 months.
- The Board commits to set up a mechanism that will guarantee the continuation of the Global Secretariat function after July 1, 2014.
- The Board recommends that the role of the Global Secretariat for the next 12 months should include:
 - Assistance to the Global Board
 - Support integration of Affiliates in WB Knowledge Hubs pilots
 - Coordination with and support to regional South-South coordinators in the Bank
 - Support implementation of affiliation strategy, including participation in regional meetings
 - Support the establishment of a Regional Association in ECA
 - Coordinate mapping of key South-South players in each country
 - Development of communication materials including management of the GDLN.org website: global message to local clients/partners.

Fostering sustainability of regional associations and recommendations for the set-up of a regional governance function for GDLN ECA

- The board agrees that a well-managed GDLN partnership in ECA is essential to ensure GDLN remains and further grows its potential as a strong partner for development learning and South-South Knowledge Exchange.

- Each Regional Association is requested by the Board to prepare a report including (i) Structure and legal documents, (ii) Financial arrangements, (iii) Partnership agreements, and (iv) Description of main activities.
- As a sound governance mechanism, the board recommends to draw critical lessons from its existing regional associations in Africa, the Americas, and Asia-Pacific. Its institutions should meet the criteria outlined in the GDLN affiliation strategy. They should be informally governed by a regional board which is supported by a secretariat function that can either be shared amongst several affiliates or be taken on by one affiliate for a determined period of time. Ensuring financial sustainability of the regional governance structure should have highest priority.
- Together with selected GDLN affiliates from ECA the board has developed a road map to establish a regional GDLN governance function for ECA.
 1. An interim GDLN ECA governance committee has been established by GDLN ECA affiliates prior to the Board meeting to oversee the implementation of the GDLN regional governance development process. *(done)*
 2. The GDLN Global Secretariat at the World Bank Institute will send a formal letter to all existing ECA Affiliates to notify them of the termination of GDLN Network Agreements signed with the World Bank. The letter will also include information on the new arrangements with the interim governance committee and the secretariat service that is provided by METU. *(by 8/5/2013)*
 3. The interim GDLN ECA governance committee will draft a charter for GDLN ECA and a proposal for an informal governance structure consisting of a regional board, a regional secretariat function and decentralized sharing of responsibilities. *(by 8/15/2013)*
 4. The interim GDLN ECA governance committee is requested to identify which current affiliates meet the criteria defined by the affiliation strategy. *(by 8/15/2013)*
 5. The interim GDLN ECA governance committee will send a letter to all active ECA Affiliates to present the proposed new regional governance arrangements and the new draft charter for comments. In this letter, ECA Affiliates will be asked to indicate their interest to remain in the new GDLN. *(by 8/30/2013)*
 6. The interim GDLN ECA governance committee will present a new list of ECA Affiliates as the initial members of GDLN ECA, a new charter and a draft work program with concretely defined pilot programs within ECA and possibly with other regions. *(by 10/01/2013)*

GDLN Global Board Membership

- The GDLN Global Board has agreed to establish a mechanism to confirm or change its membership every 24 months. In this renewal process each regional representative should be reconfirmed by their respective regional association or replaced. This should be reflected in a revised version of the Global Board charter which the board requests the Global Secretariat to develop. Independent board members should be replaced if they were not able to join two subsequent GDLN board meetings.

Annex 2:

Notes: GDLN-AP Membership sub-committee report on the evaluation of applications received from

1. Blended Learning International Pvt Ltd,
 2. Advance Supply Chain Solutions and
 3. International Culture University, Bangladesh
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Date: June 06, 2013

Attended: Ms. Linh Nguyen, Prof. Pimrumpai Premsmrit and Mr. Nishantha Kamaladasa

On the recommendations of the Governing Committee, membership sub-committee has sought more information on the three critical competencies of the applicants. The first two applicants immediately responded. Membership sub-committee also received positive comments from Ms. Maree Tait of ANU. BRAC University provided feedback on the third applicant.

1. Blended Learning International Pvt Ltd. (BLI)

After reviewing additional information provided by BLI and references from Maree, the membership sub-committee is still not fully convinced on the readiness of the organization to join the network as an affiliate on the two counts:

- a) BLI currently does not have its own VC facility thus, they would need to borrow ANU facility should they want to participate or deliver GDLN type events and
- b) their potential value added to the role of participating in GDLN events in addition to the already very active role of ANU GDLN on programs that required attendance from Australia (given that they are both based in Canberra).

However, given BLI's enthusiasm to join the GDLN network and the possibility for BLI to offer useful programs/resources to the network, the sub-committee decided to offer them membership for a probationary period of a year starting July 1, 2013. During this probation period, BLI will need to either offer to or participate in minimum 3 GDLN events plus they will need to provide a long term solution for the lack of having a VC structure. The membership committee will decide whether or not to confirm their BLI's long-term membership based on the results of the two factors required above accordingly.

2. Advance Supply Chain Solutions (ASCS)

Membership sub-committee is not convinced with the eligibility requirements of ASCS and thus do not recommend them for membership acceptance. The committee suggest to respond to ASCS that GDLN AP does not find their business interest and operation mandate fully match with GDLN AP business and operations. However, we would welcome ASCS to offer programs to GDLN AP through the secretariat of the GDLN AP Mr. Chanuka Wattegama and Mr. Wattegama will distribute ASCS offerings and promotional material to GDLN network. Should there be any interest from GDLN affiliates to participate in any of those offerings, they will contact ASCS directly for the arrangement of their participant.

3. International Culture University, Bangladesh (ICU)

BRAC University team did a field visit to applicant premises. They found (inter alia) the applicant:

- a) Still does not have the approval of the University Grant Commission of Bangladesh (though they applied)
- b) Does not possess VC facilities in the current setup and other facilities were inadequate
- c) Does not offer any development related courses at present

Based on these observations BRAC University recommended not to recognize them as an affiliate or associate. The membership sub-committee unanimously agreed.