

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers  
Governing Committee Meeting  
Videoconference: March 29, 2010**

**Canberra and Hobart, 13.00; Tokyo, 11.00; Ulaanbaatar and Beijing, 10.00; Hanoi, 9.00; Colombo, 7.30**

**Governing Committee members:**

Present: Maree Tait, Sunjidmaa Jamba, Phil Karp, Ryu Fukui

Apologies: Nizam

**Others present:**

Shalika Subasinghe, Distance Learning Center Ltd, Sri Lanka

Nishantha Kamaladasa, Distance Learning Center Ltd, Sri Lanka

Elizabeth Ingram, GDLN Australia

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific Organization and Development Coordinator

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 10.00 CST by acting Chairperson: Phil Karp.

*Welcome to Sunjidmaa Jamba*

- On behalf of the GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee members, Phil Karp welcomed Ms. Sunjidmaa Jamba to her first meeting as the newest member of the Governing Committee. Ms. Jamba expressed her gratitude and intention to contribute to the meetings as an active member of the Committee.

*Proposed change to GDLN Asia Pacific Charter language regarding the South Asia region representative to the Governing Committee:*

- A number of changes to the GDLN Asia Pacific Charter were proposed and accepted during the regional meeting in Manila, Philippines. Amongst them the proposal to add a fourth DLC (representing South Asia) to the GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee. Another proposed change which relates to the addition of a South Asia Governing Committee member was confirmed during the March 29<sup>th</sup> Governing Committee meeting. Please refer to text in italics below from the Charter's clause 4.3:

“DLCs shall be selected for the Committee in alphabetical order, according to the name of the country in which they are located. Countries with more than one DLC may nominate one of them or a national association of DLCs (if such exists) to represent them on the Governing Committee. *The representative from South Asia will be designated by the South Asia region.*”
- The South Asia GDLN region has yet to elect their GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee member. In the meantime, the Sri Lanka DLC will continue to be the region's representative to the Governing Committee.

### Preliminary dates for the next GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting

- During the GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting in Manila, Philippines the Sri Lanka DLC kindly offered to host the next regional meeting. The dates proposed to host the meeting are: October 17-22, 2010.
- Governing Committee members responded favorably to the proposed dates. The next step will be to consult all DLCs and affiliates in the region as to whether the dates will be suitable for them. An email will be drafted for the Committee's review and then sent out with the proposed dates.

### Requirement of a Thai Director to the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation

- The solicitors working with the Governing Committee in establishing the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation as a legal entity in Thailand have advised the Governing Committee that the official in charge of the application at the Ministry of the Interior has requested that the Foundation add a Thai national to the Directors of the Foundation. This is not a requirement by Thai law but the official at the Ministry will not proceed with the application until this requirement is met. The solicitors indicate that the Ministry's decision could be disputed but that it might delay the process up to one year. They also indicated that they have met with the official and explained our position and also reiterated the organizations that are backing up the GDLN Asia Pacific, but this has not changed the situation.
- Governing Committee members mentioned that the most straightforward solution would be to ask Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit if she would be willing to become a Director of GDLN Asia Pacific, or, to provide a recommendation of who might be suitable for the position. However, having someone new to the GDLN join the Foundation as a Director would not be the preferred option.
- Members also expressed caution over this being the norm rather than the exception when it comes to exchanges with the Thai Government. It would be especially regrettable if these difficulties continue once the Foundation is legally established. Therefore, the Committee would also like to ask Dr. Pim and the solicitors what their opinion is about whether this is a one-time intervention or whether they think it might be a recurrent behavior with Thai Government agencies. For example, in the future when GDLN Asia Pacific holds its funds in its own account, will it be an issue to move funds out of the country for overseas operations?

