

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers  
Governing Committee Meeting  
Videoconference: August 30, 2010**

**Canberra and Sydney, 12.00; Ulaanbaatar and Beijing, 10.00; Hanoi and Jakarta, 9.00; Colombo, 7.30, Washington DC, 22:00 (August 29, 2010)**

**Governing Committee members:**

Present: Maree Tait, Sunjidmaa Jamba, Phil Karp, Nizam, Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center Ltd.  
represented by Shalika Subasinghe and Nishantha Kalamadasa  
Apologies: Ryu Fukui

**Others present:**

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific  
Juan Blazquez, GDLN South Asia Coordinator  
Arist Caruana, GDLN Asia Pacific Treasurer

**Proceedings:**

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

*Sri Lanka Regional Meeting*

- The first announcement of the Sri Lanka Regional Meeting has been received favorably by GDLN Asia Pacific members.
- The host organization has traditionally organized the opening session of the regional meeting. Potential topics raised by the Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center Ltd (Sri Lanka DLC Ltd.) were: post-conflict strategies, Global Knowledge Challenge, and building communities of practice for development. Potential topics raised by other Governing Committee members and attendees were: disaster relief, post-conflict: lessons learned from East Asia and the Pacific, sharing lessons learned between South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific, and The World Bank's 2011 World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development. The selected topic must allow for local Government participation. Maree Tait, Arist Caruana and Phil Karp, will report back to the Governing Committee in regards to post conflict projects with AusAID, the World Bank Country Office in Sydney and the World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development team, respectively.
- The Sri Lanka DLC Ltd. is assessing meeting venue options. The venue decision will depend on ease of transport and budget considerations. This decision will most likely have an impact on the duration of the meeting.
- Governing Committee members support conducting a training session as part of the regional meeting event. The World Bank Institute has proposed a training session where GDLN Asia Pacific members have the opportunity to develop proposals to respond to specific demands of World Bank operational teams to develop programs. There would be an opportunity to work directly with some Task Team Leaders during the meeting, at least via video conference. The idea of including donors in addition to the World Bank was also raised. Another topic raised as a potential training session was technology. One idea would be to include technology as a regional meeting topic and postpone technology training for a future activity organized by the GDLN Asia Pacific Technology Working Group. This is suggested in part because DLC and affiliate technicians are typically not present at regional meetings and the Technology Working Group might be in a better position to assess their specific training needs and incorporate into their activity planning. Structured training offerings from donors and partners are also welcomed as

potential ideas for the regional meeting. Finally, the results of the East Asia and Pacific and South Asia DLC Training Needs Survey conducted by ANU in late 2009 will be circulated to Governing Committee members.

- The GDLN Secretariat is organizing the first GDLN Global Board meeting to take place in India in November 2010. Maree Tait will explore opportunities of a potential visit by some of the Global Board members to the GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting in Sri Lanka.
- The regional meeting comments and topic ideas from this Governing Committee meeting will be incorporated into a first agenda draft to be circulated amongst Sunji, Maree, Phil, Juan, Shalika and Nishantha for initial comments. Afterwards it will be circulated to all the members of the Governing Committee for additional comments.

#### Financial transferability risk assessment of the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation

- The Governing Committee received a memo from the Thailand solicitors summarizing Thailand's Exchange Control Act as applicable to GDLN Asia Pacific.
- Governing Committee members seek further clarification on a few points. A teleconference will be held with the solicitors to clarify the following:
  - Section 1: Can donations to and from GDLN Asia Pacific be for working capital? Is there a limitation of the purpose of the donations? Can donations be of a capital nature?
  - Section 2: Is there any impact to GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation status related to the amount or nature of payment or receipt of service fees? If the Foundation applies for tax exempt status in the future, would there be an impact or restriction?
- 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. To better understand the options, the Governing Committee is exploring and comparing with the governance and financial models of other GDLN Regional Associations. Maree Tait has been receiving this information and it will be incorporated into the GDLN Asia Pacific Association roles and expenditure document.
- A member raised the need to know the strategic direction of each DLC and affiliate in order to understand how they view their own sustainability and how the Association fits into that. This could be incorporated into the regional meeting presentations.
- A proposal to explore modalities to legally establish the GDLN Asia Pacific Association in Australia was raised. Arist Caruana has offered to gather some preliminary information about this possibility.
- All the options should be raised and discussed at the Sri Lanka regional meeting.

#### **Other topics:**

- There should be at least two more Governing Committee meetings before the Sri Lanka Regional Meeting. The dates of these meetings should be known well in advance.
- There was a suggestion to organize a technology training that incorporates a visit to one of the technologically advanced DLCs or affiliates in the region.

**Meeting adjourned at 12.00 CST.**