### Plans for the GDLN Asia Pacific Association

- The GDLN Asia Pacific 10% regional program surcharge discussion in Manila, Philippines led to a larger discussion regarding the financing model and of GDLN Asia Pacific.
- Even though some regional programs up to now have and will still be able to continue the 10% contribution to the GDLN Asia Pacific, at their discretion,, the general sense is that the requirement for such contribution is hindering collaboration between members. Therefore, as agreed during the Manila meeting, the Governing Committee will look at the current business model and propose some options for the membership to consider during the next regional meeting.
- Among the options that might be considered are for a DLC to host the GDLN Asia Pacific Headquarters (or Secretariat) and contribute to its running costs and operations, or for one or more external donors to fund the Association's operations.
- The Committee also discussed some pros and cons of involving a consultant in the business model rethinking and the most appropriate timing to do so.
- As a first step, an estimate of the cost of running the GDLN Asia Pacific Headquarters (or Secretariat) will be presented to the Governing Committee, along with a description of the roles currently performed by the staff supporting it.

- A note will be drafted for GDLN Asia Pacific members in order to invite members to join a task force which will follow up the financing/business model discussions from the Manila, Philippines meeting. The aim of this group would be to either work together to identify and lay out detailed options to be considered at the next regional meeting.
- Depending on the responses to this note, the Governing Committee will determine its level of involvement with the process.
- It is envisioned that a revised Business Plan would be ready for discussion at the next regional meeting.

#### GDLN Asia Pacific website

- The discussion in Manila, Philippines, regarding the GDLN Asia Pacific website focused around the issue of lack of consistent updates from the DLCs and the need to allocate content responsibility to a point person.
- As a first step, the ANU team is developing a marketing document grouping all programs (regional and others) under sector themes.
- Further communication is needed with the TDLC regarding the technical support required for this additional content to the website.

#### GDLN Lusophone countries meeting invitation

- Phil Karp and Maree Tait have been invited to a meeting of GDLN Lusophone countries on April 14 and 15, 2010. Unfortunately neither will be able to attend and informed other Committee members of the opportunity to join should the interest, relevance and self-funding be present and available.
- GDLN Asia Pacific will already be represented by Vicente Soares from the Dili, Timor Leste DLC.
- Members suggested he could be assisted with a Power Point presentation that he could present on behalf of the Governing Committee and that would be prepared for him.
- One option raised was the possibility of having Joao Loucao share some of his experience in the EAP GDLN.
- Another option would be for Phil Karp to join via VC since he will be able to contribute to the meeting in Portuguese. Phil will ask if a VC is possible.

#### GDLN Asia Pacific member to the GDLN Global Board

- The WBI has approved the GDLN Global Steering Committee's proposal to, amongst other points, move forward with a GDLN Global Secretariat and Global Board. The Board will be composed of six members from the WB, a chairman with a strong advocacy role, and six members representing each of the GDLN regions.
- GDLN Asia Pacific has been asked to elect its member to the Global Board, with the view of it becoming an example to other regions on how the election process could be conducted. Committee members expressed that they would first need to know more about the roles and responsibilities of Global Board members before commenting on a selection process.
- The Committee expressed preference towards a Global Board representative with strong operational linkages to GDLN Asia Pacific and caution at having a Global Board representatives who are at operational-level in the case of some regions, and at a high advocacy level in the case of other regions..
- Maree will circulate the Steering Committee's document explaining the roles and responsibilities of the Global Board. The Steering Committee is expecting a decision from each region towards the end of May.

- Maree also noted that she was asked, as the GDLN Global Steering Committee member from GDLN Asia Pacific, to nominate a Chair for the Global Board. She proposed Mr. James Wolfenshon.

Capacity building training

- The World Bank has developed a TOR for hosting the “GDLN Asia Pacific Professional Development Program” and has been in discussion with two GDLN Indonesia DLCs.. The Bank will support the meeting host by providing a lump-sum financial contribution and also by covering the travel costs of resource people.
- Governing Committee members asked that the organizers provide additional information on plans for content development, target DLCs, roles, etc.

Other topics

- The TDLC will update the Governing Committee regarding the MIS working group during the next Governing Committee meeting.

**Next meeting:** Late April, specific date to be announced.

**Meeting adjourned at 12.00 CST.**